

Phelps County Commission Record
March 7, 2023 Nineteenth day of the January Term

Now at this 7th day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

In the matter of
Handicap Accessibility:

Mr. Sanchez asks commission what their function is for the community. Commission advised yes, we are here to assist the public. Sanchez Complains about handicap accessibility for the community, specifically Menards as they only have 2 electric wheel chairs for the public to use. Auxier advised Mr. Sanchez that we can not get involved in city business and that he needs to be contacting city council to make a complaint with them as Menards is within the city limits. Next complaint is handicap spots available at the courthouse, and complains about why they took out one of the old spots, commission advised those were moved for safety reasons. Commission will take under advisement removing the curb for easier access. Treasurer Cathy Tipton is present. The Focus Reporter entered at 9:09 am.

In the matter of
Notice of Mining:

Commission received notice of adjacent or nearby property owners of a proposed surface mine from Mid-Missouri Mineral Division. The notice states they will be mining Clay on 424 acres in section 27-T39N-R6W. The operation will be conducted during the approximate dates of 4/7/2023 to 12/31/2035.

In the matter of
CART fund distribution:

Tipton presents commission with list of fees on Gas Tax, Vehicle Sales Tax and Motor Vehicle Fees. She reports sales are up roughly 20 % from last year. Sanchez left at 9:38.

In the matter of
House Bills Currently Circulating:

Discussions of the house bills currently circulating and how if they pass the county will lose a large chunk of revenue and how some of these bills will really hurt homeowners. Tipton left at 9:46. Amy Asberry entered at 9:55 and left at 9:57 followed by

The Focus Reporter at 10:04. Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 10:10.

In the Matter of
Document Destruction:

County Clerk Johnson presents commission with Document Destruction form for deleted voter records from 2012-2017 J through P and 175 boxes of deleted voter records from 1986 through 2013. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve destruction, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 10:26.

Document Destruction

March 7, 2023

Commission approved on _____

Shredded on _____

- Deleted voter records from 2012-2017, J through P
- 175 boxes of deleted voter records from 1986-2013

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner.


Sherry Stites, Commissioner District 1.

Garry Hicks, Commissioner District 2.

In the matter of
ARPA fund distributions:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the distribution of ARPA funds for the City of St James project in the amount of \$68,673.41 Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 10:16.

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the distribution of ARPA funds for MRPC in the amount of \$87.90, Commissioner Stites seconded, Motion carried at 10:18.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved the payment of invoices in the amounts of \$18,388.12 for A-L, \$43,545.84 for M-Z and for the purchase of 2 new Tahoe's for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$84,880.00.

In the matter of
Bahr Property Appraisal:

Commission reviewed and approved the payment of \$271.75 from county commission budget to Intercounty Electric to cover the counties agreed amount of the appraisal. Lt. Paul Lambert entered at 10:56 followed by Bailiff Chris Reeder at 10:57.

In the matter of
Courthouse Security Equipment bids:

Lt. Paul Lambert presents commission with a new bid for equipment to make the courthouse updates. The bid presented is from Security Pro USA out of Los Angeles, CA and came in at \$33,850. This bid would provide 2 walk thru metal detectors, 1 Auto Clear X-Ray Screener and 2 Super Scanners. Discussions were had about other bids that came in but those other bids did not supply all the equipment needed. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the bid presented to commission, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried at 11:08. Lambert left at 11:30 followed by Reeder at 11:35.

In the matter of
County Per Diem Rates:

Discussions were had on the potential of raising the per diem for county meal reimbursements. Commission advised the per diem is set at \$7.50 for breakfast, \$10 for lunch and \$20 for dinner. Commission advised they will not accommodate for payment of more costs than what is set. Must provide itemized receipt and you will be reimbursed only the allotted per diem amounts. Commission asked Johnson to send out an email titled "Friendly Reminder from your Commissioner's" to remind everyone of the set pricing that is in place to supplement meals while conducting county business and how to utilize tax exempt vendors to avoid not being reimbursed for taxes.


Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
March 9, 2023 Twentieth day of the January Term

Now at this 9th day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

Also Present were Jamie Myers public member and Grant Wilson from US Representative Jason Smiths office.

In the matter of
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Formation:

Jamie Myers presents commission with bullet point break downs for areas that would benefit from receiving funds to help our community. Discussions were had on how many members of the public are wanting to be involved in helping with this crisis. Discussions were had in how many members of the public that are affected by substance abuse have lost everything in their life and we are hoping these settlements will allow us to provide treatment and contacts for these public members affected. Discussions were had on providing a small council to advocate and set forth plans to assist utilizing these funds. Settlement states it has to be evidence-based utilization of the funds, some sections have different stipulations and we need council to be able to make sure we are following these stipulations to a t. Tis committee/Council is an advisory committee so they would provide suggestions to commission and commission would have to approve suggestions before any funds can be utilized. Commissioner Hicks advised he would like to see someone that has been directly affected by the effects of prescription drugs being give and causing addiction in themselves or a family member that had direct effect on them. Discussions were had on how the hope is that public will understand that this is going to be a wide range of services from prevention to recovery. Also Hoping to have the public be just as supportive once they see the positive changes this will have on our community. Discussions were had about Commissioner Hicks wanting to get a few recovered addicts employed in the county and is hoping there is a grant program out there that would supplement the salary to encourage them to be a productive member of the community and that there is hope after addiction. Myers advised he is attracted to this project to provide a positive movement in the community. Discussions were had on needing to approve the members and have them elect president, vice president, chair etc. Clerk Johnson gave Myers a name of recovered prescription meds addict that now leads a recovery group at a local church. Support Services Sissy Korich entered at 9:47 am followed by Lt. Paul Lambert at 9:52 am.

In the matter of
Congressional update:

Grant Wilson provides updates on The Ways to Means Committee getting out to the congressional districts. Discussions were had on how Mexico has not been buying US corn so Smith and Lee pushed the president to open up trade with the US to assist agriculture in the states. Discussions were had on how we need to be utilizing funds to secure our own border before we are aiding other countries. Wilson left at 10:04 am.

In the matter of
Front Entry Bid Opening:

County Clerk Johnson opened the only bid received from Stanley Access Technologies at 10:06 am. The Bid came in at \$17,656.04 for putting in the sliding door needed for the security updates. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the bid, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried at 10:09 am. Korich and Lambert left at 10:17 am. The Focus Reporter entered at 10:18 am followed by local resident Chester Kojro at 10:27 am and Caleb Hicks from enterprise at 10:54 am. Kojro left at 10:56 am.

In the matter of
Enterprise Fleet presentation:

Caleb presents commission with what enterprise can offer the county to assist with costs. Discussions were had on how enterprise can leverage the cost for the county. Caleb advised he works with several other government entities to save money for agencies but still striving to provide them with quality vehicles. Discussions were had on how this would not be a typical lease vehicle you would be owning the vehicle out right and Enterprise is just there to assist in the purchase and sale to be sure you are getting the correct value. Discussions of who needs to be contacted to get better assessed numbers of fleet volume were had and commission advised Caleb should reach out to Sheriff Kirn as he has about 90% of the vehicles in the county. Caleb Hicks left at 11:29 am.

In the matter of
MRDC News:

Commissioner Hicks advised in order for MRDC (Maramec Regional Development Committee) to have a loan portfolio to cover the administrative cost of the program a \$10,000,000.00 portfolio is necessary. Hicks advised there are funds available to loan to small business owners in the area.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$13,496.08 for A - Z, \$195,788.50 A - L, \$92,903.87 M - Z. The Focus Reporter left at 11:55 am.

Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps Couty Commission Record

March 14, 2023 Twenty-first day of the January Term

Now at this 14th day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved payment of Stipends to Senior Companions in the amount of \$20,471.10 and Payroll in the amount of \$248,429.76.

In the matter of
Jadwin Property:

Discussions were had on the finalizing of the purchase of the Jadwin Property along County Road 3110. Commission reviewed and approved the previous minutes referencing the purchase and advised county clerk Johnson to send a copy to Jeff Smallwood from South Central Land & Title to have on record.

In the matter of
E911 Board on Ballot:

Discussions were had on whether or not there were any E911 board positions on the April Ballot. Further discussions were had on how someone can be counted on the ballots as a write in. Clerk Johnson advised in order to be counted you have to become a certified write in which can be done in the County Clerk's office. Tim Kean from the Assessor's office entered at 9:25 am followed by Collector Faith Barnes at 9:28 am.

In the matter of
Per Diem Amounts:

Kean wants to discuss the set per diem amounts. Discussions were had on how he doesn't want the employee to have to foot the bill when He sends them to a training event. Commission advised one of the few areas they have a policy is in the per diems and he advised it hasn't changed since it was put in place. Kean advised his predecessor looked up the federal per diem rates and they are higher than what the county has set. Hicks explains these policies are set in place as they have to have policy but yet they are constantly getting kick back from elected officials. Hicks also explains this is set to help offset the cost of the meals while conducting business not to fund all of your meals. Kean feels he is getting penalized for going to

training if the commission is not paying full meal reimbursements and he advised his Assessment fund is his fund its not General Revenue. Hicks advised your assessment fund has been supplemented by General Revenue for 10 years with the exception of the last 2 years. Stites advised after listening to this discussion she feels there is a conflict of information. Kean advised his understanding was in place from his predecessor. Discussion on have Kean or Barnes seen the policy referencing the per diems and they both advised no. Barnes advised the assessor and collector have separate funds so they feel they should not have to follow a per diem policy. Kean advised MAC says you need to follow the State amounts set and shows Commission the printout. Stites advised the commissioners need to sit down and look at these amounts and come to a decision on whether or not there needs to be a change. Bock advised when she started with the county there was emails sent out that stated you will only be reimbursed up to the set amount, nothing over that amount will be reimbursed. Kean feels if it is a mandated training he feels that employee should be fully reimbursed, if it's a voluntary training he understands that no more than the allotted reimbursement should be paid. Stites explains we need to have an open line of communication and we need to have a policy in place to provide to everyone. Auxier advised he wants to have further discussions on this and will report back with an answer.

Michelle Bock and Mark Case from Road and Bridge entered at 9:33 am. The Focus Reporter left at 9:40 am followed by Tim Kean at 10:00 am. Dan Cavender from BPJ entered at 10:01 am.

In the matter of
Chip Rock bid review:

Discussions were had and Commissioner Hicks moved to award the Chip Rock bid of \$26.75 a ton delivered to Central Stone, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 10:05 am.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:16 am followed by Tonya Greven and Mike Scott from BPJ Insurance at 10:22 am.

Bock and Case left at 10:26 am.

In the matter of
Insurance updated:

Cavender advised he finalized the builder's risk on the Jail expansion project and he noticed there is some work getting started today. Cavender also asked commission if he needs to do anything else for the road and bridge project. Hicks advised we need to contact Cameron Schweiss to see if we need to have builders' risk before we start that project. Ashley Campbell from Health department entered at 10:35 am.

In the matter of
State Local and Tribal Funds:

Tipton presents commission with her findings on the report that is due at the end of the month. Asks commission to fill in the obligation areas with the amounts they are wanting designated. Discussions were had and commission advised they would get some numbers allotted and report back to her with the designated allotments. Tipton left at 10:42 am. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:43 am along with Mr. Peronas 8th grade class from St. James who are taking a tour of the local county government.

In the matter of
Form 205 treasurer report:

Barnes presented County Clerk Johnson with form 205 of her total collections for the year 2022 that the clerk must review and submit to DOR and State Tax Commission.

In the matter of
8th Grade class tour:

Commissioner Stites explains her job duties as the appointed District 1 Commissioner. Discussions were had on the county only having 16 people maintaining 600 miles of our county roads.

Commissioner Hicks explains his job duties as District 2 Commissioner. Discussions were had on what "road vacations" are and the process involved when we no longer need a road. Barnes and Mr. Perona's class left at 11:01 am.

In the matter of
Per Diems for Health Department:

Ashley Campbell explains her contracts have stipulations in place to follow the geographical areas for COHNS rates for training. Hicks advised when you are submitting those reimbursements you need to make sure to mark "as stipulated by contract". Campbell asked we follow the federal COHNS rates for mileage and hotel reimbursements but why are we not following the rates for per diems? Discussions were had on how if the county wants to adopt the COHNS rate then they need to be sure they word it to read only for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Tipton reenters at 11:10 am followed by Jason Shenefield from Phelps Health at 11:15 am. Ashley Campbell left at 11:16 am.

In the matter of
County Guideline Book:

Mike Scott advised Commission on how the counties need a stipulated guideline in place and explains the commission is responsible for the office holders in the county. Explains that the state auditor will hold commission to those policies. Discussions were had on guidelines for reimbursements, sick days, vacation, etc. Mike Scott is working on getting a draft of a guideline for the county to review and edit so that we will be following the auditor's stipulations. Mike advised they do a in-person FMLA training for all HR/ Office holders in the county.

In the matter of
Prescription Meds Benefit:

Discussions were had on how some county employees were unhappy with certain medicines that are not being covered. Further discussions were had that previous insurance was reimbursing more than what the employee paid for medications which was costing the county a lot of money. Discussions on how the federal government are going to be putting an end to the "free to me" programs within the next 4-5 months and things are only going to get worse. Greven and Scott left at 11:40 am.

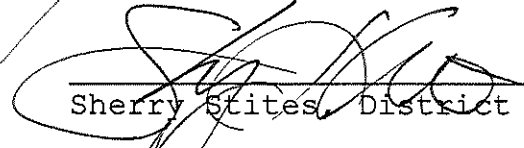
In the matter of
Phelps Health updates:

Discussions were had on press releases upcoming. Joining the BJC collaborative which consists of a group of 7 other health facilities that buy on capital expenses together so that every one gets a cheaper rate. They also do Bio medical maintenance programs which will cut down on large contracted costs having potential for several million-dollar savings. Stites asked if this will lower cost of services to patients. He predicts further down the road it could make things cheaper. Provider based billing (Medicare program) coming available in April that will benefit Medicare and Medicaid recipients. Allows the hospital to work with local pharmacies to obtain prescriptions at a lower cost for the patients.

Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 16, 2023 Twenty-Second day of the January Term

Now at this 16th day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

In the Matter of
News from Senator Brown's Office:

Discussions were had on how it would be nice if there were stipulations on anyone running for a government position should have to have experience with local county government before running for office. Discussions were had on the talk of the sales tax on food being taken away, and Ray explained he really feels that Justin feels this bill will not pass. Further discussions on the tax being removed would be detrimental to counties and unfortunately would cause personnel cuts. The money that is sitting in general revenue for roads needs to be spent on I-70 and I-44. Discussions were had on the government doing an environmental study on I-44 near Springfield. Discussions were had on how there is talk of them moving the school elections to the November elections which every one present feels that would be a huge mistake. Discussions were had on how local government is aware of the amount they are receiving in tax revenue and the big government has no clue what they are receiving. Further discussions were had on the fact that there are 1100 bills circulating right now.

The Focus Reporter and Ray Schwartz were present. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:16 am. Kahn Powell public member entered at 9:22 am. Schwartz and Barnes left at 9:39 am.

In the matter of
County Road 7100:

Discussions were had on how a semi carrying pelletized beets tried to turn around at the bridge and ended up overturning about 2 years ago. There is now a sign posted that reads no semis allowed. Commissioner Hicks advised the minor damage done to the bridge is going to be repaired by Road and Bridge department. Further discussions were had on how the bridge was designed a school bus would not be able to make a left hand turn after crossing the bridge which Hicks feels is a problem that needs to be addressed at some point. Gary Lorts & John Watkins entered at 9:48 am

In the matter of
County Road 1300 Road Vacation:

Discussions were had on gated off the road at the intersection of County Road 1290 and at the right side of John Watkins Drive way. Mr. Lorts and Mr. Watkins advised the liability from people trespassing on their property is just too high and there have been several individuals life flighted out of their area because they were illegally trespassing and wrecked their atv/utv. Discussions were had in reference to making sure a county truck, trash truck and a school bus have enough room to turn around if the road is granted to be vacated. Commissioner Hicks asked if Mr. Lorts and Mr. Watkins is aware of the county road vacation procedures. Commission explains you have to provide a Hammer head or cul-de-sac for proper turn around.

The focus reporter left at 10:05 am. Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:09 am. Mr. Lorts and Mr. Watkins left at 10:30 am.

In the matter of
Sales Tax:

Tipton presents commission with Sales tax report for the County. Discussions were had on how sales are down from last month but we are still up from the last 2 years.

Mr. Powell left at 10:36 am. Chester Kojro entered at 10:43 am.

In the matter of
County Per Diem:

Discussions were had on how other agencies handle per diems. Discussion was had on proposed 35% increase on the current per diem. Discussions were also had on adopting the Missouri set yearly rates from GSA since we already adopt these numbers for mileage and lodging. Discussions were had on possibly making a policy on only paying for certain meals if your training is only a set time frame of the business day. Commissioner Stites advised she feels once we set the policy it is the elected official's responsibility to advise all their employees. Mr. Kojro offers input on per diems. Commissioner Stites moves to adopt the GSA standard rates for per diems which are currently as follows: breakfast - \$13, lunch - \$20 and dinner - \$26, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried at 10:56 am.

In the matter of
Ridge Creek Subdivision:

Discussions were had on how a home owner slanted and paved a section of their yard that is forcing storm water to drain on to the road causing damage. Further discussions were had on how the county has not accepted the road plat on the new construction being done in the subdivision. Builder wants to have a meeting with a commissioner and Mark Case to come up with a plan so that they are in compliance. Barnes reentered at 11:25 am.

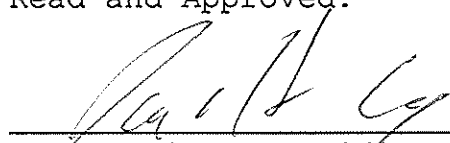
In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved payment of invoices A-L in the amount of \$80,345.46, Invoices L - Z in the amount of \$58,803.86, West side TIF In the amount of \$15,937.92 and Petit Jury Pay Jul-Dec in the amount of \$3,172.18. Barnes left at 11:52 am.

In the matter of
Civil Rights Project:

Discussions were had on a request received from Office of Civil Rights Contractor. Commissioner Hicks was instructed to respond to the FHA office of Civil Rights request.

Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 21, 2023 Twenty-Third day of the January Term

Now at this 21st day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

In the matter of
Sunshine law Request for county policy:

Discussions were had about the sunshine law request via email that County Clerk Johnson received. The request referenced a 2015 audit finding on personnel policy. Commissioner Hicks advised this particular incident was when the Road and Bridge department had an employee working under a relative supervisor. The commission addressed this by removing the payroll from that supervisor so there is no nepotism. County Clerk Johnson will review prior years minutes to retrieve the correction of this audit finding.

In the matter of
PA Budget Amendment:

County Clerk Johnson presents Commission with the suggested amendment to the Prosecuting Attorneys budget. Johnson explains we are unable to process invoices that are being sent up from the PA's Office due to no money being allotted in that fund for supplies and materials. Johnson explains she reached out to office manager, Linda Morris, and Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox. They moved the remainder of funds in that account to the supplies and materials fund. Commissioner Auxier moves to accept the budget amendment, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried at 9:21 am.

In the matter of
Liberty Lane:

Discussions were had on the damage done to Liberty Lane due to years of construction being conducted in that area. Further discussions were had on how this road is schedule to be resurfaced this year.

In the matter of
February Commission Minutes:

Commission reviewed, approved and signed the February Commission minutes at 9:40 am.

Michelle Bock from Road and Bridge department entered at 9:48 am.

In the matter of
Dumped tires on County Road 3620:

Discussions were had on a dump truck load of tires that were dumped in the night along County Road 3620. The tires are technically on the conservation land in the area and this morning conservation advised they will take care of cleaning up the tires per Detective Suschanke with the Phelps County Sheriff's Department.

Bock left at 10:37 am. Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:39 am.

In the matter of
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee:

Commission calls Attorney Travis Elliott at 10:38 am to ask for advisory on moving forth with the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee. Elliott suggested to make it an advisory only committee and to put in writing what their scope of responsibility is going to be. Advised it's important to make known they are not going to have the ability to make the final say on funding usage. Discussions were had on making it a reasonable number of advisory members and to not make it too large where a unified decision cannot be made. Further discussions were had on laying out a 2-page document that outlines the rules for the advisory committee and to include that in the minutes. Commission just wants to make sure we are doing this correctly to benefit the community. Elliott advised to make sure you are researching the settlements stipulations so to not break any laws related to each individual settlement. Call ended at 10:49 am. Commission advised they are working on a mission statement for the advisory committee.

Cameron Schweiss from Archer Elgin entered at 10:52 am.

In the matter of
Local Assistance and Tribal funds:

Discussions were had on whether the commission has advised if they want to obligate any of the funds we have already received. Commissioner Auxier advised we have no obligations to report at this time so we can report zeros across the board. Further discussions were had on how the funds can be utilized and we will re-discuss in the fall.

Tipton left at 10:59 am.

In the matter of
New Road Facility Build:

Schweiss presents commission with the map of the utilities currently at the build site. Discussions were had on losing some parking spaces if they left the pole where it is currently placed or if they want to move the pole and rework the parking area slightly. Commission approved to move the existing utility pole to not lose any parking spaces. Further discussions were had on placement of the silt fencing around the building site. Schweiss asked commission if we should get a quote from a fencing company

to be able to set a gate along one side of the property. Commission advised that would be a good idea.

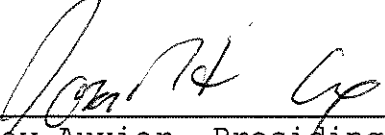
Schweiss left at 11:18 am.

In the matter of
Local Assistance and Tribal Funds (continued):

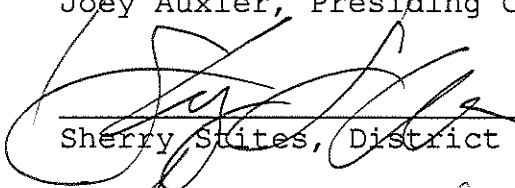
Discussions were had on moving the tribal funds received into the public facilities fund.

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 11:35 am and left at 11:37 am.

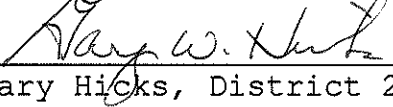
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Suites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 23, 2023 Twenty-Fourth day of the January Term

Now at this 23rd day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

In the matter of
PA Legal Research Contract Renewal:

Discussions were had on the LexisNexis Contract that needs to be renewed. This Contract is used for case work in the prosecuting attorney's office. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve renewing the contract for LexisNexis for another 3 years, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried at 9:13 am.

Present were The Focus Reporter, PA Brendon Fox, Treasurer Cathy Tipton and local resident Chester Crider.

In the matter of
CART Distributions:

Tipton presents commission with CART Distribution reports. Discussions were had on how overall Motor Vehicle Sales Tax, Motor Vehicle Fees and Gas Tax are still up from last year so the county is doing very well.

Chester Crider left at 9:16 am followed by Tipton at 9:19am. Local Resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 9:20 am.

In the matter of
Appointment of At Large Person to MRPC Board:

Discussions were had on what this individual would be doing and commission opened it up for suggestions of reputable individuals will to take this position. Commissioner Stites suggested Bud Dean and she will reach out to him to find out if he would be willing. Bud Dean calls commission and is placed on speaker to discuss the requirements of the position. Mr. Dean respectfully passed and suggested to reach out to Larry Stratman.

In the matter of
Flood Plain Management:

Discussions were had on a project that is going to be building a fence in a flood plain. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the flood plain requirements for Judy Dabler on 14450 State Route E, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried at 9:28 am.

Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 9:26 am followed by local resident Chester Kojro at 9:29 am

In the matter of
Jail Expansion Project:

Sheriff Kirn advised the jail expansion is making head way and everything is going great so far. Commission expressed how pleased they were with the new utility pole that was placed next to the old jail.

In the matter of
New Road Facility Invoice:

County Clerk Johnson presents commission with an invoice from Archer Elgin for the new road facility construction. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the payment of invoice for new Road facility costs in the amount of \$17,260.00, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried at 9:44 am.

In the matter of
Damaged Low water bridge off County Road 8350:

Commissioner Stites reports the findings from a citizen complaint about a damaged low water bridge. Stites presented commission photos she received from the concerned citizen of the damage to the bridge that has caused damage to vehicles in that area. Further discussions were had on how this bridge is on the list of scheduled repairs for the year.

In the matter of
Tick Creek area road:

Local resident Kojro explained to commission the asphalt in that area is slowly crumbling away and suggests fixing it now to prevent a big repair further down the road.

The Focus Reporter left at 9:56 am followed by Schweikhardt at 10:00 am.

In the matter of
Low water bridges 3040, 4030 and 8050:

Commission reviewed projected bridge repairs on the first 3 scheduled projects for the year of 2023.

Mark Case and Michelle Bock from Road and Bridge entered at 10:05 am. Sheriff Kirn left at 10:08 followed by Kojro at 10:28 am.

In the matter of
Road and Bridge scheduled county road maintenance:

Bock presents commission with projected asphalt overlay/chip and seal plan. Discussions were had on all the areas planned for repairs. Specific questions were brought forth on Fairview, Clearwater and Lake Drive. Commissioner Hicks asks do we have record of the county owning those roads. Bock explains since they are on the MODOT CART funds then they would have to be owned by the county. Case explains to Commission he wants to do all the roads but it's just not feasible to do them all so those prioritized. After discussions commission approved the presented maintenance plan for 2023.

Local resident Beth Pross entered at 10:53 am.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton re-entered at 11:35 am.

In the matter of
Civil Rights Project follow up:

Commissioner Hicks reports he responded to the office of Civil Rights Contractor that our county has nothing to report on the areas specified in the email.

Bock and Case left at 11:42 am.

In the matter of
BPJ Contract:

Tipton asks commission for a copy of the signed contract with BPJ Insurance so she can review fees associated per county employee. County Clerk Johnson provided Tipton with the BPJ insurance packet for her review.

Tipton left at 11:46 am.


In the matter of
V Hwy Interchange & Dillon outer road:

Local resident Beth Pross expressed her concerns with the construction going on in those areas. Discussions were had on the safety concerns of these areas now having 2 truck stops and construction going on. Stites explained they have had conversations with state on this particular area as it is a huge concern for all of the commissioners. Pross explained a simple fix is to put up a no turn on red when exiting I-44 and she also suggests not allowing tractor trailers to park on the off and on ramps at that interchange. Commission advised Pross to contact local representatives to see about pushing this area up the chain for the safety of the citizens.

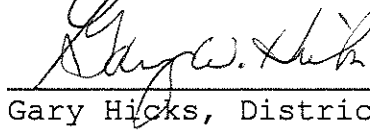
Pross left at 11:59 am.

Read and Approved:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
March 28, 2023 Twenty-Fifth day of the January Term

Now at this 28th day of March 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 Bill Hudson recorded minutes

In the matter of
Property Tax Outlaws:

The Commission was presented with delinquent tax bills from 2016 where the debtors were untraceable. On motion of Commissioner Hicks as seconded by Commissioner Stites, tax was abated on certificates 2022002287, 2022002266, 2022002267, 2022002268, and 2022002279.

Also present was The Focus Report.

In the matter of
MRPC Flooding inspections:

The Commission received an e-mail from MRPC to say that they would be inspecting properties in the County where flood damage was reported from last weekend (3/25-26).

In the matter of
Route D Bridge, Jerome:

The Commission discussed property owner plans to fill washed-away land with rock southwest of the Route D bridge over the Gasconade River in Jerome.

In the matter of
Opioid Lawsuit Settlement Advisory Committee:

Discussion was had of the proposed number and make-up of the advisory committee on expenditure of the opioid manufacturer's settlement funds. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve a draft mission statement for the advisory committee, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

The Commission made a phone call to Jamie Meyers of Behavioral Health by speaker phone. The mission statement was read to Mr. Meyers and the Commission mentioned that the advisory committee might consist of 9 people, including someone who has been personally affected by opioid addiction. Discussion was had of the need for bylaws and a public meeting space. The Commission stressed the need for cooperation versus competition.

Commissioner Stites agreed to be the Commission's *ex officio* representative to the advisory committee.

Sheriff Kirn entered at 9:57 am. The *Focus* reporter left at 9:58 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff's Department Renovations:

Kirn presented a report of expenditures on renovations to the Sheriff's Department and jail, which were less than anticipated. Contractual changes resulted in further reduction of costs of renovation. Total savings was \$862,149.00.

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the expenditures, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
County Health Insurance:

The Sheriff related general concerns that the county health insurance company is not approving some employees' medication costs. The Commission suggested a point of contact with the insurance company, provided a contact phone number, and that employees request a comparable medication prescription from healthcare providers. There was also discussion of using cell phone applications and the Optum Rx website, and the possibility of employee training regarding online healthcare services.

A phone call was placed to insurance representative Tonya Greven, and the presiding commissioner left a voicemail requesting that she contact the County to provide guidance. A message was then sent to insurance representative Mike Scott requesting guidance.

In the matter of
Flood Plane Ordinance Enforcement:

The Commission received a request to ask the Sheriff's Department to instruct the trucking company working on a boat ramp near the Route D bridge in Jerome over the Gasconade River to cease and desist rock hauling until they obtain the proper County permit for work in a flood plain. The Sheriff stated that he would contact the trucking company and inform them that they are in violation of a county ordinance if they continue to operate without a permit and are subject to misdemeanor penalties.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:44 am. Sheriff Kirn left at 10:50 am.

A phone call was made to MRPC concerning the trucking operation, and the trucking company was apparently under the impression that their state permit was sufficient.

Local resident Donald Green entered at 11:43 am.


In the matter of
A TREE NEAR COUNTY ROAD 8280:

Mr. Green mentioned that there is a dead tree on his property on County Road 8280. He wanted to make sure there was no safety concern about removing the tree. The Commission discussed plans for tree trimming in the near future.

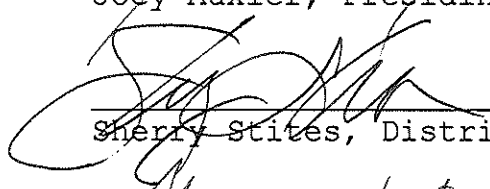
In the matter of
B-21 Bomber Bed-down Base:

Information was received from the Department of the Air Force about a proposed extension to Whiteman Air Base, including notice of public hearings in April 2023.

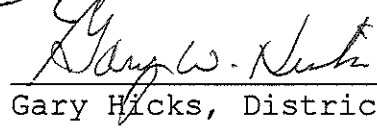
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
March 30, 2023 Twenty-sixth day of the January Term

Now at this 30th day of March 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, Phelps County Clerk

Also Present was the Focus Reporter, Collector Faith Barnes, Grant Wilson - Representative from Jason Smiths office and local resident Ray Schweikhardt.

In the matter of
B-21 Bomber Beddown site:

Commissioner Auxier asked Grant Wilson if he or Jason Smith are going to attend the meeting for the new B-21 bomber beddown site. Discussions were had on the project and Commissioner Auxier gave Wilson the informational packet referencing the details.

Barnes left at 9:23 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved payment of Invoices in the amount of \$168,234.13 A - L, \$62,735.23 M - Z, Payroll in the amount of \$413,524.68 and KCL benefits/COBRA retirement in the amount of \$7,741.18.

Lt. Chris Finch entered at 9:28 am

In the matter of
SLFRF Peace officer grant:

Finch presents commission with documentation for an ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Peace Officer Grant in the amount of \$20,000. Commissioner Auxier moved to approve the grant in the amount of \$20,000, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Appointment of At Large Person to MRPC Board Follow up:

Commissioner Hicks advised they still have not found an appointee to fill the at large seat for the MRPC Board and he

has reached out to the last suggested person, Larry Stratman, who has expressed he can not do it at this time.

Finch left at 9:36 am.

In the matter of
Phelps County updates:

Wilson asked commission what has been happening in Phelps County. Commissioner Auxier advised we have broke ground and started clearing off the site for the new Road and Bridge Department Facility.

In the matter of
Updates from Jason Smith Office:

Wilson reports Smith is still working on getting Mexico to gear trades toward the US instead of China. He hopes by doing this it will create more jobs and force people to get a job instead of utilizing the system to live off of. Discussions were had on new trucks being ordered and not getting to the dealers after they have been ordered for over a year. Discussions were had on how they feel we could be looking at a nuclear war in the future just because of the technology and how greedy the Human race has become.

Support Services Sissy Korich and Bailiff Chris Reeder entered at 10:03 am. The Focus Reporter left at 10:03 am.

In the matter of
Building Maintenance updates:

Korich explains the Loop repairs went very well and there were only a few minor things that needed repaired during the process. Overall, she was very pleased with the process and how it was finished. Korich reports her findings from touring Webster, Christian, Green and Pulaski Counties courthouse facilities. Discussions were had on some of the areas that she was impressed with the most and hopes to utilize these in the new updates that will be made to our courthouse. Korich advised commission she would like to use St Robert glass to put in the partition for the start of the updates. Commissioner Auxier advised we would like to go with which ever company you feel will be the best. Korich advised we will go with St. Robert Glass for the project.

Faith Barnes re-entered at 10:07 am. Ray Schweikhardt left at 10:22 am.

In the matter of
Courthouse security:

Discussions were had on the possibility of installing key card access to the internal office doors. Korich advised it can be

costly to install and you would be looking at roughly \$10,000 for 10 key access readers.

Wilson and Korich left at 10:34 am.

In the matter of
Doolittle Sewer tax:

Barnes advised she is receiving complaints in reference to Doolittle sewer taxes. Discussions were had on how its not being done properly in the city of Doolittle and property owners are getting taxed twice. Barnes advised she is going to remove the Sewer tax on the Counties tax bill to the property owners of Doolittle since the City of Doolittle is not sending out the required notices to the owners. Commission advised Barnes our contract states we can void after 30 days' notice is given to city of Doolittle but suggests to make sure she has proper documentation of the problems.

Reeder left at 10:46 am followed by Barnes at 10:51 am.

Barnes re-entered at 11:17 am

In the matter of
Doolittle Sewer tax follow up:

Barnes advised commission she is not going to cancel the contract but she is no longer going to be adding the sewer fees to her tax bills. She is leaving those fees to Doolittle to collect since they have not been doing what they are supposed to do.

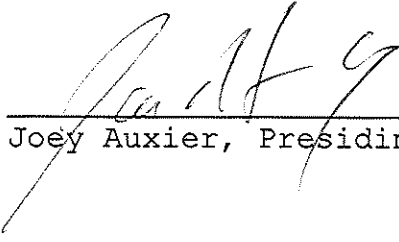
Mark Heflin entered at 11:23 am. Barnes left at 11:26 am.

In the matter of
Beaver Creek area along county road 7100:

Mr. Heflin advised commission he has an issue with the boulders that were placed around the bridge that are causing water damage to his property. Discussions were had on how the rocks have moved and created small run off areas causing erosion damage. Commission advised they will reach out to the Road department to go out and move the rock out that is creating the run offs.


Heflin left at 11:41 am.

Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner


Gary W. Hicks

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner