

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session November 4, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday November 2, 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 made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from October 19, 2020 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #22 in the amount of \$237,181.20 and 156 claims totaling \$492,336.48. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells Community Swimming Pool Funds: Pam Vanderkolk came before the Commissioners to request the Wells Community swimming pool funds for 2020. The pool did not open during the 2020 swimming season due to COVID. The Commissioners wanted clarification on how those funds would be used. Pam explained ongoing costs that are not dependent on the pool opening. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Wells Community Swimming Pool annual funding of \$10,000. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: The Sheriff's Department advertised for bids for a 1989 AM General Humvee-H1. One bid was submitted. The high bid is now \$5,450.00. All bidders will be notified, the next bid opening will be at the November 16th Commissioner meeting. The minimum bid for that meeting is \$5,500.00. Sheriff Holliday reported 90 inmates, 24 pretrial Superior, 22 pretrial Circuit, 13 DOC and 19 F6 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the Commissioners on fall schedules. They are currently finishing up on the final round of side ditch mowing and are continuing to do maintenance on gravel roads. Employees are doing dry runs on new winter snowplow routes. He stressed being cautious and respectful of large equipment on the roads this time of year.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag updated the Commissioners on Wells County Bridge #193. He presented an Ordinance for Commissioner approval that would set weight limits. The current load limit is 16 tons, needed repairs have been completed. The new load limit is 36 tons, which will allow semi traffic to resume onto the bridge. The ordinance also includes provisions for height restrictions, traffic taller than 13' 6" will be prohibited. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance 2020-19, revising, and increasing weight limits on vehicles crossing Bridge #193 over the Wabash River. Motion carried 3-0. Nate Rumschlag informed the Commissioners of the NOFA 2026 Federal Aid call. He has a total of 5 applications that will be ready to submit. Rumschlag was requesting authorization to draft a letter of commitment for the 5 projects. He is not under the assumption that all 5 would be accepted by INDOT. The Commissioners would like to revisit the NOFA 2026 Federal Aid discussion at the November 16th meeting. Rumschlag presented, for Commissioner approval, a county wide speed limit ordinance. Rumschlag has been working with Officials of the City and County for a combined effort. The purpose is to establish one large table to encompass the entire county speed limit zones. This ordinance would amend Chapter 71: Traffic schedules of the Wells county Code of Ordinances. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance 2020-20 that will amend the traffic schedules for the Wells County Code of Ordinances. Motion carried

3-0. Three Utility permits were presented to the Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Utility permits. Motion carried 3-0. 2 Right-of-Ways were presented to the Commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Right-of-Ways. Motion carried 3-0.

Annex Meeting Room: Greg Werich came to the Commissioners requesting the use of the Annex meeting room. The use would be before hours for a devotional meeting for any Wells County employees who would wish to participate. The meeting would be over before the workday began. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow use of the Annex meeting room for the employees prior to the workday and sanitize the room after use. Motion carried 3-0.

911 Director: Kyle Randall submitted his resignation as 911 Director. Randall then recommended Mike Miller as his replacement, to be appointed by the Commissioners. Miller was recently hired to replace Adam McCartney as Director of the 911 Dispatch Center. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to accept Kyle Randall's resignation as 911 Director and to appoint Mike Miller as the 911 Director. Motion carried 3-0.

Certificate Sale: Commissioners tabled discussion on a Certificate Sale for recurring tax sale properties until the November 16th meeting.

Christmas Snack: The Commissioners had a brief discussion about a Christmas carry in for employees. Due to COVID restrictions, it was deemed necessary to forgo a carry in for donuts and coffee.

Wells on Wheels: Bonnie Valind, Executive Director of Wells on Wheels, contacted the Commissioners via email with 3rd Quarter reports and claims. She was requesting approval for the Commissioner President, Blake Gerber to sign the claim for 3rd Quarter funding at the Wells on Wheels office. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the reports and claim, allow President Blake Gerber to sign the claim at the Wells on Wheels office with Bonnie Valind. Motion carried 3-0.

2021 Meeting Dates: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting dates as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Christmas Tree Lighting: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the request from the Chamber of Commerce to have the annual County Courthouse tree lighting ceremony on Friday, November 27, 2020 from 5:30-6:30PM on the Courthouse Plaza. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:50AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor