

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session October 5, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 5, 2020 at 9:00AM 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 21, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #20 in the amount of \$236,763.51 and 154 claims totaling \$463,320.99. Motion carried 3-0.

SRI Scholarship: Jacob Duncan, son of a Wells County Highway employee Chris Duncan, was awarded an SRI \$500 scholarship through AIC. Ryan Hoff with AIC and Joe Edwards with SRI presented Jacob Duncan with the check.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 78 inmates, 25 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 \$5,000.00. All bidders will be notified, the next bid opening will be at the October 19th Commissioner meeting. The minimum bid for that meeting is \$5,050.00.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the Board of Commissioners on the current projects within the Highway Department. The Dura Patcher is working on various spots countywide and will continue to do so. Hand patching will be south this week. The backhoe crew is currently working north and south and should be completed this week. All gravel roads will be graded this week.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented the Commissioners with an updated agreement with INDOT regarding the project status on the Local Trax Hoosier Highway relocation. This agreement is to continue the project process with INDOT. The Local Trax Funds available through INDOT will pay 78% of the estimated eligible project costs, \$4,590,323.99. The remaining 22% of the total project costs will be paid by Wells County. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the INDOT – LPA Project Coordination Contract for Local Trax Funds (Misc. 2020-16). Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag had asked for funding on behalf of the Regional Sewer District for a Preliminary Engineering Report for various unincorporated areas of the county during the September 21st meeting. The Commissioners tabled that request until the current meeting. 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. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the RSD request for funding for the Preliminary Engineering Report by Choice One for \$22,500. Motion carried 3-0.

Crowell Engagement Letter: County Attorney Roy Johnson presented a Terms of engagement letter for Commissioner approval. In this engagement letter Tony Crowell would be retained by the Wells County Commissioners to represent and advise the Hearing Panel in the appeal by Yergy's State Road BBQ, LLC of the Order to Abate, Emergency Order to Close and Terminate Violative Operations dated August 28, 2020. Attorney Crowell will also assist and advise the Client on the organizational activities of the

hearing panel, the hearing process, and the conduct of the hearing, including presentation of the official record of the hearing. Assist the Client in the preparation and publication of all legal notices necessary or required for the hearing process. Assist and advise the Client on the legal issues and interpretation of statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations applicable to the hearing process and the responsibilities of the Client in conducting the hearing, deliberating on the facts and legal issues, and the decision process. Assist and advise the Client on preparation of Findings of fact and legal conclusions as may be necessary upon the conclusion of the hearing process to support the Client's determination and final decision. Crowell's hourly rate is \$300.00. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the engagement letter with Tony Crowell. Motion carried 3-0.

SRI: Joe Edwards, SRI, was on hand to discuss a Certificate sale process and a deed sale process. A Certificate or deed sale is done after a tax sale to clean up the books on outstanding properties. A deed sale requires quick action, Commissioner approval immediately after the tax sale. A Certificate sale needs Commissioner approval soon after January 1, the sale would follow in March or April of that year.

CARES Act: The CARES Act reimbursement guidelines were modified to include public safety payroll. Auditor, Lisa McCormick, was requesting permission from the Commissioners to submit the remaining balance of CARES Act funding to be reimbursed with payroll for public safety personnel. The outstanding balance of CARES Act funds is \$612,055.06. Any outstanding CARES Act invoices within a department will have to be approved by Council through an Additional Appropriation. With Commissioner approval, via a Resolution, those funds could be transferred from the CARES Act fund into the General Fund. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow payroll for safety personnel be submitted for the final claim from the CARES Act and to allow Attorney Roy Johnson to prepare a 'Resolution to transfer' to be presented for approval at the October 19, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Motion was made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to adjourn at 10:02AM. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor