

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 10-20-2014

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 20, 2014 at 8:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, C. Scott Mossburg, Kevin Woodward and Blake Gerber. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

Minutes: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the minutes from October 6, 2014 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #21 in the amount of \$197,681.06.

Claims: Commissioners approved 249 claims in the amount of \$513,771.12

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 74 inmates, 14 are DOC and one federal. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that the new compressor is fixed and running.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert informed the commissioners that the guardrail should be going in the first week of November for culvert #1026. Toby announced that a public hearing has been set for Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 6:00PM by DLZ for the Federal Aid Project on Bridge No. 193. Frontier Communications presented a request to bury cable at 5385 E 900 N. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the request from Frontier. Motion carried 3-0. Toby presented quotes from E&B Paving and Brooks Construction for wedging over pipe cuts at nine different locations. E&B's quote was for \$79,845.00 and Brooks quote was for \$48,479.00 however they would have to wait until spring to do the work. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the quote from Brooks Construction to do the hot mix projects at a cost of \$48,479.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Section 125 Plan: Personnel Deputy, Lisa McCormick presented the Section 125 Flexible Spending Plan Service Agreement and asked if the commissioners wanted to continue to pay all but \$10.00 toward the employee's debit cards. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to have the county continue to pay all but \$10.00 for the flexible spending debit cards. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Flexible Spending Plan with "Employee's Administrative Services of Indiana, L.L.C." (Misc. 2014-22). Motion carried 3-0.

Wellness Agreement: Personnel Deputy, Lisa McCormick presented the Wellness agreement and asked if any changes needed to be added to the current standards. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to leave the standards the same for 2015. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the contract with Medpartners (Misc. 2014-23). Motion carried 3-0.

Rescue Runs: Bluffton Fire Chief Chris Broderick, Ossian Fire Chief Ben Fenstermaker and Liberty Center Fire Chief, Josh Daughety were all present to discuss the way the county is reimbursing the units for Rescue Runs. The county has provided a rescue truck to the City of Bluffton and one for the town of Ossian and the county is in the process of purchasing a new rescue truck for Liberty Center Fire Department. Currently the city of Bluffton and the town of Ossian are housing the trucks and

maintaining them. Ossian is billing the county \$150.00 each time the rescue truck is called out and Bluffton is billing the county the total wages of personnel that respond to the call plus \$25.00. With the number of calls plus the number of people responding to the calls the billing from the city of Bluffton has pushing the county over the budgeted amount and with Liberty Center coming on board the Board of Commissioners feel like there may need to be changes put into place. The total budgeted amount for 2015 is \$20,000 and the Board of Commissioners asked the three units to work together to come up with a plan on how the \$20,000 is distributed. The Board of Commissioners agreed that a new agreement needs to be in place.

Economic Development Director: Tim Ehlerding came before the commissioners to announce a new company coming to the newly formed TIF district in Ossian. Mr. Ehlerding read a prepared statement regarding the company named "Haldrup USA" stating that they would be invested \$13 million dollars over several years and employing 65 people at an average wage of \$23.80 per hour. Mr. Ehlerding stated that incentives were necessary to bring the company here including offering to purchase six acres at a total cost of \$72,000 for Haldrup. Mr. Ehlerding is asking for \$36,000 from the counties CEDIT revenue to pay for half of the overall land acquisition cost. Commissioner Mossburg asked why the Board of Commissioners were not involved in the project from the start, stating that they were finding out about it through the news-papers and commissioner Mossburg also asked why conflict of interest statement were not filed prior to the project since two elected officials, Phillip Stoller and Michael Mossburg were involved with the company. Mr. Ehlerding stated that the project was a fast moving project and that is why everyone was not informed and he also stated that he has asked both Councilman Stoller and Mossburg to complete the "Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement" form at their earliest possible convenience. Commissioners Mossburg wanted additional information before he would approve the request like a guarantee that the company is coming and how long it would take for the county is get back the investment of \$36,000. Commissioner Gerber stated that he was disappointed that the commissioners were not involved in the process since they are asking the county for funding. Commissioner Woodward also stated that the commissioners should have been involved and he thought that any money should be given to the town of Ossian rather than the Wells County Economic Development. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to give \$36,000 from the counties CEDIT fund to the Town of Ossian for the Haldrup economic project. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Mossburg voting against.

Courthouse Repairs: Commissioner President, Scott Mossburg informed the other commissioners that he was contacted by the custodian to get approval to put heat tubing into the cement repair job at the entrance of the courthouse. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to affirm the action of the president to order the material to do the repair. Motion carried 3-0.

Employee Thanksgiving Dinner: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve closing the courthouse and annex building from 12:00PM to 2:00PM on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 to have our annual employee thanksgiving dinner at the county 4-H Park. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:27AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, C. Scott Mossburg

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Blake Gerber

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor