

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session December 16, 2019

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday December 16, 2019 at 9:30AM 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 December 2, 2019 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #25 in the amount of \$224,178.90 and 275 claims totaling \$947,922.28. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 86 inmates, 34 pretrial Superior, 24 pretrial Circuit, 6 DOC and 6 F6 DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Josh Cotton updated the commissioners on the Road Conversion Projects, 400W, 1000N and 500W. All have been widened, some of the ditch work has been completed, stone, top and base has been put down, all backhoe work is complete for the year. Crews have started cutting brush and will continue cutting brush when they are not hauling stone. The backhoe crew is now working south on jobs until it freezes.

Highway Stone Bids: Four Stone bids were received from; IMI Stone, Rock Creek Stone Quarry, Stone-Street Quarries and U.S. Aggregates, Inc. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept all bids. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag updated the commissioners on various stages of projects that are in process. NOFA 2025 Federal Aid application, Bridge 193 accident, and the North Corridor study. More updates will follow when there is additional information. Rumschlag recommended the commissioners not decide on road conversion projects at this point. Numerous road sections are missing right of ways, which keeps those sections off the schedule. 15 Right-of-Way documents were presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept and sign the Right-of-Way documents. Motion carried 3-0.

2020 Engineer Salary Agreement: The Commissioners updated the 2020 Highway Engineer salary agreement to reflect the additional \$20,000 stipend that the County will be receiving from the state to supplement his salary. Nate Rumschlag will increase from \$75,000 in annual wages for 2019 to \$95,000 in annual wages for 2020. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Agreement for Employment of County Engineer (Misc. 2019-25). Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Garage: A site that was being considered for the new highway garage on Meridian Rd. is no longer an option. The site owner is unwilling to sell.

Veterans Service Officer: Claude McMillan came before the commissioners stating his retirement effective December 31, 2019. Also, in attendance were Ron Marshall, Commander of the American Legion, and Dewey Randall. Ron Marshall was recommending the commissioners appoint Dewey

Randall as the new Veterans Service Officer effective January 1, 2020. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Dewey Randall as Veterans Service Officer. Motion carried 3-0. Claude McMillan also expressed a need for his services to carry forward into the new year for training of the new officer. Tamara Robbins stated that that would be the wishes of County Council.

Economic Development Director: Chad Kline came before the commissioners with the renewal for the agreement for performance of Economic Development services for 2020. It was a three-year agreement previously, starting in 2020 it will be an annual agreement. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the agreement (Misc. 2019-26). Motion carried 3-0.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to appoint Tracy Gentis to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Reimbursement Agreement Fund Ordinance: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the creation of a home rule Health Reimbursement Agreement Fund, Ordinance 2019-24. Motion carried 3-0.

Personal Vehicle Usage: Attorney Roy Johnson presented a memo regarding county owned vehicle usage by employees. The general rule is that personal use of an employer-owned vehicle is taxable to the employee. Commuting, local and out of town travel are personal use. Employees are expected to log records to substantiate both business and personal miles driven in employer-owned vehicles. Wells County has a policy for personal use of County-owned vehicles. It is contained in the County's Employee Handbook at Section 3.16. Four options for reporting are: General valuation, annual lease value method, cents-per-mile method and commuting value method, all of which are detailed in the memo. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the memo (Misc. 2019-27) and to also move forward with a vehicle policy. Motion carried 3-0.

Chamber Appointment: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Blake Gerber to the Chamber of Commerce Board for 2020. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:30AM

Wells County Commissioners

President

Vice President

Member

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor