

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session December 21, 2020

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday December 21, 2020 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 7, 2020 regular session and the December 9, 2020 executive 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 \$231,770.34 and 298 claims totaling \$851,004.93. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 68 inmates, 21 pretrial Superior, 16 pretrial Circuit, 10 DOC and 17 F6 DOC. Representatives from Ameresco and Elevatus were on hand to present a Project Development Agreement for Commissioner review and consideration. Attorney Roy Johnson did not have prior review of the document. Johnson will review the document will present it for the Commissioners at the January 4th meeting. At that time Ameresco and Elevatus will have updated estimates for the jail expansion and renovation projects.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag presented to the Board of Commissioners a Bridge Inspection contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc., effective 2021-2024, not to exceed \$349,145.00. This is a federally supported reimbursement contract. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Bridge Inspection contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. and to allow the president to sign (Misc. 2020-18). Motion carried 3-0. Rumschlag had a follow-up request for Bridge 403. At the November 16th meeting he had presented a structure analysis for the conversion of a small structure into a bridge, Bridge #403. Two options were given for the type of materials to be used for constructing the bridge, precast concrete, and American timber. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to proceed with the timber bridge system for Bridge #403, estimated cost is \$110,106, with USI. Motion carried 3-0. Wells County was awarded \$479,646.75 in the second call for 2020 Community Crossing Matching Grant funds. Included in the award is Bridge 121 rehabilitation and a safety project to install a guardrail. The guardrail will run along the ditch on the east side of CR 600E to the north end of CR 700E. Rumschlag was requesting approval to advertise to accept bids for the second call 2020-02 CCMG. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow advertising for bids in January for a February bid opening for the Community Crossing Matching Grant projects. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to sign the INDOT agreement (Misc. 2020-19) for funding of 2020-02 CCMG. Motion carried 3-0. One Right-of-Way document was presented to the commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept, and sign the Right-of-Way document. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development Director: Chad Kline presented the commissioners with the 2021 Agreement for Performance of Economic Development Services. The agreement amount is \$100,000 annually. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the 2021 Agreement for Economic Development Services. Motion carried 3-0. Chad Kline also presented the commissioners with an invoice for approval for \$26,850.00. The invoice is for a talent attraction branding campaign for

2021. Tamara Robbins motioned to approve the invoice, seconded by Kevin Woodward. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 2020-18: A resolution was presented to the Commissioners updating Resolution 2020-03.

1. Non-essential employees will be off work from Wednesday, November 18, 2020, through December 31, 2020, at which time all county buildings will reopen.
2. There will be NO pay for part-time employees unless they are involved in an essential office performing Essential Governmental Functions and will be actually working in the office.
3. All offices are to remain open and maintain function. It is up to each Elected/Appointed Official to make decisions for their offices.
4. Any full-time personnel within each office that is on call from home will get paid and shall designate on the upcoming pay vouchers worked office hours and worked at home hours.
5. The provisions of the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”), which includes the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act supersede and control over any provisions of this Resolution which are inconsistent.

Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Resolution 2020-18. Motion carried 3-0. Full functions will resume upon reopening on January 4, 2020.

Ordinance 2020-25: Sheriff Holliday requested approval of days to be paid out to Sheriff Deputies and Jailer staff who are working additional hours for COVID coverage. Staffing is limited due to quarantining and COVID related issues. Employees are not able to use their accumulated days by the end of the year, carrying those days over would prolong the inevitable. His request was to have Council approval for the payout of those funds, Commissioners would then have to approve a policy for the payout. An Ordinance Amending the Wells County personnel policies handbook regarding payout of Sheriff Deputies and Jail staff was presented to the commissioners for their approval. This would allow the Sheriff to pay out days that can not be used in the calendar year of 2020. The payout will be in January 2021. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve Ordinance 2020-25 to allow the payout of 2020 accumulated days not used in 2020. Motion carried 3-0.

Option to Purchase: The commissioners were presented an agreement for an Option to Purchase for land for a possible highway garage. The agreement is between Mike and Shelly Mossburg and Wells County. Wells County will purchase 20 acres of Mossburg land, Mossburg will acquire in trade the existing county highway garage property. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the Option to Purchase Agreement. Motion carried 3-0. This agreement will also go to County Council for their approval.

2021 Appointments for Department Heads: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to re-appoint; Roy Johnson as the County Attorney, Bobbie Studebaker as the Courthouse Custodian, Rick Velasquez as the EMA Director, Nate Rumschlag as the County Engineer, Roger Richardson as the I.T. Director, Dewey Randall as the Veteran’s Officer and Mike Miller as the 911 Director for calendar year 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

2021 Board Appointments: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to re-appoint: Tim Rohr and Tyson Brooks to the Area Plan Commission; Beth Singleton and Larry McChesney to the Property Tax Board of Appeals; Bruce K. Stinson and Andrew Stoller for four year terms to the Regional Sewer District Board; Laura Dalrymple, Marlene Hoag and Diana Collins to the Sick Bank Board;

and Dr. Mary Donley MD and Steve Bales DVM for four year terms to the Wells County Health Board.
Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:08AM

Wells County Commissioners

President

Vice President

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor