

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 1, 2022 Nineteenth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 1st day of September 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 notes in the absence of the clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EDGAR SPRINGS SCHOOL:

Sheriff Kirn was to appear to present information which was initially of some concern regarding a new facility with a faith-based approach to addiction problems, which was to be in the immediate vicinity of the school. However, the message was relayed that he had been in contact with the pastor there and there was felt to be less cause for concern. Also present were Superintendent of Roads Mark Case, Michelle Bock of the Road and Bridge Department, Mike Scott and Tonya Greven of BPJ Insurance, Cameron Schweiss and Josh Kendle of Archer Elgin, Collector Faith Barnes and the Focus reporter.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SENIOR COMPANIONS:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp announced he would be making an appearance at the recognition program on September 10.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)  
ALLOCATION FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS:

The Commission had received communication from Beth Dillon at the state's Office of Administration, Division of Accounting, regarding the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination act of 2000 (SRS). SRS provides for payments to states to be distributed to counties in which eligible federal lands are situated, chiefly U.S. Forest Service lands. Participating counties receiving a share of the state's payment that is greater than \$100,000 must make an election to allocate the payment among the titles in the authorizing law by September 15, 2022. Without such an election, the county would see 15-20% of this allocation returned back to the U.S. Treasury. Dillon's email said that the "...election process has not been done for some time, but the Federal government is requiring that it be completed again this year." The County was informed that a 15% to 20% allocation must be established for special projects, which could be devoted to county projects ("Title III"). As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the Commission elected to reserve, under Title III, 20% of the annual payment for road improvements. These would include, but not be limited to, road maintenance, improvement of low water crossings, stormwater mitigation of various types, purchase of rock and asphalt or asphalt products, purchase of ice melt, or the acquisition of needed road equipment.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ANNUAL LAGERS MEETING:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 1, 2022 Nineteenth day of the July Term**

ANNUAL LAGERS MEETING:

Dowdy, an HR Deputy Clerk, mentioned that a LAGERS employer delegate could be the incoming clerk Laura Johnson and she was interested in attending. As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, her designation was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE:

Scott and Greven wanted to discuss possible bidding of the medical insurance for employees. The discussion included the amount of reserve needed; BPJ believing two years of data would be needed to prepare a bid; Group Benefit Services use of Aetna for billing which does repricing; retirees remaining on insurance. Incentives to employees for obtaining, for example, MRI services at a cheaper facility, were discussed.

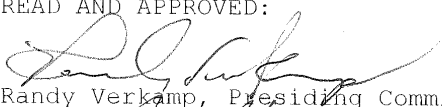
IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD AND BRIDGE FACILITY:

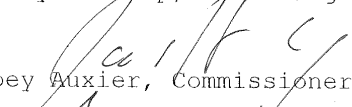
Schweiss and Kendle provided updated documents and drawings including the topographic survey and demolition plan, overall site and grading plans, the equipment shed layout and the upper and lower level plans for the main facility structure. Extensive discussion ensued on multiple aspects. Case asked about a sprinkler system; there are no County codes. Archer Elgin said they would be obligated to design to code "even if Phelps County has no codes." Fire suppression strategy was discussed, perhaps with accessing city water supply and the engineering firm will look into this further. Schweiss and Kendle then left.

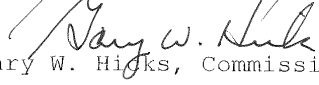
IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Case and Bock went over various road issues.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 6, 2022 Twentieth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 6th day of September 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 2305:

E911 Mapping Coordinator Tim Kean was present as was local resident Ray Schweikhardt and the Focus reporter. Kean said that local resident Scott White had requested an address for a parcel the prior week; Kean is eager to obtain the Commission's input. Details of addressing needs were reviewed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Commissioner Auxier reported on multiple roads he had driven over the Labor Day weekend, including a crossing on Road 8050 which lies just north of Road 8340 and which is seriously impaired. Water comes from the west side, where there is a bluff, and runs southerly over a section of the road. Consolidation of some road projects under some type of cost-sharing program to facilitate funding was discussed. Roads in the Spring Creek Township, many of which are gravel, were believed to be in fairly good shape. Collector Faith Barnes briefly attended. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0920.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 2305:

Just as the reporter left Shane Achterberg, grandson of local resident John Heuser, came in to discuss his grandfather's address change. After some discussion with the GIS map displayed, he verbalized understanding of the proposed changes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY FINANCES:

The Statement of Cash for the County's funds were examined by the Commission.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

Bidding the insurance for the county employees was discussed.

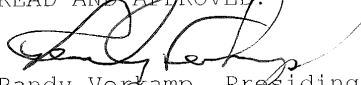
IN THE MATTER OF  
ARPA FUNDS:

The Commission received and reviewed the clerk's spreadsheet, which showed some \$3.25 million in ARPA funds either approved or paid.

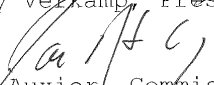
**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 6, 2022 Twentieth day of the July Term**

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 8, 2022, Twenty-first day of the July term**

Now at this the 8th day of September 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 Peter Cook took notes in the absence of the clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 8140:

Michelle Bock discussed County Road 8140 and presented an updated road inventory contract with MoDOT which was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

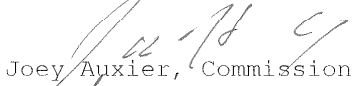
The Commissioners left to inspect county roads.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 61 and 46 invoices in the amounts of \$343,211.38 and \$38,567.28, respectively. Also approved were stipends for Senior Companions of \$23,339.40.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 13, 2022, Twenty-second day of the July term**

Now at this the 13th day of September 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 Lisa Dowdy took notes in the absence of the clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PCSD TRANSPORT VAN PURCHASE:

The Commission approved the purchase of a transport van for the jail from Ed Morse Chevy, Buick & GMC for \$30,980. Local resident Chester Kojro and the Focus reporter were present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS 8050, 4270 AND OTHERS:

The reporter discussed the road inspection of the prior session. There is a possibility that more ARPA funds could be leveraged. Commissioner Hicks said Commissioner Gary Larson (Dent County, 2<sup>nd</sup> District) had inquired about Road 4270 which traverses southern Phelps and northern Dent counties. Larson proposed paying Phelps County \$10,000 to lay asphalt. CART funds for the road may need to be paid differently, depending on which county maintains.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION (MRPC) MEMBERSHIP DUES  
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the technical assistance contract between the County and MRPC for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 accompanied by (basic) membership dues of \$10,775.52 was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MOCA:

Commissioner Hicks reported that MOCA needed a new board member; this board consists of elected officials, disadvantaged individuals and private interest groups such as bankers, private interest group members such as bankers and business people. MOCA is seeking a member from a private interest group.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PAYROLL:

Payroll taxes in the amount of \$80,418.47 and net wages in the amount of \$228,001.44 were reviewed and approved for the 9/15/22 pay date.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REMONUMENTATION:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 13, 2022, Twenty-third day of the July term**

CORNER REMONUMENTATION, Continued:

Contract Number 23-16, for services by and between Phelps County and the Missouri Department of Agriculture, was signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp. Originals will be sent to the Land Survey Program at Missouri Department of Agriculture.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR:

Director of Building and Grounds, Support Services Sissy Korich entered to discuss the elevator inspections. Though the inspections were satisfactory this year, she said they will not pass next year due to lack of cameras and push-button phones to meet ADA requirements. Major problems are settling of the hydraulic jacks, allowed to settle only so far each year and costing \$80,000 to replace and a controller that cannot be replaced. Increasing the range of one elevator to the third floor, for which a shaft exists, was discussed.


IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE STEPS:


The vendor scheduled to repair the courthouse steps is ill, and the project is on hold.


IN THE MATTER OF  
COLLECTOR'S DELINQUENT TAX SALE:

Collector Faith Barnes entered to present the 2022 Tax Lien Sale Surplus Listing pursuant to RSMo 140.230.1 for signature. Storage of documents was discussed.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 15, 2022 Twenty-fourth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 15th day of September 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  
CONTRACT, PCSD:

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt was present as was the Focus reporter, Collector Faith Barnes, and Capt. Rick Hope of the PCSD. Hope was unscheduled but had documents needing signature by the Presiding Commissioner and Prosecuting Attorney Fox by September 26, 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REQUEST FOR SCHOOL TOUR:

The Commission received a request from Vince Perona, an eighth grade Citizenship and American History teacher in St. James who would like to arrange a tour of the courthouse for his students. Barnes agreed to help with the arrangements.

IN THE MATTER OF  
GRANT-WRITING HOURS WITH MRPC  
FOR PCS:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier the donation of grant writing hours to PCS for their application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), assisted by MRPC, was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SALES TAXES:

Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0915 and presented the August sales tax receipts. County 0.5% sales tax was \$339,053.59, down 12.34% in the month-to-month comparison, but still a 7.57% increase in the rolling twelve-month comparison.

IN THE MATTER OF  
IFS INVOICE:

The Commission and Green discussed ways to handle the roughly \$275,000 final invoice for the courthouse HVAC controls project; since much of the Public Facilities Authority Fund (Fund 900) is invested in CD a reimbursable transfer of funds from County Revenue (Fund 200) will occur for payment. Green left at 0925.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier the agreement was approved. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0930. Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp recounted the history of some of the grant projects undertaken for the



**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 15, 2022 Twenty-fourth day of the July Term**

MRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT, Continued:

County by MRPC.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR:

Dana Sooter entered at 0935 on an unscheduled visit to notify the Commission of additional time required of her part-time employee such that she may exceed the 1,000-hour threshold for CERF eligibility. She is being assigned more decedent's estates and spent some time discussing the burdens involved. Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0940. Sooter left at 0945.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 4270:

Upon Bock's inquiry, Commissioner Hicks said that Dent County is either going to rebuild their part of Road 4270 and double chip it or rebuild and pay Phelps County for the cost of asphalt. Dent's estimate for asphalt is \$10,000 and Superintendent of Roads Mark Case believes it is much higher, perhaps \$20,000 or more. Commissioner Hicks said that regardless, Dent County will ditch and install several culverts; ten thousand will not cover the cost of ½ mile of double chip. Two of the property owners are anxious to pave all the way to 72 (within Dent, in other words). The Dent county segment will not accommodate an 18-foot road; perhaps 16 and perhaps less. Commissioner Hicks said, "So, we're still in negotiations," and Dent County will give Phelps their share of the CART funds, which will be far less than any annual maintenance cost. Bock said there is nothing Recorder Robin Kordes could find regarding the easterly terminus of the road being a county road; Commissioner Hicks said a portion had been chip and sealed north of the cul-de-sac seen on GIS. Associate Commissioner Gary Larson of Dent County called and was put on speaker phone; he was told that the cost for 2418 feet at 16 feet wide would be very close to \$34,000; there is a landowner who may contribute as much as \$18,000. Larson said Dent County was prepared to contribute \$22,000; the call ended at 1008. In 2000 three landowners contributed 1490, 750 and 1241 feet, respectively, for chip and seal, totaling 3482. Dent County contributed 6,388.80 to the cost, which was (roughly?) half. A lengthy discussion ensued of what constituted the County's portion of the road. Legal counsel may be needed.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD EQUIPMENT:

Bock notified the Commission that lack of response from Scheppers regarding the terms of an expected dump truck order was due to the company's involvement in buy-out negotiations with another company; the order had been successfully cancelled without penalty and a Freightliner vehicle has been ordered.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PRESSURE PAVING:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**September 15, 2022 Twenty-fourth day of the July Term**

PRESSURE PAVING, Continued:

Bock reported that the bill for pressure paving was \$54,447.18 less than the \$621,371.66 estimate accepted June 23, 2022 by the Commission; the Road Department had contributed to the preparation of the roads. Kojro left at 1035.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ARPA:

The Commission approved 673,499.49 transfer to Road Department Fund from ARPA for payment of pressure pave by Donelson Construction and multiple other eligible road projects.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT (BOB WILLIS):

Local resident Bob Willis entered at 1045 and left copies of his fishing books for Commissioner Auxier. He asked about roads and the future plans, mentioning the problems with dust which residents complain of the most. After a bit more conversation he left at 1100.

IN THE MATTER OF  
STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

The clerk reported on the audit inquiry from Lori Melton, CPA, the Phelps County audit manager from the SAO's office. She plans to report that the County procured its own private audit for 2019 and 2020; the SAO will audit 2021 and 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF  
AWARD LETTER, NB WEST:

The clerk inquired about an award notification or letter for NB West; the Commission minutes of 6/23/2022 will be sent.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MRDC:

Commissioner Hicks reported that a roughly \$125,000 small business loan have been approved for a manufacturer in Dixon, MO.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION:

As Moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, destruction of deleted voter registrations 2012 through 2016, last name A-C, which were beyond the five year document retention guidelines, was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PERSONAL PROPERTY COURT ORDERS:

Personal property court orders # 2124 through 2128, representing August 2022 add-ons for years 2017 through 2021 (respectively) were approved. These changed tax amounts by \$3.90, \$3.91, (\$33.45), \$2,948.05, and \$15,604.44, in that order.

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 15, 2022 Twenty-fourth day of the July Term**

IN THE MATTER OF  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

A meeting with James "Mike" Deren, President and CEO of Group Benefit Services of Springfield, was approved for 1:00 p.m. Monday, September 19. The Commission received and reviewed the August 2022 benefit management report which showed 75% loss ratio and \$718,550.03 in the reserve account for claims payment.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PCESB/E911 TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Commission reviewed the September 2022 report from PCESB Treasurer Buz Harvey, showing over \$2.5 million in cash on hand.


IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY CLERK'S TURNOVER:


The clerk presented receipts from the Treasurer for \$2,135 in passport fees and \$276.59 in county clerk fees.

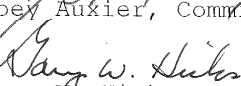
IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 12 and 32 invoices in the amounts of \$45,243.80 and \$50,183.41, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Aukier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 19, 2022 Twenty-fourth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 19th day of September 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 absent.


IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY EMPLOYEE  
HEALTH INSURANCE:

James "Mike" Deren, President and CEO of Group Benefit Services of Springfield, the third-party administrator for Phelps County's partially self-funded employee health insurance, came and presented a very detailed breakdown of the year-to-date experience with the plan. Deputy Clerks Cindy Ruth and Lisa Dowdy were also present. This pre-renewal meeting covered claims utilization at different facilities, specialty drugs, generic drug usage, stop-loss premium, nurse navigator, and family and dependent coverages. Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data was also reviewed. Deren is aware that the County will be bidding its employee health/dental/vision/life insurance coverages for CY 2023.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

(Absent)  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 20, 2022 Twenty-fifth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 20th day of September 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  
BID OPENING, ASSESSOR  
PRINTING AND MAILING:

The sole bid for printing and mailing of property lists was received of E.J. Rice and Company for \$20,843.48. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the bid was approved. Interim Assessor Paul Long, Superintendent of Roads Mark Case and Michelle Bock of the Road Department and the Focus reporter were also present. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt arrived at 0905. Long then left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE NEST AT QUAIL RUN ESTATES,  
ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

Jake Sbabo, of Sbabo Construction entered at 09008 and engaged the Commission and the Road Department staff in a discussion of his planned subdivision and its roads. Numerous aspects of the design and construction of the roads were discussed; Commissioner Hicks touched on the required profile of a road if it were to be up to county road specifications and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp emphasized the need for a hydrologic or "run-off" study. Potential homeowners apparently dislike 24' roads with 3' gravel shoulders on each side; however, Case said that 30' of asphalt was problematic in that there would be problems with the edge of the road breaking off as well as 25% more asphalt for the county to maintain. Case believes understanding by the homeowners, documented in writing, of their responsibility not to impede storm water conveyances, was needed. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said roads likely would not be accepted into the County inventory during the construction phase. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0926; Sbabo left at 0940.

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp exited at 0950 for a meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD WORK:

Work occurring in Jerome was discussed. The reporter left at 0953 and Case and Bock left at 1008. Kojro and others discussed the proper way to negotiate the roundabout at Highway 63 and Tim Bradley Way.

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp returned at 1035.

IN THE MATTER OF  
UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 20, 2022 Twenty-fifth day of the July Term**

UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS, Continued:

This matter was discussed, no actions being taken. Schweikhardt left and local resident Chester Crider arrived at 1040.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DESECRATION, PINE HILL CEMETERY:

Crider reported that at least three suspects in the repeated cemetery vandalism had been apprehended, and then left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
VEHICLE SALE, PCSD:

Having been sold on GovDeals, the title for a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria belonging to the PCSD was signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED BOARD  
APPOINTMENT:

Member Matt Duncan having resigned after moving out of the County, Christina Mousadakos was approved as a member of the PCBDD as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS:

The following bid solicitation was approved as moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks:

**PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
INVITATION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS**

Phelps County, a unit of local government, will receive bids for the following insurance coverages:

Employee, non-Medicare eligible retirees, and dependent major medical and prescription drug, dental, vision and life coverages commencing January 1, 2023.

The County is seeking proposals under both fully funded and partially self-funded plan models. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof unless specifically reserved by the bidder, or to waive any formalities in the bidding process.

Bids will be received in the County Clerk's Office, 200 N. Main Street., Suite 102, Rolla, MO 65401 until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at which time they will be opened. Bids should be submitted in envelopes clearly marked on the outside, "Phelps County Health Insurance". Information pertinent to the submission of bids is available through the Phelps County Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling (573) 458-6115.

Done in my office in Rolla, Missouri, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, September 29, 2022

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 20, 2022 Twenty-fifth day of the July Term**


IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT (SHERRIE GERHARDT):


Local resident Sherrie Gerhardt came in to inquire about reserving the courthouse multipurpose room for a private function; she was told this was against policy and was provided with a few suggestions for other venues. She left at 1155.

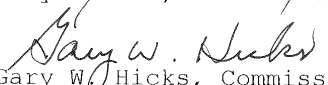
IN THE MATTER OF  
PHELPS/MARIES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANTS:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann entered at 1148 and Child Health Consultant and MOU for Daycare Inspection contracts, which were approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier..

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 22, 2022 Twenty-sixth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 22nd day of September 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  
TIF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TAXES (EATS)  
AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of over \$27,891 in EATS for the RollaWest TIF, representative of \$6.375 million in sales for August, 2022. Also approved were payment of 106, 72, and 12 invoices in the amounts of \$115,931.13, \$620,469.96 and \$30,173.04, respectively. Then payment of the employee health insurance premium for October coverages in the amount of \$123,450.25 was approved. The Focus reporter was also present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
GASCONADE RIVER ACCESS:

The plans for the Conservation Department's bidding for river access at Jerome was briefly discussed. Director of Building and Grounds, Support Services Sissy Korich entered at 0920; the reporter left at 0922.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE INTERNET:

Korich provided a report on trouble-shooting of internet connectivity problems currently afflicting the courthouse.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DOOLITTLE SEWER DELINQUENCIES:

Collector Faith Barnes entered to discuss the procedure used by the city of Doolittle in attaching delinquent sewer liens. She is being aided in her quest for information by the mayor, Doug Smith. Barnes left at 0940.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PRESSURE PAVING CONTRACT:

Donelson Construction provided their contract for delayed signature. Their invoice was below the bid amount due to Road Department preparation work.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE HVAC:

Korich reported on problems with heat pumps and said A/C in the building would be shut down on Friday, September 23, for repairs.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MOCA BOARD:



**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
September 22, 2022 Twenty-sixth day of the July Term

MOCA BOARD, Continued:

Commissioner Hicks contacted Casey Burton, Ph.D., regarding serving on the MOCA board as a private sector representative. He was placed on speaker phone and verbalized his willingness.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 8280:

Local resident Don Green entered at 1030, stayed for 5 minutes, and reported a large tree threatening to fall on the road.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LESO GRANT:

Lt. Chris Finch of the Sheriff's Department entered at 1035 with a re-application form for this grant, with changes in personnel due to new hires. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this was approved; Finch left.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

The Commission returned the construction contract for the jail expansion to the Sheriff for further review of concerns brought out by the prosecutor's office.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 1115 to discuss current road work.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:


Presiding Judge John Beger entered at 1125 saying a meeting including the sheriff was desired after a knife was found in a courtroom. This was scheduled.

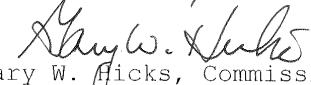
IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT (SCOTT WISDOM):

Local citizen and roofer Scott Wisdom visited briefly with the Commission regarding recycling of shingles.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 27, 2022 Twenty-seventh day of the July Term**

Now at this the 27th day of September 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  
GASCONADE RIVER ACCESS:

A recent pre-bid meeting held for the river access planned near Jerome was discussed by Commissioner Hicks. The Focus reporter was also present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
FOREST LAKES SUBDIVISION STOPSIGNS:

Due to requests by residents of the Forest Lakes subdivision, stop signs are to be installed at the easterly terminus of Forest Lake Drive with the Road 3110 intersection; at the southerly-facing terminus of Forest Lake Drive with its intersection with Road 3040 as well as at the northern end of Wildwood Lane where it intersects Road 3040.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MISSOURI STATE CORONER'S TRAINING FUND:

The clerk reported on this fund, which dated to the passage of HB 2046 in 2020 and was specified in RSMo 58.208. This statute provided that \$1 of the fee collected for any death certificate issued under RSMo 193.265 was to be deposited into the Missouri State Coroner's Training Fund (MSCTF). The statute specified that any moneys remaining in the fund over \$500,000 were to be deposited into the state's general revenue fund; since October, 2020 the county has deposited over \$8,600 in the fund. The clerk reported that as of 8/31/2022 there was nearly \$603,000 in the fund according to State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick's chief of staff, who also said the funds were "swept" into the state's general fund biennially and this would next occur after June 30, 2023. Because the coroner has requested funding for equipment upgrades, an inquiry has been made of the fund to determine whether it could be a revenue source. The reporter left as local resident Chester Kojro entered.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ARPA FUNDS AND U.S. TREASURY GUIDANCE:

National Association of Counties (NaCO) had, through Missouri Association of Counties (MAC), reached out to counties regarding efforts at reinstatement of advising provided by the U.S. Treasury for use of ARPA funds. Believing that Phelps County's utilization of Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) in administering the ARPA funds was sufficient toward this end, there was no action taken with respect to advocacy for federal legislation in this matter.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 4160:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
**September 27, 2022 Twenty-seventh day of the July Term**

ROAD 4160, Continued:

Commissioner Auxier wanted a traffic count of Road 4160.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

25<sup>th</sup> Circuit Presiding Judge Beger, Circuit Clerk Sonja Childers, Chief Deputy Clerk and unopposed candidate for Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace, Sheriff Mike Kirn, PCSD Captain Rick Hope and Head Bailiff Chris Reeder entered at 1030 just as Kojro left. Beger began by saying, "We'd like to have metal detectors at the front door" and Kirn said the issue would be staffing; at least 2 bailiffs would be required on the door at all times; he believes this to imply the need for four additional people for whom there will be benefit costs as well, since "at certain times there would be four courtrooms" in use, all of which would need their own bailiff. Kirn said the equipment would cost roughly \$35,000. Subsequently there was a lengthy discussion of the handicapped access and the layout of the vestibule as well as the placement of the equipment. Reeder said shifts would have to be staggered; Kirn expressed concern for excessive comp time and believes a year will be needed to secure staffing. Then, POST-certified versus non-certified staffing was deliberated upon. Beger asked if barriers could be erected to get courthouse visitors accustomed to the changes in entry; he stated courtroom security should really convert to courthouse security. Kirn said, when costs were mentioned, that he objected to shouldering all the cost, believing half was more his share. Furthermore, Kirn suggested ordering the equipment and beginning on the physical modifications, then working on personnel. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 1105. Fire department input was mentioned; Beger, Childers, Wallace and Reeder then left at 1110.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL EXPANSION:

Kirn spoke of the construction bid, and described some aspects of it as "vague" of necessity because some of the subcontractors were still providing input. Commissioner Auxier advocated the addition of real, not liquidated, damages to the contract.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 7530:

Hope then spoke with the Commission about this road and its potential upgrade, leaving with Kirn about 1140.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SALES PRESENTATION (AT&T):

Jeremy Ketterer with AT&T External Affairs entered and introduced himself; he had worked for 14 years for Congressman Blaine Leutkemeyer. He left at 1145.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CLOSED SESSION:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 27, 2022 Twenty-seventh day of the July Term**

CLOSED SESSION, Continued:

Auxier, the meeting entered an unscheduled closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (2) - Real Estate at 1150. No actions having been taken, the meeting returned to open session as moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, at 1202.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**

**September 29, 2022 Twenty-eighth day of the July Term**

Now at this the 29th day of September 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 VACATION IN JEROME:

Local resident Karen Peterman of Jerome was present as was the Focus reporter. Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0902; Grant Wilson, field representative for Congressman Jason Smith, entered at 0903. Peterman recounted that after being in contact with her bank and a title company, her house located at 22715 Cherry Street was found to be encroaching on an alley which was the property of Phelps County. This east-west alleyway was never constructed as a road, though used by individuals living along it to access their property. Both her garage and her house are encroaching, and she asked the Commissioners for their experience. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0910. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp spoke of the "adverse possession" of county-owned property upon which a structure has been built and existed for some time. Peterman owns the lots north as well as south of the alleyway; the northern lot is a circle drive. Though the eastern lot lines fall on the same north-south line, the southern lot extends further to the west. An alternative such as vacating only that part of the alleyway shared between her two lots was discussed, though this would leave the garage encroaching on unvacated alleyway. Barnes left at 0920; after more discussion, Peterman left at 0930, having been encouraged to speak with the neighbors and to consider legal counsel.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD 4270:

Bock discussed the recorded documents pertaining to this road.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ASSESSOR VACANCY:

Governor Parson will make an appointment soon to this vacancy, caused by the death of Assessor William T. Stoltz on August 22, 2022. The reporter was given a contact at the governor's office, and then let at 1000.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TRAFFIC COUNTING:

Bock said the Road Department either needed to upgrade the software in their traffic counter or purchase a new one. As moved by Commissioner Auxier, and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, a purchase to be funded out of ARPA funds was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD VACATION, ROAD 6010:

**PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD**  
September 29, 2022 Twenty-eighth day of the July Term

ROAD VACATION, ROAD 6010, Continued:

Local resident Toni Cahill called the Commission and was placed on speaker phone at 1010. She is concerned about vacation of Road 6010 as she says this is the E911 address for her family's land and, in addition, is the main or the only access to the land when there is flooding of the Little Piney and/or its tributary, the Kitchen Branch. A property between the Cahill land and Highway 63 belongs to the petitioner. Cahill expressed consternation at the petitioner's gating the road, such that once she was "unable to leave" when she attempted to exit after dark. Her concern, expressed several times, was that once the road was vacated, there would not be any way to work it out with the petitioner. The discussion continued at some length thereafter, including a listing of the pros and cons.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MERAMEC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION (MCEC):

Commissioner Hicks provided news that the MCEC had recently undergone an audit and there were no negative findings.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PRIVATE DRIVE 1122:

Commissioner Auxier reported a call from a local resident on this private drive in which the subdivision's Homeowner Association forbade accessing lots from more than the subdivision road, yet her neighbor is doing so.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
ANNUAL MEETING:


The Commission approved the following elected officials to be voting delegates at the annual meeting held 11/20/2022 through 11/22/2022: Joey Auxier, Carol Green, Faith Barnes and Robin Kordes.


IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 17, 38 and 31 invoices in the amounts of \$10,513.06; \$77,757.06 and \$41,600.43; respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

  
Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2