

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 2-17-2015

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday February 17, 2015 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 Dunmoyer. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from February 2, 2015 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #4 in the amount of \$203,306.87 and 170 claims totaling \$278,138.45. Motion carried 3-0.

Hearing for Harrison Township Assistance Appeal: A Hearing was held for the appeal that Rick and Tammy Shane filed against the Harrison Township Trustee's denial for assistance. The reason the application was denied was "income in excess of Harrison Township Standards for the past 30 days". County Attorney, Roy Johnson swore in Appellant Tammy Shane, Reverend Neil Ainslie and Kyle Hunt who is the investigator for Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Shane had asked for assistance to pay their NIPSCO bill but she has now found employment. Reverend Ainslie questioned if Food Stamps should be included as countable income and he also provided information to the Board of Commissioners regarding the HHS Poverty Guidelines along with examples of standards and guidelines from two other township trustee offices' outside of Wells County. Mr. Hunt stated that the application was denied because the income exceeded the standard maximum and also the family did not meet the requirement for employment. County Attorney, Roy Johnson mentioned that in response to Reverend Ainslie request to review the township standards that he believed that the township trustees' meet on an annual basis to review the township standards which was last adopted on January 27, 2015 which was after the application for assistance was filed by the Shane's. Mr. Johnson also stated to maybe include the failure to meet the employment requirement in the denial if it was also a factor in the decision to deny the application. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to deny the appeal based on the income being in excess of the township standards. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 83 inmates, 19 are DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman presented the Annual Operational Report for Local Roads and Streets to the Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the annual report for the Highway. Motion carried 3-0. Ed provided specifications for a new salt building and ask to he could seek bids for the project. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have Ed get quotes for a new salt building. Motion carried 3-0. Ed informed the commissioners for his 2015 hot mix project he would like to do county road 200 North from the City limits to 450 East and 200 North from the City limits to State Road 116. Ed also informed the commissioners that he had been contacted to provide information regarding a tort claim that was filed against the county regarding an accident that happened at the intersection of 600 West and 1100 South. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to allow Ed to provide the request information regarding the pending litigation against the county. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert updated the commissioners on the guardrail projects that were done on structures 212 and 214. Toby informed the commissioners that he has received an email from Mr. Harding regarding an easement on the property that the county is purchasing from him at Bridge No. 54. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have Toby work with Roy Johnson regarding the easement for Mr. Harding. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development Director: Tim Ehlerding updated the commissioners on several projects; letting them know that there may be a little money left over from the \$35,000 the county contributed for the Linder Oil project, stated that there has been several nibbles on the Spec Building but no bites yet, Haldrup USA is still planning on an August 1 turnkey date, and provided updates on a few new projects that may be coming to Wells County.

Community Correction Board Appointment: Director, Blake Poindexter came before the Board of Commissioners recommending the Kim Butcher from Park Center replace the former board member Linda Vanauken who resigned the first of the year. This board position is for a member that is from the Mental Health Field. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Kim Butcher to the Community Correction Advisory Board. Motion carried 3-0.

Courthouse Repairs: Custodian, Bobbie Studebaker provided three quotes to repair the floor in her office that has caved in. The three quotes came from Kiel & Sons, Double Construction and Bauermeister Construction. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the low bid from Kiel & Sons in the amount of \$4,340 plus up to \$500 extra to repair the underground plumbing. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to allow the President of the Board to sign the quote. Motion carried 3-0. Bobbie also informed the Commissioners that she is getting quotes to repair her heating system control panel that is no longer working properly.

Alexin Tax Abatement Issue: Tom Horter, CEO of Alexin came before the Board of Commissioners asking them to do what they can to try and influence Assessor, Rick Smith to drop the judicial review that he has filed regarding the Indiana Board of Tax Review's decision to allow the tax abatement for the 13 pay 14 tax year. Alexin had filed their "Personal Property Tax Return" and their "Compliance with statement of benefits form CF-1/PP" six days late to the County Assessor. The County Assessor denied the abatement do to the late filing of the tax return. Alexin filed an appeal to the Property tax Board of Appeal who also denied the abatement. The City of Bluffton filed a waiver of noncompliance regarding the "Compliance with statement of benefits form CF-1/PP" which does not include the late filing of the tax return. Alexin then filed an appeal to the Indiana Board of Tax Review who ruled in favor of Alexin. Assessor Rick Smith on January 30, 2015 filed for a judicial review on the Indiana Board of Tax Review's decision. The Board of Commissioners stated that there appears to be two issues; the designating body can file a waiver of noncompliance for the CF-1/PP but not the late filing of the tax return. Also the language in the IC Code states that the County Assessor has the authority to file for a judicial review not the Board of Commissioners, so this issue would be left in the hands of the County Assessor.

Ordinance on Draining Funds Interest: Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Ordinance No. 2015-01 "An Ordinance Amending Wells County Ordinance No. 98-8 and Wells County Ordinance No. 01-02 Regarding Interest on Maintenance Funds for Drains". Motion carried 3-0.

Washington/Main Commons Event Permit: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the Washington/Main Commons Event Permit for a Benefit/Charity ride to raise funds for Wells County D.A.R.E. Program to be held on June 27, 2015 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM. Motion carried 3-0.

Misc. Business: Commissioner Blake Gerber stated that he went down to the state house regarding SB128 with is regarding the Regional Sewer District and it is looking promising. Commissioner's Kevin Woodward and Tamara Dunmoyer both stated that they have expressed their concerns to local legislators regarding SB429 to keep local control over CAFO's.

Adjourned: 10:45AM motion made by Tammy Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Dunmoyer

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor