

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session June 20, 2023

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday June 20, 2023, at 5:00PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners Blake Gerber, and Jeff Stringer, County Attorney Ted Storer and County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Commissioner Michael Vanover was absent.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2023, regular session. Motion carried 2-0.

Payroll and Claims: A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Payroll #12 in the amount of \$276,789.98 and 235 claims totaling \$1,128,976.17. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 55 inmates, 13 pretrial Superior, 21 pretrial Circuit, 7 F6 and 11 DOC. Roofing materials were damaged during last week's windstorm. New roofing materials have been restocked and roof work will continue. The kitchen door locking mechanisms are being installed and the shower renovations are in process.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Shawn Bonar informed the Commissioners that the first round of mowing is complete. The south part of the county is patched and ready for seal. The north has started today, chip seal will begin in mid-July. Widening of 500W for road conversion will start this week. Highway garage update included: bulk storage walls are being poured today, wash bay walls are being erected this week and siding is being installed and is 90% complete. Commissioner Stringer has had calls from the public on road conversion schedules and where to view them. Rumschlag stated that the list is on the Wells County Highway website. An updated list will come out in July. Stringer and Gerber suggested putting it in a more conspicuous place for viewing on the website. County Attorney Storer stated he has been working with the Highway department regarding a donation fund. This fund would house monies collected to expand the scope of a road project for the Highway Department. An Ordinance would need to be approved to create the fund and should list the qualified expenditures for the fund. Commissioners Gerber and Stringer suggested Attorney Storer prepare the Ordinance for the July 10th meeting.

Highway Engineer: Rumschlag requested authorization to issue a notice of intent to award a construction contract to Pioneer Associates for the bid amount of \$236,511.20. This contract is for Bridge 85 and was below the engineer's estimate. There were 6 bids for this project. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the issuance of notice of intent to award a construction contract to Pioneer Associates for \$236,511.20 for Bridge 85. Motion carried 2-0. Rumschlag requested authorization to issue a notice of intent to award a construction contract to Jutte Excavating for the bid amount of \$569,344.00. This contract is for Bridge 170 and was above the engineer's estimate. There were 7 bids for this project. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the issuance of notice of intent to award a construction contract to Jutte Excavating for \$569,344.00 for Bridge 170. Motion carried 2-0. Other updates included Bridge 19 is now open to traffic. Rumschlag presented a letter of financial commitment for CCMG 2023-02 for reconstruction of CR 450E. The total estimated cost of the project is \$560,604.72. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve, and sign the letter of financial commitment for

CCMG 2023-02 for CR 450E for \$560,604.72 to be funded by the CCMG line in the Highway budget. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Signs, Flag and Cannon: The subject was moved to the July 10th meeting.

Ordinance Re-Establishing Fees: An Ordinance was presented to the Commissioners re-establishing a fee schedule for the Wells County Drainage Board and Wells County Surveyor. The proposed Ordinance would replace Wells County Ordinance 2013-03. Two fee amounts are being reduced from \$150 to \$50, crossing of a regulated drain fee and encroachment of a regulated drain fee. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Ordinance 2023-07 re-establishing a fee schedule pertaining to the Wells County Drainage Board and Office of the Wells County Surveyor. Motion carried 2-0.

Right-of-Way and Utility Permits: Two rights-of-way documents and one utility permit were presented to the Commissioners for approval. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve, and sign the two rights-of-way and one utility permit. Motion carried 2-0.

Covered Bridge Certification: The Annual Certification for Covered Bridges was presented to the Commissioners. Wells County has zero covered bridges in our county. A motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to sign the Annual Certification for Covered Bridges. Motion carried 2-0.

Retirement Plan: Chief Probation Officer Greg Werich addressed the Commissioners concerning retirement planning for county employees. He was proposing two one-hour planning sessions with a local accountant as well as a PERF representative. His request was to have the sessions in the Annex meeting room during normal business hours. Commissioners Gerber and Stringer agreed with the request. The Commissioners suggested a signup sheet to track participation and a follow up report from Werich.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 5:43PM, motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor