

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 4-2-2012

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 2, 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.

Meeting was started with the pledge and a moment of silence for the lost of Council President Pete Cole.

Minutes: Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve the minutes from March 19, 2012 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #7 in the amount of \$185,861.82.

Claims: Commissioners approved 209 claims in the amount of \$227,233.51

Superior Court Technology Upgrades: Superior Court Judge requested a new computer for his office along with software upgrades with excel and word on all four computers in his office. Total amount for the project would be \$1400.00; Judge requested the fund to come from the commissioner's computer line in the CEDIT budget. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to approve up to \$1400.00 to Superior Court for computer and software upgrades. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Monte Fisher reported 75 inmates, 6 are DOC and 1 federal. DOC has made their final pickup for DOC prisoners to fill the new facility in New Castle. Sheriff Fisher provided a quote for a new cage for the new K9 unit they are getting in the amount of \$2,184.00 which will come out of their vehicle equipment budget. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that he would be using \$5,947.72 from his commissary fund to supplement the amount needed to replace the 3 vehicles they have ordered. Sheriff will also purchase two new computers from his commissary fund in the amount of \$1592.77 from Preferred IT replacing two of their oldest computers.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman recommended using the lowest bid from Wayne Asphalt for the two hot mix projects that was bid on March 19th in the amount \$350,650.00. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to accept the bid from Wayne Asphalt in the amount of \$350,650.00 with an additional amount of \$40,000.00 for the County Highway to complete the project. Motion carried 3-0. Advised the commissioners that April 30th is the deadline to sign up for dust control. County Attorney is still looking into the hold harmless agreement on the bike race.

Probation Computer Upgrades: Chief Probation Officer, Greg Werich requested funds from the CEDIT computer budget to replace 3 outdated computers in his office. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve the request of \$1725.00 from Probation to replace 3 computers. Motion carried 3-0.

Old 303 Bridge over Wabash River: Ben Beer with USI consultants updated the commissioners on Wells County Bridges. USI has just finished phase II of the Bridge inspections. Mr. Beer provided a schedule

for replacement or repair work on the bridges. There was a discussion of a 5 year structure improvement program and also the re-establishment of the bridge accumulation fund.

Economic Development Agreement: Brent Hiday, President, Board of directors, Wells County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development came before the board of commissioners again with an amended and restated agreement between Wells County through the Wells County Commissioners and Wells County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development. Rick Sherek, Noble County Economic Development Director explained to the commissioners how a similar agreement is in place for Noble County. Mike Row, former Wells County Economic Development Director provided a power point comparing surrounding counties percentage of CEDIT fund towards Economic Development and Commissioner, Scott Mossburg countered back with figures from other surrounding counties. Commissioner, Scott Mossburg continued to say that elected officials should have control over taxpayer's money. The Commissioners continue to state they felt they had used the CEDIT funds according to the guidelines the state has set and they have never turned down any request for economic development. After several minutes of debate Commissioner Paul Bonham made a motion that they approve \$200,000.00 to the Economic Development Council per their agreement, Commissioner Kevin Woodward seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Scott Mossburg voting against.

Veterans Service Recognition: Commissioner Paul Bonham read a letter that was presented to Veteran Service Officer Claude McMillan stating he has brought in over one million dollars in federal benefits to Veterans during calendar year 2011.

Commissioners recognized Indiana's Miss Basketball Jessica Rupright and Southern Wells FFA successes in soil judging and livestock judging.

Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to go with Office Concept on the new copier for the Auditor Office.

Commissioners approved the closing of offices for the funeral of Pete Cole.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 11:35 am

Wells County Commissioners

President, Kevin Woodward

Vice President, Paul Bonham

C. Scott Mossburg

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor