

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session May 16, 2022

The Wells County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 9:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Michael Vanover and Blake Gerber, County Attorney, Colin Andrews and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick. Commissioner Jeff Stringer was absent.

Regular Session

Minutes: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2022, regular session and the May 2, 2022, executive session. Motion carried 2-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Payroll #10 in the amount of \$258,823.72 and 150 claims totaling \$973,444.67. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 84 inmates, 30 pretrial Superior, 17 pretrial Circuit, 19 F6 and 8 DOC. A construction meeting will be held on May 17th. Roofing will be complete in July. Half of the administrative office HVAC units have been installed. Southern Wells Superintendent Brian Sloan was on hand with Sherriff Holliday to discuss the SRO agreement between those departments. 70% of the cost of the SRO officer is reimbursed back to Wells County from Southern Wells Schools. This contract is renegotiated every two years with updated wages and benefits. Sheriff Holliday is also updating the Northern Wells SRO two-year agreement; both will be effective at the start of the school year 2022.

Highway Supervisor: Shawn Bonar updated the Commissioners on highway projects. Most of the work orders are complete. His crews are starting to mow side ditches. The first application of dust control was put down on the 11th. The second application will go down in the next couple of weeks. Crews are prepping roads to be chipped this year. Slow down and be aware of the road crews on the county roads. Conor Jackson gave an update on the highway garage. The design team is finalizing documents with additional detail and updating the spec book. The cold storage building will be a 4-sided structure and does not need a sprinkler system.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag gave updates on ongoing projects. Road conversion petitions for 2022 will close on June 1. Petitions received after June 1st will be included in 2023 petitions. The Murray Stormwater project is on schedule for a June completion. Rumschlag presented a design contract with Butler Fairman & Seufert for Bridge 65. The contract is for design work, not to exceed \$110,410. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the design contract with BF&S for Bridge 65 (Misc. 2022-06), not to exceed \$110,410. Motion carried 2-0. Rumschlag presented an agreement with Engineering Resources Inc. for the survey and design work for County Home Road and CR 300S intersection and roadway improvements. The proposal includes an alternate to extend the design work to CR 200S project. His recommendation was to approve both the base and alternate scope of work. The project estimated cost for survey and design work is \$84,300. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the proposal with Engineering Resources for survey and design work for County Home Road and CR 300S for \$84,300 (Misc. 2022-07). Motion carried 2-0. The Regional Sewer District presented a subrecipient agreement for the use of ARPA funds committed to the RSD from Wells County. This agreement allocates

\$2,000,000 in Wells County ARPA funds to the RSD. The funds will be used for installation of a sanitary sewer collection system within the Craigville project area. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Subrecipient agreement (Misc. 2022-08). Motion carried 2-0. Rumschlag requested approval of a utility permit for Heartland REMC. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the Heartland REMC utility permit. Motion carried 2-0. Three rights of way were presented for Commissioner approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the three rights of way. Motion carried 2-0.

Council on Aging (WOW): Betsy Collier, Executive Director, went over some statistical comparison flow charts on trips and riders using the public transit system. Collier introduced two members of the Council on Aging staff, Transportation Director Sandra Bane, and Associate Director Susie Ehlerding. Ridership is still on the rebound from the pandemic. Collier also presented the 2023 Rural Public Transit grant application for approval with the Commissioner President's signature. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve, and allow the President to sign the 2023 Rural Public Transit grant application, and to approve and allow the Auditor to sign Resolution 2022-05 authorizing the Auditor to make necessary certifications and assurances with INDOT on behalf of the Wells County Commissioners. Motion carried 2-0. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve, and allow the President to sign three third quarter invoices. Motion carried 2-0.

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance: Mike Lautzenheiser Jr. presented a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for approval. This ordinance would replace the current "Wells County Ordinance for Flood Hazard Areas." The changes are updates in language to represent changes within the program and best practices. This Ordinance will allow for compliance with changes in the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Ordinance 2022-12, Wells County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Motion carried 2-0.

Interlocal Agreement: An Interlocal agreement with the Town of Ossian was presented to the Commissioners for approval. The Town of Ossian has contracted with Logan Properties for the construction and development of a spec building located on Industrial Parkway, Ossian, IN. The spec building will be approximately 30,000 square feet with a construction cost of \$2,800,000. The Town of Ossian has agreed to reimburse Logan Properties interest carrying costs incurred not to exceed \$250,000. This amount shall be paid during a period not to exceed 36 months. The Town has requested that the County assist in the payment of that obligation. If approved, the County would pay to the Town of Ossian 60% of its obligation under the Agreement. The County will only be obligated to the Town for payments so long as the terms of the Agreement remain in effect and so long as the Town and Logan Properties comply with the terms of the Agreement. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve, and allow the President to sign the Interlocal Agreement for Reimbursement. Motion carried 2-0.

Annex Sound System: Annex sound system quotes were tabled until June 6.

PTABOA Board: PTABOA board appointment was tabled until June 6.

E911: Commissioner Vanover stated that information is still being compiled on the combined dispatch center. More information will be available at a later date.

Public Comment: Brandon Harnish questioned the sound system topic and why it was tabled until June 6. Commissioner Vanover stated that he felt it best to have all Commissioners in attendance. The quotes were for different upgrades to the system, one for replacement and one for repair.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:16AM. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor