

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 1, 2022 Ninth day of the October term

Now at this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 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 ASSESSOR'S QUARTERLY:

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt and the Focus reporter were present. As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the quarterly report was approved for submittal. Also present was Dale Martin, Executive Director of the Rolla Regional Economic Commission.

### IN THE MATTER OF REAL ESTATE COURT ORDERS:

The Commission received real estate court orders numbered 2022000001 through 2022000013, which were for removal of one Rolla city NID fee and 12 Public Water Supply District #4 (PWSD #4) fees mistakenly carried over into the 2022 tax book when the clerk extended it. Commissioner Hicks had reservations. As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks these were approved. Additionally, real estate court orders numbered 2022000014 through 2022000023 were evaluated and approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier; these were for abatements secondary to fire and pro-ratings for acquisition of property by government and/or non-profit entities.

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

Commissioner Hicks informed the reporter that he had forwarded on a schedule of events involving the MOCA van.

### IN THE MATTER OF ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0915 and briefly discussed work near Roads 3560 and 3570.

### IN THE MATTER OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS:

Anne Freand of Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) entered at 0916, followed by area engineer for MoDOT Preston Kramer and Rolla city administrator John Butz at 0929.

### IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF'S GRANT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING (EMPG):

Sheriff Mike Kirn made an unscheduled visit to the Commission with his new EMPG paperwork; as moved by Commissioner Hicks and

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SHERIFF'S GRANT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING (EMPG), Cont'd:

seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the contract was approved. He shared a document with the Commission but Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said it was a matter for a closed session. Kirn departed at 0934.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TRANSPORTATION NEEDS:

Bonnie Prigge, Executive Director of MRPC, entered at 0934. She commented on the "exciting times in Missouri transportation" the region is witnessing presently. She outlined that MoDOT has asked MRPC to help with the high priority unfunded needs list, as well as to consider the BRO bridge list. She then turned the discussion over to Kramer. He felt positive about the level of federal funding for transportation, as well as increased revenues from the increased gas tax. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0940. Working from a large spreadsheet of transportation needs provided by MRPC staff, he said the goal was to move as many of these projects to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as possible. Kramer said he did have bad news as well, however; this was the back log of work due to "decades of underfunding" and the double-digit inflation which resulted in as much as 40% higher costs in projects. Barnes left at 0944. Subsequently Kramer thoroughly discussed the list of transportation needs. He asked if there was still the desire to pursue Ph-605, the project to widen US Highway 63 from 3 to five lanes between I-44 and University Drive. Butz was consulted; he said the city was "okay with removing" the project from the list. In an aside, Kramer said that the Transportation Alternatives Program or "TAP", there are triple the normal annual allotments in the current federal transportation bill...these mostly deal with pedestrian facilities. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked if these were typically sidewalks; "Or trails," said Kramer. Applications for these projects will be taken again this fall and in the fall of 2023. Kramer fielded a question about the full-depth shoulder construction methods being used on I-44; he said this made the shoulders much more suitable for any traffic diversion that might be needed. Ph-627, the Rolla Amtrak stop, is still a hope of Kramers. Ph-632, the Bridge on Route B over Clear Creek, is completed and will be dropped. The focus of Ph-642 is to address the flooding of I-44 near Jerome; Kramer thinks the region will soon suffer another flood. Ph-644 is directed at increased public transportation options; Freand spoke to this need and the studies being done with the SMTS shuttles and their use. Schweikhardt left at 1005 and local resident Beth Pross entered. Since it is the bridge in the worst condition of all the state route bridges in the county, Ph-654 for Bridge T0878 over Spring Creek on Route J was discussed in some detail. Kramer said that the Highway B/Highway 68 interchange in St. James, Ph-655, was definitely a priority in St. James. Subsequently the ranking of projects, through the state's system of tiers, was discussed. Commissioner Hicks expressed the opinion that the Highway V overpass and interchange should be a high priority, and perhaps another interchange to the east and recommended mindfulness of the need for an east bypass around Rolla. Pross expressed her concern, as a citizen frequently traveling across the Highway V area, that there is incessant

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TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, Continued:

competition from truck traffic exiting westbound I-44, and westbound traffic on the north outer road attempting a left turn, either to enter the interstate on-ramps or to proceed southbound on Highway V to access Old St. James Road. She said trucks do not yield and cause prolonged waits for passenger traffic, which has begun taking the back road around the Love's McDonald site in order to enter Highway V and proceed southbound in order to achieve those goals. Considering the priorities, the Commission made no changes. Prigge then went into a intricate recounting of the multimodal list and the high priority needs list. Dan Cavender with BPJ Insurance entered at 1032. Commissioner Auxier said there is significant concern with congestion at school arrival/departure times between Highway DD and I-44; this was addressed in Ph-614(b). Commissioner Hicks said Northwe Outer Road is experiencing increased traffic and said Ph-636 and Ph-637 are worthwhile projects. Commissioner Auxier, when multimodal projects were taken up, said "...a lot of people are saying we need a bike trail between Rolla and St. James" but the group acknowledged the problems of constructing this within an outer roadway which becomes an emergency bypass route. The Rolla National Airport in Maries County, on the multimodal list, was discussed with input from Butz. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked how much commercial activity occurred there. After discussion of BRO and Bridge Formula Program (BFP) bridges, the three priorities in the future were believed to be bridges on Roads 2110, 8410 and 7460. Barnes briefly returned between 1108 and 1110. Kramer, Prigge, Pross, Butz and the reporter left at 1115.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY LIABILITY COVERAGE:

Cavender was able to discuss, for several minutes, the process underway to obtain bids on builder's risk for the jail expansion; he had spoken with PCSD Lt. Joe Taylor. He is also proceeding on the renewal process with MoPERM and perhaps Missouri Public Risk (MPR). MoPERM will not negotiate their premium. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said he would like to see quotes before any decision is made.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 10 invoices for \$18,982.57 in contract pay.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**November 3, 2022 Tenth day of the October term**

Now at this the 3rd day of November 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  
VETERAN'S DAY:

The Focus reporter was present until 0915; he told the Commission that his article detailing an interview with a 99 year old World War II veteran would come out soon.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS 3450 AND 3410:

The Commissioners discussed a very serious allegation of brandishing by a resident along this road, perpetrated against some local youths driving on Road 3450 near its junction with Highway BB. Treasurer Carol Green entered at 9:20, followed by local resident Josh Brown. Law enforcement is involved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 2110:

Commissioner Hicks reported he had spoken to NB West Project Manager Dave Laramore about the timeline for this road's repair. Laramore said both of their pavement milling machines were down and asked how important it was for the road to be finished by December 31, 2022. Commissioner Hicks stated this was verbally agreed upon; he then contacted Laramore by phone and put him on speaker, notifying him as he did so. Laramore said Road 2110 would be done "in the next week or the following week" at the latest, adding, "We said we'll get it done and now that we've said that the conversation's over."

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp stepped out from 1000 to 1010 to take several phone calls.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COLLECTOR'S CONTRACT:

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 1014 to report that she had seen an unannounced increase in one of her leased equipment bills; this was not a condition in the 36 month lease. The Commission suggested she continue making the original payments.

IN THE MATTER OF  
2022 PROPERTY TAXES:

Barnes informed the Commissioner that the tax bills were now published online, and would be mailed out in 3-4 business days. She has notified local print media also.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MAC PREPAID LEGAL SERVICES:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
November 3, 2022 Tenth day of the October term

MAC PREPAID LEGAL SERVICES, Continued:

The clerk provided the Commission with the latest invoice, showing that the County remained within the prepaid, monthly allowance.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY CLERK'S TURNOVER:

Pursuant to RSMo 50.370, the clerk notified the Commission of the receipt of \$2,660.00 and \$662.95 in passport fees and county clerk's fees, respectively, for October 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURT ORDERS:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, real estate court orders numbered 2022000024 through 2022000043 were approved.

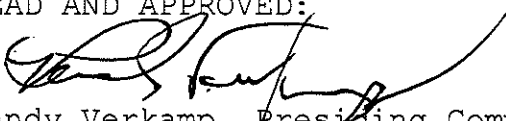
IN THE MATTER OF  
MISSOURI OZARKS COMMUNITY ACTION (MOCA):

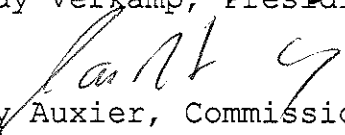
Commissioner Hicks supplied information on the recent MOCA conference addressing "Local Theory of Change."


IN THE MATTER OF  
ANNUAL CERF ELECTION:

The annual decision on the amount of the 4% of gross salary, paid into CERF for full-time employees, that would be shouldered by the County was due. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the partitioning was to remain at 1% (County contribution) and 3% (employee contribution).

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 8, 2022 Eleventh day of the October term

Now at this the 8th day of November 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  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) GRANTS:

Lt. Paul Lambert of the Sheriff's Department entered at 0900 with Sheriff Mike Kirn, Treasurer Carol Green, and the Focus reporter. Lambert recounted the DOJ audit which seems to be never-ending. There is now a new registration site for application for draw-downs for DOJ grants, called ASAP.gov, which is "Automated Standard Application for Payments" and is not proving to be user-friendly for PCSD staff, the treasurer or the clerk. Lambert left at 0905.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SALES TAXES, REPORT FROM TREASURER:

Green provided the Commission the October sales tax receipts, showing County 0.5% sales tax was \$321,946.67, up 16.53% in the month-to-month comparison, but showing overall a 7.22% increase in the rolling twelve-month comparison.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION AND BID SOLICITATION  
FOR FENCE REMOVAL & INSTALLATION:

Kirn reported a paucity of bidders for removal of some of the fencing at the expected site for the jail expansion. He wants to retain a fenced-in area for the trustees. The estimate may be over bid threshold but he only had one company interested. He then briefly recounted needing to install propane tanks below ground, due to the easement restrictions on a 5,000-gallon tank close to the railroad right-of-way. The solicitation needed for the fence was discussed and the following was approved:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on removal and installation of approximately 708 linear feet of fence at the county jail building. Bids will be accepted in the office of the Phelps County Clerk, 200 N. Main St., Suite 102, Rolla, MO 65401 until 1000 a.m. Thursday, December 8, 2022, at which time they will be opened. Bids should be in sealed envelopes marked clearly on the outside, "Fence Removal and Installation Bid." Specific requirements should be obtained at the Phelps County Sheriff's Department from Sheriff Mike Kirn at 573-426-3860. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Thursday, November 24, 2022 - Phelps County Focus

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
November 8, 2022 Eleventh day of the October term

IN THE MATTER OF  
VEHICLE SALE, PCSD:

Lt. Lambert returned at 0918 followed by Michelle Bock of the Road Department. Lambert reported a jail transport van had been sold; as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the sale of a 2017 Chevy Cargo van with 226,xxx miles was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD EQUIPMENT, DEF SENSORS,  
AND WARRANTIES:

Bock discussed the DEF sensor problem on the Road and Bridge Department equipment; the sensors fail and are unavailable; they must be bypassed for the equipment to operate though the DEF reservoirs must be kept full. The pernicious problem with DEF is compounding concerns with warranty coverage.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Commissioner Auxier discussed Parker Lane and a low-water crossing. No actions were taken. Bock reported on work ongoing on Road 7520 ("Gately Road"), Road 6040 and Road 6120 ("Richard Bush's Road"). Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0927 followed by Collector Faith Barnes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
GENERAL ELECTION DAY:

Barnes provided an election update about her polling place.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE INPUT (ADELE HOLLINGSWORTH):

Long-time 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit employee Adele Hollingsworth entered at 0945 to report that she had not had any heat in her office for 2 weeks; parts were on order for the HVAC equipment and she had been quite chilled. Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp called the Director of Support Services, Building and Grounds Sissy Korich, and she will work with Hollingsworth on a solution.

IN THE MATTER OF  
INTERSTATE 44 CONSTRUCTION:

Kojro asked about a "giant rockpile" accumulating near the MM 179 overpass; Commissioner Auxier said it was left over from excavating the Interstate 44 shoulders.

IN THE MATTER OF  
BICYCLE PATHS:

Kojro wanted to know what the bike path plans were on the high priority, multi-modal unfunded needs presented at the November 1 meeting. A frequent cyclist in the county, he said that Road 3120 was, in his opinion, one of the best roads for cycling between Rolla and St. James though cyclists can be intimidated by a 55 mph speed limit there. He said, "Please don't let

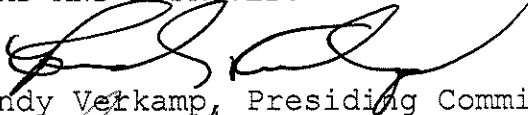
**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

November 8, 2022 Eleventh day of the October term

BICYCLE PATHS, Continued:

people con you into putting a two-foot paved strip and calling it a bike lane."

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2



**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
November 10, 2022 Twelfth day of the October term

Now at this the 10th day of November 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 EQUIPMENT:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the letter to the John Deere Company requesting rental of a 6130M tractor was approved. Treasurer Carol Green, presumptive Treasurer-elect Cathy Tipton, Collector Faith Barnes and the Focus reporter were present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SALES TAXES, REPORT FROM TREASURER:

Green reported the November sales tax receipts, showing County 0.5% sales tax was \$273,476.22; this was up 6.72% in the month-to-month comparison and showed overall a 7.58% increase in the rolling twelve-month comparison. This was 92% of what was originally budgeted for the full year. Tonya Greven and Mike Scott of BPJ Insurance entered at 0925, followed at 0957 by Ashley Campbell and Faith Barnes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS:

The bids for employee health insurance were opened as scheduled at 1000. The bids were received from:

VSP Vision Care (Vision only)	Rancho Cordova, CA
Group Benefit Services	Springfield, MO
Trusted Insurance Solutions, LLC	Richardson, TX
Barker Phillips Jackson (BPJ)	Rolla, MO

Scott discussed his company's proposal, in which BPJ would be the broker, at great length. His company supplies coverage for the Rolla-31 School District. Scott and Greven still needed information on the large claims from GBS in order to complete their proposal. Scott also recommended that the County change to fully insured dental and vision coverage. Their plan would use a division of United Health Care, UMR, as the third-party administrator. Scott and Greven left at 1116.

IN THE MATTER OF  
FERAL HOGS, MU EXTENSION:

Kevin Crider with MU Extension entered at 1118 to provide an update on the effort to obliterate feral hogs. He said there were about 1300 landowners eager enough to be rid of them that they gave access to this joint effort between Extension, Missouri Department of Conservation and the USDA. Twelve

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**November 10, 2022 Twelfth day of the October term**

**FERAL HOGS, MU EXTENSION:**

thousand hogs, 9800 hogs and 5500 hogs have been exterminated in years 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to-date), respectively. Crider is responsible for Phelps, Pulaski, Crawford, Dent, Texas and Shannon Counties. Criminal prosecutions of those releasing hogs into the public lands are being aggressively pursued; Crider said that pursuant to the 2021 session of the state legislature passing HB 369, originally a prescribed burn-related bill but having been amended to include ban on release of hogs into the wild state, there were felonies associated with multiple convictions of release of feral hogs. Turning to other law enforcement concerns, Crider said, "You can inspect any commercial vehicle at any time, with no probable cause." Some of the justification for this is a reported 7% positivity rate for Brucellosis. Approximately 360 or more hogs have been tested by MDC and MU Extension annually; at least 14% are felt to be directly related to hogs from Oklahoma and NE Texas. Treasurer Carol Green and Cathy Tipton returned at 1140; Crider left at 1145.

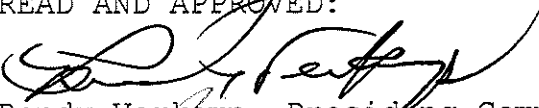
**IN THE MATTER OF  
BANKING AGREEMENT, FSCB  
AND JAIL EXPANSION:**

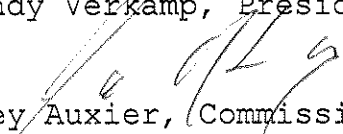
Green wanted online banking established such that loan proceeds from FSCB would be drawn down by the Treasurer's office into the County General Fund. This will allow payments for the jail expansion to pass through the financial system of the County. As moved by Commissioner Hicks, the agreement was signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp after it was seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

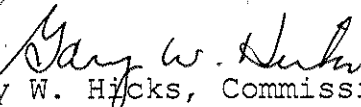
**IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 54 and 85 invoices in the amounts \$65,610.69 and \$141,718.32, respectively.

**READ AND APPROVED:**

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 15, 2022 Thirteenth day of the October term

Now at this the 15th day of November 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  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS:

The Commission deliberated on several aspects of the health insurance proposals received. Collector Faith Barnes, Recorder Robin Kordes, Assessor Tim Kean, the Focus reporter and Grant Wilson, Field Representative for Missouri 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Jason Smith, were present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 2110:

The milling of Road 2110. Surface repairs are imminent. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 0920. The reporter left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

Barnes expressed the desire to contract with a local firm rather than GBS, the current third-party administrator. Campbell thinks claims are not paid timely. Kean asked why the County could not partner with the employees at Phelps Health, saying, "Don't they have good insurance? Anecdotally, I've heard they have really good insurance." Commissioner Hicks said cooperation between the hospital and Mercy Pediatrics is coming to an end. The office holders left at 0943.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 6120, ROADS 2110 AND 8010:

Superintendent of Roads Mark Case and Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0944. Case explained that work on Road 6120 was short one load of asphalt, meaning equipment will have to be hauled there to finish. Case thought the east side of Road 2110 would take a couple of days, and perhaps Road 8010 will be done the week of 11/21/22.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked Case for input on health insurance from the Road Department. Case said a major impediment was the lack of employer contribution to the sizeable family premiums. Case thinks tightens the labor market more.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD EQUIPMENT:

Case and Bock gave Wilson information on their persistent problems with DEF tanks and sensors on their equipment.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

November 15, 2022 Thirteenth day of the October term

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD FACILITY:

Various aspects of the upcoming project such as additional land purchase, site preparation and potential utilization of wood fuel to be created, were discussed. A short video of a large wood furnace was viewed. Case and Bock then left.

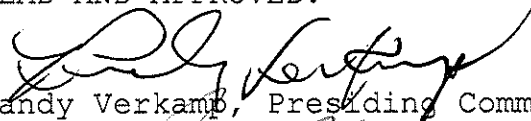
IN THE MATTER OF  
ARPA FUNDING FOR  
FOUNTAIN IN ROLLA:

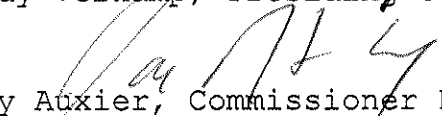
Presiding Commissioner Verkamp had received a request for Commission support for the Rolla Downtown Business Association to obtain ARPA funds for a fountain downtown. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PHELPS HEALTH:

Phelps Health Board of Trustees member Dick Elgin, P.E., entered at 1136 to inform the Commission of the significant problems the hospital was encountering recruiting for pediatricians and other medical physicians and nurses. He said that ECC in Rolla and Union, and Linn State Tech, seemed to be the major programs now for nursing education for the area. Treasurer Carol Green and Cathy Tipton entered at 1140.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 17, 2022 Fourteenth day of the October term

Now at this the 17th day of November 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  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEADLINE:

Commissioner Hicks said he had received the notice that the deadline to turn invoices in for payment was noon on December 13. County Clerk-elect Laura Johnson was present.

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

Commissioner Hicks announced the upcoming meeting of RREC the morning of November 18.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE:

An employee of the Health Department has recently suffered a house fire; funds and items are being collected.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS 2110 and 8010:

Superintendent of Roads Mark Case and Assistant Superintendent Shawn Pearson entered at 0920 to report on progress on Roads 2110 and 8010, departing at 0930.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MOPERM RENEWAL, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

Lt. Chris Finch entered at 0940 to present renewal documents for the Sheriff's department personal property liability coverage; as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this was approved. Finch then left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE,  
DISCUSSED BY GBS CEO MIKE DEREN:

GBS CEO Mike Deren entered at 0952, followed by Assessor Tim Kean; Director of Support Services, Building and Grounds Sissy Korich and Jennifer Wiese of the Health Department; Recorder of Deeds Robin Kordes; Collector Faith Barnes; Sheriff Mike Kirn; Director of Senior Companions Yvonne Leuthauser. He provided a look-back at the history of the County's request, in 2014, to work with the local hospital; recounted some of the no-cost-to-insured benefits such as sleep studies; reminded all of the significant discount represented by 135% of Medicare rates; the high utilization of Phelps Health, being 82.29% of all claims; the room for improvement in pharmacy claims; the help available with the nurse navigator. He reviewed in detail the Key Performance Indicator information. Addressing the lack of

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

November 17, 2022 Fourteenth day of the October term

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE, Continued:

benefits to the dependents, Deren said this was very typical across the industry; the policies very typically have great benefits for the mostly employee. There is a change coming in 2023, with plans allowing for enrolling dependents not disqualifying those dependents for subsidy on the ACA Marketplace. Drug costs are significant, and increasing. Generic use is fairly high but 90 day prescriptions could increase. There are some employees on very expensive biologics; GBS believes there would be significant savings possible. Apparently the "adherence" (or compliance) with prescribed medicines could improve, especially with diabetes drugs. Asking for employee input, Deren heard from Wiese that some of the claims for flu shots through the Health Department were very slow to be reimbursed. Deren asked her to contact GBS to work on a solution for this; there is an intermediary involved. Stop-loss was then discussed. Barnes offered some comments. Deren left at 1140 after learning from Presiding Commissioner Verkamp that a competing proposal was working on the high-loss claim information that GBS had provided them.

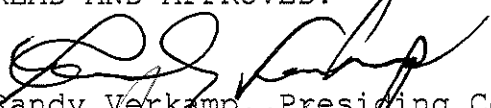
IN THE MATTER OF  
COURT ORDERS:

Real Estate Court Orders 2022000044 and 2022000045 were approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

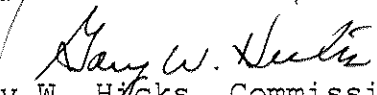
IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved the payment of 45 and 52 invoices in the amounts of \$88,781.54 and \$14,965.77, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

November 22, 2022 Fifteenth day of the October term

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

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

Commissioner Auxier was returning from the MAC meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF  
AARP TAX HELP:

The clerk notified the Commission that, due to imminent demolition of the Holloway House, AARP Tax Help had asked for use of the Sky Room not only for Thursdays, but also for Mondays in the February-April 15 timeframe. The Commission was agreeable to this. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt and the Focus reporter were present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LETTER OF SUPPORT, ROLLA CITY  
USE OF ARPA FUNDS:

Darin Pryor, P.E. of the Rolla Public Works Department and Floyd Jernigan, Parks Director made an unscheduled visit to the meeting. Jernigan said that part of the Acorn Trail needed replacement; widening from 4 to 8 feet for better ADA compliance was planned. For the \$495,000 in ARPA funds, the city can use projects completed between 3/21/2021 and the present as match; this implies all but \$66-70,000 in the match is covered. The clerk asked about future closure of parks facilities in the event of future outbreak of respiratory disease; Jernigan provided reassurances that the city would make careful decisions. After agreeing to provide a draft of the desired letter to the clerk, they left at 0920.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REAL ESTATE COURT ORDER,  
CHAPTER 100 (HARTMANN):

This court order, numbered 2022000469 (Account number 2022-62063) which reduced the personal property tax from \$417,698.70 to \$114,287.55, was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REAL ESTATE COURT ORDER,  
EEZ PROPERTY:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, this court order numbered 2022000046 (Parcel number 2022-9618.32) which reduced real estate taxes from \$65,759.34 to \$26,405.74 on a hotel, was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved 20 and 15 invoices in the amounts of \$115,314.29 and \$14,549.30, respectively. Also

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 22, 2022 Fifteenth day of the October term

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, Continued:

approved were three invoices for United Missouri Bank (UMB) TIF Economic Activity Taxes ("EATS") for Rolla Westside in the amount of \$30,193.39 and the Group Benefit Services invoice for December employee health insurance coverages of \$122,661.99. Schweikhardt left at 0925 followed by the reporter. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0935.

IN THE MATTER OF  
STOP SIGN, ROADS 8170 AND 8200:

Kojro asked about the stop sign at this intersection, pointing out that a car turning north from Road 8200 after a stop might not be seen by a car traveling north on Road 8170 which would be cresting a hill just south of the intersection; it could be traveling quickly. Solutions such as a "T" intersection sign or some other sign for the northbound traffic on Road 8170 were discussed. Tonya Greven and Mike Scott of BPJ entered at 0950; Assessor Tim Kean, Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell and Director of Building and Grounds Sissy Korich entered at 1000.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSAL, BPJ:

The proposal from BPJ was discussed at length by Greven and Scott. This group had several concerns; one an employee with high claims and more-than-expected pharmacy costs for the diagnosis that BPJ had seen in the records provided (all of which were anonymized), and the other the use of specialty medications known as "biologics" (recombinant antibodies) which may or may not be amenable to patient utilization or assistance programs. Commissioner Auxier entered at 1050. Greven said that Anthem and Aetna both declined to provide fully-insured plans; they said that they "would not be competitive." Scott and Greven left at 1150. After further discussion, Commissioner Auxier moved and Commissioner Hicks seconded to change the third party administrator to that working with BPJ: UMR, a division of United Health Care. After a discussion of premiums, Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded an increase of 5% of both the employee portions and the employer portions of the premiums, to facilitate a \$500 deductible for a very wide range of providers. There will be an employee navigator online platform for enrollment at no charge.

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

Commissioner Auxier provided a synopsis of the MAC conference.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REAL ESTATE COURT ORDERS:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, real estate court orders numbered 2022000047 and 2022000048, for parcels 2022-5580 and 2022-13700 (respectively) were approved.



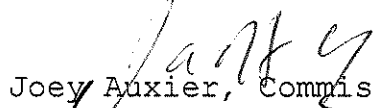
PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 22, 2022 Fifteenth day of the October term

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 29, 2022 Sixteenth day of the October term

Now at this the 29th day of November 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:

Treasurer Carol Green, local resident Ray Schweikhardt, Collector Faith Barnes and the Focus reporter were present. Local resident Richard Hashagen attended momentarily only. Green presented the gas tax revenues; the total for the year is now, after 11 months, nearly 1% over the total amount budgeted. The contribution of the additional 2.5 cents of gas tax was discussed, then Green left.

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

Barnes asked the Commission how familiar they were with the 18 resolutions passed at the recent annual MAC meeting. One was an increase from 25 to 75 feet distance for electioneering at the polls; the clerk offered no comment. Efforts to standardize used motor vehicle values in some fashion are underway.

### IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE METAL DETECTORS:

Schweikhardt expressed concern that the bib overalls he was partial to would set off the metal detectors. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that hand wandling would be used.

### IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Continuing with some active concerns, Schweikhardt asked about the "Bahr Property" along the outer road and whether the University might purchase it, which he opposes.

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

Schweikhardt requested an update on feedback received by the County about misuse of prescription drugs; none was available.

### IN THE MATTER OF CITY OF ROLLA AND FOUNTAIN:

The plans for a fountain to be built at the south end of the business district were discussed. It is unclear how the city plans to pay for this.

### IN THE MATTER OF REAL ESTATE COURT ORDER:

## PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

November 29, 2022 Sixteenth day of the October term

REAL ESTATE COURT ORDER, Continued:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, Court Order 2022000049 for Parcel No. 2022-6981, which reduced taxes from \$869.78 to \$419.49 on a prorated basis for land bought by the University, was approved. Barnes left at 0920.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY LOGO:

The Commission was advised by the clerk that the simple, red and blue county logo from the website belonged to the County, and the website developer would be willing to convert the image to a form better suited to printing. They were agreeable to its use.

IN THE MATTER OF  
APTITUDE INTERNET:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Michelle Bock of the Road Department and, when asked, she informed the Commission by speaker phone that the company was not calling the Road and Bridge Department on Mondays to advise of the location of their utility work for the week ahead. They had been instructed to do this.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY LIABILITY COVERAGE:

The clerk notified the Commission that she would complete the MoPERM questionnaire and get it to BPJ. Local resident Chester Kojro entered and the reporter left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 8010:

Barnes returned at 0940 to express, on behalf of her husband, gratitude for the work done on Road 8010. She then left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PROJECT TAX EXEMPTION, ROADS 2110 AND 8010:

DOR Form 5060 was approved for NB West from 11/1 through 12/1/2022, as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier. NB West, the contractor, will not have to pay sales tax on material purchased for the project this way.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CORONER:

Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered for an unscheduled visit and the Missouri State Coroner's Training Fund was discussed. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Kathy Little, Missouri Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Association Executive Director. The makeup and vacancies on the MCMEA board were discussed. She acknowledged awareness of the impending "sweep" of the MSCTF funds in the state's general fund, and verbalized appreciation for the concern that coroners will not be able to access this money which seemed intended for their training, not the state of Missouri General Fund. The call then ended and Coverdell left.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

November 29, 2022 Sixteenth day of the October term

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD VACATION:

Kurtis Zigrye, of the Phelps County Sheriff's Department, made an unscheduled visit to ask about the process of road vacation.

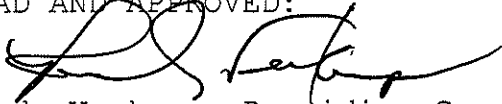
IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

Transitioning from Group Benefit Services to the new plan under United Health Care, administered by BPJ, was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PHELPS CONNECTIONS FOR  
SENIORS, CDBG APPLICATION:

Green re-entered briefly to exhort the clerk to work with MRPC on publishing a notice and scheduling a public hearing for this grant.

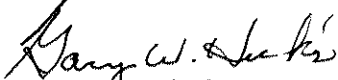
READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Venkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2