

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 1-8-2014

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday January 8, 2014 at 9AM 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. This meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014 at 9:00AM but Wells County was under a snow emergency so this meeting was moved to Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 9:00AM.

**Reorganization of Board:** Auditor, Beth Davis asked for nominations for President and Vice-President for 2014. Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint Scott Mossburg as President of the Board of Commissioners for 2014. Motion carried 2-0-1. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint Kevin Woodward as Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners for 2014. Motion carried 2-0-1.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the minutes from December 16, 2013 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll:** Commissioners approved Payroll #26 in the amount of \$197,395.09 and Payroll #1 in the amount of \$198,819.20.

**Claims:** Commissioners approved 275 claims in the amount of \$306,451.94

**2014 Appointments:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to re-appoint all the appointments for 2014 as follows: County Attorney, Roy Johnson; Highway Supervisor, Ed Herman; Highway Engineer, Butler Fairman & Seufert; Courthouse Custodian, Bobbie Studebaker; IT Director, Roger Richardson; Veterans Officer, Claude McMillian; EMA Director, Wayne Grove; Property Tax Board of Appeals, Larry McChesney; Alcohol Beverage Board, John Whicker; 911 Director, Adam McCartney; EMA Advisory Board, Scott Mossburg; Common Construction Wage Committee, Scott Mossburg; Economic Development Board, Blake Gerber; Chamber of Commerce Board, Blake Gerber; EMA Board, Kevin Woodward; District 3 Planning Council, Monte Fisher. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Monte Fisher reported 91 inmates, 19 are DOC and one federal, and 11 of the inmates are from Adams County. Wells County is holding the inmates because of a water brake at the Adams County Jail. The Board of Commissioners thanked Sheriff Fisher and his deputies for their assistance during the recent snow emergency.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Ed Herman provided quotes for two new Tractors for the Highway Department. Ed stated that he had requested a quote from two different companies but Troxel's was the only company that quoted and Ed recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the quote. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the quote from Troxel's in the amount of \$158,500 for two tractors. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners thanked Ed and his staff for all their work related to the recent snow emergency. Ed and the Commissioners also thanked Southern Wells Schools for their assistance with storing a plow as well as Berne Apparel and Ossian Town Council Member Josh Barkley for their assistance during the snow emergency.

**Wells County Highway Engineer:** Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert informed the commissioners that Stoodly & Assoc. will be going back to survey the North side of Bridge #54. The first survey only included the South side of the bridge and the county needs access to both sides for future log jams. The Board of Commissioners signed the General Engineering Services Agreement for 2014.

**Snow Emergency:** EMA Director, Wayne Grove came before the commissioners regarding a Local Disaster Emergency Declaration for the recent snow storm. The county could qualify for funding if they had more than \$96,000 in storm-related expenses. The commissioners stated that Wayne should get with all of the departments to document the related expenses. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Woodward stated that he would look into the way the state's web site post the three snow advisories. Should level one, two, three be advisory, watch, warning or should it be warning, watch, advisory. The commissioners also thanked Wayne for all his work during the snow emergency.

**IT Director:** The question was asked about updates to the counties website regarding snow emergencies that would cause cancellations or postponing meetings. IT Director, Roger Richardson stated that there has not been a procedure in place to post the updates but he would look into doing this. The commissioners also asked Roger to check into social media like Facebook. Roger will look into these issues and report back to the commissioners at the February meeting. Roger also informed the commissioners that the new back-up system is up and running.

**New 2014 Appointments:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint Martin Adam to the Property Tax Board of Appeals. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the Amendment to the Sick Leave Bank Policy changing the board members from five (5) members to three (3) members and having one of the three members serve as the bookkeeper, the motion also appointed Susan Reinhard, Marlene Hoag and Diana Collins as the three board members. Motion carried 3-0.

**Work Session for Bridges:** The Board of Commissioners along with Ed Herman the Highway Supervisor, Toby Steffen the County Engineer representative and Jarrod Hahn the County Surveyor discussed what information would be taken to the County Council Members regarding bridge projects that needs to be done. The Board of Commissioners also went over the job description of the County Engineer.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 11:14 AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, C. Scott Mossburg

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

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Blake Gerber

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor