

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session February 16, 2021

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday February 16, 2021 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 Michael Vanover. Also, in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2021 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll and Claims:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Payroll #3 in the amount of \$243,359.18 and 149 claims totaling \$186,335.32. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 77 inmates, 29 pretrial Superior, 19 pretrial Circuit, 13 F6 and 11 DOC.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** The Commissioners extended an offer of interim Highway Supervisor to Kim Bennett for 6 months. Kim is currently employed at the Wells County highway department as a road foreman. The road foreman position will not be filled until after the interim period has ended in July 2021.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag presented to the Commissioners a design contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. (Misc. 2021-03) and a Geotechnical service contract with Alt & Witzig Engineering. Both contracts are for Bridge 19 & Bridge 170 with a not to exceed amount of \$150,550.00 for a combined total of both contracts. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the contracts with BF&S and Alt & Witzig Engineering. Motion carried 3-0. INDOT is transitioning to digital signatures for contracts. Rumschlag was requesting approval of a resolution authorizing a single signatory for all INDOT/LPA agreements digitally through DocuSign. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Resolution 2021-02 authorizing the President of the Wells County Board of Commissioners, or in the President's absence, any other Commissioner, to sign contracts on behalf of the County with INDOT. Motion carried 3-0. Also presented was a INDOT Bridge Inspection Contract 2021-2024, Des#1902082. The maximum federal share of the engineering cost is \$279,316, 80% of the total expense. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the INDOT Bridge Inspection contract 2021-2024 (Misc. 2021-04). Motion carried 3-0. Nate Rumschlag presented a consulting contract amendment with USI for right of way services for Bridge 106. USI shall provide the right of way services to secure the needed right of way documents for the project. The cost of the service shall not exceed \$14,500. This service is contingent upon INDOT authorization. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the agreement with USI for right of way services contingent upon INDOT authorization. Motion carried 3-0. A utility permit for Vantage Point for fiber and phone lines was presented for Commissioner approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the utility permit. 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 A1 Zoned District to I1 Zoned District, it is a property located at the SW intersection of 200S and Adams

Street. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Ordinance 2021-01 amending Wells County zoning ordinance and zone maps. Motion carried 3-0.

**Economic Development Annual Report:** Economic Development Director Chad Kline presented his 2020 Annual Report. Chad went over the Key Activities including business expansion & retention, industrial attraction, education & information, workforce development, tourism, collaboration & networking and revolving loan funding. The report indicated \$96.8 million in New Investment, 431 new jobs and \$15.4 million in new payroll. The 2021 projects include continued broadband growth, housing development, promote Wells County to increase tourism, population attraction and population retention. and facilitate training programs for employers, among others.

**Commissioner Appointments:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to appoint Vanover to the Community Corrections Advisory Board, the EMA Advisory Board and the LEPC board. Motion carried 3-0.

**Resolution 2021-03:** A resolution was presented to the Commissioners expressing support for local control of land use decisions. House Bill 1381 is pending in the Indiana General Assembly, if enacted, such legislation would disenfranchise the citizens of the ability to determine the conditions under which wind energy and solar energy projects would be allowed in their county. With this resolution the Board of Commissioners are expressing opposition to House Bill 1381 and expressing support for the rights of individuals and families living in a community to direct their own future through land use decisions. Motion made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2021-03. Motion carried 3-0.

**Cumulative Capital Development Fund:** The deadline for the Commissioners to create a Cumulative Capital Development Fund is April 30, 2021 for tax collection in 2022. The Commissioners will discuss this topic further in the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:23 AM, motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Blake Gerber

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

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Member, Michael K Vanover

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor