

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session April 5, 2021

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 6, 2020 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 Deputy Auditor, Julie Eicher.

Minutes: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2021 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #6 in the amount of \$249,888.63, Payroll #7 in the amount of \$242,784.58 and 286 claims totaling \$444,018.90. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 73 inmates, 28 pretrial Superior, 22 pretrial Circuit, 11 F6 DOC and 5 DOC.

Highway: Interim Highway Supervisor, Kim Bennett, informed the Commissioners that he will resume his position as Road Foreman and step down as Highway Supervisor. His last day as Highway Supervisor will be April 2, 2021. Three bids came in for Bituminous: Asphalt Materials - \$1.459/gal, Klink Group - \$1.57/gal, Marathon Petroleum Co. - \$1.479/gal. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to take them under advisement until the April 19th meeting. Motion carried. 3-0. Summer township stone is almost complete. Crews will begin patching next. Summer schedule will begin May 3rd, 4 – 10-hour days.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag recommended approving a contract with R.G. Zachrich for the total base bit of \$408,215.23 for Bridge 121 & guardrail extension CR 600 over Eight Mile Ditch, CCMG 2020-02. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the contract with R.G. Zachrich (Misc. 2021-08) for CCMG 2020-02 for Bridge 212 & guardrail extension CR 600 over Eight Mile Ditch. Motion carried 3-0. A contract with USI was presented to the Commissioners for Wells County Bridge 106, Des#1702735. The contract is for right of way services for this federal aid project for \$14,500.00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the Bridge 106 contract with USI for right of way services. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag presented design exemptions for Bridge 54, Des#1902846. Design exemption #1 is for sight distance, this would require widening portions of the bridge substructure which is beyond the scope of the project and funding. Design exemption #2 is related to the previous exemption. The exemption is on the shy-line offset, which is the distance from the travel lane to the face of the guardrail. The guardrail placement is part of the reason for the sight distance exemption and needs to fit within the existing foundation width. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve exemption #1 and #2 for Bridge 54. Motion carried 3-0. Also presented to the Commissioners was a professional services agreement with RQAW. The proposed agreement is for design and criteria development services to further develop project scope. This will allow the Commissioners to go with a design-build or design-bid-build or even a hybrid delivery method. The agreement is for \$40,000.00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the agreement with RQAW. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag presented two Utility Permits for approval. Motion Made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the two Utility Permits. Motion carried 3-0. Seven Right-of-Way

documents were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to accept, and sign the Seven Right-of-Way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund: A resolution was presented to the Commissioners creating an American Rescue Plan (ARP) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – 8950. This fund will accept funds available under Section 603 of the Social Security Act, as added by the Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). The funds will remain available through December 31, 2024 for making payments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Resolution 2021-05 establishing a Count ARP Coronavirus Local fiscal Recovery Fund – 8950. Motion carried 3-0.

Bills Creek Watershed Cost Share: A proposed joint project between the Commissioners and the Drainage board was presented. This drainage project is in the Bill’s Creek watershed and Bessie Porter Tile. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to pay \$20,000.00 out of the LIT Economic Development fund for this project. Motion carried 3-0. The remainder of \$10,000.00 will be paid from the Drainage board budget.

Mask Mandate: The Wells County Commissioners discussed the mask mandate for Wells County Offices. Effective April 6, 2021, entrance to Wells County governmental buildings will not require wearing a mask or a temperature check. However, the Commissioners do request that if a patron requests an employee of Wells County to wear a mask that the employee would respectfully comply.

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. On January 4, 2021, the Commissioners granted an extension of FFCRA until March 31, 2021. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Michael Vanover to extend the expiration date to April 30, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:09AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Member, Michael K Vanover

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor