

Phelps County Commission Record

March 5, 2024 this Nineteenth Day of the January Term

Now at this 5th day of March, 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

In the matter of
Review of previous commission minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 2/13, 2/15, 2/20, 2/22 and 2/27.

Lt. Paul Lambert entered at 9:22 am.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion Change order:

Lambert presents commission with change order #012 for the jail expansion project for a generator pad. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the order, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:27 am.
Lambert left at 9:31 am.

In the matter of
Floodplain application:

Commission reviewed and approved the floodplain application for a section of property off of Highway P in Newburg, MO. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the application, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
SB190 phone call into commission:

Local resident Linda Bradfield called in to commission referencing SB190. Commission advised Ms. Bradfield of the current litigation on that bill and that we are awaiting the decision before we create an ordinance. He also explained to implement the software it would cost the county between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

In the matter of
Contract Hauling bid solicitation review:

Commission reviewed and approved the verbiage for advertisement of Contract Hauling bids for the county.

Local residents Helen Cornick and Mike Boyle entered at 10:08 am.

In the matter of
Opioid Settlements:

Commission reviewed the latest updates of the ongoing Opioid settlement court documents.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$20,408.68 for March Contract pay, \$35,064.36 for Jail Expansion, \$121,837.14 for Co self-insured UMR and \$510,262.00 for MOPERM.

Kojro left at 10:29 am.

In the matter of
Kenny Lane/ Pvt Dr 2305 discussion:

Discussions were had on Mr. White having a survey company come out and surveyed a neighbor's property. Now Mr. white is suing the Boultes family for the money it cost to do the survey to the Boultes' property that he did not own. Discussions were had on Mr. Whites property not being within the neighborhood development off Kenny Lane. Further discussions were had on the neighbors wanting to put up fencing to block out Mr. White. Commission advised they have every right to put up fence as long as there is no encroachment on the neighboring property. Mr. Boyle advised commission he has found an attorney to take the matter but he needs a "meets and bounds" in order to move forward with vacating the abandoned property in that area. Discussions were had on the property needing to be surveyed and the 3 property owners on Kenny lane to split the cost of the survey. Further discussions were had on potentially doing an adverse possession of the abandoned portion of Kenny Lane.

Helen Vaughn entered at 10:53 am.

In the matter of
County Road dedication:

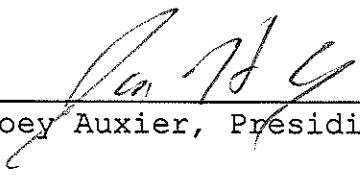
Ms. Vaughn advised commission they have 2 property owners over by dry ford that are wanting to give some property to the county to place a turn around spot for county trucks conducting maintenance on a portion of a vacated road on County Road 3340. Ms. Vaughn advised commission she is wondering if telling these people, they need to have an attorney is the proper thing to do and commission advised yes, they need an attorney.

Ms. Vaughn and Commissioner Stites left at 11:01 am to talk with the Recorder on this matter.

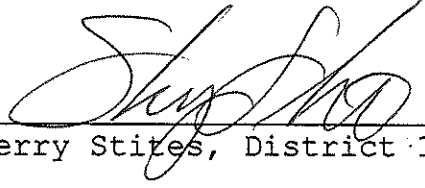
Mr. Boyles and Ms. Cornick left at 11:26 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:01 pm

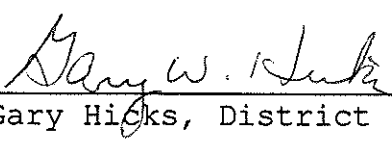
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 7, 2024 the Twentieth Day of the January Term

Now on this 7th day of March, 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 was Ray Schwartz from Senator Justin Brown's office.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$116,979.17 for A - L, \$142,556.90 for M - Z and \$7,094.17 for self-insured KC Life.

Schwartz left at 10:03 am.

In the matter of
MoDOT news on Railroad Crossings:

Commissioner Stites advised she received a call from MoDOT referencing the problematic railroad crossings in our county. Brief discussions were had on the call and upcoming reports we should be receiving.

In the matter of
Opioid Settlement Board News:

Commissioner Stites advised of an update email that was received on the progress of the Opioid Settlement board.

In the matter of
Burn Ban Ordinance:

Commissioner Hicks moved to lift the Burn Ban Ordinance due to the downgrade of the drought monitor scale for Phelps County, Commissioner Stites seconded, Motion carried.

Staff Sgt. Glenn Suschanke entered at 10:09 am.

In the matter of
LLEBG Grant:

Staff Sgt. Suschanke presents commission with a LLEBG (Local Law Enforcement Block Grant) for funding new vests for the Deputies. Commission reviewed grant and Presiding Commissioner Auxier signed.

Suschanke left at 10:15 am.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:22 am.

In the matter of
General Discussions:

Barnes and Stites discussed the upcoming NACO conference in Tampa Bay, FL.

Barnes left at 10:45 am.

In the matter of
Bid Solicitation Review for Parking Lot:

Commission reviewed and approved the proposed solicitation for bidding the resurfacing and striping of the parking lots at the Phelps County Courthouse.

Support services Sissy Korich entered at 11:10 am.

In the matter of
Long Distance Codes:

General discussions were had on removing the long-distance codes required to dial out long distance from the Courthouse lines. Commission asked County Clerk Johnson to send out an email asking for office holders feedback on getting rid of the code that is only being used for tracking who is making long distance calls/faxes.

In the matter of
Morgue for Coroner:

General discussions were had on the need for a morgue for the coroner as the nursing homes are all full due to the current high death rates. Commission researched portable morgues and forwarded what they found to the coroner.

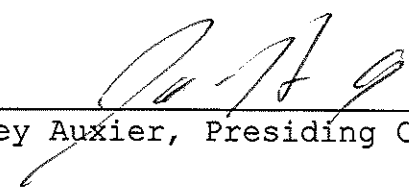
In the matter of
Long Distance Codes revisited:

After receiving responses back from a majority of office holders who are in favor of getting rid of the long-distance codes, Commissioner Stites moved to approve removing the codes, Commissioner Hicks seconded, Motion carried.

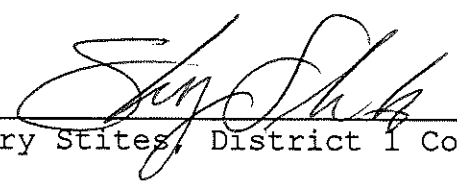
Sissy Korich left at 11:42 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:01 pm.

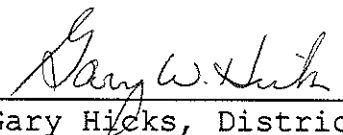
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 12, 2024 this Twenty-first Day of the January Term

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

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner
Sherry Stites, District One Commissioner
Gary Hicks, District Two Commissioner

Special Deputy Clerk Bill Hudson, duly sworn, took minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNT PAYABLE - SPAM FILTERING SOFTWARE:

The Commission reviewed and approved its monthly share of SPAM e-mail filtering software.

IN THE MATTER OF
ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS:

The Commission reviewed and approved a letter memorializing the County's termination of an elevator maintenance contract with TK Elevator Corporation. The Presiding Commissioner signed the letter. The County will now employ AllRise Elevator Company for maintenance services, as previously agreed.

IN THE MATTER OF
HIGH SCHOOL CLASS COURTHOUSE VISIT:

Collector Faith Barnes along with St. James Teacher Mr. Perona and his 8th-grade civics class entered at 9:03 am.

The Commission gave the students an overview of its functions and duties, and walked through the day's agenda with the class. The Sunshine Law was discussed, and Commissioner Hicks and the Presiding Commissioner illustrated the Commission's functions with discussion of receiving reports from other County offices, instituting burn bans in time of drought, passage of ordinances (the Destructive Animals regulation was given as an example), and cooperating with other State agencies.

Ms. Barnes provided some remarks on lawmaking and its general purposes.

Commissioner Stites remarked on the new bridge near Great Circle, the new Road and Bridge shed, and Courthouse elevator and parking lot renovations as projects realized through the Commission's work.

IN THE MATTER OF
COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL SETTLEMENT:

The Collector presented the Commission with her Annual Settlement. She explained to the visiting class the general functions of her office, and used automobile taxes as an example of monies collected under a statutory tax scheme.

IN THE MATTER OF
HIGH SCHOOL CLASS COURTHOUSE VISIT (CONT'D):

Commissioner Stites mentioned Fire Districts as one of the public services funded by County taxes, and also mentioned the property tax break-down charts available on the County's website as a resource for visualizing the allocation of money in the community.

The students were reminded that Commission meetings are open and that it is their forum to bring their concerns and questions to their elected representatives.

Mr. Perona's class and the Collector left at 9:20 am.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:27 am.

IN THE MATTER OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Commission received, reviewed, and discussed an advance copy of the annual Phelps County Emergency Board's Treasurer's Report.

IN THE MATTER OF
COMMISSION MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed and approved draft minutes from the March 5 and 7 meetings for signature and publication.

IN THE MATTER OF
SENATE BILL 756:

Brief discussion was had about Senate Bill 756, concerning proposed freezes in tax liability for senior citizens. The Bill had a second reading in Jefferson City yesterday.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - ROAD AND BRIDGE FACILITY:

The Commission reviewed and approved an invoice from Archer-Elgin for the new Road and Bridge facility (invoice no. 22172103-8) in the amount of \$4,230.00, paid through ARPA funds.

The Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:51 am.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - WESTSIDE TIF:

The Commission reviewed and approved accounts payable for the County contribution to the Westside Shopping Center TIF payments in the amount of \$27,776.94.

IN THE MATTER OF
TREASURER'S LACTF REPORT:

The Treasurer presented the Commission with LACTF and Sales Tax reports. There were no Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency

(LACTF) expenses or allocations on the County books for the previous year. The Treasurer will have this memorialized in writing in the near future. There is a reserve of LACTF funds of some \$301,715.52, and may be used for any governmental purpose apart from lobbying.

IN THE MATTER OF
TREASURER'S SALES TAX REPORT:

The Treasurer provided updated sales tax information for the County as of March 8. Collections are up some 8.49% over sales tax collections at this time last year.

IN THE MATTER OF
SENIOR CENTER:

The Treasurer stated she would have two checks for the Commission to review and sign relating to the new senior center in the near future.

Director of Courthouse Maintenance Sissy Korich entered at 10:20.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Discussion was had with Ms. Korich about Courthouse security improvements, including updated cameras and electronic door locks.

Ms. Korich recommended prioritizing stairwell doors and a rear breakroom door.

Ms. Korich left at 10:30.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - COUNTY PAYROLL:

The Commission reviewed and approved biweekly County payroll in the amount of \$251,258.66.

The Treasurer and Mr. Kojro left at 10:34.

IN THE MATTER OF
PENDING LEGISLATION:

General discussion was had of the State legislative session and proposed bills.

The Coroner entered at 11:35.

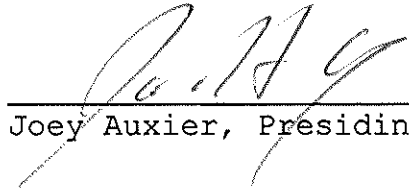
IN THE MATTER OF
HUMAN REMAINS STORAGE:

The Coroner updated the Commission on receiving bids for a new cooled morgue unit for storage of human remains. The Coroner is also investigating what types of electrical connections and power usage will be required for such a unit.


The Coroner is also investigating real estate and rental options for placing the new morgue unit.

Hearing no other business, the Commission adjourned at noon.

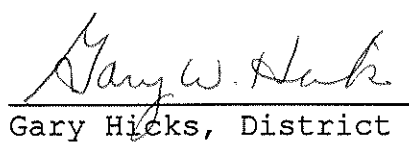
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 14, 2024 this Twenty-second Day of the January Term

Now at this 14th day of March, 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 Support Services Sissy Korich and Judge Ken Clayton.

In the matter of
Parking lot additions:

Discussions were had on taking the yard area next to the street side of the old courthouse and making additional parking lot.

The Focus Reporter and Lt. Paul Lambert entered at 9:04 am followed by Collector Faith Barnes at 9:07 am, Bailiff Chris Reeder and Bailiff Jamie Arnold at 9:13 am.

In the matter of
Personal Property Tax Court Orders:

Commission reviewed and approved the Court orders on Personal Property Tax abatements for order #'s 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210.

Korich left at 9:23 am. Followed by Lambert, Reeder, Arnold and Barnes @ 9:24 am.

In the matter of
Request for CART funds:

Commission reviewed the request for CART funds letter. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the signing of the request letter, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$816,214.84 for River City Construction, \$28,838.00 for Senior Companions, \$94,703.57 for A - L and \$205,377.35 for M - Z.

Judge Clayton left at 9:43 am followed by the Focus Reporter at 9:55 am.

In the matter of
Cemetery on Private land:

Discussions were had on a request submitted to commission to bury a loved one on their own property. Commission reviewed Missouri Statutes referencing private owned cemeteries.

Don Smith, Sheila Eastelick, and Eric Hipton from MOA FMDC (Missouri Office of Administration Facilities Management Design and Construction) as well as Jerry Pruitt from DNR (Department of Natural Resources) entered at 9:58 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (2) to discuss real estate, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried and moved to close session at 10:03 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to move back into Open Session, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried and moved to open session at 10:30 am.

In the matter of
Available minerals in Phelps County:

General discussions were had about critical minerals in the state of Missouri.

Pruitt, Smith, Eastlick and Hipton left at 11:15 am.
Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher and Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 11:17 am.

In the matter of
ADP pay questions:

Lasher and Campbell advised commission of the most recent findings during the implementation of the ADP system. Commissioner Hicks advised we need to look into FLSA to see what the actual laws state we need to be doing. Rachel Guth, Stevie Kearse and Amie Campbell from the Rolla Chamber of Commerce and Patrick Tuttle from the Rte. 66 Commission entered at 11:36 am.

After heated discussions and accusations made by Campbell Commission advised to just keep things how we have it set up and we can change it later down the line if needed. Commission advised the group can utilize the commission chambers for any future meetings so that everyone can see and be on the same system.

Lasher and Campbell left at 11:46 am.

In the matter of
Route 66 Centennial:

Mr. Tuttle handed commission a packet for review of the Missouri Route 66 Centennial Commission Act. General discussions were had on the timeline provided associated with this Act. Further discussions were had on how they are planning to create photo areas with in each county that the old route 66 ran through.

Discussions were had on the centennial commission offering a grant program to help fund events along the route.

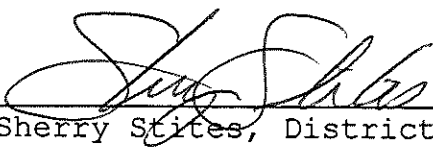
Patrick Tuttle, Stevie Kearse, Rachel Guth and Amie Campbell left at 12:10 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:12 am.

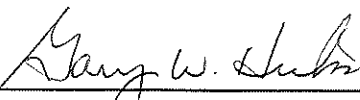
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 19, 2024 Twenty-third Day of the January Term

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

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

Also present were Support Services Sissy Korich and Road & Bridge superintendent Mark Case.

In the matter of
Security Updates:

Discussions were had on the updates needed for the Courthouse. Commission advised since we are already contracted with Central Security and they are already on a job at the new facility we have to wait until they are finished working on the new facility. Further discussions were had on use needing to wait 90 days before we can move forward.

Reeder and Arnold entered at 9:05 am.

Arnold advised we have some maintenance that is needing to be done and they will have to close down part of the parking lot to access the cameras. Further discussions were had on looking into purchasing the equipment now so we are ready for install after the 90-day waiting period. Case advised they could use the boom truck the road department has rented to save the county money.

Korich and Arnold left at 9:13 am. Followed by Reeder at 9:18 am.

In the matter of
Nustar Pipeline:

Case provided commission with the plans for laying pipeline in the county. Current plans will be a 7-mile portion that will cross sections of county road 3560, 3570 and 4380. Commission reviewed the plans and the bond for this project. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve construction of the Nustar pipeline, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:26 am.

Jason Smiths field representative Grant Wilson entered at 9:40 am.

In the matter of
The Ranches resurfacing:

Case advised earlier last year the road department went out and assessed the roads at the Ranches subdivision. Further

discussions were had that we should put the repairs on for this year's projects. They are planning to target the Elk Prairie Drive and Silver Spur Lane.

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 10:09 am.

Case left at 10:11 am.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Schweikhardt asked commission why Phelps Health changed their name from Phelps County Regional Medical Center. He advised commission when his wife was in there needing a simple surgery to remove gallbladder she was advised they need to transfer her to St. Louis or Springfield for the surgery. He also explained that a friend of his was in a minor accident on a motorcycle and the hospital flew him to Columbia unnecessarily and he was released the next day to ride home in his own vehicle.

In the matter of
Review of Previous Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from March 12th and 14th commission meetings.

Detective Scott Jarrett entered at 10:23 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff's Department donating Vehicle:

Jarrett advised commission the department is donating a 2013 Chevy Tahoe to the Doolittle PD due to them having funding issues. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the donation, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.



Phelps County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff Michael Kirn
500 West Second Street
Rolla, Missouri 65401



Office: (573) 426-3860

Fax: (573) 426-3857

Date: March 19, 2024

Re: Vehicle Donation

The Phelps County Sheriff's Department is pleased to make the generous donation of a 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe, VIN: 1GNSK2E04DR327288, to the Doolittle Police Department for use in their police vehicle fleet. This donation is made due to limited funding of the Doolittle Police Department.


Michael P. Kirn
Sheriff

Jarrett left at 10:25 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$497.08 for Petit Jury and \$3,864.91 for Grand Jury.

Kojro left at 10:33 am.

In the matter of
Senate News:

Wilson advised the ways and means committee recently met in Texas to discuss health care for citizens.

Schweikhardt left at 11:00 am. Followed by Wilson at 11:08 am.

In the matter of
2021 and 2022 Financial Audit:

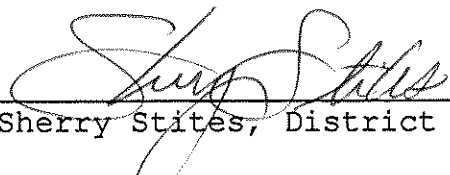
Commission reviewed the audit findings report for the 2021 and 2022 audit. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the report, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:00 pm.


Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 21, 2024 Twenty-Fourth Day of the January Term

Now at this 21st day of March, 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 local resident Ray Schweikhardt and Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox.

In the matter of
Assistant prosecutors' salary Budget:

Fox advised commission he is needing some advice on how to process a current situation with Assistant Prosecuting attorney Salaries. Brief discussions were had and it was decided to revisit this topic in 3 weeks.

Fox left at 9:25 am

Kean, Korich, Campbell, Tipton, Kirn, Barnes and Kordes entered at 9:28 am.

In the matter of
Employee handbook/guideline:

Discussions were had after reviewing the last few pages of the draft county guideline/handbook.

Local resident Chester Crider entered at 9:42 am and left at 9:51 am.

Schweikhardt left at 10:20 am.

Discussions were had on utilizing the standard employee trainings provided by MAC for new and existing employees.

Barnes, Kean and Kirn left at 10:55 am.

Campbell, Korich, Kordes and Tipton left at 11:05 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$264,027.01 for A - L and \$57,076.52 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Curtiss-Manes-Schulte Invoice #12:

Commission reviewed the request for payment #12 on the new Road and Bridge facility construction. Commissioner Hicks advised we

need to clarify some charges before approving this invoice to be paid.

In the matter of
FMLA/Banked time used:

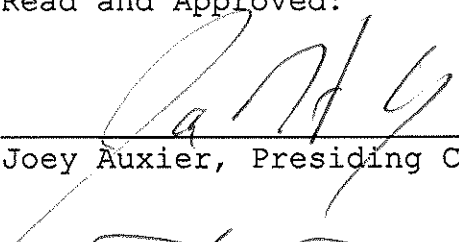
Tonya Greven was placed on speaker phone and discussions were had on what the pension plans were in place for payout of comp, vacation, holiday and sick time. Greven advised she will pass this info on to her compliance officer to get us a proper answer on how to handle FMLA and ADA compliance when dealing with employees that have been diagnosed with a terminal disease.

In the matter of
Old County Road shed at CR 1050:

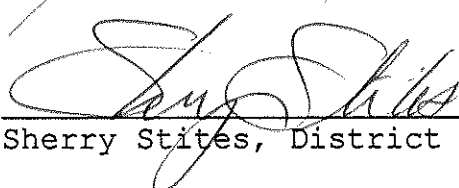
Commissioner Stites moved to approve disconnecting electric at the shed, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Hearing no other business Commission adjourned at noon.

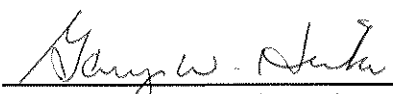
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
March 26, 2024 Twenty-fifth day of the January Term

Now at this 26th day of March, 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 moved to appoint Commissioner Hicks to acting presiding commissioner, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

The focus reporter entered at 9:04 am.

In the matter of
Curtiss Manes Schulte Invoice:

Commission revisited invoice #12 for the new road and bridge facility. After discussion, Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the payment of the invoice in the amount of \$549,301.80, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Review Commission minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the March 19th and 21st meetings.

Kent Bagnel from the Morning Mayor Radio show entered at 9:12 am.

In the matter of
FMLA policy review:

Discussions were had on clarifying the FMLA policy in the draft employee guideline/handbook.

In the matter of
General Tax discussion:

General discussions were had on marijuana and use tax. Further discussions were had on the potential of trying to get a use tax passed in the county with stipulations of utilizing the funds for road and bridge maintenance. Use tax would come from internet sales and commission advised they would just educate the public on how this tax is already used and could benefit the county members.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:28 am followed by local resident Chester Kojro at 9:31 am.

In the matter of
CART Fund report:

Tipton presents commission with the CART fund report of gas, motor vehicle sales and motor vehicle fees. Tipton advised we are up from where we were last year.

Kent Bagnel left at 9:35 am followed by The Focus Reporter at 9:44 am.
Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 9:52 am.

In the matter of
Change order #13 for Jail Expansion:

Sheriff presented change order #13 to commission for review. After reviewing the proposed changes acting Presiding Commissioner Gary Hicks approved the order.


In the matter of
Resurfacing county parking lot:

Commissioner Hicks advised we have not received much interest in the asphalt bids and he called Mr. Peirce to ask if he saw the bid. Sheriff Kirn advised he would reach out to some of the contractors that he has used at the sheriff department and try to get some bids submitted for this county project.

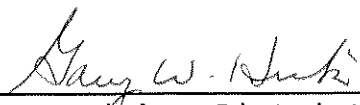
Kirn left at 10:07 am.
Kojro left at 10:37 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:58 am.

Read and Approved:



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

March 28, 2024 This Twenty-sixth Day of the January Term

Now on this 28th day of March, 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 moved to appoint Commissioner Hicks to acting Presiding Commissioner in the absence of the Presiding Commissioner, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission Reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$32,609.15 for A - L, \$17,837.59 for M - Z, \$549,301.80 for Curtiss-Manes-Schulte, \$14,190.17 for Payroll Deductions/Benefits and \$138,480.29 for UMR & KC Life.

Road and Bridge admin assistant Michelle Bock entered at 9:15 am.

In the matter of
Call to Senator Browns office:

Commissioner Hicks called Senator Browns office to obtain information on a DNR project budget that has had funding removed. Hicks advised this project would be beneficial to the state to be able to discover and mine critical minerals. Browns office advised they will look into this matter and see if they can get it put back in the budget.

Treasurer Tipton entered at 9:20 am followed by local resident Ray Schweikhardt at 9:22 am.

In the matter of
ARPA fund report:

Tipton provided commission with a current report of the ARPA fund. Discussions were had on the current pending charges and the remaining allocated funds.

Further discussions were had on the need to have MRPC reach out to the entities that we have allocated funds to and make sure they plan to utilize the funds.

Tipton left at 9:43 am.

In the matter of
Road & Bridge Department:

General discussions were had on the requirements involved for County Road and bridge department employees that operate equipment. Currently they are required to attend safety trainings, obtain a CDL and be Drug tested.

Bock left at 10:14 am.

Local resident Larry Stratman entered at 10:15 am.

Schweikhardt left at 10:23 am.

In the matter of
New Senior Center:

Commission advised the Senior Center should contract with SMTS buses to set up a few stops to be able to provide safe transportation to the new facility for the Senior Citizens in the community. Stratman asked commission if the Senior Companions are moving out to the new facility. Commission advised that would make sense to have them readily available and to have better access to the program with the new building being better equipped but they had not discussed that.

In the matter of
County Health Department:

Discussions were had about potentially moving the health department to a separate facility. Further discussions were had on how most counties in the state are no longer providing a county run health department. Stratman advised the Bass's are looking to retire and their building off Hauck Drive that is already set up as a dr. office would be a perfect spot for a Health Department.

Larry Stratman left at 11:10 am.

Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 11:11 am followed by Support Services Sissy Korich at 11:12 am.

In the matter of
Stand-alone morgue for Coroner:

Coverdell presents commission with a proposal invoice for a 6 body stand-alone walk-in morgue. Discussions were had on the options available for this morgue. Commissioner Stites asked Coverdell if he has reached out to the Restitution fund yet for potentially covering the cost. Further discussions were had on finding a place to house this stand-alone morgue. Discussions were had on potentially purchasing a portable building to house this morgue and then utilizing some space in the parking lot across from the jail. Clerk Johnson advised you could reach out to the RTI masonry department and get the students involved in the project. Discussions were had on reaching out to the sheriff to see about adding some square footage and a separate entrance to the proposed new vehicle maintenance shed off of North Park Street to house this morgue and office area for the Coroner.

The Focus Reporter entered at 11:33 am.

In the matter of
Dog policy in the handbook/guideline:


Discussions were had on the need of adding a section to the employee handbook/guideline to cover the no dogs allowed in the building issues.

In the matter of
Female Corrections Officers:

A local resident called into the commission and advised there are several female corrections officers that are being sexually assaulted while on duty by other Corrections officers. Commission called the Sheriff to advise him of these allegations and sheriff advised he was already fully aware of the said allegations and is handling it on their end.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Read and Approved:



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

