

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session December 2, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday December 2, 2019 at 9:00AM 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 18, 2019 regular session, November 18, 2019 and November 20, 2019 Executive Sessions. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #24 in the amount of \$238,084.25 and 286 claims totaling \$845,779.39. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 90 inmates, 31 pre-trial Superior, 23 pre-trial Circuit, 16 are DOC and 4 F6 DOC. The Sheriff recapped an energy efficiency feasibility study that had been conducted on the jail and Courthouse. The jail facility is in good shape, the administrative side had some recommendations, roofing and the HVAC system were the main recommendations.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on the road conversion projects for 400W, 1000N and 500W. 400W, 1000N and 500W all have been widened. Some of the ditch work is completed and tree stumps have been removed. The base stone is complete, they have started topcoat and backhoe work is complete. Mowing of side ditches is complete and the mowers are stored for winter. The backhoe crew has completed working North and is now South until it freezes. Small structures are all installed.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented an update for the NOFA 2025 Federal Aid application; they have been submitted and there have been no comments regarding the application yet. Bridge 6b is complete and the road is open. Anticipated start date for Bridge 56 is early April. The Bridge 193 accident will use the Cumulative Bridge Funds to pay invoices connected to design of the headache bar, monitoring system and heat straightening of the bridge. The monitoring system is being re-evaluated. The 2020 small structure replacement projects are being identified. Nate is looking at 18 small structures for pricing. Three Right-of-Way documents 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. Attorney Roy Johnson presented an Ordinance restricting truck traffic and imposing weight limits on vehicles crossing Bridge #193 over the Wabash River. Bridge #193 was damaged earlier in the year and had weight limits imposed for the safety of the bridge. The new weight limit reduces from 36 tons to 16 tons. A penalty of \$2,500 for the first violation and up to \$7,500 for subsequent violation(s). Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance 2019-21. Motion carried 3-0.

Bulk Copy Ordinance: Recorder, Carolyn Bertsch, presented an Ordinance to the Commissioners establishing the manner and form in which the Recorder may provide bulk form copies to a bulk user. Copy cost will be 20 cents per image, 17 of the 20 cents will go back to the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund the remainder 3 cents will go to Dox Pop. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance 2019-22. Motion carried. This is a revision of the 2017 copy ordinance.

Residential TIF: Commissioner, Blake Gerber, lead a brief discussion on Residential TIF and the possibility of opening discussion on that subject at a future meeting following further research. Gerber had given each Commissioner a map with district possibilities.

Resolution to Purchase: A resolution to the effect that Wells County is interested in making a purchase of specified land or a structure was presented to the commissioners for their approval to present said document to ask Wells County Council for their approval of the resolution at the December 3rd meeting. The land is a property on Meridian Road belonging to David Barcus. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve of the resolution to be presented to Wells County Council on December 3, 2019 to ask for Council approval. Motion carried 3-0.

2020 Commissioner Appointments: Auditor Lisa McCormick informed the commissioners that most current appointed employees have either sent an updated resume/application or letter requesting that they be re-appointed for the 2020 calendar year. An advertisement was printed in the News-Banner and posted on the county website for all the current board appointments expiring at the end of this year. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to re-appoint; Roy Johnson as the County Attorney, Bobbie Studebaker as the Courthouse Custodian, Rick Velasquez as the EMA Director, Nate Rumschlag as the County Engineer, Josh Cotton as the Highway Superintendent, Roger Richardson as the I.T. Director and Adam McCartney as the 911 Director for calendar year 2020. Motion carried 3-0. Claude McMillan does not wish to be re-appointed as the Veterans Service Officer; no action was taken on that position.

2020 Board Appointments: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to re-appoint; Tim Rohr and Tyson Brooks to the Area Plan Commission, Martin Adam and Larry McChessney to the Property Tax Board of Appeals, Ann McNabb, RN and Tom Longenberger for a four-year term to the Wells County Health Board, Laura Dalrymple, Marlene Hoag and Diana Collins to the Sick Bank Committee. Tamara Robbins motioned, Kevin Woodward seconded to appoint Chad Kline as the annual appointment to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and Bill Dowty as a new appointment for a four-year term to the Cemetery Board. Motion carried 3-0. The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission presented a Resolution for Commissioner approval confirming the participation of Wells County in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Doug Sundling applied to continue to serve on that board. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2019-13 confirming Wells County participation in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission and reappointing Doug Sundling to the Board for a two-year term. Motion carried 3-0. There were no appointments made for the Board of Zoning Appeals and Community and Family Services, due to lack of applications.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:34AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor

