

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session May 2, 2022

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday May 2, 2022, at 9:00AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Michael Vanover, Blake Gerber, and Jeff Stringer, County Attorney, Colin Andrews and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2021, regular session and the April 26, 2022, Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Payroll #9 in the amount of \$251,588.34 and 125 claims totaling \$723,749.27. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 87 inmates, 45 pretrial Superior, 20 pretrial Circuit, 8 F6 DOC and 7 DOC. Masonry is being completed on the interior; roofing is beginning to be delivered. October is the estimated completion date.

Wells County Highway: Shawn Bonar updated the Commissioners that 2 pipe crews are repairing broken tiles and working on drainage issues. They are 50% complete with work orders. Two maintainers are prepping gravel roads for dust control application. The first application of dust control will begin on May 9th, weather permitting. Two patch crews are prepping roads scheduled to be chip and sealed this year. Bonar submitted the 2021 Highway Annual report for Commissioner approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve, and sign the 2021 Highway Annual report. Motion carried 3-0. Bonar stated that he is in discussion with Mike Swann on possible cost reductions on the proposed Highway garage plans. The next Highway garage meeting is May 10th at 9am.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag updated the Commissioners on ongoing projects. Wells County was awarded \$468,862.50 in Community Crossing Matching Grant funds for Bridge 19. Bridge 19 is on CR 800E north of 900S. Rumschlag was requesting approval to advertise the project for bid. Bids will be opened on June 2, 2022, at 2pm. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to advertise for bids for construction on Bridge 19. Motion carried 3-0. Storm sewers have been installed through Main street in Murray and have reached the west end of Garhardt St. This has increased drainage significantly on the east side of SR116. An update on Liberty Center included a discussion on road issues. The Regional Sewer District is working on finalizing the schedule for asphalt/paving. Rumschlag requested the Commissioners visit the County Home Road and 300S site to express their opinions on the proposed improvements for that location. The Commissioners received two utility permits for approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the two utility permits. Motion carried 3-0. Four rights of way were presented for Commissioner approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the four rights of way. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Officer Appointment: The term for Wells County Health Officer, Kay Johnson, MD, MPH ends on April 30, 2022. According to IC 16-20-2-16 the health board is responsible for appointing the health officer, the appointment is certified by the county executive. The health officer term is for a period of 4

years. The health department is unable to operate, i.e., birth, death certification/issuance, administration of immunizations, issuance of permits etc. without a Health Officer appointment. Notification of the appointment had been sent to area physicians, but no interest was received. Dr. Johnson is willing to serve another term. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve, and allow the President to sign the record of appointment of Kay Johnson, MD as the local health officer for a 4-year term. Motion carried 3-0.

Plaza Request: Audry Dudley, Bluffton NOW representative, presented a request for use of the Courthouse Plaza for the Parlor City Market. The market runs each Saturday from June 4 through September 17. Vendor hours are between 9am and 1pm, the space will be used from 7:30am – 2pm for vendor set up and tear down. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to allow use of the Courthouse Plaza for the Parlor City Market each Saturday, June 4 through September 17, 2022. Motion carried 3-0.

Community Corrections Grant: Blake Poindexter presented the 2023 Community Corrections Grant application letter of approval for Commissioner signatures. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to sign the 2023 Community Corrections Grant letter of approval. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Blake Gerber motioned; Jeff Stringer seconded to adjourn at 9:27AM.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor