

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session October 21, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 21, 2019 at 9:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward and Tamara Robbins. Also in attendance was County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2019 regular session and the October 17, 2019 Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll And Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #21 in the amount of \$229,850.97 and 279 claims totaling \$937,869.93. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 86 inmates, 27 are pretrial Superior, 20 are pretrial Circuit, 8 are DOC and 12 are F6 DOC.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton informed the commissioners via email that the yearly mowing of side ditches will be complete within the next few weeks. The crack seal process has been complete. The backhoe crew is working on the issues found over the summer. They are working north now, then south in the next few weeks. Road conversion projects are underway, 400W/1000N and 500 W. There are two large box culverts to be completed; they should be done in the next few weeks as well. The final round of hand patching will start this week.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag presented updates to the commissioners on Bridge 6b, the new structure was set last week and backfill is underway. The plan is to have the road open to traffic in the next 3 weeks. Nate is working with USI to perform the detailed structure inspection on Bridge 193 that was damaged recently. A motion was made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to offer a reward of \$5,000.00 for information leading to prosecution of the responsible party for the damage to Bridge 193. Motion carried 3-0. Anyone with any information will be informed to contact the Sheriff's Department. A Frontier utility permit was presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward. Motion carried 3-0. Ossian bridges on Mill St. and LeFever were opened to traffic on October 10<sup>th</sup>. 28 Right-Of-Way documents for road conversions were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 28 ROW Documents. Motion carried 3-0.

**Small Structure Update:** Leo Rumschlag P.E. of Janssen & Spaans Engineering presented an update on the small structures in Wells County. 133 small structures were inspected in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, 10 structures, 15'-20', were rated in good condition, 4 were fair and 5 were in poor condition. Of those structures, 5 had an approximate life of 4-9 years and 14 had an approximate life of 10-60 years. For load ratings 20 structures met all legal loads and 1 structure failed to meet legal loads. In 2019, 66 structures, 4'-14.99', were in good condition, 18 were in fair condition and 10 were in poor condition. 11 of those structures had an approximate life of 0-9 years and 83 had an approximate life of 10-60 years.

**Council on Aging:** Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier provided up to date annual comparison reports for "Wells on Wheels". The third quarter claims voucher totaling \$117,599.00, the 2020 transportation

grant agreement and the 2020 vehicle replacement contract, which was previously emailed to the county attorney and commissioners for review, was presented to the commissioners for signature. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter claims voucher for reimbursement of \$117,599.00. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the 2020 INDOT Transportation grant agreement. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2020 Vehicle replacement contract. Motion carried 3-0.

**Parlor City Christmas:** Chuck King came before the commissioners to request approval for use of the Plaza on December 7, 2019 for a Parlor City Christmas. The first event is scheduled for 8:30 AM and the last event is scheduled for 6:30 PM. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve of the use of the Plaza on December 7, 2019. Motion carried 3-0.

**Zoning Ordinance Amendment:** Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. presented zoning ordinance revisions to the commissioners for approval. They are all due pass recommendations from the Wells County Area Plan Commission board. The revisions included accessory structures, special exceptions, manufacturing definitions, bank/credit union, manufactured home age and enclosed mortality. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance 2019-18 adopting the zoning ordinance revisions as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**Debris on Roadways:** The commissioners have had calls about grass clippings and debris on county roadways. Kevin Woodward expressed concern over the hazards that can be caused by such debris. Woodward stated that Attorney Roy Johnson is in the process of researching options for a solution.

**BASIC Flex Plan:** The 2020 Flexible spending agreement was presented to the commissioner for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

**Health Wellness Agreement:** The wellness plan design was discussed with the commissioners. Employees on the health plan have biomarkers to assess points. Points not earned equal more premium that the employee is responsible for monthly. The biomarkers in discussion were the LDL Cholesterol and the Glucose. It was decided to decrease the LDL cholesterol from 160 to 145 to earn the point. Also decided was to increase the glucose to 126 from 112 to earn the point. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to make the changes to LDL and Glucose in the plan design. Motion carried 3-0. The Wellness agreement was presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Wellness agreement. Motion carried 3-0. The Wellness checks have been scheduled for November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup> in the Annex meeting room from 7:30 to 10:00 AM.

**County Farm Lease:** Tamara Robbins addressed the county farm lease renewal. There has been discussion about the future use of the county farm. Tamara Robbins motioned to approve and ratify the notice to Gaiser Farms, Inc. given on September 18, 2019 of the intent not to renew the County Farm Lease for a 1-year extension term pursuant to the auto renewal provision contained in Paragraph 2. of the County Farm Lease, and that instead we offer to renew the lease for an additional 1-year term subject to adjustment of the tillable acreage in the event of construction of a new County Highway Garage on the County Farm and adjustment of the rents accordingly per the provisions of the current lease tying the per acreage rental to the per acre rate established in the northeast Indiana area, as reflected in the Purdue University Purdue Agricultural Economics Report ("PAER") publication for top

land class producing acreage, currently identified in Table 4. of the August, 2019, edition of PAER, and computed upon the adjusted tillable or crop acres, seconded by Kevin Woodward. Motion carried 3-0.

**Alcohol Board:** John R. Moon submitted a letter to the commissioners resigning his position on the Wells County Alcohol Beverage Board. He has accepted a different position at his place of employment that will conflict with the board position. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to accept the resignation. Motion carried 3-0.

**Next Level Trails:** The City of Bluffton is submitting an application for Indiana’s round 2 of trail grants from the Next Level Trails program. They requested a letter of support from the commissioners. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve and sign the support letter. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:30AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Blake Gerber

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

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Tamara Robbins

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor