

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session October 7, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 7, 2019 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 3, 2019 regular session and the September 17, 2019 Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #18 in the amount of \$226,223.94, Payroll #19 in the amount of \$229,376.72, Payroll #20 in the amount of \$226,799.86 and 129 claims totaling \$410,975.22 for September 16, 2019 and 202 claims totaling \$1,348,875.90 for October 7, 2019. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 103 inmates, 41 pretrial Superior, 21 pretrial Circuit, 9 DOC and 12 F6 DOC. Sheriff Holliday attended a pre-trial summit in Indianapolis with the Circuit and Superior Court Judges, the Prosecutor and the Chief Probation Officer. They received useful information to adjust to the coming changes regarding jail reduction, Criminal Rule 26. Holliday stated that planning sessions locally have been ongoing in preparation for the new rule for low-risk offenders.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the Board of Commissioners on the current projects within the Highway Department. The fourth and final round of mowing should be completed within the next few weeks, this year they had to do four rounds of mowing rather than three. The Highway department is using a Crack Seal process on paved roads over one year old. This is a new process, they have 5 miles completed with 5 more to go. The backhoe crew is currently working on some issues in the north side of the county; once they are completed they will be moving to the south side of the county to work on those projects. Road Conversions are in process, 400W-100N/Marzane, 100N-Marzane/300W and 500W are in construction. All roads that had trees removed will have the stumps removed within the next few weeks. 4 of the remaining large box culverts should be installed in the next 30 days. The road striping on fresh chip/seal roads should be completed this week.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented an update on road projects that are in process. Work on Bridge 303b and Bridge 118b is complete and the roads are open. Once grass is established the retainage on the contracts will be released. Hoosier Highway Curve Correction (500S) is completed and some of the seeding did not take, additional restoration work will need to be done prior to releasing the retainage. Ossian Bridges, 300 and 301, were closed to traffic on September 19, 2019. The surface needed to cure for 7 days and asphalt is scheduled for Wednesday. The goal is to open both after asphalt is completed. Rumschlag recommended approval for an Unofficial Detour for SR 116 at CR 150N. The detour was proposed by INDOT and recommended by the Highway Department is to have traffic routed from SR116 E to SR1 using SR124 on the South end and CR 200N on the North side. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Unofficial Detour for SR 116 at CR 150N. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners received two Utility Permits for approval. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Utility Permits. Motion carried 3-0. Historic Bridge 193-CR 300W over the Wabash River-was struck by an oversized load

crossing the bridge going south. The damage occurred between Labor Day weekend and prior to September 19th. The extensive damage was to the north span of the bridge. USI performed an emergency inspection on September 23rd to confirm the level of damage and to develop estimates for repair work. It is estimated that the repair work will likely exceed \$100,000. USI was unable to determine if some of the vertical columns that are built up members are still plumb or have been cracked under the paint. The current plan is to close the bridge in October to remove paint from the connections to verify if the plates have cracks. If cracks are found or the columns are in fact damaged the repair costs will increase significantly and may have an impact on the load rating of the bridge. Rumschlag requested authorization for a design contract with USI that would include the construction of the headache bar at the north and south entrances to the bridge along with a video monitoring system to identify parties who are taking oversized loads across the bridge. The contract is a not to exceed of \$100,000. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the contract with USI (Misc. 2019-22), not to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried 3-0. An additional request was made by Nate Rumschlag about using LIT funds to offer a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the identity of the offending party. Attorney Roy Johnson will look into that request and the Commissioners will revisit that at a future meeting.

Right of Way: The Commissioners received two right-of-ways for approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the right-of-ways. Motion carried 3-0.

BCS Services Agreement: Kevin Woodward presented an Agreement and Statement of Work from BCS Management. This is a consulting service for Regional Sewer Districts. BCS Management is a project management and administration services firm that specializes in the management and administration of regional sewer districts in Indiana. The firm develops and implements project planning, communications and financial management tools to move regional sewer districts from economically stagnant to viable. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve BCS Master Services Agreement 2019-1R1 and BCS Management Statement of Work (Misc. 2019-23) for the Wells County Regional Sewer District not to exceed \$19,800. Motion carried 3-0.

Vacation of an Alley: Shar Morgan, representing the Hinshaw family, presented an order to vacate portions of certain public ways in the town of New Lancaster, now known as Murray, in Lancaster Township. The order was previously approved by the Plat Committee. The Ordinance was not presented during the meeting. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance No. 2019-13, pending Attorney Roy Johnson's approval. Motion carried 3-0.

AED Recommendation: Greg Werich presented a recommendation from the Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Study Committee which consisted of Greg Werich, Lynn Blevins and Rick Piepenbrink. The committee recommended installation 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. Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to adopt a formal AED policy and update the handbook with that policy. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Map of Wells County: Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr. presented an official road map of Wells County. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to adopt and sign the Official Road Map of Wells County. Motion carried 3-0.

Holiday Closings: Auditor Lisa McCormick asked for approval for closure of Wells County offices (Courthouse, Annex and County Extension) from Noon – 2 PM for a Thanksgiving luncheon for Wells County employees at the 4-H park on November 27th. Also requested was to close Wells County Offices (Courthouse, Annex and County Extension) at 2 PM on December 23rd for a Holiday carry in on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse for employees. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to allow the holiday closings. Motion carried 3-0.

United Way: The United Way presented Denim for a Difference week proposal for County employees. The weeks of October 14-18 and November 11-15, employees are allowed to 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.

Resolution 2019-10: The Rescue Run Resolution was amended to include Markle Fire rescue. The annual contribution for reimbursement for rescue unit services will be increased to \$22,000.00, to be divided and paid annually to the four Rescue Units as follows: \$13,000.00 to the City of Bluffton, \$5,000.00 to the Town of Ossian, \$2,000.00 to the Liberty Center fire Department and \$2,000.00 to Markle Fire Rescue. This resolution amends Resolution No. 2017-02 and Resolution No. 2019-01. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2019-10. Motion carried 3-0.

Opioid Class Action: The Commissioners were presented a class action notice directed to all U.S. Counties, Cities, and Local Governments as listed at WWW.OpioidsNegotiationClass.info. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to not opt out. Motion carried 3-0.

Boo in Bluffton: Custodian Bobbie Studebaker requested use of the Courthouse Plaza on Thursday, October 31st from 5 – 8 PM for Boo in Bluffton. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to adjourn at 10:03AM. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor