

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 1-4-2016

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday January 4, 2016 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 Robbins. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

Reorganization of Board: Auditor, Beth Davis asked for nominations for President and Vice-President for 2016. Motion was made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to appoint Blake Gerber as President of the Board of Commissioners for 2016. Motion carried 2-0-1. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to appoint Kevin Woodward as Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners for 2016. Motion carried 2-0-1.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the minutes from December 21, 2015 regular session. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve Payroll #1 in the amount of \$206,875.17 and 285 claims totaling \$909,540.27. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman provided the total amount of reimbursements that was received between the years of 2012-2015 when the county did not have a county engineer. Ed was responsible for providing the information to the state to receive the reimbursements since the county did not have a full time engineer. Ed also provided the annual salaries for other county highway supervisors in the area. Ed wanted to let the commissioners know that he provided a lot of extra duties during the time the county didn't have a full time engineer without receiving any additional compensation. Commissioner Blake Gerber stated that he has been working with Ed to finalize the job description for a new county engineer.

Wells County Highway Engineer: Toby Steffen, with Butler Fairman Seufert presented the 2016 General Engineering Service Agreement to the Board of Commissioners. Since the commissioners are looking to hire a new county engineer they wanted to make sure the agreement could be terminated early. The agreement stated that either party can terminate the agreement by giving a 30 day notice. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the General Engineering Services Agreement (Misc. 2016-01). Motion carried 3-0.

IT Director: Roger Richardson updated the commissioners on what his office is working on. Roger also asked if the commissioners have decided on anything regarding cell phones for his office. A cell phone policy is scheduled to be discussed at the next department head meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th.

2016 Appointments: Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to appoint Roy Johnson as the County Attorney, Ed Herman as the Highway Supervisor, and Roger Richardson as the I.T. Director. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to appoint Bobbie Studebaker as the Courthouse Custodian, Wayne Grove as the EMA Director, Claude McMillan as the Veterans Officer, Adam McCartney as the 911 Director, Roy Johnson and the Title VI Coordinator, Jim Schwarzkopf as a BZA member, Lisa McCormick as the ADA Coordinator, Martin Adam

and Larry McChessney to the Property Tax Board of Appeals, Ann McNabb and Tom Longenberger to the Wells County Health Board, Susie Reinhard, Marlene Hoag, and Diana Collins to the Sick Bank Committee. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward that starting with the 2017 appointments she would like to advertise all appointments and ask for resumes on an annual basis to make the appointments more competitive. Motion carried 3-0.

Lancaster Township Cemetery: County Attorney, Roy Johnson said that he had been notified by the Lancaster Township Trustee regarding some vandalism to cemeteries in his township. The township trustee provided deeds showing that two cemeteries were deeded over to the commissioners several years ago so the commissioners would be responsible for the maintenance. Since cemeteries are maintain by the township trustees Roy said he would have to look into the laws on cemeteries. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to have Roy Johnson look into the laws on cemeteries. Motion carried 3-0.

Bridge Inspection: Ben Beer with USI informed the commissioners that Phase II of the Bridge Inspection has been finalized and he is preparing the Bridge Inspection Book. Ben needs the signature page signed so he can include it in the book. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to allow the commissioners to sign the Bridge Inspection Signature Page. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 9:39 AM. Motion was made by Kevin Woodward and seconded by Tamara Robbins. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor