

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 6-18-2012

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday June 18, 2012 at 9:30AM 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 June 4, 2012 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #12 in the amount of \$186,832.18.

Claims: Commissioners approved 130 claims in the amount of \$474,850.20

Wells County Sheriff: Monte Fisher reported 85 inmates, 20 are DOC and 1 federal. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve Ordinance No. 2012-04 "An Ordinance Regulating The Use Of Golf Carts On County Roads". Motion carried 3-0. Discussed the workers compensation disability update. The Commissioners requested additional information on the counties cost, so the update will be discussed again at the next commissioners meeting. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve Ordinance No. 2012-05 "An Ordinance Repealing Wells County Ordinance 92-5 and implementing a Policy for Overtime Pay for the Sheriff's Department". Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman gave updates on MVH, LR&S and Wheel Tax. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to approve an utility request from Baseline Communications on 1100N between 500W and 600W. Motion carried 3-0. Ed provided a map of the chip and seal program totaling 65 miles for this year. Ed informed the commissioners that he is working with INDOT to repaint railroad crossings with money left over from the grant he received to replace railroad crossing signs.

County Engineer: Toby Steffen with Butler, Fairman and Seufert informed the commissioners that trees will need to be planted for the Bridge 59 Project. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to have Toby Steffen order a 10x4 concrete box for Culvert 146 on 800N. Motion carried 3-0. Informed the commissioners that USI is currently about 65% done with preparing plans for bridge #206 and construction is targeted for September or October.

Council on Aging: Provided comparison charts for Wells on Wheels. Requested a 2013 budget request of \$53,000.00 which is the same request as previous years. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve the request of \$53,000.00 for the 2013 budget year. Motion carried 3-0.

Photography of Records: County Recorder, Rina Stuck informed the commissioners that she has had people in her office using camera's to take pictures of records. Rina ask commissioners if they could prepare an ordinance to not allow photo reproduction of records in her office. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to have county attorney, Trent Patterson prepare an ordinance for the Recorders office regarding photo reproduction of records. Motion carried 3-0.

Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Agreement: Commissioners asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding the agreement between the Chamber/Economic Development and the County. A question was raised regarding a signed contract and the County Attorney stated he would not speak for a judge but felt that there would be good arguments on either side. Former Economic Development Director, Mike Row, County Councilman, Phillip Stoller and Chamber of Commerce President, Brent Hiday all spoke in favor of retention of the agreement. Commissioner Mossburg argued that the agreement would force the county to propose a new tax structure that could really affect the farmers. Tim Baker, Farm Bureau Representative also stated they he felt the proposed changes could really effect the farmers. Commissioner Mossburg stated he would like to renegotiation the agreement and to have a work session with all party's to see what will work best like starting with a smaller amount like \$50,000.00. Commissioner Bonham stated he has done a lot of soul searching since he made his original motion for the \$200,000.00 and he feels like \$50,000.00 is a more reasonable request which also meant a new CCD tax would not be necessary. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to terminate the agreement with the Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development and start renegotiations with the Chamber/Economic Development and the Commissioners along with the City of Bluffton and the Towns of Ossian and Markle to form an agreement to move economic development forward in Wells County. Motion carried 2-1 with Kevin Woodward voting against. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to have the commissioners go to county council to make a recommendation that the commissioners oppose the CCD tax do to the fact they could use CEDIT funds to cover the cost for bridges. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to set up a work session on July 16, 2012 and request the Chamber of Commerce along with the city of Bluffton, town of Ossian, town of Markle and a County Council Member to discuss an agreement to move forward with economic development. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to not approve the invoice from the Chamber in the amount of \$100,000.00 in lieu of a new agreement. Motion carried 2-1 with Kevin Woodward voting against.

Anti-Nepotism Ordinance: Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve ordinance 2012-06 "An Ordinance Amending the Wells County Employee Handbook". Motion carried 3-0. Trent Patterson informed the commissioners they will need to change the County Bid Form to reflect the changes in the anti-nepotism law. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to have Trent Patterson change the bid form to reflex the anti-nepotism law effective July 1, 2012. Motion carried 3-0.

Regional Sewer District: Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Lee VonGunten to the Wells County Regional Sewer District. Motion carried 2-0 with Scott Mossburg abstaining since he is on the board. All the meetings for the Regional Sewer District will now be held at the Annex meeting room.

Signed the service agreement with BTS.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 11:45 am

Wells County Commissioners

President, Kevin Woodward

Vice President, Paul Bonham

C. Scott Mossburg

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor