

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 2-6-2012

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday February 6, 2012 at 9AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Kevin Woodward, Paul Bonham and C. Scott Mossburg. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Trent Patterson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve the minutes from January 17, 2012 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll:** Commissioners approved Payroll #2 in the amount of \$187,669.13 and Payroll #3 in the amount of \$187,731.71.

**Claims:** Commissioners approved 195 claims in the amount of \$406,397.08.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Monte Fisher reported 99 inmates, 25 are DOC and 1 federal. Sheriff Fisher asked Michael McDonald from Advanced Imaging to inform the commissioners of the results of the proposal he did for the sheriff to upgrade the sheriff's department on their printers and copiers. Sheriff Fisher will get a copy of the lease contract to the county attorney to review.

**Bids for Bridge Materials:** No bids were received for the advertised request of bids.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Ed Herman presented the Annual Report for the Highway Department. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to accept the Highway Departments Annual Report. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to approve the permit for Ossian Water Line Extension on 850 N. Motion carried 3-0. Ed asked about having a credit card for his department. County Attorney will prepare a resolution for the highway department to have a credit card with a limit of \$2500.00 and bring it to the next meeting.

**Wind Farm Economic Development Payments:** County Councilman, James Van Winkle and Commissioner Scott Mossburg presented their three recommendations for use of the Economic Development Payment funds that the county will receive from the wind farm companies. They propose a substantial amount of the funds be used for a revolving loan at a low interest rate for governmental entities for Capital Projects. Secondly, they recommend that a percentage of the payments be available to the townships of Wells County which have wind turbines and upon request and approval the townships could use the funds for projects that benefit all citizens of its respective townships. The third recommendation is to the town of Poneto, the only incorporated town in the heart of the wind farms, to receive a one-time grant of \$120,000.00 for economic development. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to approve the recommendations. Motion carried 3-0. Some concerned residents asked questions regarding how the assessment was done on the wind turbines; the commissioners stated the state does the assessment on them. Other questions were raised on how the zoning was done to allow for the wind turbines, area plan has permitted wind turbines to be put on A1 Zoning areas.

**EMA 2011 Activity Report:** EMA Director, Wayne Grove and President of the EMA Board, Blake Poindexter presented the EMA 2011 Activity Report to the County Commissioners. The Commissioners

where informed that the Vera Cruz Grant is finally done after seven years. Wayne asked for approval of an air card for his laptop computer for when he is working out of his office. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve the EMA's request for an air card pending County Attorney's approval of the contract. Motion carried 3-0.

**Regional Sewer District:** Ted Claghorn read a statement he had prepared about some concerns he has and stated he would like to ask some questions regarding the formation of the Regional Sewer District. Some of the questions Mr. Claghorn addressed where: The name of the person who filed the original petition (complaint), where is the location of the principal office of the district, who is the IDEM officer appointed to oversee the formation of the district, did IDEM mail letters to every property owner in the district and he would like to see a copy of the original petition. Mr. Claghorn asked to be on the next meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> to get the answers to his questions.

**2012 CEDIT Resolution:** Commissioners discussed the balance of the CEDIT fund including revenue that would be coming in during 2012 along with excepted expenditures for 2012. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to have County Attorney, Trent Patterson prepare a resolution for 2012 CEDIT funds. Motion carried 3-0. Items discussed to be included in the resolution are: \$235,000 for the completion for Bridge #59, \$100,000 for chip and seal, \$80,000 for Highway roof, \$425,000 for Road 100 South, \$85,000 to economic development, \$75,000 to town of Ossian, \$50,000 for culvert repairs, \$10,000 for log jams, \$25,000 for computers, \$15,000 for copiers, \$20,000 for document imaging and the balance in Capital Development. Lee Von Gunten voiced concerns he had regarding possible conflicts between the County Commissioners and Economic Development. The Commissioners stated they have no problems with Mike Row (Wells County's Economic Development Director), they regretted the position that the Chamber had put him in to testify at Indianapolis in favor of a single county commissioner. The commissioners questioned the possibility of the economic development and Chamber of Commerce being split into two separate entities. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to have Commissioner Mossburg state at the next Chamber meeting that all CEDIT Funds should remain in the Economic Development. Motion carried 3-0.

**Johnson Drain:** Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to allow for the repairs to the Johnson Drain in the amount of \$5478.50 which was included in the 2012 CEDIT resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

**Rock Creek Conservancy District:** Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to appoint Roger McAfee as the Director to the Rock Creek Conservancy District with his term to expire in January 2016 (Misc 2012-2). Motion carried 3-0.

**Bee Creek:** County Surveyor, Jarrod Hahn stated Bee Creek Development LLP would be redoing their Storm Sewer Easement agreement and will provide the new agreement to the drainage board and commissioners.

**Nexus Annual Adjustment Contract:** County Attorney, Trent Patterson said he found no problems with the Nexus Contract so the County Commissioners signed the Nexus Annual Adjustment Contract (Misc 2012-3).

**County Engineer Work Session:** County Highway Supervisor, Ed Herman gave the commissioners a list of duties that the prior county engineer did on a regular basis like, handling the federal projects, utility permits, drainage issues, small structures on bridges, signage and right of ways. The Commissioners

asked Ed to contact a few different engineering firms to see what they could do for the county and report it back to the board.

**Repairs for Chiller:** Quotes were presented to the commissioners for the repair of the compressor that went out of the chiller at the courthouse. The commissioners wanted the custodian to check if this was due to the glass that fell into the chiller during the fire that happen a few months ago.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 12:50 pm

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Kevin Woodward

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Vice President, Paul Bonham

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C. Scott Mossburg

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