

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 2, 2021 Twelfth day of the January term

Now at this the 2nd day of February 2021 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  
JAIL SCANNER EQUIPMENT:

Phelps County Jail Administrator Lt. Joe Taylor was present, as were local residents Ray Schweikhardt, Matt Sanders, Megan Johnson, Josh Vroman, Chad Pence, Angela Grogg, Jaired Hall and Presiding Judge John Beger. Also present was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley and Collector Faith Barnes. Taylor only had a question about the purchase of a full-body screening system; he says it's a certain piece of equipment which is fairly unique. The clerk had called the Office of Administration, division of procurement who had not returned her call regarding the state bid for such an item. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp recommended that Taylor seek information from the Department of Corrections and plan to solicit proposals for the item if it is not sole-source or on the state bid.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY FACE COVERING  
OR MASK ORDER EXPIRATION:

Phelps Health CEO Ed Clayton called into the meeting and was put on speaker phone. He expressed his appreciation for the actions taken by the Commission in light of the heavy burden the Coronavirus placed on the hospital facility. At one time they hovered at 40 inpatients; those are now in the single digits. The numbers for hospital employees out for COVID showed a similar decline. The positivity rate for tests done at the hospital has fallen from the mid-20's to single digit percentages. He believes great strides have been made with respect to infection control. He has heard, however, from several of his physicians urging continued masking as immunization is underway. Sanders asked if Mr. Clayton had participated in the Rolla City Council meeting the previous evening and was told no; when asked if there was any reason for this, he responded no. Judge Beger asked about immunizations and Clayton provided information about locations and scheduling. Clayton reported that the state of Missouri had, again, changed some of its immunization allocation strategies and there was the belief that Phelps County would be receiving more than originally anticipated. Then he provided some of the guidelines for targeted distribution of the immunization. The call ended at about 0915. Josh Vroman asked if the County Commission planned on extending this order; Commissioner Auxier said, "No" and Commissioner Hicks said "You know where I was in the beginning," ultimately saying he was for letting the mask requirement expire. Sanders said that he appreciated this as a business owner. Commissioner Hicks said that the disease curves mimicked one another, even in counties with no masks (Crawford, Dent, and perhaps Pulaski). Sanders then spoke about leaving it up to the individual and will not forbid his patrons or

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IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY FACE COVERING  
OR MASK ORDER EXPIRATION:

employees from wearing masks should they chose to do so for the time being; Commissioner Hicks pointed out that a business owner can make their own choices. Vroman asked about business owners who were restaurant owners, asking if restaurant cook staff will need to be masked. That was judged to be the prerogative of the owner. Then Schweikhardt, Sanders, Vroman, Pence, Hall and Grogg left approximately 0920 as did Barnes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
25<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT:

Judge Beger reported on the extensive amount of work being done by the split teams of deputies upstairs in the circuit clerk's office. They have been keeping up with the case load. Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0920. Their circuit rivals the busiest in the state. Local resident Gary Heavin then entered.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Roads in the Quarry Subdivision were briefly discussed. Bock said the crews were pothole patching; signage at the BRO-B081(13) Road 7100 project has been re-evaluated and at this time is believed sufficient. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0925.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT:

Heavin believes that the Old Courthouse is in competition with private business owners and also reduces the parking availability. A range of business development and expansion issues were discussed. Heavin said the 72 by-pass helped the congestion on Kingshighway with reduced through-traffic and he believed far fewer rear-end collisions were the result. Heavin then left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT:

Kojro said that at 17780 Road 8280 the road surface is crumbling, He thinks the road is no longer amenable to pothole patching. Grader patching may be necessary, according to Bock.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SALES TAXES AND CART FUNDS:

Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0950 to present the sales tax receipts for January 2021 showing \$246,003.18 for the county sales tax of 0.5%. This was a decline of 13.27% as compared with one year earlier though the prior month had been up 13.92% in the same comparison. Then she reported on CART Gas Tax funds as well which showed \$49,290.16, \$15,280.92 and \$8,868.24 for

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SALES TAXES AND CART FUNDS, Continued:

the gas tax, motor vehicle sales tax and motor vehicle fees, respectively. Green left at 1000.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMERGENCY DECLARATION:

Sheeley asked whether the Commission had any plans to rescind the emergency declaration of 3/19/2020. The city of Rolla had mistakenly vacated theirs which may make them ineligible for some funding.

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID SOLICITATIONS, ROCK AND GRAVEL:

The following bid solicitation for the Road and Bridge Department was approved:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on rock and gravel for use by the Phelps County Highway Department. For questions, contact Walter Snelson, Road Superintendent, at 573-426-3864. Bid specifications are available in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, 200 N. Main St. Ste 102, Rolla, MO 65401. Bids for all items will be accepted in the Phelps County Clerk's Office until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at which time they will be opened. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, February 4, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID SOLICITATIONS, GRADER BLADES:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on grader blades and snow plow blades for the year 2021 for use by the Phelps County Highway Department. Bid specifications are available in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, 200 N. Main St. Ste 102, Rolla, MO 65401. For questions, contact Walter Snelson, Road Superintendent, at 573-426-3864. Bids will be accepted in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, until 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at which time they will be opened. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, February 4, 2021

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
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IN THE MATTER OF  
BID SOLICITATIONS,  
CHIP ROCK AND MANUFACTURED SAND:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on chip and seal rock and manufactured sand for use by the Phelps County Highway Department. For questions, contact Walter Snelson, Road Superintendent, at 573-426-3864. Bid specifications are available in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, 200 N. Main St. Ste 102, Rolla, MO 65401. Bids for all items will be accepted in the Phelps County Clerk's Office until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at which time they will be opened. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, February 4, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID SOLICITATIONS, CULVERTS:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on culverts to be purchased at various lengths and quantities as specified for Phelps County Highway Department for the 2021 year. For questions, contact Walter Snelson, Road Superintendent at 573-426-3864. Bid specifications are available in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, 200 N. Main St. Ste. 102, Rolla, MO 65401. Bids will be accepted in the Phelps County Clerk's Office until 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at which time they will be opened. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, February 4, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID SOLICITATION, ASPHALT:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on asphalt products. For questions contact Walter Snelson, Road Superintendent at 573-426-3864. Bid specifications are available in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, 200 N. Main St. Ste 102, Rolla, MO 65401. All material must meet specifications as described in section 401 through 402 of the 2011 Missouri Standard Specifications for Highway Construction and any revisions thereto. Bids will be accepted in the Phelps County Clerk's Office, until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at which time they will be opened. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
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BID SOLICITATION, ASPHALT, Continued:

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, February 4, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF  
VACATION AND SICK LEAVE  
ACCRUAL FOR PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPERS:

Acting Director of Support Services, Building and Grounds entered at 1000 to discuss the matter of these employees typically working 20 hours per week who are unable to accrue compensatory time according to federal DOL rules and per the prepaid legal services lawyer with MAC. She says that they work over sometimes, and she believes they need the means to be off. She thought they could accrue vacation and sick as ½ time, and possibly reflective of their seniority. Korich will be learning from Social Security office about the maximum allowed to one of the employees. Perhaps their "banked" compensatory time could be converted, hour for hour, to vacation time. As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the accrual of vacation and sick time at the rate attributable to their seniority (for vacation) and at half the full-time rate of hours (for vacation and sick), was approved.

IN THE MATTER  
OF COUNTY FUNDS:

A discussion was held regarding the history of payment of courthouse security and the transfers of money from County Revenue to LEST. The reserve in LEST is now quite large and the advisability of a continued transfer of \$560,000 to LEST was discussed.

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

Progress Invoice #14 for Great Rivers Engineering in the amount of \$3,765.37 was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF  
GRANT WRITING HOURS WITH MRPC:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, donation of two grant-writing hours by the county, as a member with MRPC, to The James Foundation was approved for the purpose of their applying for a grant helping them with some train renovations.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PERSONAL PROPERTY COURT ORDERS:

The Commission reviewed and approved personal property add-on's for December 2020 for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the amounts increasing the total tax due to \$312.56, \$1,999.10, \$8,812.42 and \$42,338.75, respectively.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
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IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The budget for 2021 having been approved, the Commission reviewed and approved payment of 12 invoices for contract pay, general invoices and employee reimbursement; 65 and 107 invoices of a general nature, and 74 general and employee reimbursement invoices in the amounts of \$19,510.95; \$151,360.93; \$101,616.57 and \$52,361.46, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 4, 2021 Thirteenth day of the January term

Now at this the 4th day of February 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2  
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF  
APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting were approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CORONER:

Phelps County Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 0910. Coverdell wanted to speak about obtaining a "power cot" with CARES Act monies. He believes that MRPC would help him so that he can make an application for this item; this was not budgeted either last or this year. He also mentioned that the computer that the previous coroner had is not functioning well; he's unable to link the computer to his personal printer, and he has to take the device to the sheriff's department to print anything. The Commission believes that he would be able to use funding that he had anticipated using for a non-motorized cot for computer equipment instead. He also reported that a recent death to which he was called allowed him to procure urine from the decedent using a transabdominal aspiration technique. The testing, which he has recently become familiar with, revealed the presence of five drugs, including fentanyl as well as suboxone. Potentially, this sort of urine testing will render more extensive postmortem examinations unnecessary. In response to a question from Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, he said that he discarded the remainder of the sample; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp suggested that he consider submitting a future sample to a second laboratory as well as running his own test. Coverdell said he had consulted with the prosecuting attorney about this.

IN THE MATTER OF  
FULL BODY SCANNER FOR JAIL:

Sheriff Mike Kirn and Jail Administrator Lt. Joe Taylor entered at 0940 to discuss this equipment, for which they supplied a sole source justification letter. The equipment, a transmission x-ray full body scanner, would be employed to detect potential contraband on persons being brought into the jail facility. Taylor reported that the Bureau of Prisons doesn't have this device. Commissioner Auxier believed that the annual \$12,500 warranty and maintenance fee should be negotiated downward if this was possible. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier this sole-source acquisition was approved. The problem of contraband brought in by inmates, in general, was discussed.

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

Commissioner Hicks provided a report on this bridge project.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 4, 2021 Thirteenth day of the January term**

IN THE MATTER OF  
PLANNING AND ZONING:

The Commissioners completed a new letter regarding the county having no planning and zoning.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PHELPS HEALTH PROPERTY IN CUBA:

The extension for the listing contract on the Phelps Health property in Cuba was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CARES ACT FUNDS:

Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded the approval of the CARES Act application for \$1,044.00 for remote computing hard- and software for the Public Administrator. As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, St. James R-1 Public Schools #4 application for \$51,420.34 was approved. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Bonnie Prigge at MRPC and she was put on speaker phone before the Commission and the clerk. He said that Form 1096 with the IRS could be filed by Eva Voss; he notified her that the above requests had been approved. The need for a new contract or possibly an amendment to the existing contract for MRPC administration was discussed and Prigge will get back to the Commission regarding this at the next meeting. Most of the counties have spent out their entire tranche of CARES Act funds.


IN THE MATTER OF  
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19, IMMUNIZATION:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann entered to discuss the immunization fair being conducted today at Phelps Health. She then reported on the allocation of the immunizations and mass immunization events being scheduled.

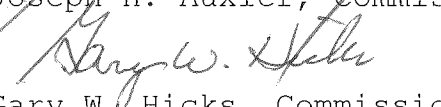
IN THE MATTER OF  
CLOSED SESSION:

Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded, to enter closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3)- personnel at 1145 a.m. and returned to open session as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, at 1210, no actions having been taken.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2



## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 9, 2021 Fourteenth day of the January term

Now at this the 9th day of February 2021 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 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT:

Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Kaitlin Brothers was also present. The city of St. James had requested a letter of support from the County for a hiking and biking trail to build through the Missouri Dept. of Conservation area, Woodson K. Woods, and into the Maramec Springs property. This grant would be required to build a wet weather crossing across Dry Fork creek and allow access from County Road 3620. The city and the county would be asked to provide in-kind contributions; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called St. James city administrator Jim Fleming to discuss. Commissioner Auxier asked what kind of in-kind contribution was hoped for; Fleming said that signage and perhaps road painting of bike path-type dual-use symbols on road 3620. Michelle Bock from the Road Department entered at 0915. She inquired about the extent of in-kind expected and was told it would be signage-related.

### IN THE MATTER OF PROSECUTOR'S EQUITABLE SHARING:

The annual Report of the Prosecutor for Equitable Sharing was presented and approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

### IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE CLOSING IN INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Assessor Bill Stoltz entered and a side discussion was had with Bock and then with the Commission at large, regarding the process of gathering information about roads and feeding it in to the county for a more centralized decision.

### IN THE MATTER OF HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

The list of roads for which Hazard Mitigation might apply, as distributed by Kathryn Hawes, Senior Environmental Program Specialist at MRPC, was discussed. Bock provided some input on recent road work done to these areas of concern.

### IN THE MATTER OF LIQUOR LICENSES:

A local business has been relatively unresponsive regarding picking up, and paying for, all 2020 county liquor licenses which include Retail by Drink and Retail by Drink (Sunday) licenses which are \$300.00 and \$200.00, respectively, for the licenses alone, not including the nominal fees. Their last county license expired June 30, 2019. Though they have been

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 9, 2021 Fourteenth day of the January term**

LIQUOR LICENSES, Continued:

partially closed similar to other businesses due to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, they have not been completely closed for business. They have not responded to multiple attempts at outreach by the county clerk's staff.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Ashley Wann entered to report that a post on FaceBook had said she required the Rolla Middle School to invoke a mask mandate and this was not true. She had received numerous calls and because of this she spoke with Dr. Dare, who will be meeting with the School Board and Administration. Superintendent Craig Hounsom and Assistant Superintendent Kyle Dare apparently want a mask mandate and the building principal does not. Wann denies that she had communicated any such thing to the school.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

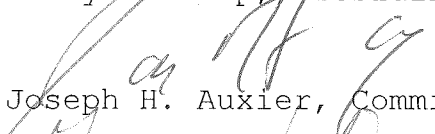
Wann reported on immunization clinics through Phelps Health. The clinics are being publicized through the hospital's FaceBook, Instagram, and website. Wann said she has one employee hooked up with one employee at Phelps Health to forward requests for scheduling receipt of the immunizations.


IN THE MATTER OF  
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATION:

The remaining funds and their potential distribution were discussed.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 11, 2021 Fifteenth day of the January term**

Now at this the 11th day of February 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2  
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF  
PAYROLL:

Payroll for 2/12/21 representing work dates 1/16-31/2021 was approved. Net salaries were \$189,801.02 while federal and state withholdings were \$58,694.98 and \$7,835.50, respectively.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SUPPORT SERVICES AND  
BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

A potential restructuring of the Support Services, Building and Grounds department, such as naming a Facilities Manager in overall control and a Maintenance Manager, was discussed. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley briefly attended and then left at approximately 0910. Collector Faith Barnes entered; commented that the agenda looked "the same" as the previous session; then left. Former Sheriff Rick Lisenbe visited briefly from 0935 to 0940. Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0935.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Bock discussed the treatment of the roads during the current icy and sub-freezing weather, expected for an extended period. In part due to marked reduction in coal use, cinders are no longer available to the department. No cinders have been purchased for approximately 2 years and the residual supply is being rationed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID OPENING, INMATE  
HEALTHCARE SERVICES:

Bids for inmate healthcare services were opened as scheduled at 1000. Jail Administrator Lt. Joe Taylor and Road Deputy Lt. Paul Lambert entered at 10:00 and Bock left. Matt Shults, with Advanced Correctional Health Care attended. Bids were received from the following:

Bidder Name

Turn Key Health Clinics, Oklahoma City, OK

Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH), Peoria, IL

Quality Correctional Health Care (QCHC), Chelsea, AL

Shults described his company's bid proposal with three levels of

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 11, 2021 Fifteenth day of the January term

BID OPENING, INMATE HEALTH CARE SERVICES, Continued:

staffing. Their typical recommendation is for 40 hours staffing per 100 inmates. Shults said that ACH had provided healthcare to the Phelps County Jail since 2005. They believe, consistent with some recent studies, that an R.N. on-site would reduce litigation; 40 hours of R.N. coverage is recommended. Acting Director of Support Services, Building & Grounds, Sissy Korich, entered at 1015. As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the bids were taken under advisement.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SHERIFF'S EQUITABLE SHARING  
AGREEMENT:

The annual report for asset forfeiture funds going to the PCSD was presented by Lt. Lambert, and as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier this was approved. The clerk commented that the figures agreed, with rounding of cents, to the actual 2020 figures she used in the 2021 budget.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PERSONAL PROPERTY COURT ORDERS:

The Commission reviewed and approved personal property court orders #2042, 2043, 2044 and 2045. These represented add-on's for January 2021 for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and increased the amount of total tax by \$186.66; \$1,355.96; \$10,956.77 and \$50,593.70, respectively.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SUPPORT SERVICES,  
BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp opened by reviewing that outgoing Commissioner Larry Stratman had discussed a framework: there could be two branches from the department head, perhaps the maintenance manager and IT (whether that be a person or a firm or both). Housekeeping could be another subsidiary, reporting either to her or perhaps managed by a "maintenance manager." Commissioner Hicks said there was the consideration of who reports to whom for accountability with time sheets, for example. Korich said her feeling is that the overall concept is moving in the right direction; she added that any maintenance manager role would have to report to someone other than the Commission, due to the daily demands of the position. In addition, Korich said she would prefer to have housekeeping report to her and not an intermediary. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that perhaps Larry Taylor, who performs courthouse maintenance, could be the one to supervise vendors for the physical plant and Commissioner Hicks asked if Taylor could be a part of the completion of the HVAC controls. The incomplete HVAC control project is looming; none of the wet sensors are hooked up; the master/slave interactions between controls may not be properly configured in some areas such as the multipurpose room. The funds withheld from the project when it was not completed may not be enough to finish up the punch list. As moved by Hicks, seconded by Auxier, the meeting entered closed session at 1051, pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (3) -

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 11, 2021 Fifteenth day of the January term

SUPPORT SERVICES, BUILDING AND GROUNDS, Continued:

personnel. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the meeting returned to open session at 1128.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TAC MEETING:

Commissioner Hicks gave a report on TAC which ranked, for Phelps County, the Highway E sidewalk as first priority. This would run between newer residential areas on Lizzy Lane and Emily Drive, along a piece of Highway E in unincorporated Phelps County, back into the city of Rolla. Unfunded needs were debated by the regional TAC and Commissioner Hicks described a tossup between realignment of 63 corridor around Freeburg, and an improvement of Highway 50 at Union near East Central College. Ultimately the realignment unfunded needs of the 63 corridor, then the upgrades to Hwy 50 were put at the top of the list. Commissioner Hicks will perhaps step down his membership to alternate and Commissioner Auxier will join as primary member. Each county can name up to three to this committee; currently the members are Darin Pryor, PE with the city of Rolla's Department of Public Works; St. James Mayor Rick Krawiecki and Commissioner Auxier. This committee meets once per quarter.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Commissioner Auxier reported on a recent conference call where Missouri S&T St. Patrick's Day observances were mentioned as a possible "super-spreader event."

IN THE MATTER OF  
CARES FUND REQUESTS:

Dixon Ambulance District had made a request for \$16,920 in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) for the purpose of procuring video laryngoscope equipment for each of its four ambulances. The Commission was aware that the district's assessed valuation was 68% Pulaski County, 29% Maries County and 3% Phelps County. The clerk provided some information gleaned about the equipment and its applicability in airway management during COVID-19 emergencies; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called the director of Phelps Health ambulance services who shared his views on the usefulness of the devices. As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the purchase was preapproved and the clerk will notify MRPC of this. Greentree Learning and Childcare Center resubmitted the balance of an earlier request in the amount of \$3,815.86, on which \$200.00 had been authorized to bring the entity to a total of \$5,000.00 with an earlier request of \$4,800.00 which had been funded in full. The balance, \$3,615.86, was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks. MRPC considered GTLC to be a public entity, which would not place constraints on the amount awarded; the clerk will also notify about this decision.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PLANNING COMMITTEE:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 11, 2021 Fifteenth day of the January term**

PLANNING COMMITTEE, Continued:

Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp recounted a meeting at MRPC where Project Development Manager Kelly Sink described numerous grants, completely distinct from CARES Act funds, which MRPC is working on. He explained the Comprehensive Economic Development Study (CEDS).

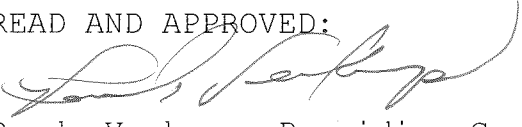
IN THE MATTER OF  
MERAMEC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION (MRDC):

Commissioner Hicks is a board member of MRDC, a nonprofit, which, as a Certified Development Corporation, is allowed to package SBA loans in Missouri. Commissioner Hicks reported that Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) were boosted by over \$780,000 in coronavirus funds; \$40,000 and \$50,000 loans were approved, one for the Zone in Rolla and another for an attraction in Salem.

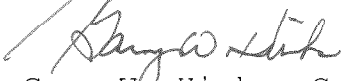
IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of \$51,420.34 to St. James R-1 Schools for its 4<sup>th</sup> CRF application; then \$163,695.24 and \$87,150.43 for payment of 62 and 56 general invoices, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1


  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

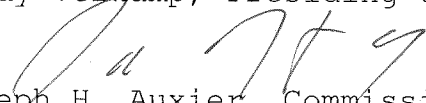
**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 16, 2021 Sixteenth day of the January term**

Now at this the 16th day of February 2021 the Commission did not meet because the Courthouse was closed due to severely inclement winter weather.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2met

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 18, 2021 Seventeenth day of the January term

Now at this the 18th day of February 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2  
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROCK BIDS OPENING:

Superintendent of Roads Walter Snelson and Michelle Bock of the Road Department were present as was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Kaitlin Brothers. Bids were received on various types of rock from Melrose Quarry & Asphalt, LLC of Rolla; Willard Quarries of Lebanon; Crawford Lime & Materials of Cuba; Capital Quarries Company, Inc. of Rolla. These were taken under advisement pending review by the Road Superintendent.

IN THE MATTER OF  
GRADER BLADE BID OPENING:

Grader blade bids were opened as scheduled at 0915. Bids for the requested numbers and sizes were received from Fabick of Jefferson City (\$13,195.36) and JACE Equipment of St. James (\$19,620.72). These were taken under advisement.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CHIP AND SEAL ROCK:

Chip and seal and manufactured sand bids were opened as scheduled at 0930. Bids were received from Central Stone Company of Fenton; Iron Mountain Trap Rock Co. of Maryland Heights; NB West Contracting Company of Pacific (Bourbon plant). The bids were taken under advisement.

IN THE MATTER OF  
INMATE HEALTH CARE BID AWARD:

Sheriff Mike Kirn and Lt. Joe Taylor entered to discuss the inmate healthcare bids. Advanced Correction Healthcare had given a more competitive rate. Currently the provider of services, their proposal incorporates an increase in the level and duration of staffing; more RN as opposed to LPN coverage and for more days and hours. There will be more effort put into medical chart audits. Commissioner Hicks asked about the actual number of hours and Taylor said it will go from 40 hours/week with an LPN to 56 hours with an RN providing coverage 7 days per week. Commissioner Auxier moved and Commissioner Hicks seconded that the contract be awarded to ACH.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL WATER SOFTENER:

On an additional matter, Sheriff Kirn reported that the water softening equipment for the jail was urgently in need of repair or replacement. Estimates for new water softener equipment was \$21,700 or \$39,753; the estimate for merely patching the water



## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 18, 2021 Seventeenth day of the January term

JAIL WATER SOFTENER, Continued:

softener was \$10,000. Fisher Mechanical, using CustomCare equipment, was the company that installed the water softener in the 1972 Jail ("Annex"); Integrated Facility Services provided the original equipment to the big jail. Commissioner Verkamp asked if this put the PCSD in an emergency situation; Kirn said it did. Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded, to approve the lower quote from Fisher Mechanical, which is a local vendor.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL PERSONNEL:

Sheriff Kirn provided some information about jailer applicants and the roughly 4 hours of polygraph interviews required.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CULVERT BID OPENING:

Culvert bids were opened as scheduled at 0945. One bid was received from Metal Culverts. Prices increased about 20-30% from 2020.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD DEPARTMENT COLD  
WEATHER FUEL ISSUES:

Snelson reported on persistent difficulties with fuel gelling in the Road Department trucks. He said this was a significant problem for MoDOT and Rolla city utilities as well. Fuel additives were discussed; they had been in high demand and were difficult to procure.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ASPHALT PRODUCT BID OPENING.

Bids were opened as scheduled at 1000. Bids were received from NB West Contracting Company of Pacific (Bourbon plant) and Capital Materials of Jefferson City (Rolla plant). As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the bids were all taken under advisement.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JOB DESCRIPTIONS,  
BUILDING AND GROUNDS.

Sissy Korich entered at 1045 to share her job descriptions with the Commission. She also provided some of her policies.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE PHONES:

The budgetary source for replacement Courthouse phones was discussed. Korich reminded the Commission of the original understanding that the basic phone expense would be paid from County Revenue and departments would shoulder on their own any additional cost of upgraded phone models.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 18, 2021 Seventeenth day of the January term**

IN THE MATTER OF  
CARES ACT FUNDS:

The Commission discussed the final disposition of the balance of the Coronavirus Relief Funds. Korich returned and deliberated with the Commission about the procurement of more than the original 30 UV disinfecting units which are in the HVAC ducts already. Since there are 2 units installed in the courtrooms, an additional 88 units would afford complete treatment of the building. At approximately \$350/each this would be over \$30,000; additionally, bulk purchase of 2-year bulbs will be considered.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REAL ESTATE COURT ORDERS:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the Court Order on parcel #7581 for 4 consecutive years of nuisance fees to be removed was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CULVERT BIDS:

The bid from Viebrock for culverts had been addressed to the Phelps County Commission, c/o Phelps County Clerk at 200 N. Main Suite 102 and delivered by USPS by 0945 on 2/18/2020, if not before. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp had not checked the mailbox since the prior week. This was postmarked 2/12/2021 in Springfield, the CH had been closed for legal holidays 2/12 and 2/15 (Friday and Monday) and 2/16 due to bitter cold and snow. This bid was accepted and opened; it was taken under advisement and forwarded to the Superintendent of Roads.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of the March GBS employee health insurance premium of \$126,081.09; Greentree Learning and Childcare Care Act Fund for \$3,615.86; 19 and 30 general invoices in the amounts of \$9,795.44 and \$11,449.33, respectively. Also approved was payment of the MoPERM 2021 premium for Building and Liability coverages in the amount of \$339,996.00.

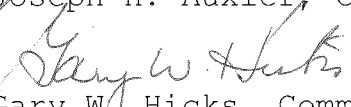
IN THE MATTER OF  
PCESB/E911 FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Commission reviewed the February 2021 treasurer's report.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 23, 2021 Eighteenth day of the January term

Now at this the 23rd day of February 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2  
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROLLA REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION (RREC) AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp notified that Hartmann LLC had over 100 employees now and hoped to increase to 200 employees by June. Commissioner Hicks, who had attended the RREC meeting with him, added news about the ammunition wholesaler planning to move into the former location of Fed Ex. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann entered at 0910.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Wann reported on the mass immunization event with 2100 applicants that had originally been planned for Thursday and Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. As the immunization will not be available until Friday, all applicants are to come at the same time as their first appointment—the strategy used for scheduling—on Friday. She distributed a press release. Wann reported that the county's active cases remain in the 30's.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANT:

Wann presented an amendment to the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cares contract which is 100% federal funding. This increases from \$71,150 to \$126,150 this funding targeted at the epidemiology of emerging infectious diseases, particularly COVID-19. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier the contract amendment was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
INMATE HEALTHCARE SERVICES:

Sheriff Mike Kirn and Jail Administrator Lt. Joe Taylor entered at 0917. Kirn reported that he had a contract for the Inmate Healthcare services with Advanced Correctional Healthcare Services of Peoria, IL; this was signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp after approval was moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks. This bid awardee is in the process of recruiting staff. Taylor said there would be 8 hours/day M-F RN coverage with either one or two LPN's working 8 hours each day on the weekends. Inmates eventually housed in the 1972 Jail Annex are also covered with the \$277,000 contract, which aside from the staffing provisions is identical to the former contract which had been reviewed by the Prosecuting Attorney.

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 23, 2021 Eighteenth day of the January term

IN THE MATTER OF  
SUBDIVISION ON ROAD 2180:

a subdivision platted approximately 50 years ago had never materialized. Commissioner Auxier asked how the roads could be removed from an accepted plat, and strategies were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE PHONES:

Director of Support Services/Building & Grounds Sissy Korich arrived and spoke about the payment for the courthouse phones. It was determined that a budget amendment could be made with the additional amount added to County Revenue, Building and Grounds budget in the equipment expenditure line at year end. The plan continues to be for individual departments to assume the extra cost of updated desk phones.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE WALKWAYS:

The front ramps of the courthouse had been completely covered in ice, necessitating their closure with yellow hazard tape; this problem will be analyzed further with the help of the building plans.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE UV AIR CLEANERS:

Korich said that seven larger and 81 smaller UV units are needed, she believes, based on her analysis of the likely configuration of the duct system. She will look into suppliers.

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID AWARDS, ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 1045 just as Korich left. Rock bids will be bid to all four bidders; grader blades will be awarded to Fabick; both as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Chip rock and manufactured sand bids were awarded to Central Stone (chip rock) and to both NB West and Central Stone (manufactured sand) as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Culvert bids were awarded to Metal Culverts as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier. Asphalt bids were awarded jointly to Capital Materials and NB West, as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks. The UPM is used exclusively for pothole patching and is available only through NB West.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Bock said that Superintendent of Roads Walter Snelson wanted to begin addressing some of the "slabs" in the county. Vida Bridge at the sharp bend at Road 7460 was discussed at some length.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REAL ESTATE COURT ORDERS:

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 23, 2021 Eighteenth day of the January term

IN THE MATTER OF  
PCSD VEHICLES:

Kirn said his department has a Ford Crown Victoria that he plans to sell for \$1.00 to Newburg Police; a letter to the city of Newburg to this end was provided, signed by Sheriff Kirn, which was also signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp after approval moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier. Subsequently damage to PCSD vehicles during water crossings was discussed; apparently there is no particular low water crossing that is exclusively the problem.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PCSD AND SHOOTING RANGE,  
COUNTY ROAD 3410:

The sheriff explored the preparation of the parcel to be used as the new shooting range. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0925 as did Constituent Services Assistant Brett Hoffman with Representative Jason Smith's office. Sheriff Kirn reported that an adjacent property owner had asked about purchasing the NW corner, to provide a better field entrance. No actions taken.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
CONTRACT AND ASBESTOS INSPECTION:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the contract was approved, for asbestos inspection of the properties purchased at 405 and 407 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Rolla, in hopes of expanding PCSD parking. Inspection documents were reviewed. No asbestos was found at 405 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> but abatement was recommended for 407 W. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The processes of obtaining asbestos abatement services and demolition of the properties were discussed; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp contacted Phelps County Surveyor Terris Cates and received some information on possible contractors.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (TAC) APPOINTMENT:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, Rolla city planner Tom Coots was appointed to the TAC.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COVID RELIEF:

Brett Hoffman reported on the proposed \$1.9 Trillion in COVID relief and Representative Smith's position that a good deal in the bill, currently in the House Budget Committee for which he is the ranking member, is not directly related to COVID. Hoffman reported that the \$15 minimum wage is in the bill as is a \$1400 stimulus. 91% of the bill does not go to COVID nor to vaccinations. Sheltered workshops are threatened by application of federal minimum wage to them; the provision of giving employees of sheltered workshops minimum wage may be pulled out. Sheeley left.



**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 23, 2021 Eighteenth day of the January term**

REAL ESTATE COURT ORDER, Continued:

Collector Faith Barnes entered with a request to have a property removed from the tax books. An antenna for former radio station KCLU had been declared as RE under prior Assessor Bill Wiggins and is no longer used; Results Radio did not want it; every year she wants to have this RE parcel number removed and whomever owns the actual tiny square parcel will "inherit" the structure, which has been delinquent on RE taxes for a significant time.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE:

Commissioner Verkamp signed tax exempt fuel certificates from WexBank and MFA.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 17 and 31 invoices in the amounts of \$23,898.26 and \$36,532.19, respectively. Also approved was payment of progress invoices numbered 13 and 14 for the federal bridge project on Road 7100, BRO-B081(13) in the amounts of \$4,554.94 and \$3,765.37, respectively.

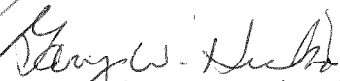
READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

February 25, 2021 Nineteenth day of the January term

Now at this the 25th day of February 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joseph H. Auxier, 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 receipts for January. Local residents Ray Schweikhardt and Mark Taylor were also present as was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley. Green mentioned that she was at MAC meeting in Jefferson City yesterday where she presented for MAC Trust. She recounted that due to a large business' data entry error, a neighboring county had received misdirected sales tax which it will have to repay. Sales taxes for County Revenue 0.5% tax was \$242,045.82, an increase of 6.52% in the rolling twelve month comparison and an increase of 1.72% over the first two months of 2020.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN CONCERN:

Schweikhardt spoke of the difficulty he has in being unable to see his wife in a long-term care facility. She and all the other residents have been immunized and he asks if the Commission could use its influence to advocate for him and others in his situation.

IN THE MATTER OF  
RE COURT ORDER:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Verkamp the RE order was approved on parcel # 2020-35275 for years 2015-2020.

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

Progress Invoice #15 in the amount of \$41,965.09 was approved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier. \$2,312.09 is for engineering and the remainder is for the construction work underway.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CARES ACT APPLICATIONS:

The balance remaining and the outstanding applications known were compared and use of the funds were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SUBDIVISION ON COUNTY ROAD 2180:

Local resident and real estate agent Kimmie Auxier, entered at 1030 to discuss property followed by local resident Glenda



**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**February 25, 2021 Nineteenth day of the January term**

SUBDIVISION ON COUNTY ROAD 2180, Continued:

Wadsworth at 1040. At issue was whether the platted roads of this subdivision, Cedar Meadow, had been vacated. Commission minutes from 1/2/2014 showed the platted road(s) were entered into a petition to vacate, with only Wadsworth and her husband, the owners, as signatories. The Commission record of 4/1/2014, the first day of the subsequent term, state that the petition to vacate was postponed due to inadequate documentation. The question remaining is whether the postponement allows for the process to be resumed. The agent has counsel and the information from the Commission minutes as well as information provided by Recorder of Deeds was provided to Kimmie Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ASBESTOS ABATEMENT:

The Commission reviewed the need for asbestos abatement services for the property at 407 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Rolla.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department came to discuss culvert replacements on County Road 1340.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PAYROLL:

The Commission reviewed and approved county payroll for 2/26/21, representative of work dates from 2/1-15/21 and containing net wages of \$191,963.12 with federal and state withholdings of \$59,538.71 and \$7,953.50, respectively.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved the payment of 16 and 13 invoices in the amounts of \$3,995.64 and \$2,893.89, respectively.


IN THE MATTER OF  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP):

Third and fourth quarter, 2019, reports were supplied to the Commission by Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2