

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session November 4, 2024

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:00PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Jeff Stringer and Blake Gerber, County Attorney Ted Storer and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Commissioner Michael Vanover was absent.

#### Regular Session

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the minutes from October 21, 2024, regular session. Motion carried 2-0.

**Payroll and Claims:** A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve Payroll #22 in the amount of \$305,455.16 and 204 claims totaling \$853,597.41. Motion carried 2-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Holliday reported 82 inmates, 24 pretrial Superior, 36 pretrial Circuit, 3 F6 DOC and 20 DOC. Holliday updated the Commissioners on remaining punch list items for the jail renovation. One item that was listed in the previous Commissioner meeting has been resolved, that being a Central Command issue. Cell block temperature issues, book in area issues, air flow noise in the detective area, condensation on inmate phones, pressurization problems, and caulk issues are still in the resolution process. Sheriff Holliday has requested Ameresco to be present at the jail to troubleshoot further. On October 31 Superior used cameras to view lines within the jail for cracking, no evidence of cracking was found. Sheriff Holliday stated that smoke will be used to further troubleshoot smell issues within the jail.

**2025 Sheriff Salary Contract:** The Sheriff Salary contract for 2025 was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Sheriff Holliday had already approved and signed the contract. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the 2025 Sheriff's salary contract (Misc. 2024-04). Motion carried 2-0. This contract will be presented to the County Council on November 6, 2024.

**PHP:** A renewal for health coverage was presented to the commissioners by Jessica Clayton with One Digital. The PHP proposal included a 0% premium increase for the current plan, a 40% refund agreement and a \$70,000 wellness credit on the first billing of 2025. Claims are currently at 73% of premiums. Alternate plan proposals which would increase deductibles while lowering premium were also presented. Principal Vision, Dental and Life plans have a 0% increase for 2025. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the renewal with PHP and keep the deductibles as they are currently. Motion carried 2-0.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Shawn Bonar was not present but updated the Commissioners via email. Bridge 106 is in the early stages of construction and completed for the winter, further construction will begin in the spring. Mowing side ditches is almost complete. Road conversions are moving forward until weather conditions don't allow. The Local Trax project is at a standstill until a limestone issue can be resolved, the next meeting is on Wednesday. Two outstanding punch list items at the highway garage are outstanding, issues are with garage doors and a leak in the roof. Conor will be contacted on the remaining issues.

**Small Structure Inspection Agreement:** Beth Johnson, representing USI, was on hand to answer questions regarding a small structure inspection agreement that was presented to the Commissioners during their October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Attorney Storer would like more time to vet the document. The discussion was tabled until the November 18<sup>th</sup> Commissioner meeting.

**Library Update:** Library board member Matt Yergler updated the Commissioners on library activities. 14,292 citizens have library cards, 54% of the potential population. Circulation material is at 96% of last year's numbers. Electronic material is at 90%, meeting room use is at 76%, study room use is at 76%, children's programming attendance is at 94%, teen programming attendance is at 80%, adult program attendance is at 70% and book-a-librarian reservations are at 94% of last year's numbers. 442 patrons have used the notary from the library, which is 84% of last year's numbers. Brain Fuse, Mango Languages and Scholastic Teachable are new database options for library cardholders. Yergler has been amazed at all the activities that are available at the library.

**Right-of-Way:** Four rights-of-way were presented to the Commissioners for approval. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to approve the four rights-of-way. Motion carried 2-0.

**Economic Development Interlocal Agreement:** A draft interlocal agreement was sent to the City of Bluffton for consideration. No response was received regarding that agreement.

**Donation Contracts:** Attorney Storer is creating a document that can be used for entities that request funding from Wells County.

**Employee Health Premium:** Current health premiums for County Employees are: Single - \$51.00/month, Emp. + Child(ren) - \$155.00/month, Emp. + Spouse - \$200.00/month, and Family - \$309.00/month. A motion was made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Jeff Stringer to keep the current employee health premiums for 2025. Motion carried 2-0.

**ARPA Plan Update:** Attorney Storer is making updates to the current ARPA plan regarding expenditures and feels he will have the updates complete for the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Certificate Sale:** Six properties did not sell during the October 30<sup>th</sup> tax sale. The Commissioners were asked if they were interested in conducting a Certificate sale. Attorney Storer will research options and bring more information back to the Commissioners.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 5:33PM.

### Wells County Commissioners

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President, Jeff Stringer

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Vice President, Michael K Vanover

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Member, Blake Gerber

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor