

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session October 18, 2021

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 18, 2021, at 9:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber, Michael Vanover, and Jeff Stringer. Also, in attendance were Attorney, David Crell and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2021, regular session and the October 4, 2021, Executive Session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Payroll #21 in the amount of \$244,921.74 and 174 claims totaling \$254,996.26. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 72 inmates, 26 pretrial Superior, 21 pretrial Circuit, 14 F6 DOC and 6 DOC. Holliday stated that video court is now live for Superior Court.

Highway Supervisor: Highway Supervisor, Shawn Bonar updated the Commissioners on highway projects. Road striping is complete and mowing crews are doing a double pass on side ditches for the final mow. The south part of the county is complete with pipe crossings. Road conversions will be starting next week at 800E and Oblique Rd. The patching crew is north prepping roads for winter. Shawn requested an additional 30 day extended medical leave for a highway employee. Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to extend the medical leave for the highway employee for 30 days. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented updates to the commissioners on ongoing projects. Rumschlag would like to apply for the INDOT NOFA 2027 grant for Bridge #72 or Bridge #76. He was recommending using an on-call services agreement with USI. They would prepare a draft bridge scope and cost estimates to justify the project for the application. The cost for this proposal is \$3,000 per report. Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the on-call services agreement with USI to be paid out of LIT Bridges at a cost of \$3,000 per report. Motion carried 3-0. Nate Rumschlag has been working with the City of Bluffton on an agreement to split the cost of an assessment and study for a future bridge over the Wabash River in Bluffton. The proposal from USI is for a \$50,000 assessment to be delivered in 2022. Wells County will pay for the assessment and the City of Bluffton will reimburse Wells County \$25,000. The Board of Works voted on the proposal on October 12, 2021. Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to move forward with the bridge study at a cost of \$50,000 to be paid out of LIT Bridges, \$25,000 will be reimbursed by the City of Bluffton. Motion carried 3-0. Bridge #85, Hoosier Highway over Rock Creek, needs mill and overlay work due to delamination of the slab top. Rumschlag would like to put this into the queue for a future CCMG project. He was recommending authorizing Engineering Resources to prepare the plan set for a cost of \$19,500. This will include costs to reconstruct the guardrail if needed. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Michael Vanover to authorize Engineering Resources to prepare the plan set at a cost of \$19,500 to be paid out of LIT Bridges. Motion carried 3-0. Butler, Fairman & Seufert submitted redesign changes for the County Home Road at the October 1st meeting. Those changes would cause Wells County to miss the letting date with INODT and cause us to miss the fiscal year of funding. Rumschlag was recommending moving ahead without the redesign changes. Commissioners agreed with that recommendation. Rumschlag was requesting approval for the Murray SRF Grant application.

Choice One Engineering's proposal was for \$78,500. Rumschlag will work with Choice One to see if we are able to keep the final project within the awarded funds. He would like to advertise for bids for 2022 construction. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve of the SRF grant application as well as Choice One Engineering's proposal for \$78,500 to be paid out of LIT Bridges. Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag was requesting approval to proceed with a proposal from VS Engineering to prepare plans for the reconstruction of a portion of CR 450E, between 1200N to 1000N. This will be part of the CCMG 2022-01 application and has a total proposal cost of \$29,800. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Michael Vanover to proceed with a proposal from VS Engineering for CR 450E at a cost of \$29,800 paid out of LIT Bridges. Motion carried 3-0. Seven right-of-way documents were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the seven ROW Documents. Motion carried 3-0.

COVID Update: Health Administrator, Marlene Hoag, updated the Commissioners on Wells County's COVID status. There have been 15,501 tested, 44 new positives, 87 deaths related to COVID. 98% of persons hospitalized due to COVID in Indiana have not been vaccinated. 50-59 age group is the most common positive test result for COVID. Testing is done at the Health Department on Monday mornings and Thursday's, all day. The Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are being administered at the Health Department on Monday afternoons and Wednesday's, all day.

E911 Centralization Services: Fire Chief Don Craig and Sheriff Scott Holliday came to the Commissioners to discuss E911 Centralization Services. An E911 Advisory board was created by the Commissioners on June 7, 2021. The goal of the E911 Advisory board is to have a centralized dispatch center. Currently the City of Bluffton is the Public Safety answering point in Wells county and the Sheriff's Department provides non-emergency dispatch services for deputies and other law enforcement agencies in Wells County. Barry Ritter, Vice President of Ritter Strategic Services was on hand to discuss strategic planning, coordination and implementation services between the City of Bluffton and Wells County. A proposal was presented for Commissioner consideration. The scope of work included in the proposal included: A draft interlocal agreement between the City of Bluffton and Wells County, an assessment of current operations, transition current operations for PSAP implementation, have training sessions for executive committee and operations board integration and standard operating policy review. The proposal has an estimated not to exceed fee of \$4,500, which would be an allowable expense from Statewide 911 funds. Turnaround for this proposal would be approximately 60-90 days. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve the proposal with Ritter Strategic Services not to exceed \$4,500. Motion carried 3-0.

Precinct by Population Numbers: Clerk Beth Davis presented population numbers for precincts by district for both Wells County Commissioners and Wells County Council following the results of the 2020 Census. Wells County's population is 28,180. Commissioner District One has 2,803 in population, District Two has 15,928 and District Three has 9,513. County Council District One has a population of 7,476, District Two has 7,370, District Three has 6,611, and District Four has 6,787. The Commissioners do not wish to change precinct lines. Clerk Beth Davis will return for a November meeting with Ordinances for Commissioner approval.

Resolution 2021-23: A Resolution regarding healthcare freedom and privacy and against COVID-19 Immunization passports was presented to the Commissioners for approval. The resolution stated that in Wells County, we believe health decisions are best made by individuals, not public agencies. Each individual should decide whether a mask provides them with the protection that they desire. In Wells County, persons who wish to be vaccinated have ample opportunities to do so. Rights of individuals to

choose whether to wear a mask and whether to be vaccinated will be respected. Our citizens can make intelligent decisions about what is best for them and their families. We will continue to do everything within our power to see that necessary services for testing and vaccinations are made available to everyone in the County. Motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Michael Vanover to approve Resolution 2021-23 of the Wells County Commissioners regarding healthcare freedom and privacy and against Covid-19 immunization passports. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Council on Aging: Bonnie Valind presented the 3rd Quarter 2021 reports and invoice via email for the Commissioners. Michael Vanover motioned, seconded by Jeff Stringer to allow President Blake Gerber to sign the 2021 3rd Quarter reimbursement paperwork for Wells on Wheels public transit program for an amount of \$166,901.00. Motion carried 3-0

Wellness Plan Design: The wellness plan design was discussed with the commissioners. Employees on the health plan have biomarkers to assess points. Points not earned equal more premium that the employee is responsible for monthly. Motion made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to keep the current plan design and biomarkers in place for the 2022 plan year. Motion carried 3-0.

United Way: The United Way presented Denim for a Difference week proposal for County employees. The weeks of October 25-29 and November 15-19, employees can wear denim for a \$1.00 per day donation to the United Way. Motion was made by Michael Vanover, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve of Denim for a Difference week. Motion carried 3-0.

Board Appointments: Kevin Woodward was a proxy for the EMS board for Blake Gerber. With the resignation of Kevin Woodward from the Commissioner board, Blake Gerber will now sit on the EMS board. Motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Michael Vanover to appoint Jeff Stringer to the Community Corrections Advisory Board as a Lay Member to fill out the term vacated by Kevin Woodward. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:40AM, motion was made by Jeff Stringer, seconded by Michael Vanover.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Michael K Vanover

Member, Jeff Stringer

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor