

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session April 15, 2024

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 15, 2024, at 5:00PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Jeff Stringer, Michael Vanover, and Blake Gerber, County Attorney, Ted Storer and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2024, regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: A motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Payroll #8 in the amount of \$291,591.66 and 278 claims totaling \$458,250.24. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 79 inmates, 24 pretrial Superior, 41 pretrial Circuit, 4 F6 and 8 DOC. Holliday reported that the Eclipse was seamlessly handled by all agencies. The Sheriff also reported that the padded cell needs repair. The coating will need to be replaced, he is seeking quotes for the work and will report back with the results.

ARPA Funds: Wells County has \$750,452 in remaining ARPA funds to be expended by December 31, 2024. In previous discussion it was suggested that those funds be used to run utility extensions to the new highway garage. Connor Jackson, Jackson Construction, supplied an accounting of utility development costs that totaled \$678,837.13 in eligible ARPA expenses. Sheriff Holliday suggested using the remaining ARPA funds of \$71,614.87 for sheriff vehicles. A motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to use \$678,837.13 of ARPA funds for utility development costs for the highway garage, \$71,614.87 of ARPA funds for new sheriff vehicles, and update the ARPA Plan accordingly. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway: Shawn Bonar reported on ongoing projects. Maintenance on stone roads is in process, field entrances are being installed on 450E. Bridge 170 is starting tomorrow, 900S between 700S and 800S will be closed for 90 days. Dust control sign ups will continue until May 1st. HAVC and generator details in the highway garage are getting addressed. Commissioner Stringer would like Shawn to submit the top five to ten punch list items that are outstanding for Commissioner review. Bid results were issued from INDOT for Bridge 51 and Bridge 106. Bridge 51 was awarded to Duncan Robertson, Inc. with a bid of \$1,235,274.40, which was under the Engineers estimate of \$1,504,534.00. Bridge 106 was awarded to RL McCoy, Inc. with a bid of \$1,497,025.87, which was under the Engineers estimate of \$1,991,930.50. Bonar accepted the bids and signed the acceptance letters.

Walker Hughes Renewal: David Callahan and Danica Dunwiddie, representing Walker Hughes, presented a renewal proposal for Wells County Insurance. Updated were replacement valuations on the Jail and Annex. The Jail had an updated valuation of \$15,000,000 and the Annex was updated to \$3,000,000. The Commissioners felt the replacement value on the Jail should be increased to \$30,000,000, but to also quote at \$20,000,000. Not included in the policy was the Salt Barn and personal property content estimate for the Highway garage. Dunwiddie had not yet received those amounts from the Highway Supervisor, they could be added when received. A Corvus cyber policy was presented for review. Included in the cyber policy were increased limits to \$1,000,000. The annual cyber premium with Corvus is \$14,489. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael

Vanover to bind the Corvus cyber policy. Motion carried 3-0. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to allow the President to sign the Corvus cyber policy. A special session to discuss the Selective policy with increased valuation will be scheduled prior to the May 1st renewal deadline.

Imagine Early: Jessica Bricker and Ashleigh King updated the Commissioners on the progress of Imagine Early. Imagine Early is an Adams Wells coalition that is looking into local childcare needs. Ashleigh King is the Imagine Early Director. The mission for Imagine Early is to provide and increase awareness, to support and foster connections for quality early childhood care, and education to build vibrant communities. King’s mission is to meet with providers, employers, and families to create an understanding of the current area childcare needs.

Meyer Rezoning Commitment Agreement: At the April 1, 2024, meeting, additional language in the Meyer rezoning commitment agreement was requested by the Commissioners concerning the well and the property being designated as a single-family dwelling again only if the board of zoning approves a special exception. The requested language was added to the Meyer commitment agreement. An acclimation to sign the commitment agreement was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover. Motion carried 3-0.

EDC Update: Commissioner Stringer provided an update on Economic Development. He stated that on May 3rd, there would be interviews for an Economic Development Director. Attorney Storer suggested a fee for services agreement for the Director with all participating entities. If an interlocal agreement was adopted, an agreement would be needed for each entity, Storer didn’t think an interlocal was necessary. The interlocal agreement would require the creation of an advisory board, which could consist of government officials. and not-for-profit. There were no votes taken on the matter.

Right-of-Way or Utility Agreement(s): One right-of-way agreement and one utility agreement were presented for approval from the Highway department. Attorney Storer identified errors in the documents and will return them back to the highway for corrections.

Adjourned: 5:41PM, a motion was made by Blake Gerber to adjourn, seconded by Michael Vanover. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Jeff Stringer

Vice President, Michael K Vanover

Member, Blake Gerber

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor