

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session March 1, 2021

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday March 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 February 16, 2021 regular session and the February 16, 2021 Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Payroll #4 in the amount of \$256,562.92 and 148 claims totaling \$1,347,627.07. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 78 inmates, 31 pretrial Superior, 19 pretrial Circuit, 14 F6 DOC and 9 DOC. Sheriff Holliday submitted the 2020 Annual Jail Report to the Commissioners. Holliday stated that Jury trials are starting back up this week. A new video court system is in process and will help facilitate both Superior and Circuit Courts.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Kim Bennett informed the Commissioners that the brush cutter is working south. The highway department will be grading gravel roads later this week, weather permitting. Two bids were received for Dustay from Pavement Solutions and the Klink Group. Pavement Solutions bid was for \$1.50/gal for the 1st application, \$1.54 for the 2nd application. The Klink Group bid was for \$1.45/gal for the 1st application, \$1.49/gal for the 2nd application and \$1.24/gal delivered. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to take the bids under advisement by the Highway Superintendent and Highway Engineer until the March 15th meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the commissioners that two Federal Aid awards were granted to Wells County for FY 2026. Bridge 71, Des #2003072, was awarded in the amount of \$1,546,560 for the construction and inspection of the bridge replacement on CR 200 W over Rock Creek. CR 200 S, Des #2003077, was awarded \$3,505,736 for the construction and inspection of the road reconstruction from Adams Street east to the intersection of Clark and Hoosier Highway. The CR 200 S project includes a railroad overpass. These projects will take 5 years to complete. Rumschlag requested approval for an unofficial detour for SR 116. The detour will be from SR 116, north on SR 301, NW on SR 201, south on CR 450 E, returning to SR 116. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the unofficial detour for SR 116. Motion carried 3-0. Three right of ways were presented to the commissioners for approval, motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the right of ways. Motion carried 3-0.

Family Centered Services: Paige Hamilton, Executive Director of Family Centered Services, presented a request for the annual funding for Family Centered Services in the amount of \$15,000. This funding supports teen court for Wells County. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve funding for Family Centered Services for \$15,000. Motion carried 3-0.

Washington/Main Commons: A request for use of the Washington/Main Commons was presented to the commissioners for approval. The request is for May 1, 2021 for Shred Day from 9 am – Noon, sponsored by the Wells County Solid Waste District. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the Washington/Main Commons request for May 1, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Garage: County Attorney, Roy Johnson, informed the Commissioners about a request from an adjoining property owner of the proposed highway garage site. The property owner wants to reroute his drainage tile, but the work is dependent upon how Wells County proceeds. The tile runs in the middle of the property but would be more effective to move it to the west, for both the property owner and Wells County. County Attorney Johnson stated that Wells County doesn't own the property yet. The Commissioners could reach an agreement with Mossburg about allowing the county to proceed with the tiling project. The commissioners are interested in requesting right of way from both the Falk and Fiechter properties on the north side of 200S. The offer would be if they are willing to grant the right of way, we could use that ROW for utilities to the future highway garage site. That would save Fiechter and Falk money in making future connections to those lines. Rumschlag stated that he could have information at the March 15th meeting if the Commissioners would authorize soil testing of the land for foundation designs. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to authorize testing in 3 areas of the Mossburg property, contingent on recommended placement. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance 2021-02: An Ordinance was presented to the Commissioners authorizing signatories for county Disaster Emergency Declarations for Travel Restriction. This Ordinance establishes rules for declaring an emergency disaster in Wells County. The President of the Commissioners, or in the President's absence, any other Commissioner, may sign the county disaster declaration for travel restriction. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Ordinance 2021-02 Authorizing the President of the Wells County Board of Commissioners, or in the President's absence, any other Commissioner, to sign County Disaster Emergency Declarations for Travel Restriction. Motion carried 3-0.

Tax Sale Certificate: Five tax sale certificates assignments issued to the City of Bluffton were presented to the Commissioners for approval. These certificates identify parcels that failed to sell for the minimum bid at the tax sale in October 2020. Tax sale certificate #902000029 for property ID# 010-07200-00, tax sale certificate #902000032 for property ID# 010-07653-00, tax sale certificate #902000037 for property ID# 010-07951-00, tax sale certificate #902000047 for property ID# 010-09401-00, tax sale certificate #902000052 for property ID# 011-09656-00. The Commissioners may assign tax sale certificates held in the name of the county executive to any political subdivision. The City of Bluffton will now be responsible to carry out procedures for acquiring the tax sale deeds. A 120-day redemption period will start when the City of Bluffton receives the Certificates. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve, and allow the President, Blake Gerber, to sign the Tax Sale Certificate assignments to the City of Bluffton. Motion carried 3-0.

Cumulative Capital Development Fund: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to allow advertisement for a Public Hearing for adoption of a Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Motion carried 3-0.

Redevelopment Commission: Heather James from Ice Miller, Matt Eckerly and Brian Colton from Baker Tilly and Economic Development Director Chad Kline were on hand virtually for a discussion on

establishing a redevelopment commission. Heather James discussed timelines and the steps needed to reach those timelines. A redevelopment commission can be either 5 or 7 members. Meetings can be monthly or as needed. Per the discussion Heather will take the Commissioner comments and present a timeline at a future meeting.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:25AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Michael K Vanover

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor