

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes January 4, 2024

The January meeting was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:30 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Leon Klocke, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Lydia Gessele, Jackie Bauerle, and Daniel Stutlien.

Added to the agenda was funding solutions, and Lydia Gessele was present and requested addressing the Commission.

Lydia Gessele spoke to the Commission regarding Commissioner Klocke's residency and if he is still residing within the District he represents. The Commission took the comments under advisement and will contact legal representatives for clarification.

DD (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the December Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

No bills were able to be presented at this time. A special meeting will be held Monday, January 8th, at 10:30 AM, to approve bills.

LK(M), DD (S) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed.

Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed. Commission Chairman Buxa then assigned portfolios through 12/31/25 as follows:

- Clerk of Court & Sheriff's Dept. ~ LK
- Treasurer's Office & States Attorney ~ BL
- DES, Custodial & Road Dept. ~ DD
- Extension Agent, Recorder & HR ~ DM
- Auditor & Tax Director ~ SB

DD (M), BL (S) to contact the phone company for call forwarding services. Unanimously carried.

Jana Mogren, WC Tax Director, addressed the Commission regarding 2024 ag land values. BL (M), DD (S) to leave ag land valuations at 2023 levels for 2024. Unanimously carried. LK (M), DM (S) to reduce the T & F value of Parcel 26049001 from \$160,000 to \$140,000 due to personal property included in the purchase price. Unanimously carried.

WC Sheriff, Chris Kluth, addressed the Commission regarding his plan for the Back the Blue Grant. The Sheriff's plan proposed 50% goes to him and 50% to be used to retain Department Deputies. The Sheriff also requested additional pay for additional time while the Department is currently understaffed. Sheriff Kluth requested \$1,500/week in additional compensation. DD (M), LK (S) to approve \$1,000/week additional pay for the Sheriff to be re-evaluated monthly, or unless or until a deputy or deputies are hired. Motion carried 3-1. The Commission also authorized the payment of mileage, per diem rates, and motel state rates for temporary, part-time employees of the Department.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his department. Keller spoke of Road Department plans for summer '24, and discussed equipment and servicing.

Richard Lies of Fairville Township addressed the Commission regarding a culvert(s) in the Oak Creek Drain Project in Eastern WC. Letters were read regarding his complaint as well as a Water Board response from June '23. Larry Skiftun of the WCWRD was present and asked to respond to the complaint. Lies maintains there is a discrepancy in the size of the culverts within the channel which causes problems during drainage instances. The matter was referred to the WCWRD.

Larry Skiftun of the WCWRD conversed with the Commission regarding the routine cleaning of drains and summer spraying.

Tammy Roehrich of WC DES spoke with the Commission regarding the National Flood Insurance Program. If WC is to be enrolled in the program, the county will need a resolution and an ordinance in zoning. The Commission will take this under advisement, and the idea will be shared at the Annual Township Supervisors' Meeting.

A status report update from Jennie Krause of KLJ was shared with the Commission on upcoming bridge construction in WC scheduled for '24 & '25. According to Krause, all environmental reports for the Harvey project have been submitted and are awaiting NDDOT and/or SHPO review and approval. Preliminary plans are complete, pending an internal review. Special Use Permit for the small land acquisition needed on the north side of the project has been prepared based on ongoing coordination with Fish and Wildlife.

Phase II of the WC Courthouse window project was presented to the Commission. DD (M), LK (S) to approve the project for 2024, provided completion by/before Sept. 1st, 2024. Unanimously carried.

A gaming site license application form the Harvey Eagles Club was considered for placement of electronic pull tab devices at the Peaceful Valley Golf Course. DD (M), LK (S) to approve the site license application for submission to the AG's Office. Unanimously carried.

A letter of resignation from Sheila Wiesz, Extension Administrative Assistant, was read. Wiesz's resignation will be effective 2/2/24. BL (M), DD (S) to approve the resignation with thanks for her 22+ years of excellent service to WC. Unanimously carried.

Funding solutions was an item brought to the table for discussion. While this was a topic brought up in jest, the topic is an important one to keep in mind. The concern, of course, is there are unlimited wants & needs amongst the public, and limited resources available in WC.

A special meeting of the WC Commission will be held Monday, January 8, at 10:30 AM to address WC monthly bills. This meeting will be held telephonically.

The next WC Departments' Meeting is slated for Thursday, January 18th, at 9:00 AM.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Foster County Tuesday, March 12th, at 10:00 AM.

The WC Annual Township Supervisors' Meeting will be held Friday, March 1st, at 9:30 AM at Festival Hall.

The NDCCA County Commissioners' Conference will be held Wednesday, March 20th.

The regular February WC Commission meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 at 8:30 AM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM.

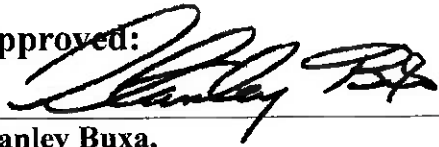
The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$ 205.00
Recorder	\$ 2,963.00
Sheriff	\$ 1,097.50
Misc.	\$ 97,221.96

On motion, the following bills were ordered paid: (*Gross wages, when listed*)

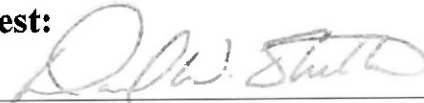
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$ 89,084.30
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$ 47,716.84
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$ 1,053.18
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$ 3,415.77
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$ 65,403.48
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$ 64,911.67
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$ 28,860.22

Approved:



Stanley Buxa,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor