

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session January 4, 2021

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday January 4, 2021 at 9:00AM 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 was County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

**Re-organization of Board:** Auditor Lisa McCormick asked for a nomination for President of the Board of Commissioners for 2021. Motion made by Tammy Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to re-appoint Commissioner Blake Gerber as Commissioner President and to re-appoint Kevin Woodward as Commissioner vice-president. Motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from December 21, 2020 regular session and December 21, 2020 Joint Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll and Claims:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #26 in the amount of \$242,888.62 and 138 claims totaling \$406,500.70. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 66 inmates, 21 pretrial Superior, 17 pretrial Circuit, 15 F6 DOC and 11 DOC.

**Highway Engineer:** Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on ongoing projects. He will be accepting bids on January 14, 2021 for Bridge 121 with bid opening on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Road closure with the project will be approximately 105 days. Two right of ways were presented to the commissioners for approval, motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right of ways. Motion carried 3-0. One Utility permit was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the utility permit. Motion carried 3-0.

**Recorder Contracts:** Recorder Carolyn Bertsch presented software contracts with CSI and Property Watch through Doxpop, LLC. The CSI contract will allow the office to increase the efficiency in document imaging and indexing. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the CSI contract. Motion carried 3-0. Property Watch will allow property owners to register to receive notifications for updates on their property records. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Property Watch Doxpop agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

**Ameresco and Elevatus:** Ameresco and Elevatus presented a project development agreement for the proposed jail upgrades. The agreement detailed a timeline that if not met would require a \$120,000 payment to Ameresco and Elevatus. If the timeline is met that cost would be incorporated into the project costs. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the project development agreement (Misc. 2021-01). Motion carried 3-0.

**Elevatus:** Representatives from Elevatus were on hand to update the Commissioners on a proposed jail expansion. No costs were discussed at this time, Wygant Construction will be consulted on cost estimates. Options presented were a 50, 75 and 100 bed expansions. Elevatus will update further when cost estimates are available.

**Board Appointments:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to re-appoint Blake Gerber to the Economic Development Board & Chamber of Commerce board, Tamara Robbins to the EMA Advisory Board, Kevin Woodward to the EMS Board, Motion carried 3-0. One application was submitted for the Wells County Solid Waste board, Richard Cory Elzey was the applicant, he serves on the Uniondale Town Council. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Richard Cory Elzey to the Solid Waste Board. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to re-appoint Chris Pease to the Cemetery board for a five-year term, and to re-appoint Robert Mautz and Mike Schumm to the Rockcreek Conservancy board for four-year terms. Motion carried 3-0.

**2021 Solid Waste Salary Contract:** Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2021 Solid Waste Salary Contract (Misc. 2021-02). Motion carried 3-0.

**FFCRA Paid Leave:** The families first coronavirus response act requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. This provision expired on December 31, 2020. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to extend the expiration date to March 31, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:40AM, motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward. 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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Tamara Robbins

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