

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 9-8-2015

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday September 8, 2015 at 9AM 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 was former County Attorney, Trent Patterson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from August 17, 2015 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll and Claims: Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approved Payroll #18 in the amount of \$201,676.92 and 226 claims totaling \$596,425.94. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 75 inmates, 5 are DOC. Sheriff Fisher informed the commissioners that all the jailer is up to date on their Hepatitis B Vaccines now.

9-1-1 Radio System Upgrade: 911 Director, Adam McCartney informed the commissioners about an updated Radio System he is looking at. Adam is currently working with Adams, Blackford and Jay County on purchasing a system. The advantage of purchasing a system together with the other counties would enable any user to be able to login to any system within the four counties. Sheriff Fisher was also looking at a new system because the jail's system only has a life expectancy of two to three years while the life expectancy for the city's 911 dispatch center is only six to ten years. The system he is looking at would come with a 20 year contract. Adam has a meeting scheduled later in the day at Adam's county at which time he should be getting a cost for the system needed for Wells County.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman informed the commissioners that his department has went back to 8 hour work days. Ed received three quotes for 14 more hot mix project. The low quote was from Brooks Construction but they cannot do the projects until 2016 so the next low bid was from Milestone Contractors for \$81,900 and they can do the projects this year. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve Milestone Contractors for the 14 Hot Mix Projects. Motion carried 3-0. Ed provided a list of salaries of county engineers for the commissioner's review. Commissioner Woodward stated that he would be checking on engineer services at the upcoming AIC Conference.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert presented an utility permit from Frontier to bury cable at 3272 W 1100 N. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the utility request from Frontier. Motion carried 3-0. Toby stated that the guardrail on Bridge No. 193 will need to be replaced and the total cost would be around \$30,000; the county would be paying 20% of the cost. A study was done by INDOT at the intersection of 300 W and State Road 218 and INDOT will be making some changes on the signage and markings. A citizen is willing to pay for a LED Stop Sign at the intersection so the county will move forward in the process of getting it approved and installed.

IT Director: Roger Richardson informed the commissioners that they have been updating aging computers and doing routine maintenance.

Flood Updates: EMA Director Wayne Grove and Rick Dolson from Indiana Department of Homeland Security were present to update the Board of Commissioners on the Spring Floods in Wells County. Of the 15 major homes damaged by flood waters, Wayne stated that he was able to get charitable help for some and he is hopeful to get help for others from FEMA.

FEMA Property Buyouts: Area Plan Director, Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. informed the commissioners that the county can apply for a flood hazard buyout for 6 properties. Four of the properties are in the County and 2 properties are in the City of Bluffton, however the City of Bluffton has approved sharing the cost of one of the properties that sets on the County/City border. The grant is a 75-25 percent match so the counties 25% share would be around \$156,000. The funds for the match amount would be coming from the counties CREDIT fund. The counties participation in the buy-out would reduce the counties liability in the future like rescue runs and sand-bagging. Michael will present a resolution to the board of commissioners at the next meeting stating that the county has the ability to pay its matching share of funds so he can move forward with the application process for the grant.

Fire Protection Upgrade: Courthouse Custodian Bobbie Studebaker informed the commissioners that the upgrade to the fire notification system that was approved at the previous meeting will not meet the required fire codes so she is requesting to go with the original quote which will add \$1,000 to the cost for a total of \$2,500. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the request and allow the president of the board to sign the agreement. Motion carried 3-0. The contractor will be installing a special coating on the cement in front the handicap entrance at the courthouse in October. The commissioners have agreed to share the cost of the material by paying 40% of the total cost.

Community Corrections Grant Enhancement: Director Blake Poindexter informed the commissioners that he has decided not to apply for the enhancement grant at this time.

2016 Holiday Schedule: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the 2016 holiday schedule. Motion carried 3-0.

September 21, 2015 Meeting: Motion made by Tamara Dunmoyer, seconded by Kevin Woodward to cancel the September 21, 2015 commissioners meeting do to the Bluffton Street Fair. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:16 AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Dunmoyer

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor