

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session October 17, 2022

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 17, 2022, at 5:00PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Michael Vanover, and Blake Gerber, County Attorney, Colin Andrews and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick. Jeff Stringer was absent.

Minutes: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2022, regular session and the October 13, 2022, Executive Session. Motion carried 2-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Payroll #21 in the amount of \$252,667.46 and 199 claims totaling \$737,702.97. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 84 inmates, 29 pretrial Superior, 30 pretrial Circuit, 15 F6 DOC and 3 DOC. Holliday reported that the toilet and sink combinations have arrived and are mounted. An October 27th shipping date has been set for the fire dampers. The Sallyport garage door has been installed. Renovation on the public parking lot has been started; the front lobby may have to be shut down for a week during the renovation.

Highway Supervisor: Highway Engineer Nate Rumschlag updated the Commissioners on various permits that have been received to date. 10 road cut permits have been applied for in 2022, 113 driveway permits have been applied for in the last 4 years. Rumschlag mentioned Oxcart, an online permit application system that would manage the permitting and fees for the county. Nate will follow up with more information on Oxcart at a later date. Oversize load permitting and fees will require more research. The Commissioners requested that the permit fee discussion be continued in the November 7th meeting.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented updates to the commissioners on ongoing projects. The Federal Rail Elimination grant has been submitted. The annual 2023 bid advertisement for highway materials will be in the News-Banner on Thursday, October 20th, and October 27th. The advertised materials for bid are stone, oils, dust control, steel, pipe, structures, timber bridge product and diesel fuel. Bid opening is scheduled during the December 5th Commissioner meeting. Rumschlag introduced a proposal from Alt & Witzig Engineering for the subsurface investigation and geotechnical recommendations of the proposed reconstruction on County Home Rd and 300S. The total cost is estimated between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the proposal from Alt & Witzig Engineering. Motion carried 2-0. One utility permit was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the Heartland utility permit. Motion carried 2-0. Three rights-of-way documents were presented to the Commissioners for approval. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the three rights-of-way documents. Motion carried 2-0.

Town of Ossian Redevelopment Commission: Ossian Town Manager Louann Martin, representing the Ossian Redevelopment Commission, came before the Commissioners requesting approval of a resolution establishing a new economic development area. This resolution authorizes Wells County and the Ossian Redevelopment Commission to jointly undertake economic development projects in

contiguous areas within each unit's jurisdiction. The board of Commissioners assigns the jurisdiction of the County area to the Town Redevelopment Commission for development of a new economic development area. The Commissioners expressed a desire to work cooperatively with Ossian. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Resolution 2022-09 allowing the Ossian Redevelopment Commission to establish a new economic development area. Motion carried 2-0.

2023 Sheriff Salary Contract: The Sheriff Salary contract for 2023 was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Sheriff Holliday approved and signed the contract. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the 2023 Sheriff's salary contract (Misc. 2022-12), for \$112,960. Motion carried 2-0. This contract will be presented to County Council on November 9, 2022.

Public Information Officer: Commissioner Vanover stated that applications will be accepted for a public information officer for Wells County. An advertisement will soon be in the local newspaper and on the Commissioner page of the Wells County website. Advertisements have also been published in the News-Banner and on the county website for open board appointments for 2023. The Commissioner and County Council board openings are on each page of the website with an application that may be submitted to the County Auditor's office.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 5:24PM, motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover. Motion carried 2-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Michael K Vanover

Vice President, Blake Gerber

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor