

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session April 20, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 20, 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 April 6, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #8 in the amount of \$239,587.10 and 209 claims totaling \$1,131,116.08. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 62 inmates, 27 pretrial Superior, 12 pretrial Circuit, 11 F6 and 10 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on his projects which include the backhoe crew working South, the patching crew working North, the ditcher has completed 6 of 9 townships and will be done this week. Dusty service will remain at \$1.47 per foot. Sign-ups will be delayed due to COVID-19. Cotton will get the information out via mailers and internet as soon as constraints lessen, possibly this week.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that \$849,917.06 was awarded to Wells County in funding for 2020-01 Community Crossing Matching Grant. Two bridges will get rehabbed with this grant – Bridge 304 will get deck repair and joint replacement for \$564,243.56 and Bridge 193 will get heat treating and paint for \$285,673.50. LIT funds will be used for the Wells County match. Nate presented two grant agreements with INDOT, one for Bridge 304 and one for Bridge 193 for Commissioner approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the two grant agreements. Motion carried. 3-0. Rumschlag requested permission to advertise the two projects for bid on April 23rd and 30th. Bid opening will be May 21st. Due to COVID-19 Rumschlag requested E-submittal service for the bids to avoid in person bid on either project. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to move forward with bidding for the two bridge agreements and use of an E-submittal service. Motion carried 3-0. A revised letter of financial commitment for the Local Trax Grant was presented to the Commissioners for their approval. This grant will allow Hoosier Highway and Adams Street to connect and close three railroad crossings. The revised amount for this grant agreement is \$7,514,770. This includes preliminary engineering through construction and inspection. Rumschlag scaled back the utility coordination portion of the earlier contract. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the revised letter of financial commitment for the Local Trax grant. Motion carried 3-0.

Right of Way: Two right of ways were presented for approval, Tamara Robbins motioned, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept the right of ways. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 2020-03: A resolution was presented to the Commissioners updating the current COVID-19 Resolution 2020-02. A tentative reopen date for all County buildings will be May 4, 2020.

1. Non-essential employees will be off work from Thursday, March 26, 2020, through May 1, 2020, at which time all county buildings will reopen.
2. There will be NO pay for part-time employees unless they are involved in an essential office performing Essential Governmental Functions and will be actually working in the office.
3. All offices are to remain open and maintain function. It is up to each Elected/Appointed Official to make decisions for their offices.
4. Any full-time personnel within each office that is on call from home will get paid and shall designate on the upcoming pay vouchers worked office hours and worked at home hours.
5. The provisions of the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”), which includes the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act supersede and control over any provisions of this Resolution which are inconsistent.

Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2020-03.
Motion carried 3-0.

Health Update: The health department updated the Commissioners on the current COVID-19 cases. Wells County now has 5 confirmed cases and no deaths to date. All 5 cases are quarantined.

Adjourned: 9:55AM, motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to adjourn.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor