

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session June 21, 2022

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday June 21, 2022, at 5:00PM 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. Also, in attendance were County Attorney, Coin Andrews and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2022, regular session and the minutes from the June 7, 2022, Executive session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Payroll #12 in the amount of \$253,911.20 and 216 claims totaling \$1,675,421.98. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 89 inmates, 27 pretrial Superior, 20 pretrial Circuit, 22 F6 and 6 DOC. The renovation on the roof is over 50% complete. The kitchen should be complete this week. Meal prep has been off site for 3 weeks.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Mike Lautzenheiser presented a recommended APC do not pass amendment to the Wells County zoning ordinance. The requested zoning changes were from I1 Zoned District to I2 Zoned District for a salvage yard. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Ordinance 2022-13 to deny amending Wells County zoning ordinance and zone maps. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Shawn Bonar informed the Commissioners that underground utilities are not cooperating, and 2 dig orders have not been completed. The first round of mowing side ditches has been completed. Chip and seal prep is winding down and chip and seal will kick off on June 27th. Bonar is breaking up the chip and seal program into 2-to-3-week segments. As always, slow down and watch for road crews. Conor Jackson gave an update on the Highway Garage. Jackson was recommending a salt storage building be bid as a separate contract. Two options were presented based on a proposal provided by Greystone Construction. Option 1 was an Atlas L8 Series building, and Option 2 was an Apex L10 Series building. Bonar preferred Option 2, Apex L10 Series building. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to authorize the preparation of plans and specifications of the construction of an Apex L10 Series salt storage building purchase using US Steel, which plans, and specifications would be approved at a later date by the Commissioners prior to being let for bid. Motion carried 3-0. Jackson stated that bid openings would start for concrete and site development on August 2nd, with advertising in mid-July.

Highway Engineer: Rumschlag informed the Commissioners that contracts for Bridge 19 are being prepared by INDOT. This project will take place in the winter months. Adams County has agreed to split the local match on this project 50/50 and will be issuing an agreement. Rumschlag expressed appreciation for this cooperation. The second call for CCMG 2022-02 starts next month. Rumschlag had prepared three options for consideration for the second call. Option 1 was CR 450E, a one-mile rehabilitation with an estimated cost of \$732,139. Option 2, Bridges 170 & 85, with an estimated cost of \$836,570.21. Option 3, Bridges 402 & 85, with an estimated cost of \$741,468.98. Rumschlag stated that he would bring letters of financial commitment for each option to the next meeting. Road names and

signage will have to be changed with the Local Trax project. Rumschlag would like to send out letters to the affected homeowners along the route with options. The Commissioners agreed, letters would be a good option. Jason Borne, Uniondale Volunteer Fire Department representative, was on hand to discuss a 50-year drought plan. During the audit of the fire department, it was stated that they needed a 50-year drought plan that mapped out the ponds and various water structures in their area. Rumschlag stated that he could help them complete the study and complete the plan. The Commissioners agreed to allow Rumschlag to assist in the plan. An agreement for employment of County Engineer was presented for comment. This agreement is for 2023 – 2024 with an annual pay rate of \$102,000 for 2023 and \$105,000 for 2024. An additional stipend of \$7,000 annually for Regional Sewer District Engineering support services is also included in the agreement. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the agreement for employment of the County Engineer (Misc. 2022-09). Motion carried 3-0. A utility permit application for CR 100S west of 700W was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the utility permit application. Motion carried 3-0. Five rights-of-way documents were presented to the Commissioners for their approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the five rights-of-way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Plaza Request: Bluffton Free Street Fair submitted a request to use the Courthouse Plaza from Sunday, September 18 through Sunday, September 25, 2022. This request was carried over from the June 6th meeting until proof of liability insurance was supplied to the Commissioners and Wells County Revitalization. Proof of liability insurance was provided. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the request from the Bluffton Free Street Fair Association for the use of the Courthouse plaza September 18 – September 25, 2022, and payment of the \$1,500 2022 donation. Motion carried 3-0.

PTABOA Board: PTABOA board appointment was tabled until the July 5th meeting. Nathan Shrock, one of the applicants, was present and introduced himself to the Commissioners.

Covered Bridge Certification: The Annual Certification for Covered Bridges was presented to the Commissioners. Wells County has zero covered bridges in our county. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to sign the Annual Certification for Covered Bridges. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 6:05PM, motion made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor