

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 1, 2023 Eight Day of the July Term**

Now at this 1st day of August, the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes in the absence of County Clerk Johnson.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT - JAIL EXPANSION/TRAFFIC:

A concerned citizen contacted the Presiding Commissioner about construction workers at the jail parallel parking on Second Street, thereby leaving no room to maneuver around trucks and cranes occupying the roadway. The Commission will work with the Sheriff's Department to request alternative parking arrangements.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROADS 1000 AND 1190:

A member of the Rosati Neighborhood Watch contacted the Commission about brush and trees obstructing the stop signs at the intersection of County Roads 1000 and 1190.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SENATE BILL 190:

The Commission received information that a task force has been started at the State level to investigate the impact and implementation of Senate Bill 190, concerning tax relief for senior citizens.

Road and Bridge Supervisors Mark Case and Michelle Bock entered at 9:15.

IN THE MATTER OF  
QUARRY NEST SUBDIVISION:

Discussion was had of the state of the Quarry neighborhood and the state of its roads, and the potential for acceptance of the roads by the County. Road specifications were discussed, with attention to culverts and storm water accommodation. Because construction is ongoing in this neighborhood, there are no historical examples of how rain water would flow once the entire housing construction is completed. Possible water diversion through concrete channels and detention ponds were discussed.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:24.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROADS 1000 AND 1190:

Discussion returned to the overgrowth obstructing stop signs. The Road Department representatives advised their department would attend to the trimming.

Local resident Chester Crider entered at 9:44.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 3640 AND AMMONIA PIPELINE:

There is an ongoing concern about road erosion near a valve access point for an ammonia pipeline on County Road 3640. The pipeline company built a culvert years ago that is not up to current specifications.

Possible solutions were discussed, to both the storm water accommodation problem at this location, and to repairing the erosion damage.

The Road Department will continue to monitor this situation.

The *Focus Reporter* entered at 9:52.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PAVER REPAIR:

Commissioner Hicks inquired about repairs to a paving machine. Mr. Case advised chains and sprockets need attention, and a broken tensioner needed attention.

Mr. Crider left at 10:00.

IN THE MATTER OF  
QUARRY TRAIL:

Discussion of the repair & maintenance of quarry trail in the quarry 2 subdivision ensued.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD AND BRIDGE SHED FACILITY - STANDING TIMBER:

A member of the public was given the Commissioners' business cards yesterday (7/31) and indicated he would be in contact with the Commission about standing timber around the new Road and Bridge shed, with a view to logging it.

IN THE MATTER OF  
INSURANCE CLAIM - GMC ENVOY:

A claim against the County for damage to a GMC envoy remains ongoing. Photographs have been submitted to the adjuster.

IN THE MATTER OF  
OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee meets today at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Kojro left at 10:30.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MAILBOX INSTALLATION / COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAYS:

Brief discussion was had of curbside mailbox installation.

Mr. Case and Ms. Bock left at 10:38.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD AND BRIDGE SHED FACILITY:

Discussion was had of disposing of the old Road and Bridge facility. There will be a request for proposals once construction of the new shed begins.

The Focus Reporter left at 10:55.

Support Services Sissy Korich entered at 11:02.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CORONER'S OFFICE:

Ms. Korich reported that the Coroner's Office is ready for move-in. A phone call was placed to the Coroner to inform him of this, and to instruct him to see Ms. Korich for a key. The Coroner expressed his thanks.

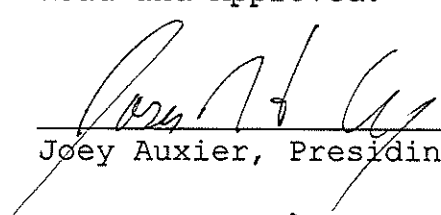
Ms. Korich left at 11:15.

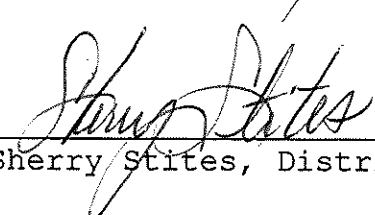
Commissioner Stites left at 11:15 to attend the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.

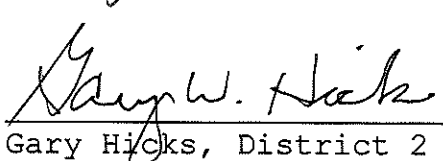
IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT:

Local resident Ed Pilotte entered at 11:15 to discuss his interest in standing timber near the new Road and Bridge shed site. Mr. Pilotte was informed of the procedure for requests for proposals and bids. A notice of request for proposals will be discussed Thursday.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



## Phelps County Commission Record

August 3, 2023 Nineth Day of the July Term

Now on this 3rd day of August, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were Krysta Swartz from Great Rivers Engineering and The Focus Reporter.

In the matter of  
BRO project off CR 3620:

Krysta Swartz from Great Rivers Engineering presents updates on plan to replace the bridge on CR 3620. Discussions were had on how Great Rivers has already completed the first 4 steps in the process and are under way on the next 2 steps. Swartz reported they are on track to have the next 2 steps complete by September so they can move on to the bidding and construction of the bridge.

Kent Bagnol from the Morning Mayor Radio Show entered at 9:10 am.

Schwartz left at 9:16 am.

In the matter of  
Citizen input:

Bagnol explains he was driving around and turned onto Pink Bridge Road (CR 3410). He advised commission there is a section of the road that has caved in and there is nothing underneath it. Commission advised they will have R&B assess the damage to see what needs to be done.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:26 am. Kent Bagnol left at 9:32 am.

In the matter of  
5th Invoice from Curtiss-Manes-Schulte:

Clerk Johnson presents commission with invoice #5 from Curtis-Manes-Schulte for current work being done on the New Road and Bridge facility. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the payment of \$428,081.90, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 9:41 am

Michelle Bock from Road and Bridge entered at 9:37 am.

In the matter of  
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Stites gave a brief synopsis of what was discussed in the recent Opioid Settlement Advisory committee meeting. Stites advised the next meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2023.

Congressman Smiths Field Representative Grant Wilson entered at 9:46 am.

In the matter of  
Rail Road crossing in Rosati:

Stites advised she reached out to Jason Smiths field rep about the Rail cars being left on the track that are blocking the view for traffic attempting to cross at a specific intersection in Rosati. Grant Wilson took pictures at the site from both directions and advised he is going to present the information observed and the pictures to Congressman Smith to see what can be done to make that intersection safer for the citizens in Rosati.

In the matter of  
LP Gas bids:

As scheduled commission opened the sealed LP gas bids as follows:

10 am: Poes Gas submitted at \$1.19 a gallon.

10:01 am: Ferrell Gas submitted at \$1.585 a gallon

10:02 am: MFA Gas submitted at \$1.64 a gallon

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve awarding the LP bid to Poes Gas, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 10:04 am.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:16 am. Bock left at 10:17 am.

In the matter of  
Kohls TIF Audit:

Tipton gave a report of the internal audit findings from the recently completed TIF audit at the city. There was a finding of roughly \$3,000 that was missed on the Kohls TIF. Tipton explains why the payment has increased from these findings. Stites asked Tipton to inquire what the finding was and what the remedy to prevent this from happening again is.

Tipton left at 10:35 am.

In the matter of  
Collector reports:

Barnes gave a report on the NACo conference she attended a few weeks ago. Barnes also gave a report of the upcoming Tax Lien

sale list. She explains we currently have 72 parcels with Tax Liens.

In the matter of  
Removal of standing lumber:

Commission discussed and decide that due to the liability the county could incur they have decided to not allow a private citizen to work on county property. A letter will be drafted for commission to review and then mailed to the citizen that inquired.

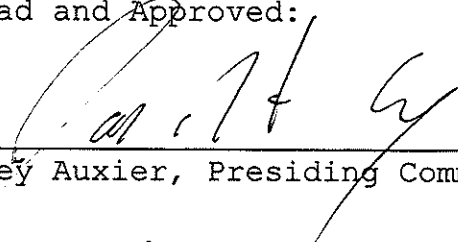
In the matter of  
Extension Council Retiree:

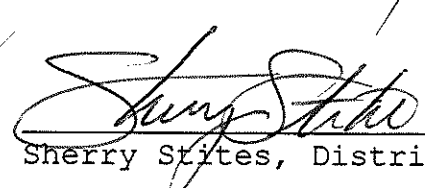
Discussions were had on where the retirement for a former extension council employee needs to be paid from. After discussing the matter Commission decided it should come from the general revenue fund like other retirees that are paying to stay on county insurance. Further discussions were had that the extension council will need to meet with commission to discuss this and where they are at in the hiring process.

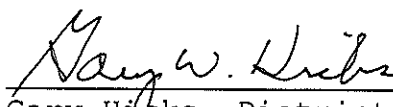
In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$95,427.06 for A - L, \$66,054.24 for M - Z and \$7,331.75 for KC Life/County insurance.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner





**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 8, 2023 Tenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 8th day of August, the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt was also present. Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CART PROGRAM FUNDING:

On motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites, the Commission elected to request CART funding for road paving again for the 2024 fiscal year. The Commissioners signed a letter memorializing this request, which will be sent to the Department of Conservation.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TRUCK CENTERS, INC. TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE:

The Commission reviewed and approved a tax-exempt certificate for County purchases from Truck Centers, Inc. The Presiding Commissioner signed the certificate.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - FIDELITY PHONE SERVICE:

The Commission reviewed and approved for payment its monthly share of the Courthouse telephone bill. The Commission's share is \$17.77.

IN THE MATTER OF  
STATEMENT OF SYMPATHY FOR GLENDA GIBSON FAMILY:

The Commission is sorry to learn of the passing of Ms. Glenda Gibson, longtime and dedicated Phelps County employee in the Recorder's Office. The Commission expresses its sympathy to Ms. Gibson's family.

IN THE MATTER OF  
QUARRY SUBDIVISION:

The Commission has been advised of an ongoing dispute involving the Quarry subdivisions, particularly subdivision 3. There is disagreement over whether the County should be petitioned to accept maintenance of the subdivision roads; there is further belief among some residents that the original land developer, Tom Sowers, should have invested more to have the roads brought to County standards.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 2350:

The Commission was alerted to unusual alternating stretches of gravel and chip and seal on County Road 2350. Discussion was had about the grating schedule and 5-year paving schedule.

IN THE MATTER OF  
QUARRY SUBDIVISION:

A scheduled call was placed to local resident Tom Sowers at his request.

The Commission explained that the Quarry Homeowners' Association was not yet in agreement about requesting the County to assume maintenance of all of its roads. A portion of the roads have already been accepted, but until the HOA reaches a consensus, the Commission cannot act beyond roads already under its supervision and maintenance.

Mr. Sowers thanked the Commission for the update.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:30.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROADWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT GRANT:

Commissioner Stites received information from the Meramec Regional Planning Commission that the County has 18 hours of work time that can be credited to MoDOT grants for roadway safety improvements.

The Commission will contact MRPC to ask about improving the railroad crossing at Rosati.

Mr. Schweikhardt left at 9:44.

IN THE MATTER OF  
PROPOSED TRUCK WEIGHT LIMIT INCREASE:

Bret Sebastian from GoRail wrote to the Commission to oppose increasing weight limits over 80,000 pounds on roads. The Presiding Commissioner has already been in touch with the General Assembly to voice its opposition to weight limit increases.

IN THE MATTER OF  
STANDING TIMBER ON COUNTY ROAD 3110:

On motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites, the Commissioners signed a letter to an individual interested in removing timber on County Road 3110, informing him that, regrettably, the County is unable to allow such action by a private citizen for liability reasons. No such proposals will be entertained from private individuals without professional liability insurance.

Local resident Chester Crider entered at 10:18.

IN THE MATTER OF  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

Mr. Crider provided the Commission with some aerial drone photographs of the County, and left at 10:22. The Commission briefly reviewed the photographs, which included images of the new Road and Bridge shed under construction.

Mr. Kojro left at 10:32.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE FACILITY:

Discussion was had of progress on the new Road and Bridge facility near County Road 3110.

Commissioner Hicks has been in contact with the engineer and contractor involved in the building of the new shed, and expressed concerns with the quality of the aggregate fill being laid and packed under the slab, and further requested testing of the consistency and quality of the same. Commissioner Hicks suggested six (6) samples to be taken from the aggregate fill and analyzed for structural suitability.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$552.11 for MRPC, \$123,821.46 for UMR Insurance, \$29,260.18 for Senior Companions Stipends and \$19,585.68 for August Contract Pay.

Local resident Chester Crider reentered briefly at 10:55 and retrieved his USB drive with drone photos.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT PLAN:

Nationwide Insurance sent a summary of investment changes that could be made to the County's elective retirement plan for participating employees, should the County choose. After discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of investment changes, the Commission decided to opt out of changes and leave the investment plan as it has been.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CORONER'S EXPENSES:

The Commission received a letter from Rolla Cremation and Memorial detailing rates of storage for human remains. The letter will be forwarded to the Coroner to review and potentially negotiate a new rate with this or another mortuary.

Jason Shenefield from Phelps Health entered at 11:20.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HELICOPTER PAD:

The possibility of a new hospital helicopter pad was briefly discussed with Mr. Shenefield.

At 11:29, local resident John Lasmanis entered.

IN THE MATTER OF  
AMBULANCE EXPENSES:

Mr. Shenefield presented a projected expenditure calculation for the Phelps Health ambulance service for the upcoming year. Discussion was had of the organizations that contribute to ambulance management, as well as the expectation that the PCRMC ambulance department will operate at a loss in the upcoming year.

An ambulance tax was discussed, as was the history of funding for the PCRMC ambulance service, and the now-lapsed tax funding and bond sales for hospital improvements. St. James was noted as an ambulance district with a sizeable financial reserve, and the Commission discussed researching their operational model, as well as their tax structure. Mr. Shenefield will conduct additional research.

Mr. Lasmanis left at 11:47.


IN THE MATTER OF  
DEPARTMENT TIME SHEETS:

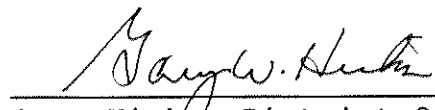
The Presiding Commissioner signed biweekly time logs for the departmental heads of Support Services, the Health Department, and Senior Companions.

Hearing no other business announced, the Commission adjourned at 12:15.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 10, 2023 Eleventh Day of the July Term**

Now at this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

County Clerk Johnson moved to appoint Commissioner Hicks as the acting presiding commissioner in the absence of Presiding commissioner Auxier, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 9:00am.

The focus reporter entered at 9:04 am.

In the matter of  
Surplus Tax:

Commission decided to postpone review of the surplus tax until the Collector Faith Barnes can be present.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$25,730.14 for UMB Bank Westside TIF, \$500,916.54 for A - L and \$1,501,320.95 for M - Z.

Brandi Richardson and Patty Reynolds from the Extension Office entered at 9:28 am.

In the matter of  
Extension council updates:

Brandi advised they have been interviewing good candidates but haven't found anyone that is willing to work for the set salary. She advised she did reach out to a former dent county extension office employee that showed some interest in the position. Discussions were had on increasing the hourly rate and potentially making the position a 30hour week instead of a 40hour week. Discussions were had on how some extension offices are moving towards having a regional book keeper and just sending a monthly invoice to the county that would be taking on the books to subsidizes the salary of that person. Brandi explains she wants to get her new staff members to provide a report to commission on how much they are doing for the community to keep them involved.

Charles Carroll from Allrise Elevator Company and Support Services Sissy Korich entered at 9:47 am. Brandi and Patty left at 9:56 am.

In the matter of  
Elevator bid opening:

As previously rescheduled commission opened the only bid received for the Elevator modernization bid for review at 10 am. Commissioner Hicks provided the enclosed copies to commissioner Stites, Support services Sissy Korich and County Clerk Johnson so all in attendance could review. The total price of the bid came in at \$809,608.00 for the modernization of both elevators in the Phelps County Court House. Charles explained the Additive Alternate price of \$112,080.00 will only be added if when they remove the old elevator Jack (that is roughly drilled 45 feet into the ground) they discover the hole had not been cased as it should have which will cost the additional alternate price for the work needed to bring that up to code and longevity. Commissioner Stites moved to take the Allrise bid under advisement, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried at 10:24 am.

Charles left at 10:32 am followed by Sissy at 10:39 am.

In the matter of  
County payroll:

Commission reviewed and approved payroll.

In the matter of  
Ozark Rivers Solid waste management district meeting:

Commissioner Hicks advised he attended the O.R.S.W.M.D meeting and provided a brief overview of what was discussed.

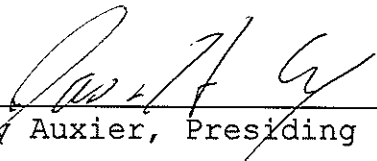
In the matter of  
County Road Specifications Update:

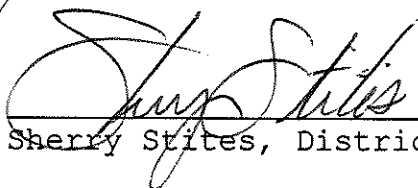
Commission reviewed a single proposal that was submitted by Benton & Associates for updating county road specifications. Commission decided to take under advisement and will revisit the matter on Tuesday when Presiding Commissioner Auxier will be present.

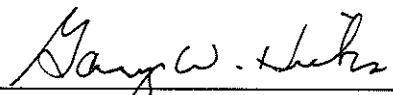
In the matter of  
MRDC Small Business Loan meeting:

Commissioner Hicks advised he attended the MRDC (Meramec Regional Development Corporation) meeting and provided a brief overview of what was discussed. He advised currently there is \$8million loaned out to 45 new businesses in the region.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner





**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 15, 2023 Twelfth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 15th day of August, the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

County Surveyor Teris Cates was also present. Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LAND REMONUMENTATION PROGRAM:

The Commission reviewed and approved a letter memorializing its intent to participate in the 2023 Department of Agriculture Remonumentation program. This provides subsidies for reestablishing monuments at survey corners for future mapping and surveying.

Mr. Cates left at 9:02.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MODOT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY:

The Commission received information, relayed by Commissioner Stites, that MoDOT will conduct an environmental study from the Oklahoma State Line to Franklin County. This will happen over a few years; will be done for the purpose of expanding roads such as Highway 50; MoDOT will be asking for volunteers.

IN THE MATTER OF  
I-44 WIDENING:

Commissioner Stites announced a MoDOT update regarding the I-44 widening project. Every Thursday night until late September, the southernmost eastbound lane on I-44 will be closed in an effort to accelerate repairs on the I-44 widening project. Closures will happen around 10:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROUTE 66 LICENSE PLATE:

Commissioner Stites announced the imminent availability of a Route 66 commemorative license plate that will be available later this year. This plate is issued in anticipation of the Route 66 centenary in 2026.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS:

Commissioner Stites announced further plans for Route 66 centennial celebrations in 2026. Local resident Lindsey Bagnell will be treasurer of this celebratory organization. New signage will be placed, and the official celebration will be Veterans' Day, November 11, 2026.

IN THE MATTER OF  
BEAVER DAM NEAR COUNTY ROAD 7550:

A concerned citizen had reported a beaver dam built at a spring near 7550 that was causing flooding on the road. Presiding Commissioner Auxier inspected the site over the weekend, and confirmed the dam had been removed; however, the water back-up the dam had caused was evident - up to 3.5 feet, over an area of considerable width.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:25.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COMMISSION MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed draft minutes from the latter part of July and early August, and approved the same with a number of clarifications.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT):

The Commission received a letter dated August 8 from the Department of Conservation confirming that Payments in Lieu of Taxes would resume, following the State Supreme Court's ruling in *Conservation Commission, et al. v. Bailey, et al.* No date for payment was specified.

Support Services Sissy Korich entered at 9:45.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ELEVATOR RENNOVATION CONTRACT:

On motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites, a contract with All Rise Elevator Company was approved and signed. All Rise submitted the single bid for renovation on August 10.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ELEVATOR INSPECTION:

Ms. Korich informed the Commission that there will still be a required elevator inspection this year under the previous contractor, T. K. Elevator, whose representative will accompany the State inspector.

Ms. Korich left at 9:52.

Rail Safety Specialists Jack Wright and David Swiercek from MODOT entered at 9:57.

IN THE MATTER OF  
RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - ROSATI AND OTHERS:

Mr. Wright gave a general overview of MODOT regulatory authority over road crossings, which was switched from the Public Service Commission to MODOT approximately 20 years ago. Railway crossings fall within this jurisdiction.

Because there is a limited number of federal inspectors, the U.S. Government trains state-level workers to cooperate in the planning, maintenance, and inspection of railroads. About \$7million federal funding and \$1million state funding is committed to railroad safety yearly.

Procedure for MODOT closing a railroad crossing depends on the level of cooperation in the community: it can require a hearing at the Administrative Hearing Commission, or all interested parties can waive hearing and agree.

Commissioner Hicks asked about the data used by MODOT in order to suggest creating, closing, or modifying a crossing. Location, accidents and injuries are considered. Local attention is focused on the Rosati crossing after a recent fatal accident. Field diagnostics are conducted to determine what precautions might be taken. About half of railroad accidents occur at signaled crossings, and about half occur at uncontrolled crossings.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton and Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace entered at 10:28; Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered and Mr. Kojro exited at 10:30. Barker-Philips-Jackson representatives Tonya Greven and Krystle Hanks entered at 10:34.

Since the Rosati accident, a vehicle counter has been installed at this crossing. MoDOT will consider this data, as well as input from the County and the railroad companies using the tracks. Funding regulations for any changes to a crossing do not require contributions from railroad companies.

Commissioner Stites relayed citizen concerns about stationary railroad cars near crossings. The Rosati Neighborhood Watch has also requested installation of flashing signals at their local crossing.

Mr. Wright invited input from the Commission about Rosati and any other crossings in Phelps County that appear to need attention. Data points will be helpful, and is already being collected. For instance, Mr. Swiercek noted a count of some 265 average daily vehicle crossings at Rosati since installation of a counter; however seasonal fluctuation can be expected, especially with harvest season and summer traffic influencing counts.

The safety specialists will speak to the other interested parties, including the railroad company, and there will be a meeting in the field, after which any further action will be planned.

Mr. Swiercek mentioned that there is an online request for warning signals, which allows for specifying location and uploading photographs. MODOT reimbursement money is available upon approval.

Mr. Wright and Swiercek provided their contact information, mentioned they can be contacted for safety presentations, included drivers' education, and left at 10:56.

#### IN THE MATTER OF JUROR PAYMENT METHODS:

Ms. Tipton discussed payment of petit jurors, which is currently done by paper checks. Some 18 other counties - Dent and Pulaski

being the most immediate neighbors - have had success by issuing payment Court Fund cards, provided by the Rapid Payment company, the cost of which is the same as postage for mailing checks. Issuing cards would eliminate the need for paper checks, mailing, as well as entering every juror into check-printed software as a payee. Payments could be issued faster, and the company would monitor non-use of cards, eliminating the need for the County to monitor open accounts on stale, uncashed checks. Ms. Wallace explained that the people who check in for jury duty would then be issued cards on site. Money would be uploaded to the cards in approximately 2 weeks, commensurate with individual jurors' mileage and length of service. Planned cards for trial jurors are not reloadable. Reloadable cards could be used for grand juries, as they meet much more frequently.

Ms. Tipton provided the Commission a contract for these cards to review. A transfer from the postage budget would also be needed to fund the cards.

As a last resort, if card payment does not work, jurors can contact the card company directly to request a paper check.

Ms. Wallace left at 11:12.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT):

The Commission briefly returned to PILT to ask if the Treasurer had any information. Ms. Tipton took a copy of the letter for review.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LOCAL SALES TAX UPDATE:

Ms. Tipton provided a comparative local sales tax spreadsheet. Tax revenue is up about 9% from last month.

IN THE MATTER OF  
APRIL 2023 ELECTION COSTS:

Invoices were sent to localities that had issues on the ballot in April 2023, but some of these invoices remain outstanding. The Treasurer asked if second notices should be sent.

Second notices will be sent to the entities that have not yet paid their accounts.

IN THE MATTER OF  
HEALTH INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE:

Ms. Greven introduced Krystle Hanks, a new representative for the County health insurance company. Ms. Hanks, of the Springfield office, was welcomed by the Commission.

Ms. Greven and Hanks left at 11:15.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CORONER'S OFFICE:

Mr. Coverdell thanked the Commission for his new office space in the courthouse.

IN THE MATTER OF  
STORAGE OF HUMAN REMAINS:

Mr. Coverdell checked with the Phelps County Medical Center about storage of human remains pending action by the Coroner, but it was quickly decided that the hospital's very limited space is inadequate.

Lamplight Services is another possible provider. They will take bodies for medical research at no cost to the County. By contrast, the crematorium under contract currently charges \$75.00 per day storage.

The coroner explained there is a 72-hour window fixed by law to locate next of kin to a decedent. The primary concerns of storage are when bodies are brought in already in a state of advanced decomposition, if family requests retention or release of a body for religious rituals, and storage in the event of mass casualties.

Commissioner Hicks inquired about expenditures incurred by the Coroner's Office in the form of attendance at autopsies. The Coroner will do additional research on the availability of cadaver storage.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT):

Ms. Tipton, after looking at historical PILT funding, informed the Commission is was typically \$1,600 to \$2,700 annually to contribute to roads located on Conservation Department land.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ASSESSOR'S QUARTERLY REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST:

On motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites, the Assessor's State Tax Commission Quarterly Reimbursement request was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - AUGUST 2023 ELECTION:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of expenses related to the August 2023 ballot:

- \$300.00 for polling place rental
- \$6,409.65 election judge payment and mileage reimbursement

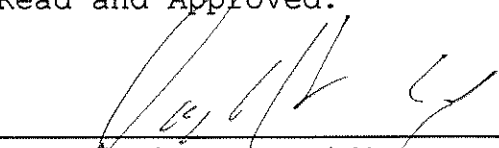
Total:       \$6,709.65.

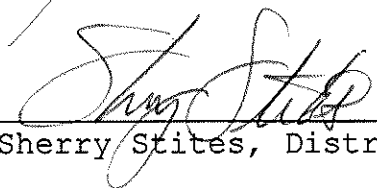
IN THE MATTER OF  
LAKESIDE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDS:

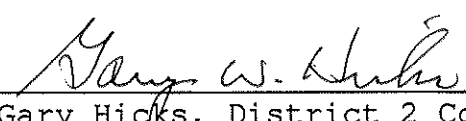
The Lakeside HOA has submitted a request for ARPA funds. The Commission agrees that there is insufficient information to make a decision at this time, and Commissioner Stites sent a message to the HOA president requesting that she schedule the matter for discussion during the August 22 or 24 Commission meeting.

Hearing no other business announced, the Commission adjourned at noon.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 17, 2023 Thirteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 17th day of August, the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Collector Faith Barnes, Theresa Lasher of the Sheriff's Department, and the *Focus* reporter were also present. Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JAIL RENNOVATIONS:

Ms. Lasher provided an update that the Sheriff's Department is working with Gilmore & Bell to privately audit and double-check expenditures on the Jail renovations. The Commission is grateful for the update.

Ms. Lasher left, and District 1 Commissioner Stites entered, at 9:15. The entire Commission was thus present.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ESTATE OF ORVILLE GIBSON:

Ms. Barnes updated the Commission on her search for the heirs of decedent Orville Gibson. Mr. Gibson's house was sold for payment of backed taxes, and an individual has made a claim on the surplus money. Ms. Barnes was successful in locating the name of a daughter, and is in contact with a law firm to research and confirm the familial relationship before the surplus proceeds of the tax sale are released. The Commission thanked Ms. Barnes and will await the results of the research. The Commission would like to see the birth certificate of the claimant.

Cameron Schweiss of Archer-Elgin Engineering & Surveying entered at 9:30; Ms. Barnes left at 9:31.

Local resident Edwin Pilotte entered at 9:32. Road and Bridge Department Superintendent Mark Case entered at 9:34.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT FACILITY:

A progress report was received from Mr. Schweiss on the Road and Bridge facility under construction. The Commission is waiting on base rock sample reports previously requested by Commissioner Hicks.

Mr. Schweiss left at 9:43.

IN THE MATTER OF  
STANDING TIMBER NEAR NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE FACILITY:

Mr. Pilotte had a brief discussion about his continued interest in standing timber near the new Road and Bridge facility,

mentioned he is investigating insurance and licensing, and left at 9:44.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT FACILITY - ARPA FUNDS:

The Commission reviewed a request for use of \$8,460 in ARPA funds for construction administration at the new Road and Bridge facility. On motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites, the transfer of funds was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROADS 3560 AND 3570:

Commissioner Stites has received citizen comment about logging trucks continuing to use County Roads 3560 and 3570, despite not being adequate to their passage. Concern is compounded by flooding from the bridge on CR 3560 after recent heavy rain. Mr. Case said he could provide statistics on traffic flow on these streets in an effort to evaluate them for possible inclusion on future repair schedules, but gathering the data might take longer than usual, with 4 vacancies in his Department and paving season at its height. Commissioner Stites will drive the roads and attempt to take pictures.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 8390:

A resident who lives on County Road 8390 is concerned about water flowing from the road to the area where his fence is located. Mr. Case was provided the location and shown photographs. Mr. Case advised that if flooding threatens to erode the base of the fence, the Road Department will take care of it.

IN THE MATTER OF  
QUAIL RUN STOP SIGN:

Commissioner Hicks reported that there is a stop sign on Quail Run that is obscured. Mr. Case noted this for his Department's attention.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD AND SUBDIVISION SPECIFICATIONS:

Benton & Associates firm has bid at \$7,500 for drafting updated road and subdivision specifications for consideration and possible adoption by the Commission. Mr. Case suggested work on specification revisions begin in earnest around October, after paving season.

Main concerns are revising computations of the volume of water to be diverted into ditches, holding ponds, and natural water bodies.

Discussion was had of several examples in the County that have made the need for revised specifications apparent.

The Commission plans to engage Benton & Associates effective November 1.



Local resident Randy Barr entered at 10:23.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT - SENATE BILL 190:

Mr. Barr asked if the Commission had taken any action in accordance with Senate Bill 190. The Commission explained its understanding that the tax-freeze savings to individuals would be outweighed by the additional hire needed in the Collector's Office to implement a tax freeze.

Discussion was had about the reassessment that would be required from the date of an individual's retirement, and the possibility that taxes would be frozen at a higher rate, should an individual's assessment have been higher in a previous year.

Discussion continued about unknowns in the application of the bill, such as retroactively figuring out taxes in intervening years between retirement and the effective date of a prospective ordinance: it is not clear if this will involve a penalty if taxes are frozen at a higher rate than the present rate.

Mr. Barr was reminded of the petition option in the bill to request an ordinance, and was encouraged to explain to other interested citizens that a freeze involves a gamble whether an individual's taxes will be frozen at a higher or lower level than current assessments, and that there will be cost incurred for additional personnel and supplies like software to implement such a freeze.

Helen Cornick and Michael Boyle entered at 10:55.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT - RURAL ROAD TAX:

Mr. Hohenfeldt asked if City residents are taxed for rural roads, in addition to City streets. The Commission answered that yes, City residents are taxed for rural roads as County residents.

Mr. Barr left at 11:01.

IN THE MATTER OF  
KENNY LANE:

Ms. Cornick is one of the residents around Kenny Lane who is involved in an ongoing property dispute. The Commission was given information that there is an order of protection in existence between some other neighbors in the neighborhood. Ms. Cornick provided updates on what several residents have considered harassing behavior, including videotaping neighboring property where at least one minor is present.

Mr. Boyle mentioned the 1974 deed that gifted Kenny Lane to the County. He asked why road names were changed, and informed this was part of the 911 district classification. It was further explained that Kenny Lane was never accepted, formally or by expenditure of public monies, and that ownership dispute over this road is a private civil matter. Kenny Lane is still designated as a private drive.

The details of the dispute were related by Ms. Cornick, and she was again encouraged to seek private legal representation.

Ms. Cornick and Mr. Boyle left at 11:13.

IN THE MATTER OF  
RAPID FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS CONTRACT:

On motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites, the Commission approved a contract with Rapid Financial Solutions for payment cards for serving jurors. This proposal had been discussed on August 15 with the Treasurer and Circuit Clerk in attendance.

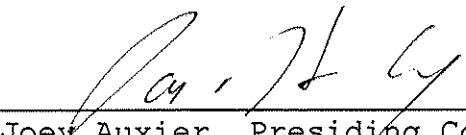
IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

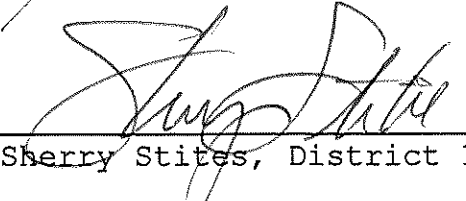
The Commission reviewed and approved general accounts payable in the amount of \$266,324.74.

Commissioner Hicks left to attend a previously-scheduled meeting at 11:45.

Hearing no other business announced, the Commission adjourned at noon.

Read and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 22, 2023 Fourteenth Day of the July Term**

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

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Also present were Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace, Deputy Clerks Adelle Hollingsworth and Kim Glidehouse, Coroner Ernie Coverdell, Support Services Sissy Korich, Treasurer Cathy Tipton, Assessor Tim Kean and Deputy Assessor Brenda Shivers, and local resident Ray Schweikart. Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
REVISED BID PUBLICATION PROCEDURE:

The Commission and departmental representatives present viewed a short video on use of Column software for electronically submitting notices for publication in the *Phelps County Focus*. The software allows for estimating costs based on word and line counts, and allows users to select the person invoiced. Because the *Focus* is the only remaining County-wide newspaper, all publications are effectively run through it. The Commission asked if every office sets up its own account. It is the general understanding that this will happen. However, if a user submits a notice even under a general account, the software allows an invoice to be directed to a specific person.

Collector Faith Barnes and Deputy Collector Angie Stevens entered at 9:02.  
Ms. Stevens left at 9:06.

This method of notice submission will be available September 1, and it is expected that other method of acceptance will be phased out in the future.

Confirmations will still be sent once notices are proofread and accepted.

Ms. Hollingsworth mentioned past problems where proofreaders have changed legal notices submitted by attorneys and relayed by the Circuit Clerk's Office. With the new changes in submissions, the job of transmitting notices will likely fall to the attorneys.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SENATE BILL 190:

The Commission asked the Collector generally how much communication her office has received about Senate Bill 190. The Collector advised that she has received only a few calls. The Commission commented that it has received several communications, ranging from the merely curious to the insistent.

The Commission is of the opinion that the public should understand that tax assessments can be frozen at higher levels than current, should assessments have been higher in the year that an individual qualified for social security payments.

The Assessor pointed out proposed litigation that will likely work through the appellate process, creating potential need for revision in the future of any administrative infrastructure set up to implement the law in the meantime.

Ms. Wallace, Glidehouse, and Hollingsworth left at 9:13.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY TAX SALE:

There will be a delinquent tax sale on Monday, August 28. Ms. Barnes provided some brief updates on local property maintenance, development, and payment of backed taxes. No official action was planned or taken.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:27; Mr. Kean and Ms. Shivers left at 9:28.

Local residents Connie Robison and Carolyn Wamble entered at 9:31.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SENATE BILL 190:

SB 190 was revisited, as Ms. Robison and Wamble came to inquire about the Commission's action, if any, on the matter. The Presiding Commission summarized the County's position, in the same terms that it had been explained to a resident on August 17.

Ms. Robison expressed her appreciation for clarification, especially in light of conflicting news stories. Commissioner Stites thanked Ms. Robison and Wamble for their concern.

Ms. Barnes and Mr. Coverdell left at 9:38.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT - I-44:

Mr. Schweikart inquired about, and was updated about, construction progress on I-44.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CITIZEN INPUT - FLAG CODE:

Mr. Schweikart referenced the U.S. Flag Code, requiring that no flag be displayed higher than the American Flag. He pointed out that the Missouri Flag stood higher in the Commission room than the American Flag. The base of the Missouri Flag was adjusted to correct the problem.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ELEVATOR RENNOVATION AND REPAIR:

The Commission reviewed and signed a County tax-exempt status letter for Courthouse elevator renovations, and received copies of All Rise Elevator's certificate of worker's compensation coverage from Ms. Korich.

Ms. Korich left at 9:42.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JANA LANE:

Commissioner Stites reported that a vehicle caught on fire on Jana Lane some week and a half ago at a property covered with old vehicles and other debris.

Sheriff Kirn entered at 9:43.

Neighbors of the property are concerned that the continued presence of vehicles and garbage could lead to another fire, threatening houses. There is also concern that the abandoned vehicles and larger discarded items constitute a nuisance that would attract children wanting to play in the cars, who might then be injured.

The Sheriff advised that there is no ordinance clearly on point that would require cleaning up this property, and that there are properties in much worse repair in the County.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 2250 - LOW-WATER CROSSING:

There is a low-water crossing on CR 2250 covering 3500 acres of drainage, with no culverts. Residents of this road have asked if there are plans to install culverts in future, as rains are flooding the road.

Any culvert plans would need to involve conversations with the County engineers. Considerations would include how much gravel is being washed away.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JUSTIN CIRCLE AND JOSEPH LANE CULVERTS:

Culverts on Justin Circle and Joseph Lanes have been crushed and are clogging. The Presiding Commissioner obtained some pictures and will forward these to the Road Department for their attention.

The Sheriff left at 10:00.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TIF PAYMENTS:

Efforts had been made by e-mail and phone to schedule a conference call with the Rolla City financial officer. 10:00 a.m. on this day was agreed upon just prior to today's meeting, with the City FO confirming by phone, as this was the time when the Treasurer and the FO said they would be available. Two phone calls were placed to City Hall at 10:05, and a message left for the FO, who did not answer.

The Kohl's project TIF project is being reviewed by the Treasurer. The Commission is requesting additional information to ensure that the TIF accounting is correct.

FO Steffanie Rogers called the Commission at 10:14 and was put on speaker phone.

The Treasurer summarized that in the Kohl's project TIF accounting, Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday (August) remittances appeared to have some discrepancies, leading to the County to pay more of a contribution to the TIF.

Ms. Rogers said that Kohl's has had problems with accounting attributed to high turnover.

Initial auditing was prompted when it was discovered that Kohls was lumping sales tax holiday exempt numbers with sales tax revenue. This was compounded by the City of Rolla opting out of the sales tax holiday.

County and 911 Board paid additional money because the City opted out of the most recent sales tax holiday.

Ms. Rogers said that now July through September accounting is flagged for a double-checking of sales tax holiday numbers.

The Treasurer asked if there were any other causes of discrepancies. Ms. Rogers said that there were some remittances from Kohl's followed by corrections after the fact - in the manner of amended returns. Ms. Rogers emphasized high turnover as a likely culprit for much of the need for revisions and recounting in the TIF accounting.

Ms. Rogers stated that she verified Kohl's accountings of basic sales tax versus food tax to make sure that money from one taxing bracket was not being improperly rolled into another bracket.

Ms. Rogers will be available to explain any further accounting matters, and the call ended at 10:26.

The Treasurer observed it would appear that accounting still largely depends on the information Kohl's is providing.

General discussion was briefly had about opting out of the tax holiday and the timeframe for doing so. No action was planned or taken.

Mr. Kojro left at 10:30.

The Collector returned at 10:38.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ARPA FUNDS ADMINISTRATION:

The Treasurer will be reaching out to Meramec Regional Planning Commission for some guidance on administration of ARPA funds.

The Treasurer left at 10:49.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SENATE BILL 190:

The Collector obtained information that most counties are not implementing tax freezes under SB 190 on their own initiative. One county has generated a form to allow people to apply for freezes, but this has not been mandated.

The Collector left at 11:02.

IN THE MATTER OF  
DEPARTMENTAL TIME SHEETS:

The Commission reviewed and approved time sheets for Sissy Korich, Head of Maintenance, and Yvonne Leutheuser, Director of Senior Companions.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ESTATE OF ORVILLE GIBSON:

The Commission returned to the Estate of Orville Gibson, previously discussed. Claimant Jennifer Medley, formerly Gibson and Busbey, provided a birth certificate copy through her attorney. Surplus proceeds of the tax sale of Orville Gibson's estate is ordered released to Claimant Jennifer Medley, on motion of Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Stites.

IN THE MATTER OF  
VEHICLE TITLE - JUVENILE OFFICE CROWN VICTORIA:

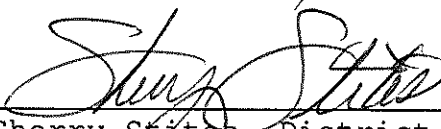
Juvenile Officer Kevin Breeden requested a car title for a Crown Victoria parked in Waynesville that is the subject of police requests for removal. It is thought this vehicle might have been a Juvenile Office car. A search was made for the car titles, among other County vehicle titles, and the title for this vehicle was not located.

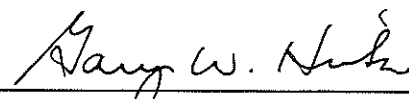
Mr. Breeden was instructed by the Presiding Commissioner by phone to dispose of the vehicle if possible, or to have it towed to the Phelps Sheriff's Department lot.

Hearing no other business announced, the Commission adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner





**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 24, 2023 Fifteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August the commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were the Focus Reporter, Assessor Tim Kean and Field Representative Grant Wilson.

In the matter of  
Tax Levy Hearing:

County Clerk presents commission with the worksheet showing the roll back and calculations for the 2023 tax levy to be set. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the tax levy for General Revenue and Road and Bridge to be set at .0795 and .0897, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 9:33 am.

Local residents Mr. Ping He and Mrs. Yiyong He entered at 9:26 am

In the matter of  
County assessment discussion:

The focus reporter asked the assessor about the alleged decrease/loss of revenue brought up at a school board meeting. The assessor explained he followed statute on assessing property and explains how he completes this process. Commissioner Auxier advised going forward that any entity that questions the process needs to reach out directly to the Assessor so they can get the proper answer.

In the matter of  
Citizen input on SB 190:

Mr. and Mrs. He inquired about the SB 190 proposal. They asked commission to explain how the bill would work. Commission brought up the He's property tax to explain how much they are paying in County and Road and Bridge and gave them the total of the 2 explaining that would be the only portion of property tax that would be eligible for the tax freeze. Commissioner Auxier advised we only know of roughly 5 counties that have implemented this as it will cost the counties a lot of money to upgrade/trade out systems so they could implement the SB 190 bill stipulation.

Mr. and Mrs. He left at 9:43 am.

In the matter of  
Congressional Farm tour:

Grant invites commission to attend the tour of the Ozark Valley Beef Company 15231 state route H Edgar Springs, MO at 11:45 am with Congressman Smith. Grant advises congressman smiths office found out about this company through the Rolla Chamber of Commerce.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:10 am and left at 10:11 am.

Local resident Pam Grow entered at 10:13 am.

In the matter of  
Citizen input:

Former Clerk Pam Grow asked commission if they had heard of any free funds coming in to the county. Ms. Grow asked commission to please decline the money if the county is offered any. Ms. Grow asked how the new Road and Bridge facility is coming along. Commission explains it is coming along well and encouraged her to drive out to take a look.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$110,651.87 for A - L and \$103,244.77 for M - Z.

In the matter of  
Cobalt in Missouri:

Commissioner Auxier advised he just learned Missouri has Cobalt mines. Commission further advised they are not sure why we are not mining that material when we have it accessible in our state.

Former Treasurer Carol Green entered at and Grant Wilson left at 10:32am.

In the matter of  
MRPC call on Lakeside HOA:

-Kelly Sink from MRPC called commission at 10:30 am to discuss Lakeside sewer system compliance updates. Ms. Sink advised they had to reevaluate the cost and are trying to work with the board to get a finalized contract. The contract would be for updating pipe and pumps and it would be utilizing the allotted ARPA fund. Kelly advised the funds will be spent by this time next year.

-Carol Green asked Kelly about the CDBG funds. Kelly advised if they want to move allotted amounts to other funds, she would have to submit a proposal of changes to the board. She explains the money allotted was based on a score of the county and explains there cannot be any money spent on these funds until

the environmental review is completed. Sink explains that review could take roughly 3 months to complete.

Mr. Boyle entered at 10:43 am. Kevin Breeden and Chris Karr from Juvenile office entered at 10:45 am.

In the matter of  
Sale of Juvenile office vehicle:

Breeden presented commission with a bill of sale and \$200 cash for the car that has been sitting on Waynesville PD property.

Breeden and Karr left at 10:47 am.

In the matter of  
Watkins Lake subdivision:

Mr. Boyle asks commission if they can provide the timeframe of the name change on the roads in the Watkins Lake Subdivision. Commission advised it would be in the commission minutes and it would have been between 91-93. Commissioner Stites advised he should stop in and see the assessor as well for information.

Mr. Boyle left at 10:50 am followed by Ms. Grow at 10:54 am.

The Focus Reporter left at 11:02 am.

In the matter of  
MRPC Call on Lakeside HOA Followup:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve Lakeside HOA to go into contract with Heartland to begin the Treatment facility upgrades, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 11:28 am.

Ashley Campbell from the Health Department entered at 11:28 am. Followed by Collector Faith Barnes at 11:30 am.

In the matter of  
County Vendors:

Barnes advised we need to make sure any vendors the county is doing business with has a merchant's license and suggests making sure they do not have delinquent bills.

Barnes left at 11:41 am.

In the matter of  
Health Department funding:

Campbell advised commission of the new stipulations from the CORE grant. Explains that part of it is incentive based now by accreditation and Commissioner Training. She explains it will cost a lot of money to become accredited and she only knows of 1 other county that went through the accreditation process and it costed them \$9,000 to become accredited. Campbell explains she

is wondering if it is even worth spending the money to become accredited to receive roughly 10% of this grant. Campbell explained to commission if 2 of the 3 commissioners attend the public health trainings at the MAC training then we would be eligible for the 30% of funding.

Local resident John Lasmanis entered at 11:50 am. Ashley Campbell left at 11:56 am

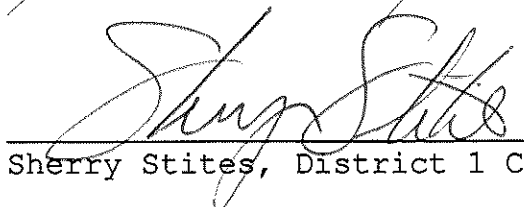
In the matter of  
County Road 3560 & 3570:

Crystal Collier from the Circuit Clerks office called referencing the conditions of the bridges on County Road 3560 and 3570. Commissioner Stites advised they are already aware of the damage and have had the road and bridge department assess what needs to be done. Collier also advised there are some massive chunks of asphalt happening by the low water bridge that will cause some serious damage to a vehicle. Stites explained it will take them a little bit of time to get the repairs done as the road and bridge department are trying to get the seasonal paving done and are also down 4 employees at the moment. Collier expressed her understanding of the time frame and thanked the commission.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 29, 2023 Sixteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 29th day of August, the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Kelly Sink from the Meramec Regional Planning Commission and local resident Ray Schweikart were also present. Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved its monthly internet bill of \$13.00.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD PAVING:

Ms. Sink provided some history, starting with Newburg, of plans to pave some local roads. Newburg had plans to pave some roads, but also had plans to redo some water pipes - consequently, they put paving on hold, so as to not have to dig up new roads to replace old pipes.

The Commission has agreed to pave County Road 7310 (MacArthur Road) as an in kind match.

Newburg City has now gotten its funding and scheduling aligned to the point that they are ready to begin paving.

The County will provide an accounting of cost to be used for Newburg roads for in kind match for the project.

County Clerk Laura Johnson entered, and Ms. Sink left, at 9:10.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE:

Ms. Johnson provided copies of legislation and regulations from the Missouri Ethics Commission that require a Conflict of Interest ordinance.

A previous ordinance was passed in 2019, as required by law. The Commission will review the legislation and a draft of an updated ordinance. The deadline for enacting the new revision is September 12.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE:

Ms. Johnson confirmed to the Commissioners that they were registered for the annual Missouri Association of Counties conference.

Brief discussion was had of the conference agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Ms. Johnson related a request from the MRPC for a meeting with Ms. Johnson and the Presiding Commissioner regarding grant applications.

Ms. Johnson left at 9:19.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ENHANCED ENTERPRISE ZONE:

Brief discussion was had of the Enhanced Enterprise Zone, including the term of the current representative. No action was taken.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SEWER STUDY:

The Legislature has set aside \$250,000 for a sewer study on the east side of Rolla. Numerous entities, including RMU and the County, are being asked to contribute \$8,900 each.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:28.

Discussion was had of the state of the roads and population density around the area of proposed study.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LAGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

A ballot will be sent out with the next round of paychecks for a County employee to attend the annual Local Government Employee Retirement System board of directors meeting.

The Commission plans to send an e-mail to let employees know that this ballot is imminent, and interested candidates can reply.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - PAYROLL:

Bi-weekly payroll in the amount of \$247,930.07 was reviewed and approved.

IN THE MATTER OF  
JEROME RIVER ACCESS RIBBON CUTTING:

The Department of Conservation provided a flyer announcing a September 1 ribbon cutting at the Jerome river access, off Highway D, beginning at 10:00 am.

Road and Bridge Department Superintendent Mark Case entered at 9:42.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ROAD PAVING:

Mr. Case was relayed a summary of information that Ms. Sink provided earlier. Mr. Case estimates the County's portion of road on the expanse in question is a one-day project. Mr. Case was informed of the accounting that needs to accompany the paving project.

Mr. Case provided updates on some other paving projects currently underway in the County.

The possibility of salting gravel roads in summer was discussed, to absorb humidity and attempt to prevent wash boarding..

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:56.

IN THE MATTER OF  
LAYDOWN MACHINE:

MoDOT has requested use of a County laydown machine in the future. If this is agreed to, the County would likely seek to trade use of the machine for assistance in road work, such as widening Sally Lane.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 7320:

A request was made for grading on a hill at County Road 7320 in Newburg, after the usual stopping point of County grading.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:59.

Mr. Case will relay the request to his crew.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 8050 AND NEARBY CREEK:

Discussion was had of gravel being washed away by a creek near County Road 8050. The Commission is considering requesting landowners' cooperation in replacing gravel to support the road.

Mr. Case and Mr. Schweikhardt left at 10:10.

IN THE MATTER OF  
CART FUNDS DISTRIBUTION:

The Treasurer provided charts of the CART funds collecting through the County gasoline tax. Collection of this revenue is up; motor vehicle fees are down slightly for the year, but up from previous years.

Mr. Kojro left at 10:17.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TITLE III FUNDS:

The Department of Agriculture provided the County \$21,128.02 in Title III funds.

There is a range of approved spending, but a required 45-day public comment window.

The Treasurer will confer with the County Clerk to get notice and solicitation of public comments published.

The Treasurer left at 10:21.

Tony Floyd and Kristen Sullins from Intercounty Electric entered at 10:45.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SEWER STUDY:

Intercounty representatives Mr. Floyd and Ms. Sullins stopped because of the sewer study, previously discussed. Intercounty and the Commission are agreed on the need for this study.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPDATES:

Discussion was had about energy efficiency updates, often advertised in connection with subsidies or tax breaks. Stackable batteries were mentioned as an example, which are advertised because of their power, but are expensive, in the region of \$10,000 a piece. Ms. Barnes referenced the PACE companies (Powering Affordable Clean Energy), allowed by legislation to install energy efficient updates. These are low-cost updates; however, if payment is not timely made, the companies file liens and add the cost to the homeowners' tax bills. Liens have made it impossible for homeowners to pay their property taxes, sometimes resulting in loss of homes. The Phelps County Collector strongly opposes this method. At this time, there are no known PACE program operations in Phelps County, and the Commission has no plans to approve a PACE program.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved \$1,130.25 to the Meramec Regional Planning Commission, representing 16.25 combined hours of floodplain administration work.

Mr. Floyd and Ms. Sullins left at 11:16.

IN THE MATTER OF  
TAX SALE:

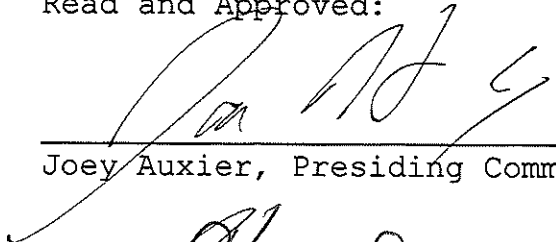
The Collector gave an update on yesterday's tax sale. 16 of 19 available properties sold. After considering no-sale and abandoned winning bids, the Collector proposes a policy of reoffering such unsold properties at 3:30 on the day of sale (half an hour after payment is due) for bids of at least delinquent tax amount and fees. Surplus revenue was generated from the tax sale, and a printout was provided.


The Collector left at 11:38.

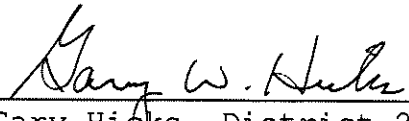
Hearing no other business announced, the Commission adjourned at noon.



Read and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 31, 2023 Seventeenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 31st day of August, the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt was also present. Deputy Clerk Hudson took notes.

In the absence of the Presiding Commissioner Auxier, Commissioner Hicks was appointed as acting Presiding Commissioner.

IN THE MATTER OF  
SENATE BILL 103:

General discussion was had of the new Judicial Records Shielding law - SB 103.

The Focus Reporter and Assessor Mr. Kean entered at 9:05.

IN THE MATTER OF  
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The Commission received a letter from MAC inviting comment from counties on pending legislation. Commissioner Hicks commented that State Government should be prohibited from passing legislation that forces counties to incur additional cost with no funding provided at the State level. Commissioner Hicks is considering asking MAC to adopt such policy.

Local resident Chester Crider entered at 9:17.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$82,788.43 for A - L, \$53,963.24 for M - Z, \$796.55 for Petit Jury and \$3,873.31 for Grand Jury.

Mr. Kean left at 9:22

IN THE MATTER OF  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - JUROR PAY:

The Commission reviewed and approved payments to the grand jurors in the amount of \$3,873.31, and to petit jurors in the amount of \$796.55.

IN THE MATTER OF  
NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE FACILITY:

The Commission reviewed overhead drone photographs of the new Road and Bridge facility provided by Mr. Crider.

IN THE MATTER OF  
GRANT MONEY REPORTING / AUDITING:

A request was made for grant reporting by County department by way of spreadsheet, to facilitate smoother accounting under the Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards (SEFA). The requirement applies to any agency receiving over \$750,000 in federal money. Last year the County expended \$4.65m in federal awards.

The matter will be revisited with the Presiding Commissioner and the elected Clerk present on September 7.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COMMISSION MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed draft minutes from the second half of August. A few corrections and additions were made for the published version.

Dane Crutcher from Central Security entered at 9:49.

IN THE MATTER OF  
BID OPENING - JAIL SECURE DOOR AND APPLIANCES:

A single bid was received for secure door access to the Jail Administration office portion of the existing jail at the Sheriff's Department, from Central Security Alarms. As scheduled, the bid was opened at read at 10:02.

The Commission took the bid under advisement.

Ms. Asberry from Maintenance entered at 10:16.

IN THE MATTER OF  
ALL RISE ELEVATOR INVOICE AND MECHANIC'S LIEN WAIVER:

Ms. Asberry brought an invoice and mechanic's lien waiver for the Commission's consideration - this paperwork was submitted to the Maintenance Department, regarding Courthouse elevator renovation.

The invoice will be submitted as part of accounts payable for the Commission's review in the near future.

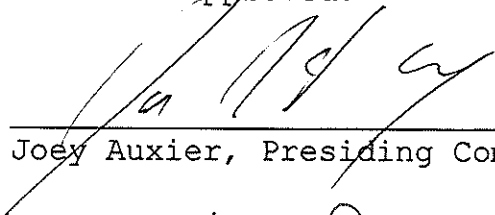
Ms. Asberry left at 10:21 followed by Mr. Crutcher left at 10:45.

IN THE MATTER OF  
COUNTY ROAD 5300 CULVERT:

The Commission briefly discussed culverts in the County, one example being on CR 5300. About a dozen such culverts will need to be reinforced, and will be considered for inclusion in a 5-year maintenance plan.

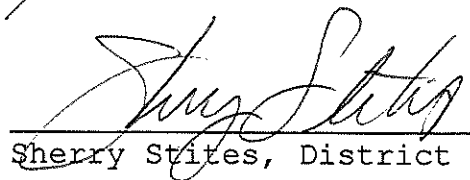
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Read and Approved:



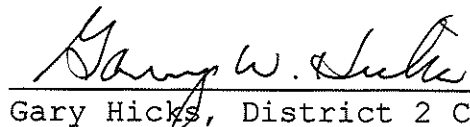
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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