

## Wells County Commissioners

### Regular Session 5-20-2013

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday May 20, 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 Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from May 6, 2013 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll:** Commissioners approved Payroll #10 in the amount of \$198,384.67.

**Claims:** Commissioners approved 290 claims in the amount of \$369,143.64

**Jury Room Updates:** Judge Goshorn came before the commissioners asking permission to have the custodian get quotes to install blinds on the east windows in the Superior Court Jury Room. Jurors are having trouble seeing with the sun shining in. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to ask Courthouse Custodian, Bobbie Studebaker to get quotes for blinds. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Monte Fisher reported 100 inmates, 13 are DOC and one federal.

**Markle Wildcat Festival:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the road closure for downtown Markle on August 24, 2013 from 8:00am to Midnight for their Wildcat Festival. Motion carried 3-0.

**Bituminous Bids:** There were a total of two Bituminous bids received; one from Asphalt Material Inc. and one from K Tech. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to refer the bids to the Highway Supervisor, Ed Herman for his review and recommendation. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** The Commissioners signed the contract with DLZ for the preliminary engineering for Bridge #193 (Misc. 2013-14). The Commissioners signed the contract with USI Consultants, Inc. for Bridge Inspections (Misc. 2013-15). Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the unofficial detour for two INDOT projects on State Road 1. Motion carried 3-0. Two representatives from Selking International were present to discuss any concerns the commissioners had regarding the truck chassis quote or the truck fire that occurred this past December. Commissioner Mossburg expressed his concerns about being without a truck since December and also the fact that there has been no determination regarding the cause for the truck fire other than a "thermal event". The commissioners asked Ed Herman if he had looked over the quotes and Ed stated he would like the truck to have a Hendricks suspension and he wasn't sure if the quotes included a Hendricks suspension. The commissioners asked Ed to check into it and bring the information back to the next commissioners meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Wells County Highway Engineer:** Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert provided an engineering study that was done on the seven grade crossings of the Norfolk Southern Railway. The study is recommending that STOP signs be installed rather than YIELD signs. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have Commissioner President, Scott Mossburg sign the engineering

study and have Toby Steffen submit the study to Mr. Thomas Imbimbo the INDOT Railroad Coordinator (Misc. 2013-16). Motion carried 3-0.

**Economic Development Director:** Economic Development Director, Tim Ehlerding informed the commissioners that he has received information back from the state that the Bluffton Decker Site has been certified shovel ready. Mr. Ehlerding asked the commissioners to fund the \$1,000.00 fee that would be assessed in an agreement between Ossian Development Inc. and Mr. and Mrs. Bauermiester regarding the option of purchasing the 56 acres just south of the Ossian Industrial Park for the period of three years. The agreement can be renewed after three years for an additional amount of \$1,000.00. Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow the claim of \$1000.00 to be paid from the CEDIT fund for the fee on the option to purchase agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

**Drainage Board/Surveyor Fees:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Ordinance No. 2013-03 "An Ordinance Establishing Certain Fees Pertaining to the Wells County Drainage Board/Office of Wells County Surveyor". Motion carried 3-0.

**Maximus Service Agreement:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the service agreement with Maximus Consulting Services, Inc. and allow president, Scott Mossburg to sign. Motion carried. 3-0

**Barnes & Thornburg Legal Fees:** An invoice was received from Barnes & Thornburg in the amount of \$15,137.10 for their legal fees they charged to represent the county regarding the Wind Farm Agreements. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve paying \$2,280.00 of the invoice from the Wind Farm Expense Fund and the balance of the invoice from the CEDIT Fund. Motion carried 3-0.

**Bargain Hut Lease Agreement:** Motion made by Blake Gerber, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the lease agreement between Wells County Board of Commissioners and Wells Community Health Services Foundation, Inc. (Misc. 2013-18). Motion carried 3-0.

**Substitute Area Plan Commission Member:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint James Berger as a substitute board member for Keith Masterson when there are discussions regarding the Apex Wind Energy project. Motion carried 3-0.

William Morris came before the commissioners asking if any more meeting had been scheduled with Apex and if so, could residents be informed of them. Commissioner Mossburg stated that no other meetings are scheduled at this time and if and when they resume negotiations he would advertise through the Bluffton News-Banner.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:49am

**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