

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 10-19-2015

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday October 19, 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 October 5, 2015 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: Commissioners approved Payroll #21 in the amount of \$197,071.98.

Claims: Commissioners approved 179 claims in the amount of \$198,579.54.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 80 inmates, 7 are DOC.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman gave updates on the Hot Mix Projects, Centerline Markings, Roadside mowing and pipe projects. Ed informed the commissioners that Norfolk & Southern Railroad Company has pulled our stop signs and replaced them with their stop signs at all of their crossings. Ed will contact the Railroad Company because the new signs were not placed in the correct spots. Three quotes were received for a new Cab/Chassis mechanics truck and Ed is recommending that we go with the low quote from Hiday Chrysler/Dodge in the amount of \$28,593.00. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the low quote from Hiday Chrysler Dodge. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert updated the commissioners on the small structure projects they are currently working on. Provide the LED stop sign agreement to the county attorney for his review; this agreement includes the new LED stop sign at the intersection of State Road 218 and County Road 300 West. This agreement also replaces the other two separate agreement for the LED stop signs at State Roads 116 and 124. Toby provided three easement agreements for the Chip and Seal project on 700 West. Toby also presented the "Chip and Seal Agreement for Wells County Road 700 W" (Misc. 2015-14) and the "Chip and Seal Agreement for Wells County Road 1200 S" (Misc. 2015-15). Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the Agreements. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development: Economic Development Director Tim Ehlerding informed the commissioners that he has used the extra unspent money that was left over from the Linder Oil Rail Project to pay for expenses to get the 120 acres behind Linder Oil marked as Shovel Ready. Tim also talked about the Economic Development Business Summary report for the month of September.

Wellness: Tim Miller with Med Partners and payroll deputy Lisa McCormick provided a quote and Letter of Agreement for the counties wellness program. The new agreement would include a finger stick rather than a blood draw. The finger stick would be testing for triglycerides and glucose; they will also be doing Biometric testing that includes height, weight, and blood pressure. In previous years the county had been doing a blood draw to check for tobacco. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the changes. Motion carried 3-0.

County Thanksgiving and Christmas Parties: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to approve the Courthouse and Annex closing for the Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 25th, 2015 from 12:00PM to 2:00PM and the Courthouse and Annex closing at 2:00pm on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 for the Christmas party. Motion carried 3-0.

Department Head Meeting: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Dunmoyer to cancel the November department head meeting scheduled for November 11th since it falls on Veteran's Day which is a county holiday. Motion carried 3-0.

Home Rule Ordinance: The County Auditor and County Attorney explained a situation that has been going on for the last few years where a company brings in a quit-claim deed to transfer a tax sale property to their name without paying the delinquent taxes. Each year the company changes their business name but the business address stays the same. The company will have a friend or business partner register as a bidder at the tax sale and bid up the property so they can claim the surplus money. Or buy the property so they can petition for a tax deed after the year redemption date and have the property clear from any mortgage. The County Auditor would like to have a local ordinance to request that all delinquent property taxes be paid before any property on the tax sale list can be transferred. The Board of Commissioners agreed to have the County Attorney prepare a Home Rule Ordinance.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:45 AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Dunmoyer

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor