

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session June 3, 2024

The Wells County Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday June 3, 2024, at 5:00 PM 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 Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve minutes from the May 20, 2024, regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: A motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Payroll #11 in the amount of \$293,242.89 and 126 claims totaling \$377,766.60. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 80 inmates, 28 pretrial Superior, 41 pretrial Circuit, 1 F6 and 12 DOC. Holliday informed the Commissioners that jail maintenance staff are replacing vent caps. The sheriff is also investigating the cast iron pipes throughout the building. If needed, he will price putting resin liners in any cast iron pipes that are deteriorating. Northern Wells and Southern Wells SRO contracts have been approved for the next two school years.

Highway: Supervisor Shawn Bonar informed the Commissioners that crews are currently mowing side ditches, one mower is down. Bridge 170 has an estimated completion date of next week. An open house for the highway garage is scheduled for April 11th. The first round of dust control was applied on May 23rd, the second round will be applied next week. Side ditches are the only project that is outstanding for the 2023 road conversions. HVAC issues have been satisfactorily resolved at the highway garage; they are awaiting training on the system. Emergency lighting will be installed instead of a generator, the pressure washer is being relocated, wash bay concrete issues are getting resolved, and landscaping is 90% complete. Supervisor Shawn Bonar and County Engineer Nate Whitacre are working on compiling projects for future grant opportunities.

Bi-County Services: Tim Ramsey presented his annual financial update and request for funding for Bi-County Services to the Board of Commissioners. Tim stated that Bi-County's biggest challenge is staffing and retention, which has improved over the past year. 69 Wells County residents are served by Bi-County. Bi-County requested the same level of funding for 2025 as 2024, \$45,408.00. Adams County Commissioners and Council have approved the same contribution amount. A motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the 2025 funding of \$45,408.00 for Bi-County services. Motion carried 3-0.

County Contract Ordinance: Attorney Ted Storer presented an Ordinance that outlines the processes and procedures for approval of County Contracts. All contracts shall be in the name of Wells County, property shall be owned by Wells County, the other party in the County Contract will indemnify Wells County, the other party must first submit any claim to mediation prior to filing a lawsuit for enforcement or breach, the venue for any lawsuit regarding the County Contract must be filed in a court located in Wells County, specific term and termination provisions requiring prior notice, notice of any default, breach or modification must be provided to the Contracting Official or County Officer with a copy to the County Attorney, and any other provision required by statute or regulation. The County Commissioners shall be the sole party to approve a County Contract. The County Officer or Contracting Official shall

submit a proposed County Contract to the County Auditor on an approved request for review form. This form shall identify that the Officer or Official has complied with all statutory Wells County policies on procurement and purchasing with a copy of the proposed County Contract attached. A motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the County Contract Ordinance 2024-08 and to identify that certain language must be included in any Contract involving a county office. Motion carried 3-0.

Community Plan Appointment: Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. requested board appointments for a steering committee for the development of community plan processes. One application was received for the appointment. A motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint Matt Yergler as the citizen appointment to the Community Plan Steering Committee. Motion carried 3-0.

ROW and Utility: One utility permit was presented to the Commissioners for review by Citizens Telephone. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the utility permit. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 5:23PM. The motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Blake Gerber. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Jeff Stringer

Vice President, Michael K Vanover

Member, Blake Gerber

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor