

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 4-15-2013

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 15, 2013 at 9:30AM 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 April 1, 2013 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #8 in the amount of \$193,541.24.

Claims: Commissioners approved 113 claims in the amount of \$111,703.94.

Wells County Sheriff: Monte Fisher reported 85 inmates, 11 are DOC and one federal.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman provided MVH, LR&S and Wheel Tax Revenue updates. Ed informed the commissioners that they are still working on stone roads.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert informed the commissioners that the recent rains in the county helped them with checking sizes for structures. Toby presented a permit application from Craigville Telephone to allow them to bury necessary cable on N 600 East. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the permit request from Craigville Telephone. Motion carried 3-0.

Bridge 193 Engineering Services: Michael Kummeth with DLZ came before the commissioners to explain and answer questions regarding the proposed agreement for preliminary engineering services for bridge 193. The initial cost was estimated at \$150,000.00 and DLZ's proposed agreement was for \$290,850.00. Mr. Kummeth stated the "as needed services" could be taken off the agreement bring the total down to \$204,000.00. The commissioners still felt the proposed amount was too high and stated they would like to see the total around \$175,000.00 to \$180,000.00. Mr. Kummeth will take the information back to his company to see if any changes could be made and present them to the commissioners at a future meeting.

Small Culvert/Structure Inspection: Several years ago Leo Rumschlag with Rumschlag Technical Services did a culvert inspection for Wells County and Mr. Rumschlag came before the commissioners offering to do another inspection. The commissioners thought they would like to put this out for bid so they asked Ed Herman to put something together to put out for bid.

Health Board Appointments: Marlene Hoag with the Health Department presented a list of six names that were willing to serve on the Wells County Health Board. One appointment will be replacing Dr. John Wilson who resigned in June 2012; the other two terms expired on December 31, 2012. All appointment is four year terms. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint Dr. Mary Donley MD; Dr. Charles Allison MD and Steven Bales, DVM to the Wells County Health Board. Motion carried 3-0.

Vote Center Study Committee: County Clerk, Yvette Runkle explained the process for Wells County to move forward with Vote Centers. The Wells County Elections Board recently passed a resolution to start a study group committee to see if Vote Centers would be beneficial for Wells County. The Election Board would like to have a commissioner serve on the committee. Yvette brought a resolution for the commissioners to sign stating that Wells County is now a Vote Center County. The Commissioners had several questions regarding the setup of vote centers and stated they would like to wait until after the study group committee has explored all the option before they sign the resolution. Commissioner Mossburg volunteered to set on the committee to represent the commissioners.

Economic Development Director: The Economic Development Director, Tim Ehlerding provided updates on the Bluffton Decker and Ossian Industrial Parks. Mr. Ehlerding informed the commissioners that the industrial maintenance workers class will be starting next week at Norwell High School. The class is sponsored by Work One which partnered with IVY Tech and Norwell High School.

Property & Casualty Insurance: Richard Randol with General Insurance provided the renewal for the counties property and casualty insurance. Total increase to the property and casualty insurance was 2.06% where the total increase to the workers compensation insurance from February of this year was a 10.84% increase. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve \$180,676.00 for the renewal of the Property & Casualty Insurance; the total amount for Property & Casualty plus the Workers Compensation was \$244,722.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Workers Compensation: Sheriff Deputy, Chad Bradley explained his experience with the counties insurance during a loss time workers compensation claim he had from December 2011. Mr. Bradley received his workers compensation check at his home and had to come into the auditor's office to pay his normal deductions for his medical insurance etc. Mr. Bradley also stated he was told he would have to go on cobra after he was off work for 12 weeks. The commissioners informed Mr. Bradley that the county is now on a different insurance plan that would not require an employee to go on cobra as long as they were on workers compensation. The sheriff's department has also started a sick bank that would allow the employees to use after they have exhausted all of their accumulative vacation, personal days and sick days to make up the 33 and 1/3 pay differences (workers compensation will pay the employee 66 and 2/3 of their salary). The 33 and 1/3 that is paid through the county from the injured employee would be used to cover any deductions the employee normally has withheld from their check, this amount would also be subjected to income taxes as where the 66 and 2/3 pay from the insurance company would not be subjected to any taxes. The sheriff is still checking to see if there are any problems that would come into play with the deputy's pension plans and he will report that back to the commissioners once he has an answer back from the company.

Use of Courthouse Square: Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow the use of the courthouse square for "Day of Prayer" from April 29, 2013 to May 6, 2013. Motion carried 3-0.

Resident, Larry Studebaker commented that he felt the sheriff deputy should be compensated for any loss salary.

Commissioners approved paying Stylus for labor and setup of sound system for the Area Plan's Meeting at the 4-H Building on April 4 and also for the council meeting that may take place later in the month. The fee will be paid from the commissioner's budget.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 12:03PM

Wells County Commissioners

President, C. Scott Mossburg

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Blake Gerber

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor