

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session July 20, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday July 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 Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from July 6, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #14 in the amount of \$236,583.47 and 219 claims totaling \$683,888.46. Motion carried 3-0.

RFQ Proposals: Ameresco and Performance Services submitted RFQ Proposals. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to take the proposals under advisement until the August 3rd meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 62 inmates, 29 pretrial Superior, 9 pretrial Circuit, 8 DOC and 11 F6 DOC. The Sheriff's Department advertised for bids for a 1989 AM General Humvee-H1. One bid was submitted. The high bid is now \$3,350.00. All bidders will be notified, the next bid opening will be at the August 3rd Commissioner meeting. The minimum bid for that meeting is \$3,400.00.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton informed the commissioners that round 3 of ditch mowing is in process. The backhoe crew is working north. The hand patching crew is south. Chip and seal will begin the week of August 3rd. Dura Patcher is working on random spots and crossings.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented the Commissioners with an agreement with Central Painting for a project known as repaint of Wells County Bridge #193 – CR 300 West over Wabash River (Misc. 2020-14). This agreement is for painting repairs and warranty work for Bridge #193. 300 W will be closed to traffic while repairs are being made on Bridge #193. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve and sign the agreement. Motion carried 3-0. Three quotes were received for Wells County Bridge 193 – Deterrent Structure. Bid #1, Jutte Excavating was for \$124,709; Bid #2, Michiana Contracting was for \$97,929; Bid #3, Shambaugh & Sons, LP was for \$84,667. The low quote was provided by Shambaugh & Sons, LP for \$84,667. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept the quote from Shambaugh and Sons, LP for Bridge 193 for a Deterrent Structure. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag presented a Utility permit for Commissioner approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve a Citizens Utility Permit. Motion carried 3-0. Attorney Roy Johnson presented 4 rights of ways for approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve 4 rights of ways. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners were presented a Memorandum of Understanding with Norfolk Southern Corporation. INDOT awarded a Local Trax project to Wells County, hence the rerouting of Hoosier Highway to connect to Adams Street at the Bluffton city limits. Included is the understanding that three at-grade railroad crossings will be vacated and permanently closed. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Motion carried 3-0. Attorney Roy Johnson presented an Ordinance to the Commissioners that provides for the elimination

of certain grade crossings and repeals all prior actions in conflict. The Ordinance states that the closing of the crossings at CR 300 S, Hoosier Highway and CR 250 S are contingent on the successful development an INDOT Local Trax project award that reroutes Hoosier Highway in Wells county to connect to Adams Street at the Bluffton city limits. It is understood that as a result of the award and through completion of the project that these three at-grade railroad crossings will be vacated and permanently closed. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance 2020-13 Providing for the Elimination of Certain Grade Crossings. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance 2020-14: Mike Lautzenheiser, Jr. presented an Ordinance that will amend and replace Wells county Ordinance 93-8, which established a fair housing ordinance for Wells County. Family unit is now defined by a group of people who live together, regardless if they are related to each other or not. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to adopt Ordinance 2020-14. Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment 2020-15: Mike Lautzenheiser presented a recommended APC do pass amendment to the Wells County zoning ordinance. The recommended zoning changes are from Residential-1 Zoned District to an Agriculture Residential Zoned District, it is a property owned by Ronald and Renee Gustafson. This will allow for boarding of animals, not more than 10. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance 2020-15 amending the Wells County zoning ordinance and zone maps. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:53 AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor