

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 5, 2022, First day of the April term**

Now at this the 5th day of April the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

IN THE MATTER OF  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)  
FOR CITIES OF NEWBURG AND EDGAR SPRINGS:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the ARPA application for engineering for the city of Newburg was approved; as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the ARPA application for engineering for the city of Edgar Springs was approved. Local residents Ray Schweikhardt and Travis Bahr were present as was the Focus reporter. Assessor Bill Stoltz entered at 0905.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MU EXTENSION:

Rachel Buenemann of the MU Extension entered at 0910 to invite the Commission to the Extension Trivia Contest and Annual Dinner. She also presented information on the Cooking Matters classes offered which targets SNAP-eligible adults and allows them to experiment with recipes without buying large quantities of ingredients. She is also beginning a food preparation class in Salem. Buenemann left at 0925.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REAL ESTATE COURT ORDER:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks a court order removing \$1,461.68 in sewer bills by Certificate 2021000042 for Parcel Number 2021 - 5137 was approved. The Focus reporter left at 0940.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT (CHESTER KOJRO):

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0925 and asked about DOR rules regarding single year versus multiple year vehicle registrations. Schweikhardt left at 1000.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

Sheriff Kirn and Jail Administrator Joe Taylor entered at 1015 with a draft architect agreement for the building addition on the jail. Kirn laid out his plans for expansion; the Western Federal Marshall's service has extreme need for jail space. His target is 160 federal inmates. Reimbursement rate for federal prisoners was finalized at \$83 per day. CAP, the Cooperative Agreement Program through the Federal Marshall's service, will potentially supply up to a \$5 million grant for the jail expansion. The total estimate for the add-on is \$13.2 million. The timetable was discussed. With respect to the jail

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JAIL EXPANSION, Continued:

refurbishing, they are working on the second pod. Local resident Paul Myers entered at 1025.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PCSD ARPA REQUEST FOR RADIOS:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked how crucial the radio application was; Kirn said he did not want to use forfeiture money for the radios; that this was earmarked for the jail expansion and he wanted to retain a "cushion" in the event that the federal prisoner revenue disappeared for 2, 3 even 4 months. His hope is to accept medically fragile prisoners in the 1972 jail building, potentially; their reimbursement rate is quite high.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COLLECTOR AND VICIOUS, THREATENING  
OR DESTRUCTIVE ANIMAL ORDINANCE:

Collector Faith Barnes came to thank the Commission for the Vicious, Threatening or Destructive animal ordinance [Ordinance 2018-12-13(1)] because on the night of March 31/April 1 their 5 goats were slaughtered by two neighbor dogs. The sheriff's deputy was quite helpful. Barnes left at 1040.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PETITION FOR VACATION OF A  
PORTION OF ROAD 3340:

The Commission conducted the final reading for the petition to vacate a portion of Road 3340 as filed by Paul Myers and signed by 12 resident voters of the Dillon Township. Responding to a question from Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, Myers said that the road has been surveyed just recently. The hammerhead will be installed immediately west of the driveway of Bruce and Mildred Ponzer, who are also signatories on the petition. Myers said they would ensure this was constructed "before the snow flies." No remonstrance was heard at the hearing. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this road vacation was approved unanimously. Legal description of the vacation was recommended.

BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSIN OF PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI

JUDGEMENT AND ORDER

Now at this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022, the County Commission of Phelps County, Missouri, proceeded to hear a Petition to Vacate a Portion of a Road in Dillon Township. Petitioners appear by petition.

The Commission finds as follows:

1. That the Petitions seek an order of the Commission vacating a portion of that part of County Road 3340 located in the south east quarter of Section 13 Township 37 North Range 7 West. This portion of the road lies entirely within Dillon Township.
2. That the Petition herein was filed and posted in not less than three public places in such township for the time period required by law and that the petition was personally served on all persons residing in the

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VACATION OF A PORTION OF ROAD 3340, Continued:

- township whose lands are crossed or touched by the road proposed to be vacated.
3. That there is no remonstrance in writing signed by twelve residents of the township to the proposed road vacation.
  4. That the aforesaid section of road is useless, serves no public utility, and the repair and maintenance of the road is an unreasonable burden upon the county.
  5. That the portion of the county road dead ends to property owned by Scott and Elizabeth Dickerhoff that has already been vacated and closed. See Phelps County Commission Records from April 2, 2009 and July 2, 2009.
  6. That the petitioners are the only property owners of all the land that adjoins the portion of Phelps County Road 3340 proposed to be vacated. The petitioners request that the proposed vacation of said road be examined and approved by the Phelps County Highway Engineer.
  7. WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that that part of County Road 3340 that is located in Section 13, Township 37 North, Range 7 West is hereby vacated.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

ATTEST:

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE UTILIZATION:

Presiding Judge Beger entered at 1120 and discussed utilization of space with the Commission, leaving about 1135.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 7120:

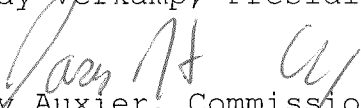
Sam Schmid entered at 1135 and briefly discussed his concerns with several culverts.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved contract pay invoices in the amount of \$19,292.91.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 7, 2022, Second day of the April term**

Now at this the 7th day of April the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT (DON RILEY):

Local resident Don Riley and the Focus reporter entered at 0900. Riley wanted to inquire about stopping the St. James municipal court from being moved to Rolla. Riley said an individual he did not know was in front of the Dawson, St. James Ward 1, 2, 3 polling place distributing information contesting such a move. This individual was outside the 25 foot limit, however. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0905.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Central Security, according to Faith Barnes, was working with the Sheriff's Department on outside cameras.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY CLERK TURNOVER:

The clerk presented a treasurer's receipt and supporting documentation for passport fees of \$4,480 and clerk fees of \$161.35 turned over for the month of March, 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

The contractual agreement for this was briefly reviewed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR:

Dana Sooter entered at 1020 to request secure storage of materials of considerable value with wards' estates. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Sissy Korich who arrived at 1030 and participated in further discussion.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE UTILIZATION:

Korich discussed the movement of the COSP office. Acting Superintendent of Roads Mark Case and Michelle Bock of the Road and Bridge Department entered at 1035.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD EQUIPMENT:

Case reported that the high bid on the skid steer was from Caterpillar at 87,xxx.; low bid was New Holland 74,500; Bobcat was 77,890. Case said the Bobcat salesman would add a 14-pin electrical contact which would permit rental of Caterpillar

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 7, 2022, Second day of the April term**

ROAD EQUIPMENT, Continued:

accessories. Multiple other equipment issues, both repairs and new equipment being ordered, were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:


Case presented some information on targeted roads for work this upcoming year.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ELECTION TRUCK TAMPERING:

The clerk reported on an incident from the previous day. The polling place take-down crew had returned with roughly half of the equipment used in the April 5, 2022 General Municipal election at 1230, parking their pickup and trailer in the usual spot along the curb of the northern limb of the courthouse circle. Equipment was unloaded. They remained in the courthouse for lunch until 1310. On returning to the truck, the blue vinyl bank bag used to hold the polling place keys was missing and found, after a 20-minute search of the immediate area, in a nearby trashcan. None of the polling place keys were missing; the laborers had kept election equipment keys on their persons and not in this bag. A bailiff was summoned; the entire truck/trailer and the driveway leading to the trash can were visible on the Camera 2 feed on the Collector's website. The bailiff did not have any access to this camera's recording. Rolla Police Department was notified and they arrived and took a statement from the junior member of the crew, Jacob Andrus. No statement was taken from driver Lewis Hall nor the clerk. The officer said he would be contacting the Collector to determine if there was a recording available from the rooftop cameras. The clerk said this camera was paid for with \$62.40 monthly from the 2% delinquent property tax fee paid to the Collector's Tax Maintenance Fund, and in her opinion, taxpayers should have access to a recording of a camera on the roof of the taxpayer's courthouse. More than 20 hours had elapsed since her police report and she had no follow-up from RPD. This is the second time the election truck and trailer have been tampered with at election time. Nothing was forthcoming from the prior police report several years earlier.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 12, 2022, Third day of the April term**

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

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

Deputy Clerk Lisa Dowdy took minutes in the clerk's absence.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITY OF ST. JAMES AND ARPA APPLICATION:

Lyle Thomas, Public Works Director for the City of St. James was present along with Michelle Bock of the Road Department, Sheriff Mike Kirn and Jail Administrator Lt. Joe Taylor, Local residents Ray Schweikhardt and Chester Kojro and the Focus reporter. Thomas explained in some detail the issues the city is having with aging wastewater infrastructure and ultimately said the city would hope to obtain \$250,000 in ARPA Funds from the county to assist in replacing lift station #3. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this was approved. An application has been sent to MRPC.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD VEHICLE SALE:

The Road Department sold a 2012 Chevy 1 Ton truck; this was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp signed the title for Bock.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL REHABILITATION, JAIL EXPANSION:

Kirn reported that the second prisoner "pod" was completed. Kirn reported that the DEA Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) grant had been approved between the Sheriff and the U.S. Marshall's Office. An application is being made for \$5 million for new construction; revenue bonds will be sold, he said, to financial institutions and the source of revenue will be the per diem increase and the numerical increase for federal prisoners. The County will have no obligation with these bond payments. Also presented by Kirn was a draft agreement with an architecture firm for the jail expansion.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY:

Kirn provided an update of the planning for the training academy.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE UTILIZATION:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp mentioned that he would like to discuss a new-or different-space for the bailiffs. Judge Beger and head bailiff Chris Reeder will need to be included. This is being considered because the juvenile division is being assigned additional employees by the state, and they are expanding into the Community Service Program (COSP) space which necessitates

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COURTHOUSE UTILIZATION, Continued:

COSP to be relocated, potentially to the second floor within the court area.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SHERIFF'S CONTRACT:

Detective Shawn Hedge entered to obtain approval for an application for the State Cyber Crime Grant, which was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD AND BRIDGE FACILITY:

Cameron Schweiss, P.E., and Josh Kendle of Archer-Elgin Engineering entered at 1030 with Acting Superintendent of Roads Mark Case and Michelle Bock of the Road and Bridge Department for what became a lengthy discussion of the needs, location, etc. of the new road facility. A list of the equipment and type of storage needed was provided; fencing and lighting was discussed as well. There will be a tour made of the new facility built for the City of Rolla.

Commissioner Hicks left at 1130.

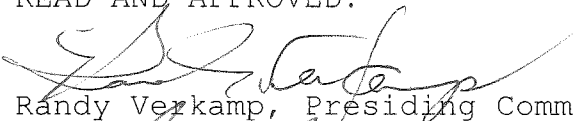
IN THE MATTER OF  
PAYROLL:

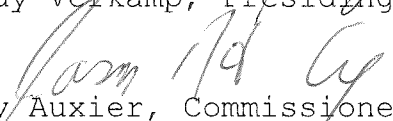
As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, payroll for 4/15/2022 in the amount of \$228,179.31 net wages, \$80,357.68 combined federal and state tax withholding, was approved.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD EQUIPMENT:

Purchase of a T770 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader (skid steer) for \$76,625 was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 14, 2022, Fourth day of the April term**

Now at this the 14th day of April the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner  
Joey 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 entered at 0900 and the Focus reporter was also present. County Sales Tax 0.5% revenue for April was \$275,417.13, 13.25% up in the rolling twelve-month comparison, and up 10.59% YTD compared with 2021. Green then left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Commissioner Auxier discussed several of the roads he traveled over and visited during the previous day's rain. Local resident Travis Bahr entered at 0910 roughly the same time as Collector Faith Barnes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Installation of cameras on the island in the front circle was discussed. The clerk said that the rooftop "weather camera", which had a complete view of the election truck and trailer the prior week, did not record and this would have been essential information in the case of the tampering with the truck the day after the election.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0930 and flooding of low-water crossings including one on Road 3000 was discussed. J highway was closed near the Pulaski County line due to flooding. Head Bailiff Chris Reeder entered at 0935.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD FACILITY:

The siting and the design of the new road facility was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Reeder said the power source was checked for the cameras which are being installed. He gave information on the video display and on additional cameras which will show the area of the health department door, the groundskeeper's shed and others; this will be a "massive improvement". The document retention guidelines of 30 days for security footage were discussed.



**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 14, 2022, Fourth day of the April term**

IN THE MATTER OF  
MCDC AND MRDC:

Commissioner Hicks presented information about recent meetings. Borrowing, loaning and credit risks were discussed with Bahr who wondered which entity bore the risk. Commissioner Hicks reported on the spectrum of entities awarded loans, such as a collision center in Rolla; a hostelry in Branson; Hicks said that MRDC loans "...outside the MRPC traditional 8 county area" and occasionally as far east as the St. Louis County area.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

The Commissioners discussed the potential for expansion of the jail and how it would be funded. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp recommended caution in forecasting the economic future for the revenue derived from housing federal prisoners.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT (RAY SCHWEIKHARDT):

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt came in to show an unopened can of green sand that he had purchased at auction; this was used in all types of metal casting.

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

Treasurer Carol Green and Collector Faith Barnes entered at 1110 to report on the MAC meeting where MoDOT Director Patrick McKenna spoke at their luncheon and representatives from Missouri Councils of Governments reported on 500 pages of federal grants which are potentially available for counties. Travis Elliott also spoke about the \$10 million allowance which must be voted by the Commission. Sissy Korich and Chris Reeder entered at 1120. Green will get the verbiage from staff at MRPC. Green said Travis cautioned the counties regarding federal procurement guidelines, particularly with respect to capital improvements. Use of county ARPA funds, and possible utilization of state ARPA funds by counties, was mentioned. Green and Barnes left at 1130.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Korich gave an update.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY LAND SALE:

Due to some concern regarding division of closing costs on the small wedge of 0.04 acre of PCSD Shooting Range land to be sold the Joe and Cathy Bond, Commissioner Auxier called Jeff Smallwood who explained the closing costs and itemization of fees; he believes that the County Ex-Officio Land Commissioner would be in charge of signing the deed. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp contacted Phelps County Surveyor and Ex Officio Land Commissioner Terris Cates and he will address this need.

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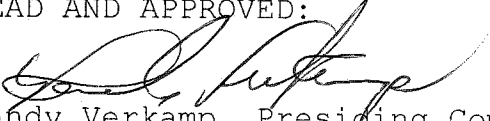
IN THE MATTER OF  
RECORDER FEE TURNOVER:

The Commissioners reviewed the Recorder's fee turnover of a total of \$23,455.07 for March, 2022 which included \$4,794.61 in CERF fees, which go to county employee retirement.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 66 and 63 invoices in the amounts of \$96,495.56 and \$68,489.08, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 19, 2022, Fifth day of the April term**

Now at this the 19th day of April the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

IN THE MATTER OF  
ST. JAMES WARD 2, ONE YEAR TERM,  
TIE-BREAK:

Because of a 62-62 vote tie, confirmed by the Verification Judge team who certified results for the April 5, 2022 election, candidates Gregory E. Edwards and Henry Nathan Kemnitzer agreed to settling the tie pursuant to RSMo 115.517(4) by coin toss. This was held at 0900 outside the Commission Hearing Room and the result was tails, indicative of a win for candidate Henry Nathan Kemnitzer. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt, multiple members of St. James city administration and Assessor Bill Stoltz and the Focus reporter were present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ARCHITECT AGREEMENT FOR  
JAIL EXPANSION:

Having been approved by Phelps County Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox, this agreement was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR JAIL EXPANSION PROJECT:

Proposals were received and opened from the following firms:

Nabholz of Springfield, Missouri

Cahill's Construction of Salem, Missouri

River City of Columbia, Missouri

Sheriff Kirn said that George K. Baum has been consulted regarding the revenue bond design; the CAP funding, should it be available, could be used to pay down the bond without penalty. Commissioner Hicks asked about available funding sources for paying off the bonds; Kirn said that 7.8 million would cover the cost of all the other renovation and 3 million for the expansion. He has been told that the CAP award is nearly a certainty. When asked by Commissioner Hicks about the potential for loss of federal prisoner per diem, Kirn told the Commission he felt he would be certain of the revenue.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SALES PRESENTATION:

Scott Kliethermes of Scheppers International Truck Center, Inc. entered at 0925. Acting Road Superintendent Mark Case and Michelle Bock of the Road & Bridge Department were also present. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0935. The cabs and

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 19, 2022, Fifth day of the April term**

SALES PRESENTATION, Continued:

chassis of the dump trucks is about \$109-110 thousand; the bed, plow, plow mount and stainless-steel spreaders are roughly an additional \$110 thousand. All acknowledged the steep rise in prices. Kliethermes said currently International, Kenworth, and Freightliner are only allotted so many vehicles to build in a year and additional orders are pushed forward. There are significant difficulties with supply chains. Procurement using Sourcewell was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
RIDGELINE DRIVE:

An inquiry having been made by John Ethridge on behalf of Rolla VFW Post 2025 regarding this road, the Commissioners said that the roadway had been accepted as part of the plat but never adopted as a road for County maintenance. This was confirmed by Case and Bock. Ethridge had asked whether the county could gravel this road. Local resident Chester Crider entered at 1000.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EQUIPMENT:

Issues with emissions equipment of several types on the Road equipment were discussed. The chipper is still not repaired but a manager from Van Klippel is on the job.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD MATERIALS:

A steep increase in the Asphalt Index was reported.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PRESSURE PAVING:

A quote from Donelson Construction Company, LLC of Clever, MO for their treatment called Modified Aggregate Quick Set (MAQS®) Surfacing and Pressure Paving for several areas of county roads was received and discussed. Crider left at 1015 and Kojro left at 1020. After further discussion, Case and Bock left at 1035.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

Sheriff Kirn returned at 1055 to speak with the Commissioners about selection of construction manager.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

At 1105 Director of Support Services, Building & Grounds Sissy Korich, Darin Pryor, P.E., Steve Hargis, P.E. and Tim Feeler with the city of Rolla entered to discuss removal of the evergreens along third street below the railroad bridge which impede the line of sight, as well as trimming the Bradford Pear trees along the bridge.

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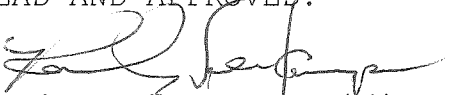
IN THE MATTER OF  
RIDGELINE DRIVE:


Commissioner Hicks received a phone call from John Ethridge about this road and explained that, while accepted as part of a subdivision plat, it had never been constructed as a road, was not part of the county road inventory and never had been maintained by the County. Commissioner Hicks questioned whether the VFW would want to investigate constructing the road.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 7140:

Commissioner Hicks discussed this road briefly.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 21, 2022, Sixth day of the April term**

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

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

IN THE MATTER OF  
CART FUNDS:

Local resident Josh Brown was present as was the Focus reporter. Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0900 and local resident Travis Bahr entered at 0905. Green reported \$49,468.95 in April CART gas taxes; the additional 2.5 cents in gas tax went into effect on October 1, 2021 and Green believes this was first remitted December, 2021. The monthly amount is up 14.17% in the month-to-month (MTM) comparison. Green left at 0908 just as Phelps County Sheriff's Department Lt. Chris Finch and Jail Lt. Joe Taylor entered.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY LAND SALE, PCSD SHOOTING RANGE:

Finch asked for clarification about the closing costs of a small 0.04 ac, m/l, parcel from the NW corner of the new PCSD shooting range; the Commission informed him that their original intent was for the buyer to pay these and this is what is reflected in the March 29, 2022 minutes. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp reported that Doctors Joe and Cathy Bond had agreed to this. Some discussion ensued about the location of pins, etc. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp spoke by phone with Ex-Officio Land Commissioner Terris Cates about a number of the details. Cates will be bringing the deed by later in the morning.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION AGREEMENT:

The AIA (American Institute of Architects) Agreement between the Phelps County Sheriff's Department and the Goldberg Group Architects, Professional Corporation of St. Joseph, MO for the Phelps County, MO Law Enforcement Center Addition was signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp. The Construction Manager for the project is to be determined. Finch and Taylor left at 0935.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LAND PURCHASE, ARPA FUNDS:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp signed the settlement statement for the parcel at 11780 County Road 3080; this nearly 3 acre tract immediately west of a parcel owned by the County and used as a supply depot, of sorts, was purchased from Billie K. Davis for \$150,000 in ARPA funds.

IN THE MATTER OF  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) APPLICATION,  
CITY OF ST. JAMES REQUEST NUMBER 3 (LIFT STATION):

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp contacted Kelly Sink at MRPC to notify her of the final decision to provide \$250,000 of the

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 21, 2022, Sixth day of the April term**

ARPA APPLICATION, CITY OF ST. JAMES, Continued:

County's ARPA funds to the city of St. James for part of their expense for a new lift station #3.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD WORK PLANNING:

Acting Superintendent of Roads Mark Case and Michelle Bock of the Road & Bridge Department entered at 1005 to review plans for road maintenance. Because of looming construction along County Road 8490, maintenance may be delayed due to the inevitable wear-and-tear on the surface by heavy trucking. Also discussed was the proposed hot-deck overlay of Road 1000 between Highway B and Highway U. The westernmost 1300 feet would cost roughly \$20,000 and St. James City Administrator Jim Fleming was contacted about this fairly short-notice matter; since paving will start on April 27, a special session of the city council will be needed. Fleming will reply with more details. Road 7240 was next discussed; Commissioner Hicks called a property owner there who is building; they have 80% of their concrete poured but the owner said that they had "a year's worth of construction left to go."

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp left at 1100 for Wiggins Abstract for the closing on property. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 1105.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Upon Presiding Commissioner Verkamp's return at 1130 Campbell asked the Commissioners about the hours of the Health Department being maintained as 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F; she says the commonest complaint of the public is that they "close before I can get there after work." She is thinking about switching to a M-Th for the clinical staff with longer hours to permit serving people after work. She says only 2 of her staff live close enough to go home for lunch; 30-minute lunch hours may work and she is investigating 0730 to 1800 which would be a 10-hour day, probably closing on Mondays since Fridays are now fairly consistently busier than Mondays. She plans to survey some of her clients to see how such a change would appeal to them. Campbell is thinking about her LabCorp lab services and discussed electronic medical records. Campbell left at 1155.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PINE HILL CEMETERY:

Local resident Ron Nappier entered at 1155 to ask about a family cemetery. The recorder informed him that it had been deeded to the County in 1886; there is an effort to care for it as a non-profit but there has been difficulty in obtaining a tax ID number. He visited the recorder to find out who owned the cemetery; it turned out to be the County. He was referred to his attorney.

IN THE MATTER OF  
VICTIMS:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 21, 2022, Sixth day of the April term**

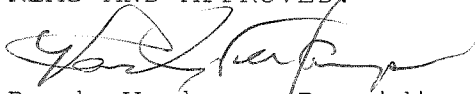
VICTIMS, Continued:


Crystal Cox, with Victim Services for the Prosecuting Attorney's office, asked the Commission for approval of a victim display at the Courthouse for the week of 4/25; this was granted.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 21 and 47 invoices in the amounts of \$9,700.20 and \$27,406.96, respectively; as well as 2 invoices for employee medical coverage in the amount of \$127,557.25 (May premium); additionally, three invoices for RollaWest TIF Economic Activity Taxes (EATS) in the amount of \$11,844.79. Representing ½ of the sales tax (County 0.5% plus LEST 0.375%) on sales at the RollaWest development, this implies \$2.7 million in sales.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2



## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

April 26, 2022, Seventh day of the April term

Now at this the 26th day of April the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD FACILITY:

On inquiry from the Focus reporter, the plans for the new road facility on Road 3080 was discussed. Local residents Ray Schweikhardt and Travis Bahr were also present. When asked for the timeline, Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that the engineering firm had been retained; Commissioner Hicks discussed some of the considerations for storage. Commissioner Auxier said the attraction was being out of town and Sheeley remarked that the availability of the ARPA Funds really made it possible. Local resident Chester Crider entered at 0920 just as Sheeley left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PINE HILL CEMETERY:

Crider said the people now in charge of the Pine Hill Cemetery took over in 1992. The plot book was burned many years ago and he is unsure, now, of all the names of the individuals interred there. Crider's family was heavily represented on the cemetery board; after someone moved, he assumed the treasurer's position. As such, he has received notification of the interest earned on two CD's held by the association and its reporting to the IRS. This means the association has funds and they are considering the best way forward, to establish a non-profit, for the care of the cemetery. Crider mentioned the county's ownership of the cemetery; he believes that the early residents associated with the Snelson-Brinker cabin (now burned) as well as some Trail of Tears Indian migrants may be buried there; a surveyor is planning to mark the corners and may also be able to conduct soundings to detect gravesites. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0935. Crider exited at 0950.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY LAND SALE:

Pro-rated estimated property taxes for the property of Billie K. Davis at 11780 County Road 3080 were paid through Wiggins Abstract; these amounted to roughly \$240 and will be forwarded to the Collector.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 2300:

Local resident Scott White had expressed a concern about Kenny Lane, his term for the east-west limb of Private Drive 2305, both in terms of its narrowness and its use by trash haulers who back along its course "in the middle of the night." White had inquired about the County improving this roadway; as it had never been accepted into the County road inventory it was

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 26, 2022, Seventh day of the April term**

ROAD 2300, Continued:

pointed out that this would not be undertaken. Road 2030 is in the County inventory; Private Drive 2305 is not. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp will communicate this to White.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 1000:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department contacted Presiding Commissioner Verkamp by phone to report that the city of St. James lacked budgeted funds to complete the western end of this paving project on Road 1000; furthermore, if the Road Department is to avoid impending wet weather more trucks are needed which will necessitate contract hauling. The bid winner has no trucks available and another local company has trucks but charges more per hour. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that this segment might be paid from ARPA funds. Kojro left at 1045.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COLLECTOR:

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 1050 and rendered an opinion about pro-rated taxes for properties sold by private parties to tax-exempt entities mid-way through a year. Then Barnes said that there was personal property tax debt of two year's duration on the town MFA property; she said personal property taxes followed the person; MFA is defunct and First State Community Bank acquired the vehicles (according to their tags) and they might be liable for the property taxes. This is a sum of about \$3000. She knows that two of the vehicles were sold by FSCB. Travis Bahr said that MFA Inc. in Columbia "cut their credit off" and refused to allow them to purchase any more inventory.

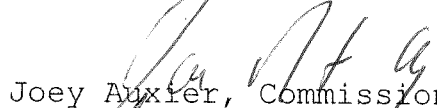
IN THE MATTER OF  
PAYROLL:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payroll for April 30, representing work dates 4/1 - 15/2022 with \$222,364.73 net wages, \$68,034.55 (federal) and \$9,377.50 (state) withholdings.

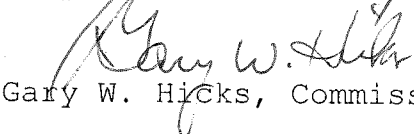
READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 28, 2022, Eighth day of the April term**

Now at this the 28th day of April the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

Phelps County Jail Lt. Joe Taylor entered at 0900 with the Request for Proposals for the Expansions & Renovations to the Phelps County Law Enforcement Center. The three firms submitting qualifications on April 14, 2022 will be solicited; proposals are due no later than May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.; the firms are to email them to Sheriff Mike Kirn's administrative assistant. The Focus reporter was also present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN

Collector Faith Barnes entered with local resident Gabriel Hutchcraft, a local high school student who is interested in learning more about local government.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HOSPITAL BOARD, RESIGNATION:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp reported that John Denbo resigned from the Phelps Health Hospital Board the previous evening and that the Commission would be responsible for appointing a replacement until the April, 2023 General Municipal election. The Commission will aim toward making the appointment in the next two weeks.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ASSESSED VALUATION:

Barnes pointed out that the most recent issue of the MAC magazine placed Phelps County as the third largest third-class county in the state, by assessed valuation. The potential for moving into another class, and the process for doing so, was discussed. Local resident Travis Bahr entered at 0930.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REPLAT OF RIDGE CREEK SUBDIVISION:

Local resident and developer Lyle Cox and Angie Gable of Carmack Surveying in Pulaski County entered to discuss the matter of replatting Ridge Creek Subdivision and after lengthy discussion of their options, they will opt to make modifications to the plat and will return on May 3.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAMES FOUNDATION GRANT:

Zach Woolsey, grant writer for Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), is working with the James Foundation which seeks approval for a modification of their original plans to

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**April 28, 2022, Eighth day of the April term**

JAMES FOUNDATION GRANT, Continued:

build a lodge. They have hopes to build a wilderness school which, as an educational facility, could supply a nature school for the St. James Schools. They feel this would fit better with Lucy Wortham James' desires for the property. This is a Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), a tax credit program, which abates business taxes for an entity such as an S-Corp, etc. As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the local government certification was approved. Bahr asked if this was a mechanism for a private citizen to earmark their tax dollars; Woolsey said it was. Bahr asked what the vision of the park was; Woolsey said it was more of educational

IN THE MATTER OF  
AETNA LIFE STOP-LOSS COVERAGE:

Commissioner Auxier moved and Commissioner Hicks seconded the approval of the Aetna Life Stop-Loss Coverage.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 1050:

The Commissioners discussed an anonymous trash complaint on this road.

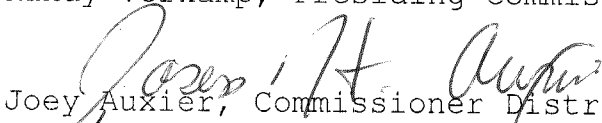
IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 44 and 40 invoices in the amounts of \$41,871.62 and \$25,348.10, respectively; payment of 116 invoices for training, stipends and mileage for election judges and workers, and poll rent, for the April 5, 2022 election in the amount of \$16,787.61; 10 invoices consisting primarily of the U.S. Bank credit card invoice for \$67,831.43.

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2