

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 1, 2021 First day of the July term

Now at this the 1st day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0900 to discuss ditching along Road 4070. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present. A resident on the road had complained to the Road Department of efforts at cleaning out the ditch; it rolled turf up on the back side of the ditch. Bock said that the ditches needed to be cleaned as water was jumping over the road surface and also said that the driveway culverts were in need of replacement. Recently the "Eights" were driven by road department staff and many of these roads need to be patched and chipped. Multiple road projects were considered. The Road Department wants to focus on many of the roads in the 8,000's and then some in the 1,000's which haven't been treated in 15 years. At the rate of 5-6 miles per day (without the need to haul equipment around much) Bock thought the department could treat 50-60 miles in a season.

IN THE MATTER OF
KEEPSAFE SELF STORAGE:

Commissioner Hicks said that the owner of this property reported that he had taken pains to install French drains to keep the storage units dry but that the water was not draining along the ditch on Twitty Drive. He displayed the GIS map with contour lines showing that water drained from the NW, on the other side of the Interstate. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 0935. The Road Department will investigate the matter.

IN THE MATTER OF
7050 BRIDGE:

Bock said that Don Magggi submitted an estimate of \$8500.00 for repair of the damage done by a truck this spring that backed over and off the 7050 Bridge; the insurance company's level of reimbursement is unclear so this estimate and the photos will be sent to the insurance company. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this estimate was approved, signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp and supplied to Bock for her to supply to the insurer.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUND APPLICATION:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks the application for Unemployment Benefit reimbursement from the CARES Act [PC-17] was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF
CORONER'S SALARY:

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CORONER'S SALARY, Continued:

The augmentation of the coroner's salary was reviewed as was a letter providing his justification; supporting documentation of illicit overdoses causing three or more monthly deaths for each month was desired by the Commission; Coverdell will provide.

IN THE MATTER OF
BROADBAND:

Prior to Sheeley's departure at 0955, the interest expressed by Intercounty Electric in participating in broadband expansion was discussed. Schweikhardt left at 1000. Commissioner Hicks said the "...fiberoptic has been laid all over the place..." and what is needed is the pedestal; he added, "I think there's a lot of capacity in these areas." Deputy Clerk Peter Cook entered and asked what was considered high-speed internet. Local providers, the state of Missouri, and the federal government all seem to have different numbers. If funding should be made available to companies which utilize physical lines as opposed to satellite, Cook wondered if this in any way indicated favoritism, Space-X is sending many of the satellites into space; Starlink is the internet that could be provided through them and this would be wireless.

IN THE MATTER OF
FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATION:

The new floodplain technical assistance contract was reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier. This was between the Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and the Phelps County Commission and renewed the prior agreement expiring June 30, 2021. As new flood maps have been developed, and with the expectation that the staff will be reviewing these new maps, notifying property owners of map changes and coordinating at least one public meeting, the cost to the county has increased but is not to exceed \$6,000. AS the calendar year budgeted amount was \$2,300, and the contract spans the July 1-June 30 fiscal year, this will require a budget amendment at year end.

IN THE MATTER OF
CORONER'S SALARY:

Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 1045 and the need for substantiation with respect to overdose cases was communicated.

IN THE MATTER OF
HOSPITAL PROPERTY SALE
AND EXTENSION ON LISTING:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the extension for the contract closing date from June 30, 2021 to a date "on or before July 31, 2021" was approved and signed by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp.

IN THE MATTER OF
JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY:

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JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY, Continued:


Commissioner Hicks wanted to establish the manner in which the departments that report to the Commission, those being Road and Bridge Department, Health Department, Building and Grounds/Support Services would be dealt with insofar as the Juneteenth Holiday was concerned. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the Commission elected to provide those departments with a day of vacation, as mutually agreeable between the employee and department head.


IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 19 and 36 invoices in the amounts of \$2,707.67 and \$64,037.81, respectively; 9 invoices as \$18,919.01 for contract pay; 10 invoices as \$10,335.30 for employee reimbursements, deductions and garnishments; and four CARES Act payments. These were: PC-11 and PC-14 in the amounts \$1,044.00 and \$2,474.84, respectively, for costs incurred by the Public Administrator in acquiring equipment and software needed to engage with clients remotely; PC-16 in the amount \$43,031.09 for air sanitizing equipment for the courthouse; and PC-17 in the amount of \$3,173.79 as reimbursement to the Unemployment Fund for unemployment benefits paid for COVID-related unemployment during 2020.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 6, 2021 Second day of the July term

Now at this the 6th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

In the absence of Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, Commissioner Hicks presided.

IN THE MATTER OF
JUNETEENTH:

Amy Asberry of Support Services was present as was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley. Commissioner Hicks informed Asberry in the absence of her supervisor, Director of Support Services, Building and Grounds Sissy Korich, that the department head had the option of permitting a day off at a mutually agreed-to date and time. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 0910 to be informed of this as well.

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Campbell said that the increase in reported positives in Greene County are presumed to be the Delta variant, as this is suggested by "sewer shed".

IN THE MATTER OF
RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS:

New restaurant inspections were discussed with Campbell. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0925.

IN THE MATTER OF
MISSOURI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:

This entity, under AmeriCorps, is searching for VISTA's (Volunteers in Service to America) and an appeal through Jill Hollowell of MRPC was made to the Commissioners for help in publicizing and attracting candidates for this program, designated for the Missouri Green Schools program. Sheeley confirmed he had served in AmeriCorps when younger; he then left at 0935.

IN THE MATTER OF
CORONER'S SALARY:

The Commissioners discussed the potential of an augmentation of the salary of the coroner pursuant to RSMo 58.095.5 and the data from payroll suggested this would, for a four-month period, amount to just less than \$20,000.00.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (MARK BARNES):

Local residents Ray Schweikhardt and Mark Barnes entered moments apart about 1025. Barnes then related an incident at the

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CITIZEN INPUT (MARK BARNES), Continued:

property just south of his own, on Private Drive 6055, on Saturday, July 3, 2021. Now in retirement, he tends to linger over breakfast but approximately 10:30 a.m. he was interrupted during his morning routine by very close and loud emergency vehicles. Bystanders informed him that a girl or young woman was "run over by a car" at the parcel just south of him; he thought she was seriously injured and perhaps suffered a broken leg. Then he realized a medical helicopter was coming extremely close; as he is interested in aircraft of all kinds, he began filming. During all his filming, he said, he was standing on his own property; the helicopter eventually landed on the private drive just north of his property line. As he started to videotape the take-off of the helicopter, he heard a voice behind him say, "You should not be videotaping this," and he turned around and recorded the image of a person, later identified to him as Austin Carlson (he was unsure of the exact name spelling) who was speaking to him and perhaps another bystander. Barnes then said that this person threatened him with "bashing his head in." As people were clearing away from the scene, Barnes (who had remained on his own property) hailed a witness and asked his name: "Ernie Coverdell". Barnes says he asked Coverdell if he had heard what Carlson said to him and Coverdell only nodded. Barnes said that a young woman, later identified to him as Missy Klott, told him he needed to "Get off of public property," but Barnes was on his own property. According to Barnes, Klott "got on the radio" and called the MoSHP; they came to his house and "they were intimidating." Barnes says that Klott told the HP that "the fire chief and coroner" had been telling him not to videotape the incident and this was the impression of the two patrolmen who questioned him at his home. Barnes was surprised that the Edgar Springs Rural Fire Protection District chief and the Phelps County Coroner were one and the same person. Among other questions, the MoSHP asked him if he were hurt would he want to be videotaped? Would he want his wife to be videotaped? The MoSHP asked him if he had a copy of the video; he said he provided it to them as well as to PCSD Road Deputy Jessica Edgar, who he said was particularly courteous and professional. Barnes said that it had only been Austin Carlson who told him not to videotape. Barnes said that one trooper, Trooper Chronister, said, "I was just acting on what I was told." Barnes observed that Klott relayed misinformation to the MoSHP, injecting bias, about his being on public property. They said they would take care of concerns on "their end", and that Barnes should contact the Commission regarding concerns with the Coroner. Commissioner Hicks said that the Commission has no say-so over the ESRFPD and Coroner Coverdell, as an elected official, must conduct his office pursuant to the constitution and laws. When asked, Barnes thought there was a lot of in-and-out traffic at the property to the south (where the injury occurred), and he is not sure what sort of activities occur there. Barnes said he would consider being in contact with the Prosecuting Attorney..

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (Shawn Coverdell):

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CITIZEN INPUT (Shawn Coverdell), Continued:

Coverdell entered to comment on construction of driveways at 10901 County Road 3010. He showed the Commission on his cell phone a proposed layout. He made an inquiry about curb and gutter. Commissioner Hicks emphasized the principle that variances are avoided if at all possible and cited a few of the major tenets of the county road specifications. The process of plat approval was reviewed by Commissioner Hicks.

READ AND APPROVED:

Absent

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Gary W. Hicks
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 8, 2021 Third day of the July term

Now at this the 8th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

In the absence of Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, Commissioner Hicks presided.

IN THE MATTER OF CARES ACT ADMINISTRATION:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks the invoice for May administration of the CARES Act funds by MRPC in the amount of \$357.50 was approved for payment. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was briefly present but left at 0915.

IN THE MATTER OF CD BIDS:

Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0955. CD Bids were opened as scheduled at 1000. Bids were received from the following:

<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>6 month term</u>	<u>12 month term</u>
Phelps County Bank	0.05%	0.15%
Bank of Missouri	0.11%	0.21%

Sheriff's LEST CD Amount was raised from \$3 million to \$3.5 million, but no other changes were made. Green spent a few moments discussing the matter and recommended the institution offering the higher rate of return. Commissioner Auxier moved and Commissioner Hicks seconded to accept the Bank of Missouri bid for a 12 month term for a total principal of \$4,750,000.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 35 and 38 invoices in the amounts of \$38,748.15 and \$42,406.12, respectively.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD DEPARTMENT:

A road department employee briefly visited with the Commission about his plans for retirement and use of accrued time.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

The Commissioners reviewed the June, 2021 Benefit Management Report from Group Benefit Services which showed a reserve account balance of \$548,552.45, available to pay claims.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 8, 2021 Third day of the July term

READ AND APPROVED:

(Absent)
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Jan H G
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Gary W. Hicks
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 13, 2021 Fourth day of the July term

Now at this the 13th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
ATV PERMITS:

Commissioner Auxier believes that it would be advisable to change the ATV Resolution enacted November 1, 2010 to permit travel on not only unpaved roads but on chip and seal and hot-decked county roads. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present. Auxier said that the state does not want anyone on a state roadway at all, but many residents travel around their properties between gravel and hard-surfaced county roads on ATV's. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp believes that input from the sheriff and a public hearing would be desirable and spoke about the details of Forest Service roads permitted ATV use. Liability coverage was mentioned as was contacting other counties. Assessor Bill Stoltz entered at 0910.

IN THE MATTER OF
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0915; Stoltz discussed the volume and number of BOE appeals which had been received. In response to Stoltz' inquiry, Presiding Commissioner Verkamp informed Stoltz that the public member in addition to Jeff Davis would be Brandon Biele.

IN THE MATTER OF
EMPLOYEE MEDICAL COVERAGE:

Barnes asked about renegotiating the medical insurance coverage and what that timeline would be. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0925. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked what concerns she had; she said that it was a real benefit for the employees and thought that it was bad to be rushed, though Presiding Commissioner Verkamp pointed out that bidders wanted to see claims history for as much of the year as possible and this tended to push the county up to the end of the year deadline. Barnes then left at 0928.

IN THE MATTER OF
BROADBAND SERVICES:

Kojro reported on contact he had with Gascosage Electric. Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 0930. Kojro said it would be cheaper to get the new high-speed internet but that he would still have to have phone service. A detailed discourse of the requirements of providing services ensued. RV said the question for Intercounty would be whether they are interested in providing "the last mile." RV held up the REA magazine and said that SEMO cooperative wanted to apply for grant funds; there was a case over whether they competed unfairly with private

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 13, 2021 Fourth day of the July term

BROADBAND SERVICES, Continued:

entities; the administrative case was decided in their favor. Technical details were elaborated upon.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

Sheriff Kirn reported that Presiding Circuit Judge John Beger wanted to put metal detectors in at the front entrance of the courthouse. Kirn said that in 2011 the mobile units were acquired, though little-used since; he expressed doubts about the integrity remaining in the electronics. When asked, Kirn said he was unaware of any new motivation(s) for this effort.

IN THE MATTER OF
BROADBAND SERVICES:

Doug Lane, CEO and Tony Floyd, Economic Developer with Intercounty Electric entered at 0945. The map of the "backbone" for Intercounty was displayed. Lane said Intercounty had considered internet; 7 connections per mile was needed for cost-effectiveness, and they only have about 5 on the average. There may be insufficient density of potential users to justify their entry into this market. Lane said that the cost for 1,020 potential hookups within a quarter mile of the city limits of Licking, meaning 52 to 55 miles of line, was about \$3 million. Institutions which lend to electric cooperatives have provided the 7 hookups per mile estimate of feasibility. Lane said the first thing they wanted to know was what type (speed, etc.) of service they were required to provide. Commissioner Hicks said that the administrators for the ARPA funds (MRPC) had read all 150 pages and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp acknowledged the expertise of the staff at MRPC; Lane was encouraged to look to them to know "what is within the fine print". Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked if there would be merit in a "trial" of a "POP" (Point of Presence) which, when augmented with ARPA funding, might establish a project that would meet Intercounty's criteria. Commissioner Hicks expressed concern that there might be "cherry picking" of dense customer areas leaving out some of the less dense areas. Local resident Don Green entered at 1010. Recent FCC auction with 7-year build-out requirements were explained for the benefit of the clerk. It was a type of "reverse" auction, in which the lower bidder would get the rights to establish the build-out. Cherry-picking is prevented, Lane said, because it's based on census blocks. Sho-me Power has some oversight of subsidiaries, apparently, and they would first work with one of their own members like Intercounty. Floyd will get the full ARPA document from Kelly Sink at MRPC and Lane said he would let their counsel look over the information. They left at 1025. Sheeley was given a review; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said the county was "exploring the opportunity to use ARPA funds toward broadband expansion;" he believes that Intercounty is in a perfect situation, as they have so much overhead infrastructure.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 8280:

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July 13, 2021 Fourth day of the July term

ROAD 8280, Continued:

Green had a side conversation with Commissioner Auxier at 1010 about road repair on Road 8280, then left.

IN THE MATTER OF
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION OF OPIOID ABUSE:

Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox entered to recommend that the Commission vote "yes" on the proposed settlement. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said, "Well as luck would have it, that's what we did." Comparisons were drawn by Fox to the tobacco settlement and then he recounted the structure of the distribution system, with manufacturer and large pharmacy chains and perhaps at least one entity in between. Commissioner Hicks said, "I just hope we have a plan for what to do with the money, if we get any," and Fox said there should be some sort of mitigation strategy. Fox said a serious problem is the waiting lists of 6 months or more for treatment; expansion of drug court is a possibility that he has considered for a long time. Hawaii has "drug court light" which is shorter time in prison but escalates with each additional instance of recidivism or non-compliance with increasing consequences. There is less left up to the discretion of any probation officer. Fox quoted a success rate of up to 80% of people who graduate. Missouri DOC is apparently starting to employ some of these pilot programs but "has a long way to go." Commissioner Hicks spoke of the Salvation Army's Harbor program which is 18 months long with a lot of structure and expectations; the duration of commitment to this program is both a barrier at the outset and a benefit.

IN THE MATTER OF PCORI:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, this report to accompany the payment was approved. The Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI) is funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund, created in 2009 by the Affordable Care Act. Self-funded health plans must pay specific fees to the trust fund, calculated based on the average number of lives covered per quarter. This year, for 128.25 average covered lives over the interval, there is a \$2.66 fee per covered life or \$341.14 in fees for Phelps County.

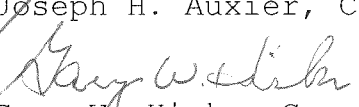
IN THE MATTER OF
CLOSEOUT OF FLOOD BUYOUT FEMA FMA AND HMGP GRANTS:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the closeout documents for these two FEMA grants were approved for execution.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 15, 2021 Fifth day of the July term

Now at this the 15th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (LYLE COX),
RIDGE CREEK SUBDIVISION:

Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present. Cox said that 2-3 months earlier he visited about the Ridge Creek subdivision; he would like to have a new plat recorded and have the previous plat vacated as that design's numerous cul-de-sacs were not ideal for layout or first responders and snow plows. He thinks the replacement plat will be much better for all potential residents; he has worked with an attorney at an adjacent county's title company to write up the petition. Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 0915. A central court (Camden) had been platted, jutting east off Lexington Lane; Cox said this roadway would be eliminated on re-plat. Lengthy discussion ensued over how best to amend the design, the access, etc. but Commissioner Hicks warned that having the roadway of Camden Ct. described means that to meet road specifications there would have to be a court on the east end. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0925. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said, "It would be a problem eventually" if anyone came to the Commission requesting access to those lots. Cox reviewed several strategies. Cox verbalized understanding of the importance of addressing the concerns raised by the Commission, and will consult his attorney again. Sheeley, Barnes and Cox left in succession between 0945 and 0950.

IN THE MATTER OF
VEHICLE IMAGING:

Kirn informed the Commission of his plans to access, for a \$9,000 annual fee, data of scanned vehicle images taken by a third party. This will be used in the course of investigative work in the PCSD. The service, Kirn said, is on the GSA bid and does not fall under RSMo 50.660 bid threshold.

IN THE MATTER OF
PRIVATE DRIVE 6246:

Barnes returned to present a situation with a property going up on the tax sale; it is the land comprising Private Drive 6246, a T-shaped piece of land. It's 3.25 acres; it's assessed as residential and as such the annual taxes are \$80.00. Barnes' concern is that there would be title searches, etc. for the purchaser to "own an expense." The county is not interested in this road since it is not at all up to county standards. Currently deeded to Maxine Strom and perhaps her heirs, all of whom including Maxine Strom who may be deceased. If it does not sell it does not automatically become property of the county.

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July 15, 2021 Fifth day of the July term

IN THE MATTER OF
BIDS ON LP GAS OPENED AND AWARDED:

The Commission opened the bids 15 minutes later than scheduled, at 1015. The bids, all received before 1000, were as follows:

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Bid, One Year, Starting 8/1/2021</u>
Poe's Rural & City Gas Co, Inc. Rolla	\$1.289/gallon
Ferrellgas, St. Peter's	\$1.69/gallon
MFA Oil, Columbia	\$1.729/gallon

Commissioner Hicks moved, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, to accept the bid from Poe's Rural & City Gas Co, Inc.

IN THE MATTER OF
SALES TAXES:

Treasurer Carol Green entered and presented the sales tax report for July. County $\frac{1}{2}$ % sales tax receipts were \$286,224.53. The rolling twelve-month (RTM) was up 9.75% and the month-to-month (MTM) comparison was up 10.49%. Gas Tax being signed by the governor was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 2110:

Commissioner Auxier spoke with a citizen by phone about unpatched potholes on County Road 2110.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD 2340:

The condition of this road and that of Road 2030 was discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF
TIMBERLINE DRIVE:

A resident from the 11000 block of Timberline reported a two- or three-foot diameter pothole to the clerk; this was relayed to the Commission for inclusion in the Road Department's work schedule.

IN THE MATTER OF
ATV RESOLUTION:

This was discussed again; apparently some counties adjacent to Phelps County do have more liberal permissions for use of these vehicles, such that hard surface county roads are included.

IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 77 and 56 invoices, respectively, in the amounts of \$53,704.25 and

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 15, 2021 Fifth day of the July term

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, Continued:

\$66,175.57. Also approved was the August employee health insurance premium in the amount of \$129,719.93.

IN THE MATTER OF
LAGERS CONTRIBUTION RATES:

Notification was received that LAGERS employer share contributions for 2022 would be 6.9% for general employees and 8.8% for law enforcement (compared to 7.2% and 7.8%, respectively, for 2021).

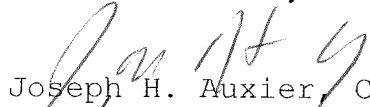
IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department came and spoke with the Commission about multiple projects and future planning.

READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 19, 2021 Sixth day of the July term

Now at this the 19th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:

The Board of Equalization for 2021 convened at 0900. The clerk opened with brief remarks and administered the oaths to the members, who included the County Commission as well as County Surveyor Terris Cates and public members Jeff Davis and Brandon Biele. Commissioner Hicks nominated Presiding Commissioner Verkamp as chair; this was seconded by Commissioner Auxier and he was elected by acclamation. Local property owner Bill Moorkamp was in attendance; his first appeal was for 602 N. Cedar, Rolla with parcel number 71-09-1.0-11-001-03⁵-004.000. Repossessed property, he purchased it for \$64,500 on 7/4/2019. He doubts that it doubled in value in two years; he will likely demolish it. Currently it is rented to a single family for \$800/month; it has no central heat or air. He has been told 100x a month's rental income approximates valuation; it is bringing in \$800/month. Multiplying the monthly rental figure by 100 derives a figure of \$80,000 for a market value. Stoltz distributed property report cards (PRC's); his market value is \$112,400. Cates asks Stoltz about the adjustment; it's been adjusted downward for condition. Commissioner Hicks asked about Rolla's proposed registry of abandoned buildings. Moorkamp believes the value is in the land; he believes since he doesn't carry fire insurance if the building burned to the ground that would just provide him one less thing to do (hauling off). Income approach versus a different approach for valuation was discussed by Stoltz. Stoltz said he gets only about 20% of the sales information, as Missouri is a non-disclosure state. Stoltz says that a foreclosure is "not usable" in an appraisal since this implies duress. Davis asks some questions about sq. ft. Quick calculation suggests 1900 sq. ft. for the structure, in living area. Commissioner Hicks asks Stoltz about some surrounding properties in comparable condition. Chair Verkamp asks what the land would be worth without any structures; Stoltz said \$25,000. Stoltz says that he lacks reliable information on the income approach and the sales approach; he only has information on the cost approach. Asked by Chair Verkamp if he would take \$80,000 for this property, Moorkamp said, "yes." Stoltz said that "substantial and persuasive" evidence is required. Moorkamp said it would cost \$15,000 to demolish everything. Stoltz says right now they have an 'equalized value placed on the property where everyone is treated the same' and he believes that right now there would be an arbitrary value being set, not be fair to the surrounding property owners. Moorkamp said it was listed in 2019 initially at \$109,000 and dropped steadily until he purchased it at \$64,500. Cates asks Stoltz if there is any classification "less than poor" and Stoltz says that below that would be "not livable". Moorkamp says it was an open market transaction; Biele says the lending institution engages an asset management service. Chair Verkamp

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 19, 2021 Sixth day of the July term

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, Continued:


said that the appropriate action would be for some member to make a motion; Commissioner Hicks moved to accept the \$80,000 figure and Cates seconded. In discussion Davis says he personally does not agree with it, thinks it is low, but tells Chair Verkamp that he does not have a number in mind; that would require an appraisal. Biele mentions what a lending institution factors in; condition adjustments would be done. Stoltz says they would have access to comparables and Biele agreed. Roll call vote showed Davis - no, Cates - yes, Biele - no, Auxier - yes, Verkamp - yes, Hicks - yes; the Assessor's value was not sustained. At Moorkamp's request, Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded, to approve withdrawal of the property at 407 E. 6th St., Rolla; roll call vote was unanimously in favor. Next taken up was property at 703 Wakefield Dr., Rolla; parcel number was 71-10-3.2-07-022-003-035.000. Moorkamp said he purchased the property January 4, 2021 for \$79,900 from owners on MLS; he gave full price for the property. This is his proposed market value; the Assessor's market value is \$99,145. When purchased it had no central heat and air. It needs all new flooring and all new paint. It's being rented for \$800/month; in April new heating and a/c went in. It had baseboard heat and window A/C on purchase. As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier to sustain the Assessor's value, the roll call vote was unanimous. The fourth property taken up was 926 Forest Dr. Rolla with parcel number 71-09-1.0-12-002-019-001.000. In 2012 he paid \$31,400 for this two BR, 1 Bath property with a wet basement; he charges \$595/mo rent. He is not sure it would bring the Assessor's value of \$70,957; his proposed value is \$60,000. Commissioner Auxier moved to accept a value of \$65,000 and was seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Roll call vote showed Auxier - yes, Verkamp - no, Hicks - yes, Davis - no, Cates - yes, Biele - no. Davis motion to sustain the Assessor's valuation was seconded by Chair Verkamp. Roll call vote showed Verkamp - yes, Hicks - yes, Davis - yes, Cates - yes, Biele - yes, Auxier - no. Lastly for Moorkamp they took up 811 Wakefield Dr., Rolla with parcel number 71-10-3.2-07-022-003-042.000. The Assessor's value was \$96,270; Moorkamp's proposed value was \$75,000. Moorkamp says 3 BR, 1.5 Bath without a basement is in worse condition than 703 Wakefield; he's getting \$695/mo because of the condition of the house. When they lower the condition, Stoltz says they add to the physical depreciation. Moorkamp bought 5 years ago and paid \$65K for it. Discussion of basement or "anything below grade" and how that factors into appraisal; Davis asks how substantially that is reduced from above-grade value. Commissioner Hicks moves to sustain the Assessor's value, and Commissioner Auxier seconds; roll call vote showed Hicks - yes, Davis - yes, Cates - yes, Biele - yes, Auxier - yes, Verkamp - yes, and sustains Assessor's value. Moorkamp thanked the Board and departed at 1020. Next Chair Verkamp attempted to call the contact at Ameren and received a voice mail. This was the appeal for the Ameren, Missouri, D/B/A Union Electric Company Gas Distribution System, with parcel number 71-03-9.1-29-000-000-003.503. An Ameren attorney called in and Chair Verkamp notified him that the Assessor's value was \$4,661,160 and the company's value was essentially the same, at \$4,661,163. An attorney with Armstrong Teasdale named Tim Tryniecki, also retained by Ameren, called in

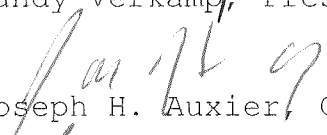
PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 19, 2021 Sixth day of the July term


BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, Continued:

and Chair Verkamp informed him of the agreement in the value. Then the appeal of Menard was taken up. Stoltz gives some history of large, national companies' appeal methods. This property is located at 1601 Westside Dr., Rolla with parcel number 71-09-2.0-10-002-001-034.004. Assessor's value is \$12,671,940 and taxpayer's value is \$11,262,355, based on \$65/square foot of heated space. A motion was made to sustain the Assessor's value of Menards by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier; it was followed by a roll call vote showing Davis - yes, Cates - yes, Biele - yes, Auxier - yes, Verkamp - yes, and Hicks - yes. Subsequently the Board undertook the appeal of Lowes Home Centers LLC at 2300 N. Bishop Ave., Rolla with parcel number 71-04-7.0-36-003-001-004.000. Assessor's value was \$6,834,730 and taxpayer's proposed value is \$4,853,920. After brief discussion, the Assessor's value was upheld as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier with roll call vote showing Cates - yes, Biele - yes, Auxier - yes, Verkamp - yes, Hicks - yes, and Davis - yes. Lastly the appeal for a cell tower located at 18791 State Route KK, St. James, parcel number 71-02-5.0-16-000-000-014.603 was taken up. As moved by Cates and seconded by Commissioner Hicks to uphold the Assessor's value, the roll call vote was Biele - yes, Auxier - yes, Verkamp - yes, Hicks - yes, Davis - yes, and Cates - yes; the Assessor's value was sustained. There being no further business, the 2021 Board of Appeals adjourned at 1120.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 20, 2021 Seventh day of the July term

Now at this the 20th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
PHELPS CONNECTIONS
FOR SENIORS (PCS):

The newly-formed 501(c)(3) Phelps Connections for Seniors requested a letter of support from the Commission; after light editing, this was approved and signed. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley were also present.

IN THE MATTER OF
WESTSIDE MARKETPLACE
5-YEAR HEARING SCHEDULING:

Notice had been received from Rolla City Administrator John Butz that a five-year hearing detailing the status of the Rolla West TIF needed to be scheduled. Tentatively 0900 September 14 or 16 was selected; the clerk will notify Butz.

IN THE MATTER OF
ABANDONED VEHICLE:

The clerk notified the Commission of a vehicle that had been parked in the Courthouse lot since at least early morning July 15. The jail staff reported the owner is incarcerated at the Pulaski County Jail. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp contacted Sheriff Kirn by cell phone; the sheriff said that he would address the matter with his infotech and Pulaski County.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

Local residents Linda Hance and Chester Kojro entered at 0925 and the roads in the 8000's were discussed. She lives on Road 8260; she wonders why the road department work on Road 8170 but didn't do a "little bit more"; discussion then included 8160 which is "quite rough after used as an incident bypass route for I-44" and Hance said they came out and patch it, but hopes they will work on her road. Hance said she hoped her road would stay on the list of roads to work on, and left at 0940.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (RAY SCHWEIKHARDT):

Schweikhardt spoke about a rental landlord, Robin Sooter, who informed the Rolla City Council during its July 19th meeting that there had been \$40,000 worth of vandalism after the arson fire in her building. Schweikhardt said there were repeated entries into the building and despite 4" screws into the doors the vandals were still able to force entry and remove copper and other fixtures. Schweikhardt thinks that the Commission needs

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 20, 2021 Seventh day of the July term

CITIZEN INPUT (RAY SCHWEIKHARDT), Continued:

to be involved as well as the city of Rolla; he believes this increase in vandalism and vagrancy to be of county-wide concern. He also wanted to discourage the Commission from placing rumble strips down the center line of county roads; his belief is that inexperienced drivers hitting the rumble strips might be startled or even have their vehicle diverted to the left, consistent with a previous experience he had. Commissioner Hicks said, "the Mission seems to have encouraged the influx of the homeless and transients."

IN THE MATTER OF
ATV RESOLUTION:

The Commission determined more information is needed about the requirements of amending an ordinance; this will be taken up at the next meeting. Sheeley left at 0955.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD FINANCING:

Jeffrey Tamkin, President and Alexander Zafarana of Public Facilities Investment Corporation (PFIC) of Los Angeles, CA joined by Zoom and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp introduced the Commission and other attendees. Tamkin presented his firm's strategy for funding road improvements in the county. The thinking would be that the phase-in of increased gas tax, possibly resulting in as much as \$600,000 annually, would fund payments retiring a debt instrument. With the possible addition of budgetary funds freed up when less rock is needed, it might enable county-wide hard surfacing of county roads. Tamkin's estimate is that there might be \$12 million in road improvements that might be funded this way; these new strategies have been under wider consideration with budgetary disruptions in the public sector due to COVID-19. Tamkin deals with certified architects, engineers and contractors, and his company focuses on local vendors. Since his company is a 501(c)(3), they can borrow as cheaply "as a city". His company has a large van that can go up and down the streets over about 2 or three weeks and this can provide a project management schedule. Tamkin asks about miles of roads and is provided the approximate numbers. Commissioner Hicks interjects that what is being considered is paving some of chip and seal (C&S) roads, improving some C&S roads so they can be addressed every 3-4 years. Tamkin said they can work with a "contractor of your choice" and can attend on-site meetings and even become involved in on-site consultation, or can just work to provide financing. Some of the variables such as interest rate and term were discussed and special mention was given to the historically low rates currently. Kojro left at 1020. Commissioner Hicks asked if payments would be monthly, annually, etc. and the reply was that there was some flexibility; he also asked if a new maintenance shed 100 x 150 with some accoutrements he enumerated could be incorporated. Tamkin said it might be; could be perhaps separately financed. Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 1025. Subsequently numerous other details such as the structure of the initial debt issue, legal requirement (if any) to have a financial advisor, spend-down bonds. Then due to some technical issues, the Zoom conference was terminated and Tamkin finished

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 20, 2021 Seventh day of the July term

ROAD FINANCING, Continued:

by calling in and being put on speaker phone. Commissioner Hicks said that consideration might be given to keeping the County Road Department personnel tasked with current maintenance needs, and other construction personnel brought in for a very large upgrading project. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that he wanted to have a list of references and after assuring that he would forward those, the call with Tamkin ended at 1035.

IN THE MATTER OF
CORONER:

Coroner Ernie Coverdell supplied the Commission with some information showing YTD information on suicides, overdoses and homicides. The numbers have increased sharply.

IN THE MATTER OF APPORTIONMENT OF
FINES AND FORFEITURES FOR PERIOD
JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021:

Now at this day the clerk takes up the matter of apportioning the Fines and Forfeitures credited to the Principal School Fund for Phelps County as provided in the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and the Clerk of the Commission hereby apportions said funds among the school districts with territory in Phelps County.

The amount to be apportioned is \$493,903.19

District	Membership	Total
	Fraction of Total	
Dent/Phelps 65/R-3	0.00127	\$627.62
St. James R-1	0.27310	\$134,884.40
Newburg R-2	0.06296	\$31,095.86
Rolla 31	0.62863	\$310,479.94
Phelps County R-3	0.03322	\$16,408.36
Dixon 16/R-1	0.00082	\$407.01
Texas County 81/R-8	0.00000	\$0.00
TOTAL	1.00000	\$493,903.19

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF APPORTIONMENT OF
FINES AND FORFEITURES INTEREST FOR PERIOD
JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021:

Now at this day the clerk takes up the matter of apportioning the Fines and Forfeitures Interest credited to the Principal School Fund for Phelps County as provided in the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and the Clerk of the Commission hereby apportions said funds among the school districts with territory in Phelps County.

The amount to be apportioned is \$392.16

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 20, 2021 Seventh day of the July term

FINES AND FORFEITURES INTEREST APPORTIONMENT, Continued:

District	Membership	Total
	Fraction of Total	
Dent/Phelps 65/R-3	0.00127	\$0.50
St. James R-1	0.27310	\$107.10
Newburg R-2	0.06296	\$24.69
Rolla 31	0.62863	\$246.52
Phelps County R-3	0.03322	\$13.03
Dixon 16/R-1	0.00082	\$0.32
Texas County 81/R-8	0.00000	\$0.00
TOTAL	1.00000	\$392.16

s/s Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

Treasurer Carol Green entered and provided information about this money.

IN THE MATTER OF
CART:

Green also supplied a report of the July gas tax, motor vehicle sales taxes and motor vehicle fees, which were \$56,464.22; \$23,378.82; and \$8,421.47. These amounts were up 23.05%, up 14.91%, and down 3.94% in the month-to-month comparisons versus one year ago.

IN THE MATTER OF
CARES ACT FUNDING REQUEST:

Phelps/Maries County Health Department funding request for June payroll was reviewed and approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF
HOME DEPOT CREDIT APPLICATION:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier this was approved.

IIIN THE MATTER OF
CORONERS' SALARY:

This was discussed and Prosecutor Brendon Fox will be contacted.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 22, 2021 Eighth day of the July term

Now at this the 22nd day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
ROLLA WESTSIDE 5 YEAR
HEARING:

This hearing was set for September 14, 2021 at 0900 in the Commission chambers. City of Rolla will publish notices. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was present.

IN THE MATTER OF
ATV/UTV PERMIT RESOLUTION:

The statutes regarding resolutions were reviewed briefly; the Prosecuting Attorney conveyed via email that an amendment would be passed in the same manner as the original resolution. Sheeley agreed to insert a paragraph in an upcoming publication about the intent to consider permitting ATV/UTV use on all county roads, regardless of type, with public comments welcome to the email countyclerk@phelpscounty.org.

IN THE MATTER OF
BROADBAND:

Director of Broadband Expansion at the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Tim Arbeiter, was contacted by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp by cell phone who left a message to return his call. Sheeley then left.

Commissioner Auxier felt unwell and left at 0940. Commissioner Hicks left at 1000 to participate in a Zoom conference with the MOCA Board, returning at 1030; then the meeting resumed.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

A Commission explored options for road maintenance and scheduling of same.

IN THE MATTER OF
PHELPS COUNTY BROADBAND:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp spoke with Bonnie Prigge about broadband by phone.

IN THE MATTER OF
SAFE CRIBS GRANT:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Campbell entered at 1115 with a contract with Safe Cribs Missouri which was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD
July 22, 2021 Eighth day of the July term

IN THE MATTER OF
HIGH SPEED INTERNET:

Sam McGill with Fidelity Communications requested a letter of support for extending high speed internet to 8 residences in Hunters Ridge Subdivision, with the help of a NTIA grant. This was completed for transmittal to him.

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Campbell provided an update.


IN THE MATTER OF
COUNTY PROPERTY IN NEWBURG:


The Commission hopes to sell all of the 10 parcels it owns in Newburg and this will be taken up at the meeting July 27. The clerk will be in touch with the County Ex-officio Land Commissioner, Surveyor Terris Cates.

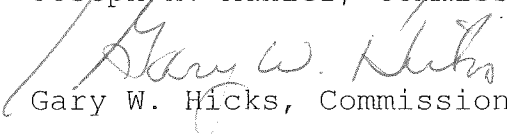
IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of 43 and 44 invoices in the amounts of \$19,502.05 and \$187,015.17, respectively. Also approved was TIF Economic Activity Taxes ("EATS") for the Rolla Westside Marketplace in the amount of \$21,064.15, reflective of roughly \$4.8 million in sales over a month's time for all the stores there. Additionally, the CARES Act funding request for the June payroll COVID-related expenditures for the Phelps/Maries Health Department in the amount of \$32,364.67, was approved.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 27, 2021 Ninth day of the July term

Now at this the 27th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

During the discussion of the TAC Committee, local resident Ray Schweikhardt and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley were present. Commissioner Auxier wondered when the State required "so many bicycle trails" and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that this was a requirement of taking federal money; a certain amount is to be spent on bike lanes. There was deliberation regarding Commission input regarding priorities for suggested projects. Bike use of Route B was discussed; shoulder improvements to permit bike usage along a "winery trail" to the Gasconade County line was felt to be a priority as well as improvements to the South Outer Road between Exit 189 and St. James, also to permit bicycle usage.

IN THE MATTER OF
TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (TDD):

An appointment to the TDD Board will be necessary due to Phelps Health CEO and President Ed Clayton leaving his position.

IN THE MATTER OF
ATV/UTV ORDINANCE:

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0930. Kojro engaged the Commission in a lengthy discussion about ATV's. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp informed Kojro that the original resolution's passage was driven by Forest Service requirements for a county permit before use of Forest Service roads could be allowed. Sheeley sought and received some clarification for his coverage of the subject and left at 0945.

IN THE MATTER OF
COLLECTOR'S DELINQUENT TAX SALE:

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 0950 and discussed her current list for the Collector's Sale at the end of August, which is 50 properties but surely would decrease before then. A lengthy exchange regarding a partially-removed billboard which had delinquent taxes followed. She is planning to call the state regarding whether or not a new taxpayer using the site will have to pay the back taxes. Further topics included her process for notification of the public.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (MARK BOOKOUT) AND
ROAD 3220:

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 27, 2021 Ninth day of the July term

CITIZEN INPUT (MARK BOOKOUT) AND ROAD 3220, Continued:

Local resident Mark Bookout entered at 1020 regarding his home on 3220. He said the road grader "graded right through a paved driveway entry which, while not used currently had been paved about 50 years ago; there are stone pillars and it is part of the land's aesthetic" and is included in his plans for use of the property. He lists several complaints about the maintenance that's been done; when rocks are taken out of the ditches and there is just "mud" there is "slop" in the road when it rains. He proposed, since he has ownership interest in land on both sides of the road, that the segment of road along his frontage could be closed and he would take over maintenance himself though an alternative would be "to just stop the destruction." Presiding Commissioner Verkamp left at 1025 to take a personal call. Commissioner Hicks reviewed the process of closing or vacating a road. Kojro left at 1026. Upon Presiding Commissioner Verkamp's return at 1028, there was a review of the options available to Bookout.


IN THE MATTER OF
PAYROLL:


The Commission reviewed and approved county payroll for July 30 with net salaries of \$202,526.82, federal and state withholdings of \$62,218.73 and \$8,422.50, respectively.


IN THE MATTER OF
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved also contract pay for 9 invoices in the amount of \$18,919.01; 32 and 38 invoices in the amounts of \$5455.11 and \$18,446.08, respectively; the US Bank invoice for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$5,195.43; the Group Benefit Services invoice for August in the amount of \$129,719.97.

READ AND APPROVED:


Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner


Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1


Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 29, 2021 Tenth day of the July term

Now at this the 29th day of July 2021 the Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2
Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (DAVID WATKINS):

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt, St. James Ward 3 Councilman David Watkins and State Rep. Bruce Sassmann (62nd District) were present, as was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley. Local resident Philip Lohmann entered at 0900. David Watkins wanted to address the Commission about the funds allocated to the county of Phelps, specifically the 8.6 million in "COVID" funds; he was informed that this sum was actually the total in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, of which 50% had been deposited. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp related that cities would look to the State Treasurer for guidance, and would receive their disbursement from that source, and also recommended the 150 page "Final Interim Rule" for guidance.

IN THE MATTER OF
CITIZEN INPUT (PHILIP LOHMANN):

Lohmann said he had reason to believe that House redistricting would possibly combine the Phelps County territory of District 62 and District 120 and apportion the part of District 142 in Phelps to Districts 121. Apparently, he has heard this suggestion from someone in Jefferson City who might be a good source. He also wanted the Commission to consider that publicizing "handouts aren't helping" or saying "a job is more helpful than a handout" seems to be more effective where tried, such as in communities in Texas. He shared his views of some businesses which might be eyeing Rolla and that there may soon be a large influx of people from TX, IL, CA and NY. He would like to see increasing housing development in the county, with small homes or apartments "building out" from the cities. Lohmann then spoke of the worry of parents regarding CRT and gender-related matters.

IN THE MATTER OF
LEGISLATOR INPUT (BRUCE SASSMANN):

Representative Sassman spoke about the Medicaid expansion. The method of passage being by ballot issue with no specified funding mechanism was the major problem, as appropriations must begin in the Missouri House. He thinks that special session seems likely, with veto session to be held in September. The primary reason for his visit would be that he wants to do groundwork for legislation for the upcoming session, with December 1 the date bills may first be pre-filed. Commissioner Hicks says there is a statute that "forces the county to subsidize the Assessor's Fund" and for the last 10 years or so, the County Revenue Fund has bolstered the Assessment Fund by \$75,000 annually and the fund balance is being bolstered and is growing. Sassmann asks for a written communication with

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 29, 2021 Tenth day of the July term

LEGISLATOR INPUT (BRUCE SASSMANN), Continued:

citations. The clerk advised he always think of increases to, or addition of, fees; Commissioner Hicks left at 0927 to take a personal call and the discussion diverted to the passage of the gas tax. Commissioner Hicks returned at 0932. Sassmann thinks that the gas tax "is going to stick." He shared thoughts about an alternative which would not be refundable; now that this tax has been created there will have to be "more government" to manage the refund. Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0937. Commissioner Hicks asked where the Rock Island Trail was in its development; Sassmann said that it was "all about funding" and the MO State Parks Association had hired a fund raiser. Ameren UE, through Warren Wood, a VP of Ameren, asked Mo Parks if they would accept it. Parks said they would not without a gift of \$9.8 million. More recently the head of State Parks (Mike Sutherland) has submitted a funding request to the Federal Government for \$20 million. Sassmann is not sure what pool of money that would come from. Sassmann and Lohmann left at 0945.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROAD EQUIPMENT AND CITIZEN
INPUT (RANDY FURSE):

Bock informed the Commission that the department leased a pneumatic roller for chip and seal as they usually do; it was very caked with mud and asphalt and not at all usable. The serviceman is currently on site to clean the equipment. Various road concerns were discussed including Road 8280 and 8260. Local resident Randy Furse entered at 0956. His concern was with 8240 and 8280. Furse thinks 8240 is the worst of the roads he's traveled and he shared his viewpoints about road maintenance. Furse left about 1010.

IN THE MATTER OF
CODE OF ETHICS:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier and seconded by Commissioner Hicks the Code of Ethics was renewed for another two years, identical in form to that approved July 30, 2019.

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Bock opened a discussion about an employee who is quarantined on the instructions of the Health Department, while her husband is symptomatically ill with COVID-19. The employee does not think she should have to use her sick or vacation time, as she is quarantining because she's been forced to. The clerk said that Paid Sick Leave from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) had expired some time ago; Commissioner Hicks asked about employer tax credit for Coronavirus sick leave and the clerk said that was for employers who paid taxes.

IN THE MATTER OF
CORONER'S SALARY:

Phelps County Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 1010 and Bock left shortly after. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 29, 2021 Tenth day of the July term

CORONER'S SALARY, Continued:

the Commission has no latitude at present to augment his salary but better compensation for a deputy would at least afford Coverdell better help and more time off. Coverdell said he was able to be off for 3.5 days and attended training but there were no calls while he was gone; he returned at 3 p.m. yesterday and 30 minutes later he had a call; returning at 2230 he was just getting to sleep he got another call. He was returning to sleep at 0300 this morning when he got a third call. He said there were two overdose deaths and one natural death. Verbally committing to finding a good deputy to help with his work load, Coverdell left at 1035.

IN THE MATTER OF
ATV/UTV RESOLUTION:

Commissioner Hicks moved, and Commissioner Auxier seconded, to change "...upon and over the unpagged roads of the County of Phelps" and instead to say, "...upon and over the roads maintained by the County of Phelps." Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Sheriff Mike Kirn; he was put on speaker phone and asked if the permits should be issued for two years since that's permitted with motor vehicles. Sheriff Kirn was not in favor of decreasing the cost annually but was more agreeable to a 2-year for \$30.00. Ultimately, the Commission decided to only make the original changes.

IN THE MATTER OF
OPIOID LAWSUIT:

Prosecuting Attorney Brendon Fox entered at 1050 and he said he has "serious problems with the Attorney General sending that letter," meaning a letter sent to planning commissions recommending more unanimity among political subdivisions in the state lawsuit against distributors and manufacturers of opioids, exhorting local subdivisions to abandon other lawsuits to join Missouri's suit. Fox believes that the Attorney General Eric Schmitt violated professional ethics in transmitting this letter. Fox said that the "lawsuit that we're part of" has been very thorough and expansive and recommended the Commission not change their current course of action.

IN THE MATTER OF
CLOSED SESSION:

Director of Support Services, Building and Grounds Sissy Korich entered and Commissioner Hicks moved and Commissioner Auxier seconded entering closed session at 1125. The meeting returned to open session after a motion by Commissioner Hicks, which was seconded by Commissioner Auxier, at 1140, no actions having been taken.

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT LEAK:

Korich said there had been water coming into the basement near the transformer box; she shared her ideas about the cause. The Commission left the hearing room and examined the mechanical

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION RECORD

July 29, 2021 Tenth day of the July term

COURTHOUSE BASEMENT LEAK, Continued:

room area. Rolla Municipal Utilities will examine the transformer box.

IN THE MATTER OF
ROADS:

Commissioner Hicks said he spoke with MoDOT Area Engineer Preston Kramer about a maintenance exchange with MoDOT; this would involve a trade of maintenance of Road 7100 in exchange of Vineyard Road (near Highway U) and Clementine Road. An imminent two-year project for complete reconstruction of the east bound lanes of I-44 between Rolla and St. James was mentioned.

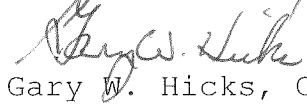
READ AND APPROVED:



Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner



Joey Auxier, Commissioner District 1



Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2