

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session August 1, 2022

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday August 1, 2022, at 5:00PMM 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, County Auditor, Lisa McCormick, and County Attorney, Colin Andrews.

Minutes: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the minutes from July 18, 2022, regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Payroll #15 in the amount of \$255,871.58 and 188 claims totaling \$1,230,341.68. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: The Sheriff's department reported 90 inmates, 35 pretrial Superior, 24 pretrial Circuit, 15 F6 DOC and 4 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Shawn Bonar reported that chip and seal is complete, 76.2 miles in total. Striping will depend on the weather and the contractor's schedule. Next up is ditch mowing which will take 2-3 weeks to complete. Road conversion projects on 800E and Oblique Rd, which were to be completed in 2021, will be completed in 2022. The patcher will be out patching and completing areas the chipper was unable to complete. A crew will be updating bridge load limit signs per state requirements. He made a plea for farmers to please help keep our community safe and cut back corn on intersections. Bonar was requesting approval for the purchase of a 2022 F-550 from Valley Ford. In November of 2021 after receiving 3 quotes, Bonar ordered a cab and chassis from Tom Kelly Ford. He also ordered a service body for this cab and chassis from Kalida in November, which was ready early in 2022. Bonar was recently made aware that Ford was unable to fulfill this order with Kelly's. They stated that he would have to reorder for 2023 with an estimated 20% increase. At that time, they were still not accepting orders for 2023. He has located the cab and chassis matching what was ordered through Valley Ford with a few minor upgrades. The cost of the truck is \$61,521. Attorney Colin Andrews thought the current circumstances would allow for a special exception purchase. Bonar will draft a special exception letter for referral during audit. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the purchase price of \$61,521 for the cab and chassis from Tom Kelly Ford. Motion carried 3-0. Bids will be received and opened on August 4th at 4PM for the Highway Garage in the Annex meeting room.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented updates via email. Rumschlag requested authorization to allow Commissioner President Vanover to sign the LPA INDOT agreement for the CE "inspection" services phase of the Bridge 105 project. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to allow Commissioner President Vanover to sign the LPA INDOT agreement for Bridge 105. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners were informed of various projects that are in process. CCMG 2022-02 application has been submitted to INDOT, Rumschlag expects to hear late in the year on the project selection. The drought study report Rumschlag is developing with Jason Borne, Uniondale Fire Department, will be submitted by Borne for approval with the state. The Bridge and Transportation Asset Management plans for 2022 will be submitted this month for LTAP review and approval. Rumschlag sent out surveys to residents that are impacted by the Local Trax project for opinions on road name changes. Two responses were received, one requested to have the entire road named "old

Hoosier Highway” and another requested “Clark Street Extended” for the North section and “Old Hoosier Highway” for the South section. Rumschlag prefers the latter recommendation to keep the two road sections distinct for clarity with dispatch. Six rights-of-way documents were presented to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the six rights-of-way. Motion carried 3-0.

Ameresco: Garyne Evans and Daniel Nemeth, Ameresco representatives, presented the Commissioners with a jail project progress update. The summary of projects being upgraded were Lighting inside the building and parking area, HVAC, control system replacement, roof replacement, remodel and addition of the intake area, hot water issue, water upgrade, parking lot replacement and reconstruction. The total project is 70% complete. The project is on schedule and anticipated completion is December 2022. A fire protection system variance was granted from the state after bidding which created an owner’s allowance. Currently the allowance is \$109,000 and will come back to Wells County when the project is complete.

Goodspeed Tile: Commissioners approved funding for drainage work for a project on Hoosier Highway at the July 18th meeting. The funding will come out of the SR 301 Road Transfer fund, not to exceed \$110,000. Jarrod Hahn came before the Commissioners explaining that damages will be created while completing this project and requested that those damages be paid out of those funds as well. Hahn thought the approved amount of \$110,000 would be adequate for the additional expenses. Damage to crops and compaction, as well as tiling materials to connect to the main tile are not included in the initial request. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to allow the damage costs and tiling materials to come out of the SR 301 Road Transfer fund, not to exceed \$110,000. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance 2022-17: Attorney Colin Andrews presented an Ordinance that would amend Ordinance 2009-9 that establishes certain fees pertaining to the Wells County Geographic Information System. The original Ordinance directed those fees into the General fund. The amended ordinance will create an Electronic Map Generation Fund for those collected fees to be distributed into. The Ordinance will be effective upon passage. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Ordinance 2022-17 amending Ordinance 2009-9 pertaining to the Wells County Geographic Information System. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance 2022-18: Attorney Colin Andrews presented an Ordinance to the Commissioners regulating requests for law enforcement body camera recordings and establishing fees for those recordings. The proposed Ordinance defines the specifics of Law Enforcement Activity and Law Enforcement Recordings. A formal request is required in writing on a prescribed form. Within 21 days following the formal request the Department shall provide the requested copies to the requestor or allow the requestor to make copies. The fees for providing a duplicate of a law enforcement recording are: \$50.00 for videos shorter than 30 minutes, \$100.00 for videos between 30 minutes and 60 minutes, and \$150.00 for videos longer than 60 minutes. If adopted, this Ordinance will be effective 30 days after notice of the adoption is published in a paper as described in IC 5-3-1-4. The Ordinance allows creation of the Body Camera Recording Fee Fund into which the required fees will be deposited. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Ordinance 2022-18 which regulates requests for law enforcement body camera recordings and establishes fees for those recordings. Motion carried 3-0.

PTABOA Resolution: Brandon Harnish presented a resolution to Commissioners that, he felt, would bring needed accountability to the PTABOA appeals process. He stated that he had talked with the

County Attorney, property tax professional, taxpayers and elected officials about this policy and there was optimism in his views. His goal is to build on the work of the Commissioners strong leadership regarding their PTABOA appointments. His proposed policy, he felt, produces several important outcomes, such as, protecting the due process rights of taxpayers, promotes government accountability, informs taxpayers of their rights, and helps ensure PTABOA compliance with DLGF guidelines and Indiana State Code. The Commissioners tabled the topic to gather information.

Public Comment: Matt Yergler questioned the newly adopted Ordinance for Body Camera Recording Fees regarding how and through whom you would request that recording. Yergler was referred to the Sheriff.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 5:51PM.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor