

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session November 18, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday November 18, 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 were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from November 4, 2019 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll and Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #23 in the amount of \$235,058.89 and 280 claims totaling \$732,550.45. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** The Sheriffs Department reported 85 inmates, 37 pretrial Superior, 19 pretrial Circuit, 3 F6 DOC and 10 DOC.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that the entire side ditch mowing for 2019 will be completed this week. Josh gave updated on the road conversion projects for CR 400W, 1000N and 500W. The highway department will continue to grade the gravel roads until they freeze. There is 1 more small structure to complete this week and will then be finished for the year. Cotton also discussed a property owner who is putting large rocks in the county right of way to prevent farmers and trucks from driving in said property owner's yard. Cotton discussed liability and public right of way issues that had been discussed with the property owner.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag updated the Commissioners on the NOFA 2025 Federal Aid Application; draft applications are complete, and he will submit the application after he receives the latest bridge inspection reports. Bridge 6b replacement is nearly complete and the guardrail will be installed with an anticipated opening the bridge for traffic late Tuesday. Damage to Bridge 193 has resulted in a recommended change in the bridge load rating. It is currently posted for a 36-ton load rating, but the change would take the load rating down to 16-tons. Notice will be issued to the public today. Semi and truck traffic should avoid the bridge. USI will be preparing a traffic control plan sheet and quotes will come from 3-rivers barricade for the duration of the project. Highway crews will be updating the bridge weight restriction signage this week. A headache bar and monitoring system is in the works and could be submitted in the CCMG application in January. Based on the USI report, estimated costs for rehab on the bridge could be anywhere from \$400,000 to \$800,000, to reestablish the 36-ton load rating. Unofficial Detour for SR1 construction, the unofficial detour paperwork from INDOT, has been delivered. The work is complete, but the agreement covers damage to the detours. Rumschlag will pass along the condition of CR 450E to the INDOT PM for the project. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the unofficial detour paperwork. Motion carried 3-0. Four right-of-ways were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right-of-ways. Motion carried 3-0.

**Employee Health Insurance Updates:** Jessica Clayton, Platinum Benefit Consultants was on hand to update the Commissioners on health coverage options for 2020. Anthem, the current carrier, came in with a 24 percent increase. PHP came in with a 15 percent increase for a like policy that is currently in place. PHP also offered a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) option with a decrease of 5 percent off

our current premium. The plan design for the employees would be comparable to the current plan. Employees out of pocket would be \$3,000 for a single employee, \$6,000 for employee plus dependents. The total deductible for the plan would be \$6,000 for single, \$12,000 for employee plus dependents but Wells County will reimburse for the last \$3,000 for each. PHP processes the reimbursements in house, so a third-party administrator is not needed. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve health coverage for 2020 through PHP with the HRA option. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to keep employee premiums for health coverage at the current rates, employee - \$51, emp/child - \$155, emp/spouse - \$200, family - \$309 per month. Motion carried 3-0.

**Community Corrections Advisory Board Appointment:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to reappoint Rick Mettler to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Rick Mettler’s term is effective November 18, 2019 – December 31, 2023. Motion carried 3-0.

**Highway Garage:** A citizen expressed concern over a rumor that the new highway garage was being built across from her home on Meridian Road north of 200S. She was assured no paperwork has been signed and the process is ongoing for finding a potential site. The commissioners encouraged her to submit her questions and concerns to them for consideration.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:19AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Blake Gerber

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Robbins

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