

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 5, 2021 First day of the October term

Now at this the 1st day of October 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 INVENTORY:

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt, Michelle Bock of the Road Department and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley entered at 0900. Inventory progress was discussed; the clerk said most of the departments had finished and reported.

IN THE MATTER OF BROADBAND EXPANSION:

Steelville Telephone Exchange was a vendor mentioned in the broadband discussion the previous week. Anne Freand of MRPC entered at 0920. Freand said that STE got no "...federal money in Phelps County," though perhaps an RFP would be required before ARPA funds can be given. Freand said that individual meetings with vendors and any counties interested in having the vendor expand into the county's territory are soon to be scheduled. Commissioner Hicks said that a good bit of the county was divided by the reverse auction; a possibility exists that ARPA funds cannot be awarded to areas that have already been awarded this funding for expansion. Freand thinks that the companies will have to order 1.5 to 2 years out merely to get fiber and pedestals; also, ARPA funds going to be considered as bound by the same restrictions of any other federal dollars. MoDOT Area Engineer Preston Kramer, P.E. entered at 0928 followed by MRPC Executive Director Bonnie Prigge at 0930.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0935 as did Collector Faith Barnes. Anne Freand distributed charts of transportation priorities. John Butz and Steve Hargis, P.E. of the city of Rolla entered at 0935. Prigge then recapitulated the process whereby the unfunded needs list of each county is presented to counties, then potentially amended. After receiving the county submissions, MRPC consolidates the priority lists in December and presents to MoDOT. Prigge acknowledged that ARPA and increased gas tax funds will be considerations; multiple transit modalities are included in planning. Kramer said that information is to be put on the MoDOT website. Over the last 15 years MoDOT has focused on maintenance and asset management. Because of expected increased gas tax revenues, planning for some projects can be undertaken. Starting this next summer there will be a lot of work done on I-44 between Sugartree at Road 8490 and Crawford County. The stretch on the east bound side between Rolla and St. James will be a "complete refill" because the "mill and fill" where milling of the top 2" and lay down was simply not sufficient. Kramer explained that there are seven segments of U.S. Highway 63 between Highway 50 and

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Continued:

Interstate 44; several of these will be addressed. Kramer then turned to the chart and emphasized that some of the projects are completed and he recommended removal of those. Subsequently the projects on the list were each reviewed and several were split into two or more and several consolidated with others. There was a moderate amount of detail in covering the scope of the projects. Barnes left at 0950. Kojro asked for clarification of "bikepath" and Freand said pedestrian facility was what was meant and this was further elaborated upon. Bock left at 1010. Project PH-647, the Rolla Amtrak Stop, was discussed by Kojro as totally impossible. Butz said "...they required the city to put a double rail distance on the bridge over the 72 extension." Kramer reiterated that since 2009 MoDOT had been largely in "maintenance mode" for economic reasons and decided that their first priority was reduction of run-off-the-road accidents. Adding center-line rumble strips removes 12" from the center for driving (6" from each lane). Adding a shoulder with a rumble strip was mentioned and a long discussion ensued. Kramer recommends removing PH-635 and adding it to PH-653. PH-633, PH 634, PH-636 and PH-637 had bike lanes struck also and a multi-use path/trail connection between Rolla and St. James either on the south outer road or Road 3120 was created as a new need. Kramer went over the rest of the list. Commissioner Hicks asked why a sign "Hwy 72" was on the 72 Extension and he asked how that was decided, that is, if a maintenance agreement existed between the city and the state; Kramer said that it is a "city-owned facility" but the sign was permitted by MoDOT. Butz said that years ago Kingshighway was Mo Business Route 72. Butz provided some input on the airport. Prigge then said that the projects PH- 648, 614, 605 and 653 were the priorities last year. Butz said PH-614 and 653 are still priorities; 614a, improvements to MO 68 from Matlock to I-44 was probably higher priority. The Commissioners believed PH-648, the Highway V interchange in need of capacity and safety improvements, was still #1. PH-614a was believed #2. PH-653, the US Highway 63/I-44 interchange, with PH-635 for pedestrian crossing improvement to this area, was priority #3. PH-614b, Highway 68 improvements from I-44 to Highway DD, was ranked #4. Prigge gave an update on the 63 Alliance; a subcommittee whose recent meeting including her, Houston city administrator, a rep. from Senator Blunt's office, and others. There is apparently little appetite for formation of a district with a dedicated tax, incorporating multiple counties, for funding. Sheriff Kirn and Theresa Lasher of the PCSD entered at 1120, at which point, Prigge, Kramer, Freand, Butz, and Hargis left as did Schweikhardt.

IN THE MATTER OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PERFORMANCE GRANT:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this grant was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF
1972 JAIL:

Kirn said he was opening up the 1972 Jail November 1.

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IN THE MATTER OF
LAND PURCHASE:

Sheriff Kirn discussed the purchase of two lots on the south side of W. 1st Street. Kirn would like to try to procure these parcels which are immediately south of other County-owned land. Assessor Bill Stoltz returned at 1145.

IN THE MATTER OF
SOLAR FARM ASSESSMENT APPEAL:

Stoltz provided an update on this and the Ameren appeal.

IN THE MATTER OF
CLOSED SESSION:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the meeting entered closed session with the Sheriff, Lasher and HR Deputy Lisa Dowdy at 1125 pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (5) - Personal Health Information. No actions having been taken, the meeting returned to open session at 1135.


IN THE MATTER OF
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

The Commission received and reviewed the September benefit management report which revealed slight improvement in the Claims Reserve fund to just under \$700,000.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 7, 2021 Second day of the October term

Now at this the 7th day of October 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
OPIOID LITIGATION:

Numerous recent communications regarding the ongoing opioid litigation suits were discussed. Commissioner Hicks expressed the importance of having a plan in place at the county level to utilize any funds received for the effective mitigation of the opioid misuse problem. He wondered about formation of a committee to handle this, composed of persons with experience. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was briefly present and left at 0915.

IN THE MATTER OF
COLLECTOR'S DROP BOX:

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0925 followed by Assessor Bill Stoltz. Barnes had spoken to Building and Grounds about moving the drop box from just north of the 1972 Jail to a spot along the parking strip, to the north of the sidewalk and immediately northwest of the Fed-Ex and USPS boxes located on the south side of the sidewalk. Commissioner Auxier moved and Commissioner Hicks seconded that the Building and Grounds Department would assist with this move. Local residents Jean and Fortress Hartman entered at 0925. Barnes then discussed the roof cameras and needing them to be slightly adjusted, in the case of camera #2 which looks to the northeast and could capture this drop box better. She also said that her office area ceiling camera did not capture one of her deputies' work stations, and she will speak with the vendor about this.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (RAY SCHWEIKHARDT) AND TAC:

Ray Schweikhardt came in to convey that at the previous Commission meeting when the Transportation Advisory Committee review was held, he heard about "cost/benefit ratio" and "handicapped accessibility" but never the two together; he said there has been a good deal of "...tearing sidewalks out, putting them in, and then tearing them out again..." and he said that it has been done over and over and it "really frosts me." He told the Commission that he would very much like to know the cumulative cost of this work.

IN THE MATTER OF
THE CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL:

The lack of placement options for the chronically mentally ill being a concern, Hartman said, "If this is a problem how come you're not using some of our tax dollars to do something about

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CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL, Continued:

it?" ARPA funds were suggested as a possibility. Hartman asked if money would be dedicated to rehabilitating those capable of being rehabilitated, and how that would be determined. Hartman sought the Commissioner's opinions about utilizing opioid settlement funds and would they be in charge of disbursing funds to an applicant. Schweikhardt left at 1020. Hartman asked for and was informed of general grant application procedures. She asked if the Commission intended to "opt in" to the suit and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that was their intent.

IN THE MATTER OF
CYBER AND INTERNET BREACH
LIABILITY COVERAGE:

Dan Cavender of BPJ entered at 1035 to discuss cyber and internet breach coverages. Cavender said that in August, Texas County switched to MoPERM, though only through January 1, 2022. Traveler's Insurance had given Cavender a projected cost for the same level of coverage that MoPERM had offered. Cyber coverage through MoPERM had always been a "throw-in" coverage of only \$100 thousand instead of the \$1 Million he thought would be more appropriate. Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is required by many companies before writing coverage. This is now in place for remote log-in's to county email, for example. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 1040. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked if Cavender's recommendation was to shop for \$1 Million in cyber and information breach coverage and that was agreeable. Director of Building and Grounds Sissy Korich entered at 1050. Cavender believes about 20-30 counties have liability coverage with MoPERM. After he offered to assess cost and availability of this category of liability coverage, Presiding Commissioner Verkamp suggested the matter be tabled for approximately one week.

IN THE MATTER OF
HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANT:

Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded the approval of an amendment to the Health Department's contract for COVID-19 and Adult Vaccination, for the term of 2/1/2021 through 1/31/2024, increasing the total award from \$197,xxx to \$266,118. This is 100% federal funds, passed through Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

IN THE MATTER OF
INVENTORY:

Korich discussed her inventory which included heat pumps affixed to the building. Commissioner Auxier thought it should not be in inventory because it is attached to the building, and there was a consensus of the Commission on this point.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE LIGHTING:

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COURTHOUSE LIGHTING, Continued:

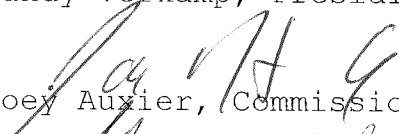
Presiding Commissioner Verkamp mentioned that Circuit Court employees had suggested the north parking lot paralleling the railroad tracks needed brighter light, and Korich will evaluate.

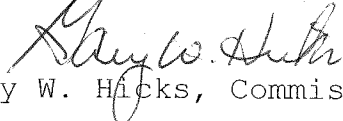
IN THE MATTER OF
ARPA REQUEST PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR:

Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded to approve the request for \$3,496.33 for a counter, sneeze guard barrier for those entering the office.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 12, 2021 Third day of the October term

Now at this the 12th day of October 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

IN THE MATTER OF
SURPLUS TAX:

Local residents Roger and Judy Ann Paul were present as were Local resident Ray Schweikhardt, Collector Faith Barnes and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Kaitlin Brothers. Their property at 14859 County Road 2130 had been sold in 2019 at the Collector's Tax Sale; there was a surplus which was turned over to the Treasurer. The Pauls wish to claim the surplus, as they are well within the 3-year post-sale interval, after which the surplus is released to the schools. Taxes, interest and other fees owed were \$2981.68; the successful bid was \$10,000 leaving a surplus of \$7,018.32. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the distribution of the surplus funds; Commissioner Auxier seconded the motion. The Pauls left at 0915 and Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0920.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Barnes engaged in a discourse about courthouse cameras and security. The bailiffs did not want to transition into the receptionist area on the county clerk's side of the lobby because egress in an emergency was more problematic and they believed it to be of greater advantage strategically where currently positioned. Commissioner Auxier said there was a volunteer group being started along the lines of the Rolla Police Department VIPS (volunteers in police service); his intention is to check with the Sheriff regarding retired law enforcement officers, perhaps.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (RAY SCHWEIKHARDT), OLD IRONWORKS DAYS:

Schweikhardt reported on the recent Old Ironworks Days, first held 44 years ago and officially for the past 41 years. He said there had been a relatively good turnout the prior weekend.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

Maintenance issues were discussed on Road 7240. Schweikhardt left at 1020.

IN THE MATTER OF
SALES VISIT:

Kevin Carrier entered and visited about his company and its products, Missouri Vocational Enterprises.

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IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (GARY HEAVIN):

Local resident Gary Heavin entered at 1045. He reported the local new Smoothie King was the company leader out of 1800 stores. He proceeded to recount some of the developments at various properties he has been able to acquire. The disposition of the Road shed at 204 Fairgrounds Road was reviewed. Heavin emphasized that he "wants to see Rolla get better," and left shortly after 1120.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE PARKING:

Director of Support Services, Building and Grounds Sissy Korich and Amy Asberry of the Department entered with Collector Faith Barnes to discuss the 8 parking spots north of the Courthouse which are not handicapped; Korich will investigate the type of signs available to communicate the intent to establish some short-term parking for courthouse visitors, and the signs will be placed at each place.

IN THE MATTER OF
LIABILITY COVERAGE:

Commissioner Verkamp reported that Dan Cavender with BPJ had notified him that 64 counties, including Phelps, used MoPERM for a liability insurance provider.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioner reviewed and approved payment of the Senior Companions invoice for stipends in the amount of \$20,074.20.

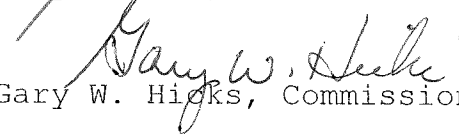
IN THE MATTER OF
PAYROLL:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of payroll for 10/15/21, for work dates 9/16-30/21, with net wages of \$196,437.76; federal and state withholdings of \$60,095.19 and \$8,084.50, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxler, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Higgs, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 14, 2021 Fourth day of the October term

Now at this the 14th day of October 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 BROADBAND:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Carmen Hartwell with Gascoage Electric by cell phone and scheduled a meeting with the company to discuss their plans for broadband.

IN THE MATTER OF SALES TAXES:

Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0915 to present the October sales tax report. County sales tax of 0.5% generated \$276,280.46, an increase of 24.10% in the month-to-month and 11.31% in the rolling twelve-month comparisons. Commissioner Hicks said that in his opinion, these numbers reflected the reality that the Westside Marketplace made Rolla a shopping destination. Presiding Commissioner said that it wasn't just the RollaWest development; some of the stores on South Highway 63 were thriving as well.

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZEN INPUT (JOSHUA SMITH) AND MASK REQUIRED IN COURT:

Local resident Joshua Smith of Pvt. Dr. 8191 entered the Commission meeting at 0915 to protest the mask requirement he encountered upon attempting to attend traffic court in the Rolla municipal building moments earlier. He asked if there was no mask mandate in the city nor in the county, why was he required to wear a mask? Collector Faith Barnes entered briefly at 0920. Smith was provided with the most recent order from 25th Judicial Circuit Presiding Judge John Beger, Administrative Order 2021-13, reinstating masks in the court's areas effective August 11, 2021. Smith then left.

IN THE MATTER OF MOPERM:

The Commissioners discussed going out for bid for liability coverage on property etc. and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp was inclined to oppose that, since leaving MoPERM means inability to return to their liability coverage for at least 3 years. Commissioner Hicks said that though he was not in office when the issue came up, he recalls hearing of the difficulties that arose due to the changes made in the past.

IN THE MATTER OF LANDFILL BOARD:

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LANDFILL BOARD, Continued:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp spoke about the meeting of the Phelps County Landfill Board the previous day. Apparently, there was discussion of abandonment of the city of Rolla's curbside recycling due to inability to retain one or more employees; COSP participants cannot be hired for this function as they are not allowed to operate vehicles. Commissioner Hicks said that he believed that people committed to recycling will continue to do so even after they do not have curbside pick-up.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROLLA CITY EMPLOYEES:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp reported that Rolla City is increasing the pay of all employees.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 3010:

Local Resident Mike Jones, having requested a time to speak to the Commission, entered at 1005 to speak about development and congestion in his area. He is concerned about proposed development on the west side of Road 3010. He pointed out that the development seemed denser than his area which had parcels of 5 acres. In- and egress was discussed as was the process of acceptance of a subdivision. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp informed Jones that they had heard from several other property owners about traffic concerns for the road, should there be 35 homes with potentially 70 more vehicles. Some details of an earlier discussion between the developer and the Commission were shared. Jones left at 1040 just as local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (RAY SCHWEIKHARDT):

Schweikhardt says that "it appears that someone has already filed [2020] taxes for me" which he was about to file on his extensions.

IN THE MATTER OF
PWSO #4:

Jeff Davis, the chair of the PWSO #4 board, was contacted and put on speaker phone about a citizen who owns 8 acres and wishes not to hook into the sewer district, and he said this individual did not have that option since his property was within the district. Davis said one attorney said in the past that "they had to hook up" and they "cannot do their own system" if they're in the district; however, there is apparently case law from another Missouri jurisdiction saying that it was legal to use one's own septic system. The main thing the resident objected to, according to Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, was that it would cost him \$4000 to pay a contractor to establish connections with the district. Davis said that recently the district has been giving land owners the specs; they do the excavation; they acquire the pit from the parts supplier; they use both a district-approved inspector and installer and just follow the district's specifications. Davis said, "We could do

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PWSD #4, Continued:

it, but we [the board] just decided to have owners do it as long as they adhere to the specs." Davis said he told this landowner that if he put in his own septic system, the district probably couldn't do anything about it, but refused to sign a letter to that effect when the landowner requested it. Continuing, Davis thinks the landowner believes that the district should pay for the installation. Director of Support Services, Building & Grounds Sissy Korich entered at 1112. Davis only has two members on the board; the other one is Bob Kent. They have a new attorney as the prior attorney let them go.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE PARKING:

Korich presented the design for the eight proposed short-term visitor parking signs.

IN THE MATTER OF
MISSOURI EXTENSION:

The Commission received notice of the Taking Care of You program, offered Tuesdays in November to county employees.

IN THE MATTER OF
MISSOURI OZARKS COMMUNITY ACTION (MOCA):

The Commission was notified that MOCA's mobile office will have outreach at the Rolla Mission on Monday, October 18. Their services are 100% federally funded, through the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division.

IN THE MATTER OF
SALARY COMMISSION:

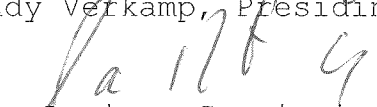
Elected Officials have until October 31, 2021 to request a meeting of the Salary Commission, pursuant to RSMo 50.333(5).

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 71 and 54 invoices in the amounts of \$89,162.62 and \$53,009.58, respectively; payment of TIF Economic Activity Taxes (EATS) for Rolla Westside Marketplace in the amount of \$22,989.39; Surplus Tax disbursement to Roger D. Paul in the amount of \$7,018.32.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 19, 2021 Fifth day of the October term

Now at this the 19th day of October 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
OPIOIDS:

Commissioner Auxier reported on a meeting headlined "Changing the Landscape of Our Local Community" from the previous day about opioid misuse in the region. Multiple entities attended; Commissioner Hicks emphasized that if there is some sort of a settlement from the litigation against the opioid producers/marketers, this is for treatment of the medically addicted. Commissioner Auxier said there is "no detox center" and Commissioner Hicks reported that Judge Clayton said the drug court had some "great successes" but likewise some "great failures." YTD there have been 22 deaths from overdoses in the county; there are unknown numbers of overdoses successfully treated with naloxone. Your Community Health Center is probably one of the few places that seems to have a treatment plan or strategy within the county. Commissioner Hicks said there may be funds to initiate the treatment, but none for its continuation. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt, Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley, Assessor Bill Stoltz and Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0905. Sheeley left at 0910.

IN THE MATTER OF
COLLECTOR'S HOURS:

Barnes reported that her office will be open on December 31 which is a recognized federal holiday, thus she will elect to be closed on Monday, January 3, 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF
SALARY COMMISSION:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp instructed the clerk to reply on behalf of all the officers present to the Circuit Clerk, informing her that a salary commission meeting is desired and probably no later than Thursday, November 18 due to the statutory provision that it must occur by November 30. Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox will be consulted about the legalities of providing raises. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0930.

IN THE MATTER OF
APPOINTMENT TO CENTRAL WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp signed the letter appointing Rolla City Administrator John Butz as the county's business representative to the board, reporting enthusiastic support for this in the upper echelons of the CWDB.

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

Commissioner Hicks moved that the labor report for the construction of this bridge be approved, stating that there had been no wage-related complaints. After being seconded by Commissioner Auxier, Presiding Commissioner Verkamp signed it.

IN THE MATTER OF
MANAGED CARE CONSULTING:

Dan Arell and Mark Haegele of USI Insurance Services LLC entered at 1000. Arell said that in 2019 with an effective date of 2020, a "Broker RFP" was issued. At that time Arell's company was the one that was selected to make a final presentation (by then-Associate Commissioner Larry Stratman). Arell reminded all that Layla Earl of the hospital had recommended the hiring of a healthcare consultant. He knows the county is up for renewal of the self-funded healthcare plan on January 1; one of the things his company specializes in is helping entities manage self-funded plans. "What we want to talk about today," he said, is "that you can hire us and it isn't going to cost the county any more money." He believes the separation of the TPA and Consultant functions is important. Currently the TPA retained by the county is functioning also as the county's broker. Haegele described that GBS might only go to several, not a dozen, stop-loss carriers, and USI may be in a better position to negotiate with stop-loss carriers. Haegele said that their number one approach would be to look at the levels of stop-loss coverage, assessing the commissions; then searching for the provider of the stop-loss coverage. Arell recalled that the 2019 figures suggested that the county was paying between 40 and 45 thousand for administration, and that by now the commission on stop-loss is somewhere in the neighborhood of 60-80K. Haegele said the pharmaceutical rebate is an agreement between GBS and the Pharmacy Benefit Manager; there are a "lot of hands in the pot" and he believed that pharmacy rebates should be approximately 15K per quarter, or \$35-40 ppm, often given to the insured entity as "credits." USI has a pharmacy consultant, said Arell. Haegele gave an estimate of their fee and said the value they bring is looking at the pharmacy contract, looking at communications with the enrolled employees, the other lines (life, dental, etc.) Commissioner Hicks asks if, as a broker, they would have any auditing authority over the TPA? Self-Insured Association of America (SIAA) audits TPA's yearly. As broker, USI would review that audit. At a minimum, USI audits the pharmacy claim contract. Potential savings achieved and their disposition were discussed at some length. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 1050 with local resident Mike Buecler. Haegele thought the savings on the stop loss might be about 10-15%, 15-20% in pharmacy rebates and saving probably not a lot in administration since Haegele thinks that is "bare bones." Arell volunteered that they have a compliance attorney on their staff, which HR would have access to. What would best be described as ombudsman services are available to employees who question how a particular claim was handled, and will go to TPA if any problems.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 8170:

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October 19, 2021 Fifth day of the October term

ROAD 8170, Continued:

Local resident Mike Buecler asked if the Commission couldn't drop limbs off a tree in his yard which he believes to be within the county's right-of-way; his concern is that, should he fell this dead tree on his own, there will be some large limbs that will drop onto the road and his neighbors will be extremely unhappy if the road is obstructed.

IN THE MATTER OF
HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANTS:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell presented a \$40,000 grant for overdose data in exchange for Narcan. Commissioner Auxier moved, Commissioner Hicks seconded, to approve this grant that was with DHSS. Campbell also presented the amendment to the contract to change the Safe Cribs grant to DESE from being under DHSS. Third grant is that for childcare health consultation which is also being amended to put it under DESE instead of DHSS. This was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Commissioner Auxier said that the October 15, 2021 meeting had very favorable reports for the number of cases. Also, as of 10/15/21, the University of Missouri system has repealed the mask mandate.

IN THE MATTER OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

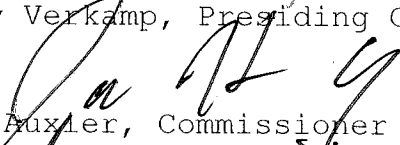
A report was presented that said that Hartmann was expanding their shifts and production.

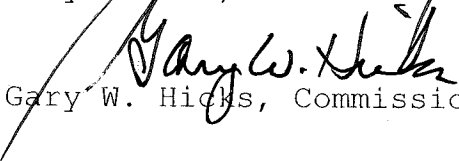
IN THE MATTER OF
SOUTH CENTRAL
COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING:

Commissioner Hicks reported on his recent meeting, where the major discussion was on the Sheriff's salary situation created by the passage of legislation this past session.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 21, 2021 Sixth day of the October term

Now at this the 21st day of October 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

In the absence of Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp, the clerk designated Commissioner Hicks to preside.

IN THE MATTER OF
COUNTY TREASURER:

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt was present at 0900; Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0915. Green reported on the chair of the Developmentally Disabled Board asking for documents permitting them to have an account set up for their tax levy money, under their control as would be compliant with state statutes which had been approved by the office of Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox. Green had discussed the need for E&O insurance for the board and a bond for the board treasurer, with Young. Green left at 0925.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROLLA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES (RMU) AND
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS:

RMU General Manager Rodney Bourne and Finance Manager Gwen Cresswell entered at 0925, to ask about the county's ARPA funds. Bourne said one of the line items in their health insurance was just over \$100,000 the prior year for COVID testing, and about \$50,000 in positives. RMU uses Group Benefit Services; their partially self-funded employee health plan renews effective November 1. Pertaining to ARPA funds, Commissioner Hicks said that applications would go through MRPC as the administrator. Bourne said RMU may be interested in applying for funds for water; there are some significant improvements that they need to make to several of the well houses and water mains, some of which are along state highways like 72 and 10th street, behind the curb and because these are not below streets they are not as visible and are not incorporated in road maintenance. Bourne said RMU connects some of the city's departments with fiber for which they charge the city. They wonder about connecting some of the other departments from the standpoint of "county infrastructure" using some of the city's ARPA funds. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0940. Bourne then asked if there was anything RMU needed to address for the county, which led to some discussion about voluntary annexations and customer choice of providers in recent legislation, esp. with respect to the electric service. Water service has more flexibility, though Bourne said that his BPW has traditionally said that if you want city water, you need to be in the city.

IN THE MATTER OF
COUNTY EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT COVERAGE:

Faith Wanted someone from Medicaid to come and do a mini-health fair for employees who have children so they can see what their benefits might be; Medicaid managed care has 3 providers in the

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 21, 2021 Sixth day of the October term

COUNTY EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT COVERAGE, Continued:

county. CHIP's qualification was discussed. In Missouri you have CHIP which has various monthly payments based on income and number of children. Assessor Bill Stoltz entered at 1005. Barnes explained a bit more the topic and informed the Commission that she will seek out someone knowledgeable to perhaps address employees; Barnes and Stoltz left at 10:25 just after Sheriff Kirn entered.

IN THE MATTER OF
SHERIFF'S EMPG GRANT AND PCSD SERVER:

The Sheriff's server needs to be replaced and they are going to a cloud-based server and all the maintenance in addition. Commissioner Hicks asked how much would be an annual cost; Sheriff Kirn said there was going to be a significantly lower cost in the future. Kirn presented the Memorandum of Understanding regarding this; Commissioner Auxier moved and Commissioner Hicks seconded the approval of this. [copy not offered to PKG]

IN THE MATTER OF
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA):

Commissioner Hicks received a call from a vendor as a follow-up to one that had been placed to Randy Verkamp; the vendor was referred to MRPC.

IN THE MATTER OF
SUBDIVISION ON 3010:

A letter received from Michael Jones by Randy Verkamp is entered into the record.

IN THE MATTER OF
HOMWAV CONTRACT:

Sheriff Kirn said that inmates are using other people's codes to "call out" and order drugs". Now there are biometrics available wherein an inmate is searchable by voice recognition, not just his personal phone code. Kirn said that a "mule" will bond out, acquire the drugs, be re-arrested and come back into the jail. The contract for biometrics (voice recognition) will not add any to the contract; it will be taken out of his revenue from HomWav. Commissioner Auxier moved to approve and Commissioner Hicks seconded and signed the agreement.

In the matter of
Taskforce:

Sheriff Kirn reported that he had pulled out of the regional task force and had formed his own, ensconcing them in the 1972 Jail. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 1050.

IN THE MATTER OF
PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 21, 2021 Sixth day of the October term

PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT, Continued:

Campbell said the state has offered her department a large sum, this time with a backdate to 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2023. It's over \$433,000 for COVID response. Her department is no longer doing case investigation, though still makes calls inquiring about well-being and they do contact tracing on school students. She said they are short-staffed and is wondering if she should put out a help wanted ad for someone who does COVID work. Current employees would be able to return to prior duties, and if she was able to hire someone for 2 years should funding run out they could "...always be moved into another role." Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 1125.

IN THE MATTER OF
INVENTORY:

Deputy Clerk Peter Cook provided a report that all departments, save for Juvenile which keeps its inventory records in Pulaski County, had turned in their inventory on time by October 8. He is currently working through the lists of equipment which needed to have invoice numbers placed, had been reported disposed of and not yet removed from the inventory, etc.


IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

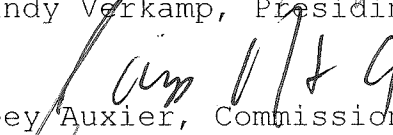
Bock said that the chipper machine had a DEF (diesel exhaust fluid, something that is EPA-mandated) sensor that had blown and the two vendors concerned were debating whose responsibility the repair and supply of the part would be. Commissioner Hicks enumerated some roads in need of attention and Bock said the crews hoped the equipment would be repaired soon. There is a cottage industry in removing DEF sensors because they greatly hamper operation of any equipment they are installed upon.


IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 45 and 94 invoices in the amount of \$385,709.45 and \$66,711.98, respectively. The Commission reviewed and approved payment of a small payroll for three PCSD detectives whose timesheets for grant overtime had not been entered into payroll.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 26, 2021 Seventh day of the October term

Now at this the 26th day of October 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
GASCOSAGE ELECTRIC AND BROADBAND:

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley were present. Gascosage Electric Cooperative employees Carmen Hartwell, Shawn Lipscomb and Melinda Stormes as well as Andrew Blanton with Sho-Me Technologies entered at 0900. Hartwell opened by sketching some plans the company had; Blanton provided a map of Gascosage's existing services and said they would plan to "match that with fiber." Saying "So your plan is to service all this area in the NW part of Phelps County?" Commissioner Hicks followed with "What kind of impingement is there because of the reverse auction awarding it [territory] to Aptitude?" Though it implied that Gascosage could not apply for the federal funding, Hartwell said the company would still aspire to provide service. She said that Doolittle hasn't been approved for any federal funding but they would be interested in serving the city; currently her company would move faster if they had more funding. Sheriff Kirn entered at 0915. Commissioner Hicks expressed surprise that service to Doolittle had not been awarded; Blanton suspected incomplete data was partly to blame. Blanton said that with Rural Digital Opportunity Funding (RDOF), the build-out period was 8 years. RDOF has \$20.4 billion in Universal Service Fees (USF) funding and ran the reverse auction last year. Hartwell said there was National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) funding for south of Dixon [NTIA manages three broadband grant programs funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.] When the grants become available, Hartwell said, under- or unserved areas are looked at by Gascosage for a description of what can be applied for. Asked by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp of an estimate, Blanton said a very, very rough estimate of serving Doolittle would be \$1.5 million. Blanton said Sho-Me is a commercial provider; they've never been a residential provider. They've "got a lot of fiber up" and he realizes that it's frustrating to see it up there and not be able to tap into it, but they're focused on commercial. Hartwell said they would come to the Commission with a request for a large area like Doolittle; they've contacted MRPC who is "...aware that we are working with Phelps, Pulaski, and Miller...our intent is to serve all of our members." Asked by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp about the rates for internet, Blanton gave some figures for various upload and download speeds. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0925. Hartwell confirmed that there is some supply issues and some of the grants require U.S. materials. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0935. Since Gascosage already has poles, they would not be expanding on their footprint. Numerous other technical details of internet service including engineering

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 26, 2021 Seventh day of the October term

GASCOSAGE ELECTRIC AND BROADBAND, Continued:

studies which explored pole adequacy for weights and clearances were reviewed; Hartwell emphasized that all of Gascosage's "...fiber will be aerial" except once on a customer's property. Sheriff Kirn left at 0942. The utility group left at 0947.

IN THE MATTER OF
CHIPS:

Barnes announced a meeting scheduled with a provider for CHIPs to supply information for some of the employees with dependent children: Wednesday November 10. Barnes left at 1000.

IN THE MATTER OF
CART FUNDS:

Treasurer Carol Green presented CART revenues for the month of October, down .32% from one year ago but still up 5.34% YTD compared with 2020. Gas Tax was \$53,151.93, prior to the increase of 2.5% effective October 1, 2021. Green left at 1005.

IN THE MATTER OF
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FORM 4379A:

Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded the completion of this form to permit the Treasurer to obtain detailed sales tax information on commercial enterprises.

IN THE MATTER OF
FAMILY CEMETERY:

An inquiry having been received from Cheryl Brown of the 18000 block of Co Rd 7520 regarding establishing a family cemetery, the process was discussed. Commissioner Hicks will refer her to RSMo Chapter 214 statutes.

IN THE MATTER OF
INVENTORY:

Items that were not found by departments on their inventory, will be marked "Lost/Stolen" as this is the only option within the county's financial software asset management module. Deputy Clerk Peter Cook reviewed inventory progress.

IN THE MATTER OF
JAIL FOOD:

Sheriff Kirn returned at 1015 with an amendment to the agreement for jail food; the rate is \$1.27/meal for 200-210 inmates. If they become the provider for Meals on Wheels they will drive their numbers up to 250 and it would run \$1.18/meal. Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier moved to approve the amendment.

IN THE MATTER OF
EMPLOYEE MEAL REIMBURSEMENTS:

Kirn said the \$37.50 amount for reimbursement for three meals

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 26, 2021 Seventh day of the October term

EMPLOYMEE MEAL REIMBURSEMENT, Continued:

while traveling has not been adjusted for inflation of the currency in 20 years; he hoped there might be some consideration of an increase. The Commission will review at budget time.

IN THE MATTER OF
INCREASE CAPACITY OF JAIL:

Looking toward a potential increase in federal prisoner per diem from \$65 to \$85, Kirn is going to obtain a feasibility study for increasing by 100 inmates the capacity of the 2005 jail. Federal officials said there would be no consideration of an increase without the rec area being restored; Kirn's plan for this is to move prisoners to the 1972 jail; rotate prisoners from their pod to the available rec area while thorough cleaning and maintenance of that pod is undertaken, which should take about 2.5 weeks for each of the three pods; he assured the Commission he would observe the state bidding statutes.

IN THE MATTER OF
VIRTUAL SHOOTING SYSTEM:

Sheriff Kirn reported that the virtual shooting five-screen system went down and he will have to secure another one. Three of five cameras, two of five projectors and the sound system are non-functional. A sole-source item, Kirn estimated the replacement cost at \$167 thousand and plans to fund through asset forfeiture. Collector Faith Barnes returned at 1040. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier this was approved; Kirn is unsure if there will be supply-chain issues and it may take a very long time to procure.

IN THE MATTER OF
ASSESSOR'S QUARTERLY:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the third-quarter report was approved. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 1045.

IN THE MATTER OF
GROUP BENEFIT SERVICES:

Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded the approval of the disclosure forms for bidding reinsurance; they were signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp.

IN THE MATTER OF
PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ARPA FUNDS:

Campbell said she has settled on a base raise of 10% for all the health department, and possibly a 15% raise for her dietician. She will not fill her second environmental and public health sanitarian position. She might opt out of a COLA, therefore.

IN THE MATTER OF
MISSOURI REDISTRICTING:

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 26, 2021 Seventh day of the October term

MISSOURI REDISTRICTING, Continued:

Local resident Philip Lohmann, opposed to Phelps County having been split after the 2010 Census into portions of four state representative districts, entered at 1100. None of the four members of the Missouri House actually live in Phelps County; he presented a petition to essentially vacate the four state representative districts and create a new district made up of the entirety of Phelps County. Some of those present signed. He intends to circulate this petition and is eager to convey a message, if nothing else.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 8540:

A local resident expressed appreciation for work on his road.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 6120 AND CHIP AND SEAL:

Commissioner Hicks shared a constituent concern about his road, chip and seal, and particularly the segment just west of Highway 63. Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 1155 to discuss the disabling of the Entyre chipper by malfunction of an EPA-mandated accessory; they may have the part by end of the week.

IN THE MATTER OF
CDBG FOR PHELPS CONNECTIONS FOR SENIORS:

Paperwork needed for the grant application for Phelps Connections for Seniors, Inc. (PCS) was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks. PCS is working with MRPC on the application.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the November GBS premium for employee health coverage in the amount of \$118,301.94.

IN THE MATTER OF
PAYROLL:

Upon review of payroll for 10/29/21 representing work dates 10/1-15/21, the Commission approved the net wages of \$194,098.47, federal and state withholdings of \$59,388.91 and \$7,926.00, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 28, 2021 Eighth day of the October term

Now at this the 28th day of October 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
PHELPS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
AND LESO PROGRAM:

PCSD Deputy Alex Maurer entered at 0900 and presented the LESO program agreement that needed updating. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt, Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley and Missouri 8th District Representative Jason Smith's Field Representative Grant Wilson were also present. Mauer said the department has about \$38,000 worth of Department of Defense (DoD) equipment on loan, mostly rifle optics and first aid equipment, for which they pay only small shipping costs. These items are not listed on the county inventory, but are tracked on a separate inventory by the department as is required by DoD. Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded to approve the agreement.

IN THE MATTER OF
EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Wilson spoke about the Congressman's current workload, the efforts to revoke or "head off" the presidential executive order that has been threatened though not actually formally codified for a COVID immunization mandate, and ongoing meetings regarding broadband. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said a major problem is "...how \$400 million for broadband..." is going to be disbursed.

IN THE MATTER OF
SURPLUS TAX:

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0915. She said the outgoing owner of the residential parcel at 310 State Highway DD, St. James, was gifted this parcel and subsequently moved out of state. Betty R. Rodgers is currently living in Kansas; as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, payment of \$9,810.45 in surplus tax to Rodgers, contingent on her becoming current on property taxes due, was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF
SUNSHINE LAW REQUEST:

The clerk reported a Sunshine Law request from a Dallas, Texas law firm asking for names (F, M, L), position and emails of all full-time county employees. The clerk will communicate within the 72 hours the amount to be charged for this information as well as the information itself if the firm elects to pay any and all charges.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

October 28, 2021 Eighth day of the October term

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD FUNDING AND USE TAX RESERVE:

Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded moving the entire total of Use Tax to Special Road and Bridge. The Department has realized 90% of its budgeted \$3,526,000 in new revenue; cash on hand at the start of the year was \$530,896. Budgeted expenditures for the Road Department 2021 Budget included \$350 thousand, \$325 thousand and \$350 thousand for chip & seal expense, asphalt patching and asphalt overlayment, respectively. Actuals, YTD, are 80%, 112% and 111% of budget. Payroll is 80%, at 83% of the year; total YTD expenses are 87% of the year's budget of \$3,957,000. The Use Tax fund contains just over \$300,000 and transfer will be made when the October 2021 interest is deposited.

IN THE MATTER OF
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
APPLICATION BY PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH
DEPARTMENT:

The Commissioners received and reviewed this application for the Health Department to fund premium pay of a base of 10% to all staff, as job roles and responsibilities for all have shifted to require significant COVID-19 mitigation response. An additional 5% pay increase for a total of 15% will be provided to staff continuing to provide COVID-19 mitigation response efforts. Director Campbell argued also that this was needed to recruit and retain competent employees. This application had been reviewed by MRPC after the original dated September 13, 2021 had been revised. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this was approved with an effective date of November 1, 2021, coinciding with the next payroll.

IN THE MATTER OF
GREAT CIRCLE:

Sheeley discussed his recent very expansive reporting of the recent murder of a teenager at Great Circle by two older teenagers who remain incarcerated pending trial. After further discussion, Sheeley left at 1000. Michelle Bock of the Road and Bridge Department entered moments later.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 8170:

The dead tree brought to the attention of the Commission by local resident Mike Beucler was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD EQUIPMENT:

Bock updated the Commission on the DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) sensor problem and explained the situation to Wilson. This EPA-mandated equipment has malfunctioned and sidelined the Road Department's chipper machine until it can be repaired.

IN THE MATTER OF
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA):

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
October 28, 2021 Eighth day of the October term

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA), Continued:

Treasurer Carol Green entered at 1040 just as Bock left. Green said that there were over 1,000 questions submitted to NACo for the teleconference held recently on the U.S. Treasury's Interim Final Rule. Green said an opinion was offered that county administrative expenses for ARPA monies could be recouped. Adair County believed that their health insurance costs had increased; perhaps \$200,000 was attributable to COVID costs and could be retained by this county which is partially self-insured for their claims fund. Following some discussion about Health Department premium pay, Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp called Kelly Sink, Project Development Manager at MRPC. Though Sink said it would be legal by Treasury's guidance to pay premium pay retroactively, she agreed with the Commission that the more conservative approach would adhere to the counsel of the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) prepaid legal services attorney, who had said not to pay retroactively under any circumstances. Sink will be in contact with the clerk and her office. Green left after further discussion on multiple aspects of ARPA.

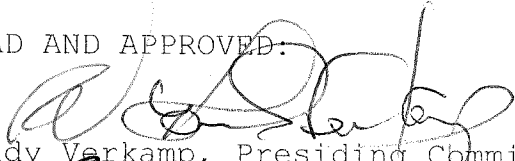
IN THE MATTER OF
BRIDGES:

The Commissioners discussed some bridges which were declared as insufficient.


IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 34 and 45 invoices in the amounts of \$68,744.68 and \$51,142.93, respectively. Additionally, ten invoices for employee benefits and deductions and one Fidelity invoice totaling \$9,590.91 were approved.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2