

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 5-18-2015

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 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 Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from May 4, 2015 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #10 in the amount of \$196,445.54.

Claims: Commissioners approved 187 claims in the amount of \$544,146.50.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher was unable to attend the meeting but he reported 80 inmates in the Wells County Jail.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman recommended that the Board of Commissioners accept all three companies that submitted Bituminous Bids. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve Ed's recommendation. Motion carried 3-0. Ed presented two unofficial detours for two projects on State Road 116. The first project is on State Road 116 between 150 North and 200 North, the seconded project is on State Road 116 between State Road 124 (Gerber Bridge) and 150 North. The unofficial detours for both projects will be using 150 North and 250 North between State Road 116 and State Road 1. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve both unofficial detours. Motion carried 3-0. Ed also presented the Wells County Highway Department Chip and Seal Contract and Policy with updated prices on the material. The current policy has a minimum length of 400 feet which was designed to go in front of the homeowners houses. Ed has had a homeowner ask if he could purchase the chip and seal for a total of one half mile. Ed is concerned if the chip and seal is this long it may require additional cost. Since the Chip and Seal Policy only has a minimum length listed and not a maximum length maybe the policy needs to be reviewed. The Board of Commissioners formed a committee to work on an updated chip and seal policy consisting of Toby Steffen, Ed Herman, and Commissioner Blake Gerber.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert informed the commissioners that he has received quotes from vendors on the small structure projects.

Economic Development Director: Tim Ehlerding provided a copy of an ordinance that will be presented to the County Council at their next meeting. The ordinance would allow Wells County to join one or more counties and/or cities to establish a Regional Development Authority. The county will have to be part of an RDA to be able to apply for funding through the state to help fund quality of life projects within our region.

2016 Public Transit Grant: Bonnie Valind and Betsy Collier presented the 2016 Public Transit Grant Application to the Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the grant application. Motion carried 3-0.

New Rescue Truck: County Attorney, Roy Johnson informed the Board of Commissioners that the new rescue truck that will be housed at the Liberty Center Volunteer Fire Department is nearly completed and he has been working on the financing for it. Since the price of the Rescue Truck is only \$437,898.00 we would be looking at a Municipal Lease rather than a bond. Roy contacted Star Financial Bank since we used them for the last municipal lease on the Spillman Equipment and they provided an interest rate of 3.66%. Commissioner Kevin Woodward wanted to take a couple of days to see if you could get a better interest rate and if not we would go with the rate that Star Financial provided. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to accept the offer from Star Financial if no better interest rate is found by Thursday of this week. Motion carried 3-0.

Thunderbird Investment/Bridge No. 54: County Attorney, Roy Johnson recommended that the county go ahead and close on the acre of property the county is purchasing from Thunderbird Investment. Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to use Roy's recommendation and close on the property. Motion carried 3-0.

2013-2014 Farm Lease: The commissioners asked County Attorney, Roy Johnson to send another letter to the attorney for United Dairy Group since we have not received a payment since April 17, 2015. As of today we have received two \$10,000.00 payments toward the balance due of \$120,432.40.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:34AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Dunmoyer

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor