

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session May 18, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 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 May 4, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #10 in the amount of \$242,059.26 and 196 claims totaling \$287,896.70. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 55 inmates, 24 pretrial Superior, 10 pretrial Circuit, 9 F6 and 8 DOC. The Sheriff's Department advertised for bids for a 1989 AM General Humvee-H1. Four bids were submitted. Two bids were for \$1,000 each, one bid was for \$859 and another for \$800. All bidders will be notified, the next bid opening will be at the June 1st Commissioner meeting. The minimum bid for that meeting is \$1,050.00.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on his department. Three townships have been completed by the backhoe crew. They will work on the South townships next. The patching crew has started working the North townships. The Dura Patcher started last week doing random spots and crossings. Three small structure culvert pipes were installed last week. Dustay will be applied the weeks of May 26 and June 8.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag requested an unofficial detour for work on a small structure replacement east of Meridian Rd. on SR 124. The official detour uses SR 3 to SR 218 and back up SR 1. The unofficial detour is for local traffic to use Meridian Rd south to CR 100 S and east to Adams Street. The work will start in late June and be completed in 30 days. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the unofficial detour. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag was requesting approval of a utility permit from Citizens Telephone for facility expansion in Jackson township between 700 S and 1000 S. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the utility permit. Motion carried 3-0. One Offer for Purchase of Right of Way for the Bridge 99, Hoosier Highway and Ash Road project was accepted by the property owner and presented for the Commissioners' signature. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to proceed with the purchase of the right of way. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag presented updated pages for the Bridge Inspection reports. Some printing errors were discovered, those pages were updated. The reports will also be uploaded to INDOT. Five right of way petitions were presented to the Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right of way requests. Motion carried 3-0. Gravel road conversion petitions are due by June 1st. A camera system demonstration was presented to the Commissioners for Bridge 193 by Chris Gilbert of Security Pros. This system would monitor the area of Bridge 193 over the Wabash River. If damage was ever an issue with the bridge, it could be recalled using search criteria such as dates, color of car, license plate, etc. No action was taken. A proposal will be presented at a future meeting.

Regional Sewer District: Nate Rumschlag was requesting Commissioner financial support on behalf of the Regional Sewer District. The Preliminary Engineering report is being revised to include two additional service areas not included in the previous report, Craigville and Liberty Center. The updated service will increase the engineering cost by \$11,000. The funds they are requesting are eligible for the SRF/RCAP matching grant, the RSD is asking for \$5,500 from the Commissioners to proceed. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve \$5,500 in funding for the Regional Sewer District. Motion carried 3-0.

Washington Commons: Ron Marshall from the American Legion was requesting permission to use the Washington Street Commons Monday, May 25, 2020 from 8-11 for a Memorial Day service. Approval has already been given by the Board of Works. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to allow use of the Washington Commons on May 25, 2020 from 8-11AM. Motion carried 3-0.

COVID Update: Marlene Hoag, Health Administrator, gave a COVID update for Wells County. There are currently 16 positive cases with no hospitalizations. All are quarantined at their homes. Most of the cases can be tied to a local industry, no nursing home cases in Wells County have been reported at this time. ISDH administered 200 drive through COVID tests on Thursday and Friday of last week. No results were known at this time. Testing was also on Saturday and Sunday; no information was available for amounts of tests or results for those days currently.

Council on Aging (WOW): Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier went over some comparison flow charts on trips and riders using the public transit system. Numbers were down in all areas due to COVID. Bonnie provided the 1st quarter INDOT invoice of \$111,501.00 for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tammy Robbins to approve the 1st quarter invoice and allow the president of the board to sign. Motion carried 3-0. Bonnie asked the commissioners if they would continue to support the public transit program for 2021. Included in the 2021 paperwork was an Authorizing Resolution Template, Resolution 2020-04, authorizing the Auditor, on behalf of the Wells County Commissioners, to make the necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with INDOT for the provision of rural public transportation services. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the funding amount of \$40,000.00 and to allow signatures on the 2021 Council on Aging Grant paperwork. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners were presented a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for a grant under section 5311/5339 of the federal transit act, as amended. The resolution authorizes Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor, on behalf of the Wells County Commissioners, to make the necessary assurances and certification and be empowered to enter into an agreement with INDOT for the provision of rural public transportation services. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2020-05 to authorize the filing of an application for a grant. Motion carried 3-0.

Safeguard Plan: A Safeguard plan was presented to the Commissioners for their approval. The plan includes an employee health screening process, cleaning and disinfecting protocols for the workplace, personal hygiene measures for employees and customers, compliance with social distancing requirements established by the CDC as well as complying with safety and health standards established and enforced by IOSHA with regard to preventing the exposure and spread of disease. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Wells County Government Safeguard Plan as presented (Misc. 2020-08). Motion carried 3-0.

Cyber Security Policy: General Insurance presented a Cyber Security Insurance Policy via email for the Commissioners approval. Two policies were included with two levels of coverage. A \$500,000 policy

had an annual premium of \$4,286, the \$1,000,000 policy had an annual premium of \$6,253. The Commissioners will take it under advisement and revisit the topic in the June 1st meeting.

Courthouse: Commissioners discussed opening the Courthouse and other county buildings to the public. Tamara Robbins stated with early voting starting on May 26th, that date would be acceptable to open to the public. Also mentioned by Robbins was the fact that the vote centers were not doing temperature checks, so in staying consistent, she suggested discontinuing temperature checks for all county buildings. Masks will be made available to the public and employees to use if they wish. Kevin Woodward urged the public to wear their own masks into county buildings. Social Distancing and current cleaning methods will stay in place. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to open all county buildings to the public on May 26th with no temperature checks. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:34AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor