

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session February 1, 2021

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday February 1, 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 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 January 19, 2021 regular session and January 19, 2021 Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Payroll #2 in the amount of \$252,903.48 and 152 claims totaling \$360,308.36. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 72 inmates, 22 pretrial Superior, 21 pretrial Circuit, 15 F6 DOC and 11 DOC.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag requested approval for Ruble Triathlon to use County Roadways for the Cycling portion of a triathlon. The event is to be held on June 12, 2021 from 8am – Noon. Rumschlag has requested from Zach Ruble certificates of insurance to be provided to the county. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve of the road use, upon receipt of the certificate of insurance. Motion carried 3-0. Two right-of-way documents were presented for the commissioner's approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the Right-of-Ways. Motion carried 3-0.

Bluffton NOW: Mike Lautzenheiser, Bluffton NOW President, presented to the Commissioners the Bluffton NOW 2020 Annual report. \$67,000 was raised in fundraising efforts to cover project and operating costs. A local rap artist held a concert on the plaza. A music fest and mural fest were other weekend events that were held on the plaza. Local shopping events as well as a farmer's market were other attractions to draw shoppers downtown. Virtual events were a community prayer vigil and two concerts. Many events were cancelled due to COVID. Downtown occupancy has increased: first floor occupancy is at 90.9%, second floor occupancy is at 66.9%, third floor occupancy is 36.2%. Lautzenheiser emphasized that even with all the down sides to 2020 it was a great year for Bluffton's downtown.

Workers Compensation Renewal: General Insurance presented an updated Workers Compensation Renewal via email to the Commissioners. The effective date of the policy is 02/01/2021-02/01/2022. The annual renewal is \$74,904, an increase of \$9,522 over last years premium. That increase was due to increased payroll as well as the modification factor which increased from .87 to 1.01. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the Workers Compensation renewal. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Council on Aging: Bonnie Valind presented the 4th Qtr. 2020 reports and invoice via email for the Commissioners. Kevin Woodward motioned, seconded by Michael Vanover to allow President Blake Gerber to sign the 2020 4th Quarter reimbursement paperwork for Wells on Wheels public transit program for an amount of \$151,453.00. Motion carried 3-0

Huntington City/Town Public Library Appointment: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to reappoint Jessica Mankey as the Commissioner appointment to the Huntington City/Town Public library board. It is a four-year appointment. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Certificate Sale: The County Executive shall acquire liens and receive tax sale certificates for the properties listed that are delinquent in the payment of property taxes having been offered for tax sale and which received no bids equal to or in excess of minimum sale price, and offer for sale to the public the certificates of sale acquired by the County Executive at a properly advertised Commissioner Tax Certificate sale. A minimum bid was established for property 010-09510-00 of \$2,000.00 on December 7, 2020. A minimum was not set on property 006-04144-00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to set a minimum bid of \$500.00 for property 006-04144-00. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:33AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Member, Michael K. Vanover

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor