

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session September 21, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday September 21, 2020 at 9:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward, and Tamara Robbins. Also, in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion was made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from September 8, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #19 in the amount of \$236,258.66 and 238 claims totaling \$920,432.95. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 77 inmates, 23 pretrial Superior, 21 pretrial Circuit, 20 F6 DOC and 4 DOC. The Sheriff's Department advertised for bids for a 1989 AM General Humvee-H1. One bid was submitted. The high bid is now \$4,550.00. All bidders will be notified, the next bid opening will be at the October 5th Commissioner meeting. The minimum bid for that meeting is \$4,600.00.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the Board of Commissioners on the current projects within the Highway Department. The dura patcher has completed several spots countywide and will continue until complete. Hand patching is still working north, backhoe is done south and will be moving north also. Side ditches are getting 2 passes in preparation for winter. Again, mow corn back at corners, school is in session and we have young drivers.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented an update on road projects that are in process. Bridge 193 and Bridge 304 are on schedule. The Wells County RSD board is looking to move forward into 2021 and the potential to apply for additional funds. Nate Rumschlag, on behalf of the RSD, was requesting \$22,500 in additional funding from the Commissioners to have 5 areas studied and project ready for future design. Choice One will perform the study. The Commissioners will discuss the funding topic in more detail at the October 5th meeting. The second call for Community Crossing Matching Grant funds for 2020 is open and Wells County is eligible for up to \$518,975.62 in grant funds. Rumschlag was requesting from the Commissioners a letter of Commitment for Bridge 121. Bridge 121 is on CR 600 E north of Tocsin. This is a 75:25 match with the match coming from the LIT Fund. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to sign the letter of Commitment for Bridge 121 rehabilitation. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag was requesting approval to use funds previously budgeted for bridge 193 toward an engineering assessment for Bridge 71. This assessment is through USI and will cost \$5,000. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to sign an Authorization to Proceed form for \$5,000 to be invoiced from Bridge 193 funds for Bridge 71. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag was requesting an engineering assessment to establish a budget, schedule and fees for Bridge 170 and Bridge 19. This assessment will be with BF & S Engineering for a cost of \$3,000. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the engineering assessment with BF&S Engineering. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners received one right-of-way

for approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right-of-way. Motion carried 3-0.

AED Policy: Lynn Blevins, Public Health Nurse, presented a resolution to the Commissioners establishing a County AED Policy. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is used to treat victims who experience sudden cardiac arrest. The policy lists installation locations of AED's in various Wells County buildings, four in the Courthouse, two in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, one at the Highway and one at the Wells Community Building at the 4-H Park. Each installation point would require personnel training, maintenance, and upkeep. The policy outlines responsibilities, training, users, documentation, and retention of that documentation within the Auditors office. Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Resolution 2020-09 Establishing a County AED Policy. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 2020-10: A resolution declining the deferral of employee-paid social security tax pursuant to IRS Notice 2020-65 was presented to the Commissioners for their approval. This resolution stated that Wells County declines implementation of the delayed withholding and payment deferral of employee-paid social security tax pursuant to IRS Notice 2020-65. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2020-10 declining implementation of the deferral of employee-paid social security tax. Motion carried 3-0.

Coronavirus Federal Grant Application: Judge Kiracofe requested Commissioner approval for a grant application and a supplemental letter of support for a Coronavirus Federal Grant for Superior and Circuit Courts. This grant will reimburse the County for expenses incurred when staff worked from home during social distancing requirements. Grant funds will benefit other departments in Wells County, such as the Sheriff's department, for facilitating remote hearings between the Courts and jail. Judge Kiracofe presented the COVID-19 application outlining the operational expenses and budget. The eligible grant amount for Wells County is \$63,168.08. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the grant application, and sign a Coronavirus Supplemental Letter of Support. Motion carried 3-0.

TIF District Expansion: Chad Kline, representing the Bluffton Redevelopment Commission, presented a resolution allowing the Bluffton Redevelopment Commission, with Commissioner approval, to adopt a declaratory resolution establishing an expanded economic development area. A portion of the area is within the jurisdiction of the County Commission. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Resolution 2020-11 assigning the jurisdiction of the County Area to the City Redevelopment Commission. Motion carried 3-0.

County Farm: The county farm lease can be modified for the following year if the lease holder is notified of any changes on or before October 1st. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow the lease to automatically renew with no changes for 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

United Way: The United Way presented Denim for a Difference week proposal for County employees. The weeks of October 12-16 and November 16-20, employees can wear denim for a \$2.00 per day donation to the United Way. Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve of Denim for a Difference week. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to adjourn at 10:27AM. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor