

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session March 16, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday March 16, 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 March 2, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll and Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #5 in the amount of \$238,114.65 and 174 claims totaling \$336,295.02. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 82 inmates, 35 pretrial Superior, 14 pretrial Circuit, 8 DOC and 14 F6 DOC. The Sheriff/Jail has implemented restricted access as far as inmate visits and attorney visits, no contact visits, video visits or glass partition visits. Booking procedures have been altered as well.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that his department has started running the ditcher attachment this week and are hitting some winter notes before spring rain. They have graded gravel roads three times in the last two weeks. Township stone will be hauled to all gravel roads this week. The last three weeks have been spent cold mixing potholes north and south. That will be completed in a few weeks and then they will begin Dura-Patching all roads. One small structure was installed in Nottingham last week. They are waiting on quotes to get a spring/summer small structure plan.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that he has four packets for review for the National Bridge Inspection Report for 2021-2024. Nate will work to compile scores and submit them to INDOT for review and then have the consultant selection. There are 2 ½ miles of road conversions scheduled for 2020, Oblique Road (Vera Cruz to County Line), CR 800E (300S to Floodplain) and CR 450S (SR1 west to 200E). Three right of way documents were presented for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the three right of ways. Motion carried 3-0.

**Plaza Request:** Mike Lautzenheiser Jr., representing Bluffton NOW, had a request for the Plaza for each Saturday starting on May 7 through September 19<sup>th</sup> for the Farmer's Market, except for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Bluffton NOW will carry the liability insurance. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Plaza request for the Farmer's Market. Motion carried 3-0.

**Zoning Ordinance Amendment:** Mike Lautzenheiser presented a recommended APC do pass amendment to the Wells County zoning ordinance. The recommended zoning changes are from B3 Zoned District to R3 Zoned District, it is a property north of Walmart on the west side of SR1. This will allow for multifamily dwellings. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance 2020-05 amending Wells County zoning ordinance and zone maps. Motion carried 3-0.

**Flood Safety Awareness:** County Surveyor Jarrod Hahn presented a proclamation to the Board of Commissioners to proclaim March 16-22, 2020 as “Flood Safety Awareness Week”. Jarrod stated a few facts regarding floods; more than 50% of flood related deaths are due to someone driving or walking into floodwaters, 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock an adult off his or her feet and sweep them away, follow evacuation orders and heed warning signs. Jarrod stressed that you follow the saying “Turn Around Don’t Drown”. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to proclaim March 16-22, 2020 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Motion carried 3-0.

**Ordinance 2020-06:** County Attorney, Roy Johnson presented an Ordinance that would adopt the provisions of IC 5-23 Public-Private Agreements (“Build Operate Transfer Statute”). This statute allows a political subdivision to enter into public-private agreements with an operator. If the County adopts this ordinance it can use a public-private agreement, a "BOT Agreement", with an operator for the acquisition, planning, design, development, reconstruction, repair, maintenance, or financing of any public facility on behalf of the County, i.e., a County Highway Garage. The ordinance doesn’t commit the county to do anything, it allows us to consider using a BOT Agreement as a tool. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to adopt Ordinance 2020-06 adopting the provisions of IC Section 5-23 et seq. Motion carried 3-0.

**COVID-19 Update:** Marlene Hoag from the Wells County Health Department updated the Commissioners on COVID-19. There is one Wells County resident that has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Hoag stated that that person was diagnosed with the virus recently but has been contained within Allen County since January 9<sup>th</sup>. That person has a Wells County address and that is why Wells County is getting accredited with one positive testing. There are currently no testing sites in Wells County. Hoag stated that they are encouraging people who call into the health department with symptoms to call their own physicians or the emergency department with questions. Schools have closed, churches have cancelled services, groups of more than 50 are not to meet. People are urged to use common sense and be mindful of themselves and their families, Hoag stated.

**Grant Application Request:** The EMA department has requested permission to apply for a Priority funding SHSP 2020 Investment Application grant. It is a reimbursable grant in the amount of \$174,797.38 for mobile and handheld radios. These radios would be used for Wells County Law Enforcement offices. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to allow the application for the grant. Motion carried 3-0.

**Request for Proposals Ordinance:** County Attorney, Roy Johnson discussed the need for an Ordinance for the use of requests for proposals for a guaranteed savings contract. The County's current purchasing policy approves the use of requests for proposals for the purchase designated types of supplies (and then fails to attach a list of the designated types of supplies. Our existing policy would need amended to allow for this. Johnson will draft an ordinance for the April meeting.

**Cumulative Capital Development Fund:** : Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to publish a Notice to Taxpayers for the Commissioners' intent to establish a Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Motion carried 3-0. The procedure is that the Commissioners create the fund, and the county fiscal body may provide money for the Cumulative Capital Development Fund by levying a tax. Council sets the rate of the tax. The maximum rate for the first year the fund is created is .0167 per \$100 of assessed valuation, the following years the maximum rate is .0333 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

**Emergency Executive Session:** Kevin Woodward called an emergency executive session to be held immediately following the current meeting, regarding Wells County health actions for the COVID-19 virus.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:25 AM.

**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