

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session May 4, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday May 4, 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 Tamara Robbins. Also, in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from April 20, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #9 in the amount of \$237,938.42 and 161 claims totaling \$284,849.15. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 51 inmates, 19 pretrial Superior, 10 pretrial Circuit, 10 F6 DOC and 7 DOC. The Sheriff also discussed the possibility of adding a part time IT employee to his department. Kevin Woodward expressed his support for that updated position.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on the hand patching, backhoe and rotary ditch work. Ditch work and entrances are being finished for road conversions within the month; they can then be sealed this year. Township stone is complete. Received three bids for Bituminous Material Liquid from; Marathon Petroleum at \$1.33/gal for AE90, no AE90-S; Asphalt Materials at \$1.32/gal for AE90 and \$1.62/gal for AE90-S, and Klink at \$1.44/gal for AE90 and \$1.88/gal for AE90-S. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept Asphalt Material bid for Bituminous Material Liquid of \$1.32 for AE90 and \$1.62 for AE90-S. Motion carried 3-0. Dustay signups are this week and next week with the spray to be applied the week of May 26 and June 8. Cotton submitted a copy of the Annual Operational Report for Local Roads and Streets and Bridges to the Commissioners.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented a proposal for an Engineering Assessment for CR 200 S. USI issued a draft proposal for a preliminary engineering assessment for a potential federal aid project. It would reconstruct CR 200 S between Adams Street and County Home Road. The assessment will look at the entire corridor and identify options for the upcoming NOFA application for 2026 funding. The proposal has a not to exceed total of \$25,000. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the proposal with USI, not to exceed \$25,000 (Misc. 2020-07). Motion carried 3-0. Two 2020-01 Community Crossing Matching Grant bridge projects have been advertised. Bid opening for both projects, Bridge 193 and Bridge 304, will be May 21st. The Commissioners received two Utility Permits for approval, Adams Wells Internet and Heartland REMC. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the two Utility Permits. Motion carried 3-0. One Offer for Purchase of Right of Way for the Bridge 99, Hoosier Highway and Ash Road project was accepted by the property owner and presented for the Commissioners' signature. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to proceed with the purchase of the right of way. Motion carried 3-0. One Right of Way was presented for Commissioner approval, 700N and 200W. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept the right of way. Motion carried 3-0. Nate Rumschlag presented a Phase II Bridge Inspection report from USI, the records will be uploaded into INDOT.

COVID Update: Community Corrections Director, Blake Poindexter, and EMA Director, Rick Velasquez, presented COVID updates for their departments to the Commissioners. Poindexter is stocking up on

Personal Protective Equipment and is formulating a daily response plan. Velasquez has distributed PPE supplies to the county's first responders. The Commissioners expressed appreciation for their efforts during this trying time.

General Insurance Renewal: General Insurance presented a renewal proposal for the County Insurance. A premium refund will be issued from the Workers Compensation policy of \$3,636 for audit term 2019-2020. Including the Worker's Compensation premium, Wells County had a decrease of 1,412/year plus getting back another \$3,636 in return audit premium. For the Bliss McKnight Group policy, payrolls are up approximately 7.78% and the 5-year losses are very favorable for general liability (14%) and auto liability (35%). The auto physical damage loss history (these are claims to employees having accidents in County owned vehicles) is at 114% which could likely affect pricing moving forward but happy with the rate provided. The total Bliss McKnight annual premium is \$147,369. On the Selective policy, there is a blanket amount of \$16,747,437 on the buildings & \$3,296,338 on business personal property with a \$2,500 deductible. The scheduled equipment listing is at \$1,626,357. Loss ratio on the property has remained very good at around 15.9%(excellent). The total annual Selective premium is \$54,889. Policies are effective 5/1/2020 – 5/1/2021. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to accept the renewal proposals with General Insurance. Motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse COVID: The Commissioners discussed the future COVID outlook, the employees and the public for Wells County buildings. The current COVID Resolution 2020-03, has non-essential employees off work or working from home through May 1, 2020. The Commissioners did not extend the current Resolution. Wells County buildings will still operate by appointment only with the public. Plexiglass partitions have been installed for all offices. The temperatures of all who are entering the Courthouse will be mandatory. Any patron or employee who has a temperature over 100.4 will not be allowed entrance into the building. Six-foot markings will be put on floors to identify safe distances. All offices will be supplied with masks and gloves for all employees. Commissioners will continue to follow the Governors guideline.

Title Authorization: County Attorney Roy Johnson discussed right of way closings for Bridge 99. He suggested that if he has updated title commitments and there are no new mortgages, the property owner may close at Roy Johnsons office, sign the deed and receive their check. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow Roy Johnson to close on the right of ways. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Tamara Robbins motioned; Kevin Woodward seconded to adjourn at 10:00AM.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor