

**Wells County Commissioners**  
**Regular Session August 17, 2020**

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 17, 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 August 3, 2020 regular session and the August 10, 2020 Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll and Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #16 in the amount of \$240,213.31 and 211 claims totaling \$499,705.87. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 66 inmates, 28 pretrial Superior, 12 pretrial Circuit, 8 DOC and 13 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 \$4,050.00. All bidders will be notified, the next bid opening will be at the September 7<sup>th</sup> Commissioner meeting. The minimum bid for that meeting is \$4,100.00. A demonstration for the Tek84 body scanner was held at the Sheriff's department. That is a total body scanner which will eliminate searching inmates upon arrival at the jail. The scanner will be reimbursed out of CARES Act funds. Sheriff Holliday stated that a 2-year warranty is included in the purchase price. Additional service contracts beyond the 2-year date will be an additional expense, dependent on which contract is selected. Annual testing will be required.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Josh Cotton was working with the chip and seal crew; his report was via email. His department is full steam ahead with chip and seal and have completed 66 miles. That marks the halfway point for 2020.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag reported that work is scheduled to begin today for Bridge 193 heat straightening and painting. The road closure will last for 60-75 days depending on the painting. North Oaks existing drainage is entering the back yards of the homes in North Oaks and crossing Maple/Spruce Road. Recommendations for correction with the developer include lowering the pipe and increase pipe size to an equivalent 36-inch diameter squashed pipe. The existing pipe under Maple Drive is resting on an existing gas line. The developer has offered to replace a pipe for the residents of North Oaks and with our help, the line will be lowered to address overland flow concerns. The cost for the pipeline is estimated at \$4,340.66 for the county road crossing. Rumschlag was requesting approval of the cost of the crossing pipe. This was not a cost considered of the county at the onset of the project. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the cost of \$4,340.66 to replace the crossing pipe under Maple Drive. Motion carried 3-0. Two Right-Of-Way documents were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Right-Of-Way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

**COVID-19 Grant Fund Resolution 2020-08:** Mike Lautzenheiser presented a COVID-19 grant fund resolution. This resolution states that the Board of Commissioners of Wells County are approving the application of Wells County for a Community Development block grant funds for the COVID-19 response program for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. This grant would be used for area businesses to retain low-to-moderate income jobs. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by

Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2020-8 the COVID-19 Grant Fund Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

**Security Camera:** Bluffton NOW president Mike Lautzenheiser presented a proposal to the Commissioners for security cameras on the plaza. Five security cameras will be installed to monitor activity around the Courthouse and the Parlor City Plaza. The total estimate is \$5,644.01, which he was proposing be split between Bluffton NOW and the County. The system will feed into the existing courthouse security system. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve of the Security Camera to be installed for a cost to the county of \$2,822.01. Motion carried 3-0.

**AED Resolution:** The AED Resolution was tabled until more information can be obtained.

**Library Board Appointment:** The Commissioners thanked all applicants for applying for the Library Board position. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint John Stauffer to the Wells County Library Board, that appointment will be responsible to give updates every 6 months at a Commissioner meeting and summarize each library board meeting via email. Motion carried 3-0.

**Appraisals:** The Commissioners received appraisals for the purchase of the Mossburg farm property. The maximum purchase price cannot be more than the average of the two appraisals. There was an appraisal for the Mossburg farm as well as the current Highway Garage. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to go forward with the purchase of land for the Highway garage, not necessarily to include the trade option. The offer will include the average of the two appraisals. Motion carried 3-0.

**2021 Holiday Schedule:** The 2021 Holiday schedule was presented to the Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the 2021 Holiday schedule. Motion carried 3-0.

**Holiday Closings:** Auditor Lisa McCormick asked for approval for closure of Wells County offices (Courthouse, Annex and County Extension) from Noon – 2 PM for a Thanksgiving luncheon for Wells County employees at the 4-H park on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Also requested was to close Wells County Offices (Courthouse, Annex and County Extension) at 2 PM on December 23<sup>rd</sup> for a Holiday gathering on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Courthouse for employees. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to allow the holiday closings but food shall be served to each guest. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:09AM

### 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