

## **Wells County Commissioners**

### **Regular Session 4-20-2015**

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 9:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward and Tamara Dunmoyer. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the minutes from April 6, 2015 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll:** Commissioners approved Payroll #9 in the amount of \$197,352.98.

**Claims:** Commissioners approved 232 claims in the amount of \$306,030.39.

**Wells County Sheriff:** Sheriff Fisher reported 74 inmates, 16 are DOC. Sheriff Fisher provided a quote from Arnold's Soft Water to replace the water softeners at the jail. Because of the size of water softener, Arnold's was the only vendor to supply a quote. Sheriff Fisher recommended that they go with option #3 in the amount of \$8295.00 which removes the old softeners and replaces them with two 10cu alternating softeners. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the sheriff's recommendation. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Highway Supervisor:** Ed Herman's recommendation from the bids that were opened at the last meeting was the Western Star Chassis quote and the Stainless Steel Demo Body and Equipment Quote. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Blake Gerber to accept Ed's recommendation on both the Chassis and Equipment. Motion carried 2-0-1, Commissioner Woodward abstained from voting. Ed provided an unofficial Detour from INDOT for the closing of State Road 1 to replace a small structure over John's Ditch. The unofficial detour will be; from SR 1 east on E 550 S to south on S 500 E to SR 218. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the unofficial detour. Motion carried 3-0. Ed informed the commissioners that a meeting with INDOT will be held on May 21, 2015 at 2:00PM regarding bridge #193. Due to State Road 1 being closed just south of Markle trucks have been traveling on Oak Road in Wells County which is not likely to survive that much repeated truck traffic. Ed is recommending that an ordinance be passed to restrict the truck traffic. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve Ordinance No. 2015-02 "An Ordinance Restricting Truck Traffic on Oak Road Between County Road 300 West and County Road 600 West". Motion carried 3-0.

**Wells County Highway Engineer:** Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert presented three utility permits. The first one is from REMC to bury cable "from the intersection of CR 800 N and Marzane Rd on the West side of the road heading North to address of 8540N Marzane Rd. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request from REMC. Motion carried 3-0. The seconded request is from Zayo to bury cable along 1000 N between 500 W and 600 W. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request from Zayo. Motion carried 3-0. The third request was also from Zayo to bury cable at 800 N at RR tracks going east to 850 N. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the request from Zayo. Motion carried 3-0.

**Economic Development Director:** Tim Ehlerding provided a chart showing that population workforce projections for our region are going down and he is working with several organizations to reverse the trend including the Regional Cities Initiative. The Northeast Region is putting together a plan for legislative funding that could become available. Tim informed the commissioners that he would be asking for funding to participate in a group study from the northeast region at a future meeting.

**Insurance Renewal:** Richard Randol with General Insurance provided an insurance proposal for Wells County's Liability and Property coverage. The renewal premium with Bliss McKnight has an increase of \$1,464.00 or .81%. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the renewal policy for Bliss McKnight Group and allow the president of the board to sign the renewal. Motion carried 3-0.

**Council on Aging:** Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier provided flow charts showing increases again in public transit. This year Public Transit is celebrating 10 years of serving Wells County. Bonnie asked the commissioners if they would continue to support public transit by budgeting \$53,000.00 for the 2016 budget year as they have in the past several years. Bonnie also provided the 2014 fourth quarter invoice totaling \$91,723.00 and the 2015 first quarter invoice totaling \$101,704.00 for grant reimbursement to the board of commissioners. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the fourth quarter and first quarter invoices. Motion carried 3-0.

**Township Assistance Guidelines:** Liberty Township provided their township assistance guidelines which follows the same guidelines as the previous townships.

**National Day of Prayer:** Arley Higginbotham asked the board of commissioners if he could hold the "National Day of Prayer" on the courthouse plaza again this year starting at 6:00PM on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 through 6:00PM May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the request from Mr. Higginbotham. Motion carried 3-0.

**Wind Energy Development County Lease:** William Morris asked some questions regarding Resolution 2010-14 "A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Wells County, Indiana Approving the lease of Real Property of the County and Matters Related Thereto". The five questions Mr. Morris asked were; was the lease executed with Wells Prairie Wind LLC; Is the lease still in place; what is the termination date of the lease if no construction has commenced; since leases of Wells Prairie Wind LLC was purchased by Apex, did the county sign a new lease with Apex; should this lease expire this year or next year what would be the commissioners intent as to renewal or termination of the lease?

**Wabash River – Rose Road Trash Issue:** Stacia Henderson, coordinator for the Upper Wabash River Basin informed the commissioners about trash being dumped on Rose Road by the Wabash River. The commissioners told her to contact the Sheriff's department and they would follow up on it. Stacia also asked if she could use a Highway worker and Highway truck the next time they have a cleanup day.

**Chip and Seal Roads:** Ann Frauhofer addressed the commissioners again about paving her road on 700 West between 1100 and 1200 South. Mrs. Frauhofer is questioning the price to have a road paved. Commissioner Woodward said he would get with Ed Herman and Toby Steffen and have them look at the road and get a current price of what it would be to chip and seal her road to handle the heavy truck traffic of her dairy farm business.

**Adjourned:** Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 11:15AM

**Wells County Commissioners**

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President, Blake Gerber

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Vice President, Kevin Woodward

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Tamara Dunmoyer

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor