

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 7-16-2012

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday July 16, 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 Bonhan to approve the minutes from July 2, 2012 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #14 in the amount of \$193,885.30.

Claims: Commissioners approved 155 claims in the amount of \$193,657.86.

Wells County Sheriff: Monte Fisher reported 84 inmates, 20 are DOC and 1 federal.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman gave updates on Chip and Seal, Roadside mowing and Patching of roads.

Wells County Engineer: Toby Steffen gave updates on Bridges. No changes for bridge #59, Concrete box for culvert #146 will be delivered on July 30th. Wage hearing was held on July 10, 2012 for the construction to be done on Bridge #206 on Marzane Road and was awarded to ABC. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to accept the Inspection Agreement for Bridge #206 with Butler Fairman & Seufert (Misc 2012-13) not to exceed \$25,000.00. Motion carried 3-0. Toby informed the commissioners that we received information from INDOT that Wells County has been awarded \$1,500,000.00 in federal funds for Bridge #193 the county will be responsible for the 20% match on this project. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to have Butler Fairman & Seufert start the process of a RFP for Bridge #193. Motion carried 3-0. Looking at new structures on 350 South just west of 600E and on Hoosier Highway just north of St. Rd. 218.

Jake Brake Sign: Ed Herman informed the commissioners that he had received a request to put up a Jake Brake Sign on 200S just west of St. Rd. 1. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to have county attorney, Trent Patterson revisit for Jake Brake Sign Ordinance that we currently have and bring the information to the next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

Preferred IT Group: Jason Horne came before the commissioners to offer his companies services to the county for: IT support service, security solutions and Disaster Recovery Solutions.

2008 Tax Sale Errors: during the 2008 Tax Sale there were 4 properties that were redeemed by the owners but the Auditor's office returned the incorrect amount of money back to the buyers. The fund had not been reconciled until 2011 to identify the errors. County attorney, Trent Patterson recommended that the amount which totals \$8,735.00 be paid through un-appropriate funds since some properties have changed hands and the statue of limitations may have ran out to collect. Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to take this information to the County Council and recommend the money to be taken from un-appropriated funds. Motion carried 3-0.

Legal Shield: Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to approve offering Legal Shield to the county employees pending County Attorney, Trent Patterson approval. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Woodward voting against.

Disaster Emergency Proclamation: Commissioners had signed a Disaster Emergency Proclamation (Misc-2012-14) effective July 5, 2012 until rescinded.

Use of Courthouse Square: Letter was received from Rev. Arley W. Higginbotham requesting using the courthouse square for 7 days in August from 10:00am to 10pm to read from the Bible. The Commissioners stated anyone that wants to use the courthouse square has to provide proof of insurance. Auditor will contact Mr. Higginbotham and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Umbaugh & Associates Invoice: Invoice was received from H.J. Umbaugh & Associate in the amount of \$18,345.00 for professional services relating to the proposed Apex Wind Farm Project. Motion made by Scott Mossburg, seconded by Paul Bonham to use CEDIT Funds to pay Umbaugh for professional services in the amount of \$18,345.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting was recessed until 1:00pm for the - Economic Development Project Support Work Session.

1:00pm - Meeting reconvened with Commissioner President Woodward Absent.

Economic Development Project Support Work Session: Commissioners - Paul Bonham and Scott Mossburg, City of Bluffton Mayor - Ted Ellis, Ossian town council Vice President – Josh Barley, Town of Markle Clerk Treasurer – Shelly Monticue, County Council Member – Jim Oswalt along with Chamber of Commerce representatives were all present to discuss economic development for Wells County.

Chamber president, Brent Hiday stated the original agreement was put into place to have a certain amount of funds allocated to ensure that the Economic Development Director knew what funds were available. Other chamber members asked if their were financial reports that could be make available to them since the government reports are so much different than private businesses financial reports.

Bluffton Mayor Ted Ellis asked what the issues were; was it the amount of funds, was it the board, or was it the turnaround time. Markle Clerk-Treasurer, Shelley Monticue stated she felt that all CEDIT funds should be only handled by elected officials. Monticue stated if you put money into other hands rather than elected officials then you are taking away accountability. Commissioner Mossburg stated if the county stays on the same path with CEDIT Revenues and if the commissioners allocate \$400,000.00 each year for bridges than they would still have a quarter of a million dollars available for Economic Development Projects. Everyone in attendance seemed to agreement that a nine member board for economic development would work well.

Adjourned: Motion made by Paul Bonham, seconded by Scott Mossburg to adjourn at 2:50PM.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Kevin Woodward

Vice President, Paul Bonham

C. Scott Mossburg

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor