

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session January 21, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday January 21, 2020 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 January 6, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #1 in the amount of \$241,321.72 and 242 claims totaling \$513,050.54. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Supervisor: Brush mowing is done North, starting South today. Brush crews will work as weather allows. The conversion of 500W between the Couth County line and Jeff Rd. is progressing. The progress will continue as weather allows. Roads have been graded 2-3 times in the last month due to mild temperatures. Cotton will narrow down the small structure list for 2020.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented a letter of financial commitment for the commissioners' signatures. The letter of commitment is for the 2020-1 Community Crossings matching grant. Bridge 304 has a total cost of \$752,324.75 with Wells County's match as \$188,081.19. Bridge 193 has a total cost of \$380,898.00 with Wells County's match as \$95,224.50. The matching funds would come out of LIT Bridges. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the CCMG 2020-1 letter of financial commitment. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag received confirmation from INDOT that Bridge 112, Hoosier Highway Curve Correction and Bridge 118b have been closed out for CCMG 2018. Also, CCMG for 2019, Bridge 300, Bridge 301 and Bridge 303b projects have been closed out with INDOT. Rumschlag requested approval of the interest of the commissioners in acquiring the needed ROW for the Hoosier Highway curve correction and bridge replacement project, Bridge 99. His goal is to apply for CCMG funds in 2021 once he has the needed ROW. Tamara Robbins motioned, seconded by Kevin Woodward to move ahead with the Right of Way. Motion carried 3-0. 6 Right-of-Way documents were presented to the commissioners for their approval. One document had a handwritten list of conditions for the signature. The conditions seemed doable by Roy Johnson and Nate Rumschlag. Roy Johnson stated that he would review the document and note the conditions. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept and sign the Right-of-Way documents with the conditions. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag presented Bridge 106 supplemental agreement 2022 Federal Aid project with USI. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to move forward with Bridge 106 supplemental agreement with USI. Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Mike Lautzenheiser Jr. presented zoning ordinance revisions. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to adopt Ordinance 2020-03 approving the zoning ordinance amendments as written. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development Annual Report: Economic Development Director Chad Kline presented his 2019 Annual Report. Chad went over the Key Activities including business expansion & retention, Industrial attraction, education & information, workforce development, collaboration & networking and revolving loan funding. The report indicated \$99.4 million in New Investment, 28 new jobs and

\$1,000,000 in new payroll. The 2020 projects include continued broadband growth, housing development, promote Wells County to increase tourism, population attraction and population retention. and facilitate training programs for employers, among others.

Workers Compensation Renewal: Dan Lipp, Richard Randol and Brent Beer with General Insurance provided the Workers Compensation renewal quote. The workers compensation policy renews on February 1, 2020. The new quote is for \$62,172.00 which is a decrease over last year's policy of \$5,446.00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to accept the renewal from Bitco Insurance for Workers Compensation in the amount of \$62,172.00 for 2020. Motion carried 3-0.

RQAW Corp: Kevin Woodward suggested reaching out to RQAW Corp. to compile a quote for a new facility for the Highway Garage. Kevin Woodward motioned, seconded by Tamara Robbins to hire RQAW Corp. to compile figures for a new highway garage. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 95 inmates, 38 pretrial Superior, 22 pretrial Circuit, 8 DOC and 11 are F6 DOC.

Ameresco: Mark Heirbrandt with Ameresco compiled an assessment for Wells County. He presented a utility analysis, site assessments for the Jail and Courthouse as well as a savings and investment summary. A potential energy cost savings from his baseline assessment could be \$4,000 annually. He also included operational and maintenance savings as well as potential one-time utility rebates. Mark discussed the need for new roofing and HVAC needs for the Jail as well as lowering ceilings and LED lighting at the Courthouse. Ameresco advertises for requests for proposals and coordinates funding and contracting the jobs to be completed.

Statement of Wages and Compensation: The commissioners acknowledged that they received and reviewed the annual 100R report and the Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

Wells County Solid Waste Management District Board: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to appoint Athena Brickley, Town of Ossian, to the Solid Waste Board. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor