

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 1, 2020 First day of the October term

Now at this the 1st day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19
AND LOCAL HEALTH REGULATIONS:

Local residents Marie Williams and Tara Peters attended the meeting to express concerns regarding the authority of the Health Department to decide upon quarantining of individuals. Over 400 students at the Rolla High School are in quarantine due to 10 positive students, they said. Since there is insufficient space to permit social distancing, all the students are wearing masks and Peters said two or three school districts were quarantining healthy students. Commissioner Stratman offered that there was not a "one size fits all" approach. He reported that he, as a representative of the Commission, had been meeting with the City of Rolla, the Phelps/Maries Health Department and Phelps Health once per week. Williams said, "The hospital is empty," and also that she would like to see numbers posted of not only test-positive students, but quarantined students and she plans to attend the school board meetings. She said, "Maybe they could stop quarantining kids who have been wearing masks." At 9:15 Billie Fuller, a registered local pharmacist, and local resident Roger Wagoner entered. Commissioner Stratman recommended they speak with Rolla School Superintendent Craig Hounsom. Laws versus guidelines and statutory duties were compared in the context of powers possessed by the schools. Peters emphasized that kids are mostly healthy and that they need to be in school. There is now a strictly online version of the curriculum for students who cannot distance from parents who are, themselves, workers in long term care facilities, or who reside with grandparents. Williams recounted her experience in having a test-positive collegian home from school, with a high school junior in the home who was excluded from school; she went to great lengths to get the younger student antibody tested for coronavirus in an attempt to secure her re-entry to the classroom.

IN THE MATTER OF
A PETITION TO VACATE A
PORTION OF A ROAD IN JEROME, MO:

The Commission heard the first reading of the following petition, with petitioner Roger Wagoner present.

APPLICATION FOR VACATION OF A ROAD

Pursuant to Missouri Statute 228.190 and 228.110.1, Roger and Alice Wagoner request that the following described portion of an alley located in Jerome Missouri be closed and vacated by the Phelps County Board of Commissioners.

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PETITION TO VACATE A PORTION OF A ROAD IN JEROME, MO, Cont'd:

The alley affected by this Petition is located in Block 33 and extends from vacated 4th Street to 5th Street.

The alley is 20 ft. wide and is not used as a byway for vehicle or pedestrian traffic and is not currently being used for utilities.

Address of Petitioners is: Roger and Alice Wagoner, 22825 Maple St., Jerome, MO 66529

Carl Cardin	Linda Cardin	Raymond West
Thomas Yoakum	Ken Blackwell	E. Lorene Cardin
Paula L. Blackwell	Roy McClendon	Dave Thurgen
Harry H. Heflin	Nathan House	Richard Heflin

IN THE MATTER OF
A PETITION TO VACATE A
PORTION OF A ROAD IN JEROME, MO:

The Commission heard the first reading of the following petition, with petitioner Roger Wagoner present.

APPLICATION FOR VACATION OF A ROAD

Pursuant to Missouri Statute 228.190 and 228.110.1, Roger and Alice Wagoner request that the following described portion of an alley located in Jerome Missouri be closed and vacated by the Phelps County Board of Commissioners.

The alley affected by this Petition is located in Block 17 and extends from vacated 5th Street to State Highway D.

The alley is 20 ft. wide and is not used as a byway for vehicle or pedestrian traffic and is not currently being used for utilities.

Address of Petitioners is: Roger and Alice Wagoner, 22825 Maple St., Jerome, MO 66529

Carl Cardin	E. Lorene Cardin	Ken Blackwell
Roy McClendon	Paula L. Blackwell	Harry H. Heflin
Dave Thurgen	Nathan House	Linda Cardin
Raymond West	Thomas Yoakum	Richard Heflin

IN THE MATTER OF
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
MANDATES DUE TO
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann arrived to discuss what the Health Department was mandated to do; state statutes do not require her to follow CDC guidelines, although multiple contracts that she has entered into essentially bind her to perform contact tracing. The authority with jurisdiction over the matters of quarantine, social distancing measures and restrictions on business was discussed: State Department of

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT MANDATES DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, Continued:

Health and Senior Services (DHSS) versus local control. Wann said she likely was required to go to the prosecuting attorney to report individuals who break quarantine; class A misdemeanor charges could be filed. She said she had, on occasion, refused to place more strict requirements on anyone. Local resident Chester Crider and Collector Faith Barnes then entered and the availability of flu shots was discussed; Crider then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
PHELPS COUNTY BICENTENNIAL QUILT:

Barnes notified the Commission that the St. James Chamber of Commerce would loan this quilt for display in the courthouse first floor lobby. Barnes then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
BID OPENING, ASSESSOR MAILING:

The sole bid, from EJ Rice and Co., in the amount of \$15,659.77 was taken under advisement as moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks and forwarded to the assessor.

IN THE MATTER OF
PHELPS FOR THE FORT:

Commissioner Hicks reported on a recent meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATIONS:

Phelps/Maries Health Department CARES Act Funding request #2 in the amount of \$71,582.33 was approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks


IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of invoices for two CARES act requests in the amount of \$444.86 (MU Extension) and \$7,605.75 (Phelps County, Support Services), 56, 38, and 32 invoices in the amounts of \$55,480.83; \$94,012.95; \$16,504.68, respectively, and Group Benefit Services premium for \$125,099.77.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 6, 2020 Second day of the October term

Now at this the 6th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 3220:

Commissioner Stratman reported that local resident Brian Janke inquired about having a portion of Road 3220 treated with asphalt. Local resident Joey Auxier, Michelle Bock of the Road Department, Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley and 121st State Representative Don Mayhew were also present.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 8050:

Multiple residents on this road have lodged grievances with the Commission and/or the Road Department. Commissioner Stratman informed Auxier that management of the road was complicated by three low water crossings.

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 AND
PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Representative Mayhew inquired about the general status of the CARES Act funds for Phelps County, asking about quarantined students and perhaps whether or not a secondary site off the school campus could be staffed for instruction of students under quarantine. Mayhew said he would attempt to keep the Commission informed about any additional funds to be made available to counties. Mayhew, when asked, said he could look into private or parochial schools navigating acceptance of these funds, when they might have compliance issues in hiring or firing. Cole County awarded CARES Act monies to Helias, a parochial school, and the diocese made them return the funds to the county. Local resident Chester Kojro then entered. In response to a question from Commissioner Hicks, Mayhew discussed generally the request that funds to be returned. Mayhew and Auxier then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
CART FUNDS:

Treasurer Carol Green presented CART Funds for September. Gas Tax, Motor Vehicle Sales Tax and Motor Vehicle Fees revenues were \$54,410.51; \$19,098.95; \$8,408.76, respectively. Gas Tax is down 7.93% YTD. Green then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
CONNECTOR ROADS:

The Commissioners discussed the connector roads, those running between state highways. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp believed the 2021 budget should include a discussion of the treatment of these connector roads.

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IN THE MATTER OF
BRO-B081(13), ROAD 7100:

Kojro received a status update on the BRO bridge project on Road 7100.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATIONS:

The Commission reviewed funding requests as follows for CARES Act Funds: #2 from Phelps County R-3 Schools (\$13,405.86); St. James Ambulance District #2 (\$64,909.36); City of St. James (\$14,458.45); #3 from St. James R-1 Schools (\$110,357.29); House of Prevention, Education & Training Resident Inc. HOPE (\$9,030.36). Subsequently, Treasurer Carol Green returned and suggested the Commission consider whether or not MRPC should spend time reviewing larger applications—such as those from the Hospital or the University—if they are not to be ultimately awarded; she then left. The process for small business applications was discussed including a maximal award, though none was decided upon. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp told Sheeley to expect finalized details for small business awards in several days. A \$250,000 cap on the total awards in this classification was favored.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE PHONES:


Sissy Korich of Support Services, Building and Grounds entered and provided information on the replacement of the telephones in the courthouse.


IN THE MATTER OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR:

Local resident Dana Sooter, unopposed candidate in the public administrator's race, and retiring Public Administrator Kathy Oliver came and visited briefly.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 8, 2020 Third day of the October term

Now at this the 8th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
BID AWARD, ASSESSOR MAILING:

As moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the lone bid from EJ Rice and Co. for Assessor's 1st and 2nd mailings in the amount of \$15,659.77 was accepted. Deputy Assessor Paul Long was present as was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley. Long fielded a few questions about the expected numbers of this and future mailings, and then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES (MAC) TRUST DELEGATE:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp secured the agreement of Treasurer Carol Green to serve as a voting member to the MAC Annual Conference.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATIONS,
SMALL BUSINESS:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stratman, the small business application for funds from Phelps County's CARES Act allotment was approved. Sheeley then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
COLLECTORS CITY CONTRACT:

Collector Faith Barnes came to discuss the Rolla City Tax Collection contract, which was approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATIONS:

The Commission reviewed and approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the Phelps County R-3 Schools application for \$13,405.86 and the City of St. James application for \$14,458.45. No action was taken on the St. James Ambulance application for \$64,909.36; St. James R-1 School request for \$110,357.29 which included some unemployment; the Beta Sigma Psi application for \$38,054.96 which was no-touch faucets but some other items which seemed more in the nature of renovations. No action was taken on the application from the 6th from HOPE, for \$9,030.36.

IN THE MATTER OF
ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT
SYSTEMS BOARD OF REVIEW:

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 8, 2020 Third day of the October term

ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS BOARD OF REVIEW, Cont'd:

The membership of the board was discussed; it currently consists of Ralph Williams, Cameron Schweiss, Ernie Kost, Gary O'Day and J.D. Roach. As moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, these members were approved.

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 13, 2020 Fourth day of the October term

Now at this the 13th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATION:

Treasurer Carol Green notified the Commission that the request for funds from the City of St. James in the amount of \$14,329.12 was after a reduction by \$129.33 due to the city paying sales tax on some purchases. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt was also present.

IN THE MATTER OF
AUTOPSIES AND CORONER:

Phelps County Coroner Andy Davis entered at 9:12 a.m. He reported that he had six full autopsy cases which were not finalized yet, with the charges from University of Missouri Autopsy Research likely not to materialize until 2021. Schweikhardt asked Davis if he knew anything about a homeless encampment beneath the Highway 72 Extension; he did not. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:27 a.m. A discussion of the coroner's salary ensued; Davis made the point that in his opinion, the position was at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of full time. Commissioner Stratman wanted to read the statute. Schweikhardt and Davis then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 7100 BRO-B081(13):

Progress Invoice #11 on this federal bridge project, in the amount of \$3,149.12 to Great Rivers Engineering, was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Stratman.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATION:

Application #3 from the St. James R-1 School, in the amount of \$110,357.29, was approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 17 invoices in the amount of \$40,407.88. They also approved payment of invoices from Phelps/Maries County Health Department, Phelps County R-3 School, and St. James City in the amounts of \$71,582.33; \$13,405.86; and \$14,329.12, respectively, for CARES Act Fund requests.

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October 13, 2020 Fourth day of the October term

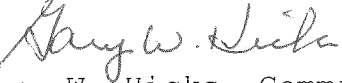
READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 15, 2020 Fifth day of the October term

Now at this the 15th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF SALES TAXES:

Treasurer Carol Green presented sales tax revenues for October which revealed for County Revenue 0.5% sales tax a total of \$222,634.12, up 4.51% in the month-to-month, 4.07% in the rolling twelve month, and 3.30% in the YTD comparisons. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present as was local resident Randy Furse, who visited briefly before leaving.

IN THE MATTER OF PROPERTY PURCHASE:

The Commission directed the clerk to email Sheriff Lisenbe regarding the anticipated closing on the property at 405 W. 2nd Street, Rolla. Sheeley then left.

IN THE MATTER OF ZONING INQUIRY:

Louise Coffman Heck, Melanie James, and Kaitlyn Tull then entered to inquire about the procedure for breaking their parcel in the unincorporated county into tracts for three homes. They are three generations. Commissioner Hicks notified them that there was no zoning though there would be fairly rigorous septic system inspection. They are resettling here from the state of California. They departed at 9:55 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF ROADS:

Tom Pasley of the Road Department visited to inquire if negative feedback had been received about grader patching. A local resident on a motorcycle had encountered some rough surface.

IN THE MATTER OF LIABILITY INSURANCE:

As Pasley left, Dan Cavender of BPJ Insurance entered and discussed the forecast for property coverage. He had an optimistic outlook. The Commission informed him of the purchase earlier in the year of property at 407 W. 2nd Street and the impending purchase at 405 W. 2nd Street, Rolla. The inadvisability of the home being occupied after being owned by the county was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZEN INPUT:

Local resident Dale Wands entered and visited briefly.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 15, 2020 Fifth day of the October term

IN THE MATTER OF
RECYCLING:

Jill E. Hollowell, Environmental Programs Specialist with MRPC, entered at 11:10 a.m. to inquire about interest in battery recycling.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 48 and 27 invoices in the amounts of \$203,920.21 and \$17,035.61, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 20, 2020 Sixth day of the October term

Now at this the 20th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS:

MRPC Executive Director Bonnie Prigge and Anne Freand of MRPC, Rolla City Administrator John Butz and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley attended the meeting. Prigge called and reached Preston Kramer, P.E., Area Engineer for MoDOT, informed him of the attendees, and he was on speaker phone for the meeting. A long, itemized list of transportation needs was then gone through. Some of the projects on the list were STIP projects for certain years, meaning funds had been obligated. Freand reviewed the scoring system that had been developed, with five areas brought into focus: Taking care of the transportation system and services that currently exist; Keeping all travelers safe, no matter the mode of transportation; Investing in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs; Improving reliability and reducing congestion on Missouri's transportation system; and Giving Missourians better choices for transportation. This permitted assignment of a weighted score for the projects. Kramer said that the primary transportation funding was from gas taxes, motor vehicle sales tax, and license fees. In FY 2020 there was a \$40 million shortfall, believed secondary to reduced travel. All the needs were labeled "Ph-6xx" with three-digit numbers. Kramer said that Ph-611 could be removed (intersection improvements for 63/72 along Bishop Ave.) with pedestrian needs such as crossing/improvements and turn lanes having been addressed. Ph-615, Highway 68 from Route 8 to the Dent County Line, may be completed a year later than projected, in the fall of 2021. Commissioner Stratman asked about Ph-618, Route B from the Gasconade County Line to Route 68, and whether a bike path might be incorporated into the shoulders. Kramer replied no, as the shoulders are planned for 2 feet with rumble strips. When asked what would be required for a bike lane on one side, Kramer said that would be 4 feet, and this would change the scope of the project. Ph-631 and Ph-632 are bridges on Route F and Route B, with significant needs. The project on Route E, at/near Interstate 44 was very nearly complete and had been removed from the list. Butz asked about traffic modeling which may have been required of the Quick Trip planned across from the Love's Truckstop (Ph-648); Butz said the QT might be open late 2021. A discussion of the size and boundaries of the parcel then ensued; Butz said no truck stop was planned. Local resident Chester Kojro then entered at 9:40 a.m. The entire length of Route T was Ph-651; Kramer said over 700 tons of asphalt had been placed there. When Prigge asked for other transportation needs, Butz mentioned the University Drive realignment and Freand asked if this needed to be put on the list. She said that the city was working with Federal Highway; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked why funds were not asked for this from MoDOT. Kojro, noting Ph-627, asked if an Amtrak stop for Rolla was really a serious consideration.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 20, 2020 Sixth day of the October term

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, Continued:

Collector Faith Barnes arrived; she asked Kramer if widening US 63 was a real possibility, as inferred with Ph-630. He said traffic projections suggested that it could be narrowed to one lane each way north and south with a central turn lane. Freand then shared some information about SMTS public transportation studies regarding who could be served, who would be interested, setting charges for riders, method of funding. SMTS funding is mostly if not all federal. After more discussion with Butz about the investments SMTS has made in the area, the conversation turned to last year's priorities, which were, in order, Ph-605 (I-44 to University Drive/overpass at I-44); Ph-614 (Mo 68 from Matlock Drive to DD within St. James); Ph-653 (US 63 and the I-44 Interchange); and Ph-648 (Highway V Interchange along I-44). After further discussion, the priorities for the coming year were re-ordered as Ph-648, Ph-614, Ph-653 and Ph-605. Subsequently a general discussion of improvement of U.S. 63 from Cole County to the Arkansas line was held. Estimates have ranged from \$283 to \$351 million. Some have entertained the idea of a Transportation Development District (TDD) across all counties along the corridor, which would be extremely challenging to pass in all the counties. Kojro left at 10:35 a.m. and moments later Kramer ended the call as Prigge, Freand and Butz also left.

IN THE MATTER OF MERAMEC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MRDC):

Commissioner Hicks gave a report on the small business loan program.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann brought several contracts: an additional grant to Daycare Inspection and Licensing in the amount of \$12,410.25 and the Maternal Child Health grant in the amount of \$47,460.20, both approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks; the WIC Contract totaling \$223,326 was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Stratman.

IN THE MATTER OF PROPERTY PURCHASE:

As moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the settlement on the purchase of the property at 405 W. 2nd Street, Rolla for a total of \$65,770.00 (\$770 in closing costs), was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 34 and 23 invoices in the amounts of \$45,972.69 and \$47,604.01, respectively. They also approved payment of \$15,859.70 in

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 20, 2020 Sixth day of the October term

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, Continued:

Economic Activity Taxes ("EATS") for 50% of the sales taxes from the Rolla West development.

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 22, 2020 Seventh day of the October term

Now at this the 22nd day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

The Commissioners discussed prioritizing road projects within Phelps County. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was present but left shortly after.

IN THE MATTER OF
OLD WIRE OUTER ROAD:

Local resident Lowell Davis entered at 9:25 a.m. and wanted to report his concern with poor visibility along the road. Driving toward Rolla on Old Wire Outer Road, cars exit the shopping center lot and though they have a stop sign they are sometimes moving very fast and seem inattentive. Davis then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
CLOSED SESSION:

As moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the meeting entered unexpected closed session at 10:05 a.m. pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (3) - personnel matter. No actions having been taken, the meeting returned to open session at 10:55 a.m. as moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 8280:


Kurt and Phillip Lohmann, of the 17000 block of County Road 8280, entered the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and inquired about any plans to improve this road, perhaps with asphalt. Kurt Lohmann said that at times there was a good deal of heavy truck traffic.


IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 9 and 56 invoices in the amounts of \$18,256.30 and \$59,569.57, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 27, 2020 Eighth day of the October term

Now at this the 27th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF OUTLAWED PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES:

Assistant Prosecutor Bill Hudson has cases involving two businesses which had been in arrears on personal property taxes for long enough that the taxes were "outlawed", essentially declared uncollectable. Deputy Clerk Peter Cook and Collector Faith Barnes entered and discussed the matter briefly. Hudson will be asked to come speak with the Commission. Local residents Joey Auxier and Ray Schweikhardt as well as Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Kaitlyn Brothers were also present.

IN THE MATTER OF COLLECTOR'S CITY CONTRACTS, ST. JAMES AND DOOLITTLE:

Barnes presented contracts for collection of city property taxes with the cities of St. James and Doolittle; these were approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE:

Dan Arell of USI Insurance Services, LLC and Layla Earl arrived to speak with the Commission regarding strategies to better serve the employees through Arell's function as a consultant. He explained some of the capabilities in his St. Louis office among roughly 70 employees, such as pharmacy consultants. He can offer human resources functions such as a mobile platform that allows employees to load an application, and to look at benefits. New hires could use this to see all benefits, not just health and dental. USI can establish a credit program with vendors, who may offer online enrollments. Arell referred then to the Group Benefit Services TPA receiving a commission from the stop-loss carrier, and said that if the 2020 premiums were "annualized", the county would be paying \$420,000 for stop-loss premiums. Earl said a broker worked to make sure the TPA followed all the rules, though by way of a disclaimer she said she was a licensed agent. Arell felt that USI had special contracts negotiated with a dozen nationwide reinsurers without as much need for lasers; their stop-loss consortium would calculate what an employer the size of Phelps County would need. At this point Barnes left. Earl believed that using a broker to manage TPA RFP would make things easier. Subsequently the relationship between the third-party administrator (TPA) and consultants was discussed, as was the standard amount of commissions, a consultant vetting TPA's, the timing of changes perhaps at the beginning of 2022. Arell and Earl left at 11:00.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 27, 2020 Eighth day of the October term


IN THE MATTER OF
CLOSED SESSION:


As moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the meeting entered closed session at 11:10 pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) - personnel. The Commission notified Sissy Korich of Building Grounds & Support Services that she would be interim director with the retirement of Mark Brookshire on October 31, 2020. No other actions having been taken, the Commission returned to open session as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stratman, at 11:40 a.m.

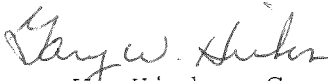
IN THE MATTER OF
COLLECTOR'S CITY CONTRACT,
CITY OF NEWBURG:

The Commission approved the collector's Newburg city tax collection contract as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Stratman.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 29, 2020 Ninth day of the October term

Now at this the 29th day of October 2020 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
E911 GRANT:

Kelly Sink, Project Development Manger from MRPC as well as Stacey Smith, Communications Chief at Rolla Police Department attended. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present. Sink reported that they were seeking a 911 Grant for Rolla Central Communications jointly with Phelps County Emergency Services Board (PCESB). The funds originated with the statewide 911 tax on mobile phones, with distribution being handled by the state to 911 agencies. Smith explained that the equipment purchased will be headquartered at Rolla; Maries county will be a remote site and will be upgraded to TEXT to 911. The PCESB signed off on the initiative last night. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked how much money was available; Smith said \$242 thousand though it would be capped at \$350 thousand. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 9:05 a.m. A memorandum of understanding with Maries County and signature certification forms were approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman and seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Smith left at 9:10 a.m. and Sink left a few moments after.

IN THE MATTER OF
CART FUNDS:

Treasurer Carol Green arrived to present CART Funds receipts for October. Gas tax was \$53,323.04 (down 7.74% MTM); motor vehicle sales taxes \$20,053.49 (up 21.68% MTM); motor vehicle fees \$8,385.98 (up 0.22% MTM). This is 88% of the total amount budgeted for these three revenues, with 10/12 or 83% of the year elapsed.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATION:

The application from Dixon R-1 School District for \$617.91 was approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 7100 BRO-B081(13),
NOTICE OF AWARD:

The Notice of Award Letter for the low bidder, Gene Haile Excavating, Inc., had been prepared by the engineering firm on the federal bridge project, GRE, and this was signed by the Commissioners. The contract price for the construction is \$563,981.60. Schweikhardt left at 9:50 a.m. and Sheeley left at 10:00 a.m.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 29, 2020 Ninth day of the October term

IN THE MATTER OF
HOUSEKEEPING POSITION:

Assessor Bill Stoltz entered at 10:15 a.m. and was followed by Sissy Korich of the Building and Grounds Department. Stoltz was concerned about the vacancy in the daytime housekeeping position and Korich reported that the position would be advertised. She intended to place the notice online and this was approved as moved by Commissioner Stratman, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF
OUTLAWED PERSONAL
PROPERTY TAXES:

Assistant Prosecutor Bill Hudson entered to discuss businesses which were personal property tax absconders; taxes had been "outlawed" or written off for non-payment, prior to lawsuits being filed in 2016/2017. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp inquired about the inspiration for the lawsuits. Hudson said that clerical staff had been working on old accounts. The two businesses were not identified.

IN THE MATTER OF
25TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IT SERVICES AND CARES ACT FUNDS:

Presiding Judge William E. Hickle and Circuit Clerk Sue Brown entered at 11:05 a.m. and discussed the IT services used by the courts. Office of State Courts Administration (OSCA) provides their IT services but there is never someone who will help with difficulties on site, in consultation with OSCA. The servers are in Jefferson City. Brown said that their contact in the OSCA IT department is quarantined now. Judge Hickle said that all the computers on the state's system upstairs are remotely accessible by OSCA, but occasionally there is a hardware issue and for the most part, circuit employees try to diagnose and remedy these themselves. Brown recounted how helpful Kyle Jones was on at least one occasion when major technical renovations were being done to Courtroom #1; he merely "slipped over" from the Sheriff's Department. Then the discussion moved to the CARES Act application for \$89,098.75, for upgrades allowing remote appearances of litigants and others in light of the recurring limits on in-person appearances because of COVID.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 45 and 40 invoices in the amount of \$226,974.72 and \$43,924.90, respectively. They also approved payment of the GBS employee, COBRA and retiree premium of \$124,100.71.


IN THE MATTER OF
PAYROLL:

The Commissioners reviewed payroll for 10/30/20, representative of work dates of 10/1-15/20, in the amount of \$188,618.59 net wages, with \$59,260.76 and \$7,850.50 in federal and state withholding, respectively.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 29, 2020 Ninth day of the October term

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Larry Stratman, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2