Now at this the 5th day of January 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 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CORONER:

Coroner Ernie Coverdell and Keith A. Grayson were present as were local residents Ray Schweikhardt, Constituent Representative Brett Hoffman of U.S. Rep. Jason Smith's office, Sheriff Mike Kirn, Kyle Jones of the Sheriff's Department and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley. Following a motion by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the appointment of Grayson as deputy coroner was approved. He then took the oath of office as administered by the clerk.

IN THE MATTER OF CORONER'S BUDGET:

Coverdell presented his 2021 budget outline. There are four autopsies from 2020 for which the county is yet to receive a bill. The cost for these has gone up over recent years. He discussed and provided justification for the acquisition of several items as well as what he would need for his communications. Coverdell said he would continue to seek opioid/violent death grant funding as well as indigent grants from Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp engaged Kirn in a discussion of compliance with the county's mask order; Kirn does not have his staff responding to any complaints of people not wearing masks. Kirn reported on his experience recently in St. Louis County. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:20 a.m. just as Kirn and Jones left.

IN THE MATTER OF ROLLA CITY COUNCIL:

Sheeley asked the commission regarding the previous night's Rolla City Council meeting; the discussion related to a grant for construction of a sidewalk to serve, in particular, the dense residential population along Emily Dr. Commissioner Hicks said that councilmember Dave Schott provided an accurate summary, that for a \$400,000 project the city can invest \$80,000 with minimal investment on the part of the county. The city apparently wants the county to be a co-applicant. Sheeley reported that the city amended its COVID ordinance to comply with the SCOTUS' ruling regarding religious institutions.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION MINUTES:

Modifications to the procedure of approval of the minutes such that

COMMISSION MINUTES, Continued:

a draft could be approved by the Commission the next meeting and printed thereafter were felt agreeable to all.

IN THE MATTER OF U.S. REPRESENATATIVE SMITH:

Hoffman reported on the new undertaking for Representative Smith as the ranking member of the House Budget Committee. The clerk asked about the purpose and propriety of the federal government funding research into gain-of-function in viruses. Sheeley left at this point at 9:50 a.m. The clerk said this work seemed quite dangerous in that it aimed at increasing the virulence of viruses toward humans. Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann entered.

IN THE MATTER OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Wann said the county was seeing about 70 positive cases per day.

IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION TO VACATE A ROAD IN JEROME:

The Commission held the final reading and public hearing for the vacation of a portion of an alley in Jerome. Local resident and petitioner Roger Wagoner appeared for the hearing. Upon closing the public hearing, Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded, to approve the vacation of this alley in Block 17 in Jerome.

BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI

#### JUDGEMENT AND ORDER

Now at this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, the County Commission of Phelps County, Missouri, proceeded to hear a Petition to Vacate a Portion of a Road in Jerome. Petitioners appear by petition.

The Commission finds as follows:

- 1. That the Petitioners seek an order of the Commission in vacating that portion of that part of an alley located in Block 17 and extending from vacated 5th Street to State Highway D in Jerome, Missouri, Arlington Township Section 13 Township 37 Range 10W.
- 2. That the Petition herein was filed and posted in not less than three public places in such township for the time period required by law and that the petition was personally served on all persons residing in the township whose lands are crossed or touched by the road proposed to be vacated.
- 3. That there is no remonstrance in writing signed by twelve residents of the township to the proposed road vacation.
- 4. That the aforesaid section of road, 20 feet wide, is not used as a byway for vehicle or pedestrian traffic and is not currently being used for utilities.

PETITION TO VACATE A ROAD, Continued:

5. WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that that part of the alleyway that is located in Block 17, extending from vacated 5th Street to State Highway D in Jerome, Missouri, Arlington Township Section 13 Township 37 Range 10W is hereby vacated.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

#### ATTEST:

Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

Date: January 5, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION TO VACATE A ROAD IN JEROME:

The Commission held the final reading and public hearing for the vacation of a portion of an alley in Jerome. Local resident and petitioner Roger Wagoner appeared for the hearing. Upon closing the public hearing, Commissioner Hicks moved, Commissioner Auxier seconded, to approve the vacation of this alley in Block 33 in Jerome. As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, the vacation of the alleyway in Block 33 of Jerome was approved.

BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI

### JUDGEMENT AND ORDER

Now at this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, the County Commission of Phelps County, Missouri, proceeded to hear a Petition to Vacate a Portion of a Road in Jerome. Petitioners appear by petition.

The Commission finds as follows:

- 1. That the Petitioners seek an order of the Commission in vacating that portion of that part of an alley located in Block 33 and extending from vacated 4th Street to 5th Street in Jerome, Missouri, Arlington Township Section 13 Township 37 Range 10W.
- 2. That the Petition herein was filed and posted in not less than three public places in such township for the time period required by law and that the petition was personally served on all persons residing in the township whose lands are crossed or touched by the road proposed to be vacated.
- 3. That there is no remonstrance in writing signed by twelve residents of the township to the proposed road vacation.
- 4. That the aforesaid section of road, 20 feet wide, is not used as a byway for vehicle or pedestrian traffic and is not currently being used for utilities.
- 5. WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that that part of the alleyway that is located in Block 33, extending from vacated  $4^{\rm th}$  Street to  $5^{\rm th}$  Street in Jerome,

PETITION TO VACATE A ROAD, Continued:

Missouri, Arlington Township Section 13 Township 37 Range 10W is hereby vacated.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMISSION
Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1
Gary W. Hicks, Commissioner District 2

ATTEST:

Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

Date: January 5, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF SUPERINTENDENT OF ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Roads Department entered at 10:20 and reported that all the excess leave possessed by Road Department employees has been reduced through use except for the Superintendent; he was left with 20 excess hours when his deputy was out through bereavement as well as Bock being out in quarantine due to COVID. The Commission believed that this additional 20 hours could be retained due to unforeseeable circumstances. The recent ice storm and some power outages were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF BRO-B081(13) ROAD 7100:

This road project was discussed with Bock, specifically a concern regarding cash flow through the Special Road and Bridge Fund should a large outgo be requisitioned just as the department draft a payroll. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said this would only cause the briefest of problems and should be easily handled with interfund transfers if needed, prior to reimbursement through the BRO program.

IN THE MATTER OF FACE COVERING ORDINANCE:

Local resident Josh Vroman entered at 11:15 to discuss the points he raised about the face mask order, specifically, that the order was not published in advance for review by citizens. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp thanked him for his input and said it would be considered as the expiration date of February 2, 2021 neared.

IN THE MATTER OF ROLLA CITY SIDEWALK:

City of Rolla Engineer Steve Hargis called and discussed a proposed sidewalk along part of Highway E; he will forward documents to the county clerk for the next agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT (FFCRA) SICK LEAVE:

Paid sick leave (PSL) under the FFCRA expired 12/31/2020; deputy clerks Lisa Dowdy and Cindy Ruth entered to ask whether this should

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT SICK LEAVE, Cont'd:

be extended. Extension of PSL and/or EFMLA (10 weeks for an employee whose children are out of school/daycare) is not clearly in effect, with recently passed legislation.

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZEN INPUT:

Local resident Megan Johnson entered about 11:30 to discuss mask ordinances. Wearing a mask, Johnson said that she was trying to comply but that her feeling was that the approach should have depended more on the individual deciding how much risk to bear, and shouldering more of the responsibility.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 7th day of January 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 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed and approved the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF 2021 BUDGET:

The Commission reviewed Fund 202 (Unemployment) and determined to budget for \$12,000 in anticipated unemployment claims in 2021 and a transfer of 10% Cash on Hand, or \$9,525, to County Revenue. The Commission reviewed Fund 205 (Use Tax), Fund 900 (Public Facilities), Fund 906 (Jay White) and submitted revenue estimates and appropriation requests to the clerk. The commission also prepared the budget estimates for their department of general revenue.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF AND EMD DIRECTOR POSITION:

A discussion was held regarding Sheriff Mike Kirn continuing as the Emergency Management Director (EMD), which is a 1099 position, and Sheriff. Kirn reported to Presiding Commissioner Verkamp that including himself, there were four sheriffs in the state who were simultaneously elected officials and contract-paid EMD's. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp also will seek the opinion of MAC Prepaid Legal Services Attorney Travis Elliot.

IN THE MATTER OF FFRCA PAID SICK LEAVE AND EFMLA:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, continuation of PSL and Emergency FMLA as outlined in the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) through March 31, 2021 was approved. With a new federal administration starting January 20, 2021 the future is unknown.

IN THE MATTER OF PHELPS/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp reported that Jodi Waltman, R.N. and Amy Whittaker, R.N. have approached Ashley Wann to volunteer to coordinate the distribution of Coronavirus vaccine within Phelps County. Immunizations will probably go first to Phelps Health, which can store it. Other logistical aspects were discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF BRO-B081(13) ROAD 7100:

Progress Invoice #13 for this project in the amount of \$4,554.94 was approved for submission to MO DOT as moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:

Retention of a health care consultant by the county was discussed. The consultant may be able to work with the third party administrator to keep the county's costs down. Claims processing moving to Aetna from Healthlink may affect the costs, as may tying all expenses in the hospital contract to Medicare reimbursement rates, lab included.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of contract pay, Senior Companions stipends and Senior Companions December expenses in the amounts of \$29,333.26, \$19,714.50 and \$1,263.14, respectively.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 12th day of January 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 SURVEYOR'S BUDGET HEARING:

Phelps County Surveyor Terris Cates was present for his budget hearing as was Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley. Cates anticipates trying to remonument 16 corners. He reported that the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture was inundated with requests for corner remonumentations in 2020; funds were rationed and he had funding for 10 corners. He will again request funding for 16 corners but would this would be amended downward if needed. Commissioner Auxier asks if the corners remonumented are random, and Cates said they are not. He provided some historical background for the methods and the selection. He said mid-section and corners are really 8 per section, though he has emphasized actual corners and last year was focused on county line sections. To illustrate, his 2019 map was reviewed. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said he felt this budget was a good one.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY LAND SURVEYOR:

Commissioner Hicks moves to appoint Terris Cates as County Land Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Auxier, for a period of four years. Cates then left at 0912.

IN THE MATTER OF SALES TAX REPORTING:

Treasurer Carol Green entered at 0912 with DOR form 4379 for signature by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp; this was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE:

The Benefit Management Report through year-end 2020 was reviewed showing 55% loss ratio with balance in reserve account of \$417,937.32 to pay claims. Commissioner Hicks mentioned the possibility of resuming department head meetings, perhaps quarterly, at which these matters could be discussed. Local residents Jeanie and Anthony Swartzendruber entered at 0925.

IN THE MATTER OF MU EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND EXTENSION BOARD APPOINTMENT:

County Engagement Specialist Rachel Buenemann and Field Specialist in Natural Resources Sarah Havens entered to discuss Extension programs and the 2021 budget. Buenemann spoke about a leadership program called Leadercast which will focus on "positive disruptions" in the aftermath of a year in which there

MU EXTENSION AND EXTENSION BOARD, Continued:

were many negative disruptions. Then she moved to the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Program which is strength training program for older adults, aimed at reduction of falls and better overall fitness in general. She taught this very popular class for the last two years, and this coming year will be the first time for her to teach it online. There will still be some limits so that she can coach attendees a bit more personally. Buenemann said Phelps County has a high percentage of people over 65. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0935. Havens then presented the upcoming Missouri Women Owning Woodland timber sale webinar series. This program has especially helped women who survive their spouses and inherit wooded lands. Havens reported that timber prices are up somewhat. Commissioner Auxier asked about shortleaf pine, which Havens said was still a bit of a problem, and a mill in Licking recently stopped processing short-leaf pine. The white oak initiative is looking at white oak populations some 50 years out. Havens said that recovery from thinning of white oak in Missouri tends to be rapid, unlike other states. As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, Commissioner Hicks was placed on the Extension Board.

IN THE MATTER OF TREASURER'S 2021 BUDGET:

Treasurer Carol Green entered with her budget for 2021. One difference was that she had Tyler/New World training in her budget for two years but did not attend; training this year will be virtual and she has budgeted for this as well as for her annual treasurer's training. Thence followed a discussion of elected officials' trainings and the upcoming MAC training.

IN THE MATTER OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION 2021 BUDGET:

Extension Board members Maretta Diestelkamp and Paul Long attended. Diestelkamp presented the budget with a cover letter detailing community involvement. Aside from an increase of about \$750 in the insurance line, for increased coverage of the board, the request was very similar to prior years.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF'S 2021 BUDGET:

Sheriff Mike Kirn and Theresa Lasher of the Sheriff's Department entered at 1020 as the Extension Board members, Kojro and the Swartzendrubers exited. Kirn presented the budget for Department 200-2018, that of Courthouse Security, with a 6% salary increase for the deputies. He thinks of it as 3% COLA and 3% pay raise. Fund 400, Sheriff Training, was briefly presented. Kirn then moved to Fund 405, Sheriff's Drug Enforcement, for which revenue tracking has been difficult due to the "Whisper Stops" along the interstate which cannot be forecast and the unpredictable percentage of seizures received by the Department. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asks about the type of seizure; Kirn said cash was commonest. Funds 407 (Sheriff Civil), 409 (Sheriff Revolving), Fund 415 (Inmate

SHERIFF'S 2021 BUDGET, Continued:

Detention Security) and Fund 420 (Law Enforcement Debt Service) were then covered. Within Fund 420 there is a roughly \$30,000 expenditure for new water softener equipment. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp suggested considering a larger debt service transfer for capital improvements. Fund 410 (Law Enforcement Sales Tax), with the payroll for both sheriff's deputies and jailers was then taken up. Kirn says that they need to hire 6 more jailers; retention has been a problem and he believes a pay raise and investment in training are needed. Kirn said the jail administrator spends every day working on new applications for jailers for the 1972 jail. They have budgeted more for uniforms (\$500, up from \$200), plus a 6% increase. Their two-week training will annually alternate between Crawford and Phelps Counties; the trainers will be from MO Sheriff's Association ("MoJo") which is specific training for jailers. Because there have been three overdoses in the jail in the last two years due to contraband hidden in body cavities, Kirn plans to purchase a walk-through body scanner. Sales tax revenues, a significant source for LEST, are projected as flat or minimally decreased. One of the federal law enforcement grants is in limbo, hence the slight decrease budgeted. Kirn thinks federal prisoner board will be stable at 1.8 million; he said, "I'm hoping to go from 80 to 100" [federal inmates]. Re-negotiation of the \$560,645 county share was briefly explored. Commissioner Hicks recommended raising county share of LAGERS for the Sheriff's Department from \$97,000 to \$110,000. Kirn and Lasher then left.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Hicks moved, and Presiding Commissioner Verkamp seconded naming Commissioner Auxier to the Transportation Advisory Committee, and the clerk will notify MRPC.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of three invoices for contract pay in the amount of \$1,296.97.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 13th day of January 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 RECORDER OF DEEDS 2021 BUDGET:

Robin Kordes entered for her budget hearing and presented Department 200-2010 first. She reduced her anticipated revenues from recorder's fees to roughly midway between 2019 and 2020 actuals. She provided background on the State Recorder's Fund, which is dwindling so that the state pays less and less. Commissioner Auxier inquired about increased recording fees and what leverage her state association had. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp remarked that her total revenues were estimated at \$188,900 and her total expenditures were listed as \$188,974; her department is almost self-funded. He asked her to provide a synopsis of her document digitizing process and she did so. Regarding changes in her office, she now has online marriage licenses and this seems to work well.

IN THE MATTER OF 2021 NACO DUES:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Auxier, payment of the \$903 annual dues was approved.

IN THE MATTER OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS 2021 BUDGET:

Acting Director of Building and Grounds, Sissy Korich, came to present her budget estimates. Her line for computer software and licenses is less because she doesn't think that she will have as much for teleworkers. There was a discussion of the courthouse parking lot repair, where it should be paid from, putting it out for bid. The Commission observed that Korich has no assistant to provide backup, should she be forced to be absent.

IN THE MATTER OF SENIOR COMPANIONS:

As moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Presiding Commissioner Verkamp, Commissioner Joey Auxier was appointed to the Senior Companions Board. Leuthauser then provided information to the Commission for purposes of their oversight on the name change of the program, from Center for National and Community Service (CNCS) to Americorps Seniors. Due to the COVID circumstance, she is holding a lot of their activities virtually. They still have many companions going into the homes of the senior clients, many of whom are completely without family and need someone in their home to assist. County Engagement Specialist Rachel Buenemann of MU Extension has done quite a bit of training regarding Zoom. Her in-kind has dropped because there is not the ability to come up with 10% in-kind;

SENIOR COMPANIONS, Continued:

some of the rent etc. for their space in the CH applies. Their total grant is going to be over \$388K; though they will have augmentation of their office for COVID to the tune of about \$12K. Leuthauser thinks her companions should be priority for COVID vaccine and she is working on this matter both with Phelps/Maries Health Department and Phelps Health. Senior Companions are going to have physicals performed; these are recommended though not required. A local physician will provide these at no charge and this will become part of her in-kind.

IN THE MATTER OF SENIOR COMPANIONS FUND 550 2021 BUDGET:

Leuthauser then presented her budget with estimated revenues increasing from her federal grant, and her expenditures for 2021.

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ELECTION FUND 300 AND ELECTION SERVICES FUND 325 2021 BUDGET:

The clerk presented her 2021 budgets for these funds. The Special Election fund, she anticipates, will only contain the revenues and expenses for the general municipal election in the spring. The Election Services fund was used this last year for COVID-19 related expenses such as sanitizing products for the polling places, sneeze shields, etc.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

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

Now at this the 14th day of January 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 MATTTER OF PROSECUTOR'S 2021 BUDGET:

Prosecutor Brendon Fox and Kaitlin Brothers of the Phelps County Focus were present. The PA Administrative Handling Fund, (Fund 480) was reviewed first. The revenue source for this fund, bad check fees, has been trending downward for some time now. Revenue is also reduced because of decreased court activity and fewer restitution cases being heard. Fox suspects that barring new legislation adding more fees, revenues will disappear. For calendar year (CY) 2020 transfer of \$15,000 to County Revenue for support of an assistant PA salary was budgeted, but there was only enough revenue to support \$10,000. Fox is agreeable to \$7,200 transfer to Fund 200 over 2021. PA Delinquent Tax (Fund 460) was taken up; the balance in the fund is \$55.00. Collections have dwindled to nearly zero as the state has taken over tax collections. No revenues nor expenditures budgeted. PA Training (Fund 450), which continues to have a modest but steady revenue accumulation, will have some training expenditures. He discussed the COVID situation "dragging the court system kicking and screaming into the 21st century" and he foresees a lot more use of Web-Ex and Zoom because there is "simply no need" for 200 people to cram into a space. Commissioner Auxier asked about the courtroom in the jail; since "currently we're not doing anything in person" Fox says it's not being used but it will likely be used again. Commissioner Hicks asks if there's been very much push-back from defendants regarding not being able to see their accuser in person; Fox says the Supreme Court put in rules that all the courts have to follow. Lastly, PA Drug Enforcement (Fund 440) which Fox said "isn't really what it once was," was discussed; Fox provides background to Commissioner Auxier. Revenues were seized cash (mostly) or property going through the federal government; until about 2017 the PA would receive 10% the PCSD might get 40% and the rest was divided among the other members of the task force and the DEA. Fox said he has been cut to about 5%; but another difficulty is that the cartels have reduced their use of cash and are using digital currencies. A separate sort of asset forfeiture is a state forfeiture where money is seized, a civil suit is filed against the money, essentially. The judge sometimes rules to have most of the forfeiture money go to the schools. Fox plans expenditures of about \$74,500. He then discussed his 200-2014 Department. He discussed the victim advocate grants; all of this money is allocated by the state. He has 2.5 victim's advocates which are 85-90% funded by the state. Crystal Cox oversees the program and April Shaw and Nicoya Rohter are advocates. Family Justice Court with Judge Calvert was enabled by some of these funds, and is a "more holistic" approach. Fox left at 0950.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD AND BRIDGE 2021 BUDGET:

Superintendent of Roads Walter Snelson and Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered at 0950 for their budget hearing. Asphalt overlayment projects were discussed (Gately Road, Git-n-Go, Co Rd 1000) at some length. A mower with a forestry head is being sought, because of the need for clearing the roadsides of woody growth. With the support of the Commission, the phone service to the St. James and Edgar Springs sheds will be discontinued; removal of the St. James structure completely was contemplated. After further review of the budget, Snelson and Bock left at 1105 as Collector Faith Barnes arrived.

IN THE MATTER OF COLLECTOR'S 2021 BUDGET:

Collector Barnes first wanted to speak of a NACO program, "Counties for Kids" which is an example of the positive initiatives which she would love to see the County take on. She discussed her Department 200-2006 budget and her Collector's Tax Maintenance (Fund 850) budget, leaving at 1120.

IN THE MATTER OF CIRCUIT CLERK'S 2021 BUDGET:

Circuit Clerk Sue Brown discussed her Court Administration and Circuit Clerk's budgets with the Commission, then left.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR'S 2021 BUDGET:

Public Administrator Dana Sooter came to review her budget. She included an increase in the salary for her part-time employee. The office had some fluctuations in the numbers and wage rates of the full-time employees the last three months of 2020, which effectively reduced her options for 2021 salaries. Her total request was less than what was approved for 2020.

IN THE MATTER OF MOCA BOARD:

Commissioner Auxier moved, Commissioner Verkamp moved to reappoint Commissioner Hicks to the MOCA Board, which administers approximately \$11 million for programs including Headstart and helping homeowners with weatherization.

IN THE MATTER OF JAIL INMATE MEDICAL COVERAGE:

Jail Administrator Joe Taylor called asking about RFP's for the four companies the PCSD has been in touch with since December 21, 2020. The ACH contract has been extended as of yesterday to April 1, 2021. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp supplied counsel for the process of RFP's; the following solicitation for RFP's was approved:

Request for Proposal

Office of the Sheriff, Phelps County, Missouri

JAIL INMATE MEDICAL COVERAGE, Continued:

The Phelps County, Missouri, Sheriff's Department hereby advertises for proposals for inmate medical care.

The County Commission will accept sealed proposals for the above until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 11, 2021, at which time they will be opened. Proposals are to be mailed or delivered to the Phelps County Commission, c/o Phelps County Clerk, 200 N. Main St., Suite 102, Rolla, MO 65401; the envelope must be clearly marked on the exterior, "Inmate Medical Services RFP". Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

The County Commission of Phelps County, Missouri, reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to accept the best proposal, and to make the aware in the best interest of Phelps County.

Information packets are available from Lt. Joe Taylor, Phelps County Jail Administrator, 500 W.  $2^{\rm nd}$  Street, Rolla, MO 65401, or by calling 573-458-3810.

1-19-2021

/s/ Pamela K. Grow, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus - Thursday, January 21, 2021

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph/H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 15th day of January 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/MARIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2021 BUDGET:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann arrived to present her budget. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp called Stuart Gipson with Your Community Health Center (YCHC) for a status report of the Coronavirus immunizations. Gipson reported they had 100 doses of the Moderna immunization which they thought was enough for a two-dose regimen for their 56 employees; they then used some of it for some of the 1A population: school nurses, dentists. They haven't ordered any additional immunizations yet as no more are available just not from Moderna and Pfizer requires order sizes of 975 doses. may transfer their COVID testing capacity to immunizations. Wann observed that YCHC was not reporting positives, certainly at least not timely. Turning to her 2021 budget, revenue for Substance Use Response grant is questionable and the Missouri Foundation for Health two-year infrastructure grant has "dried up." Since COVID-19 Reimbursement is not guaranteed, she did not budget any further revenues for 2021. She needs to hire a second EPHS, new. Her phone and computer software and licensing lines are up because of COVID, work phone usage, encrypted computers required under COVID, etc. Her registrar expenses are up but some of this is the unknown amount of the coroner's training which has added \$1 to death certificates charges, which she will then pay out to the state for the training program. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp complimented her on her budget work.

IN THE MATTER OF COLLECTOR'S TAX MAINTENANCE FUND:

Collector Faith Barnes came to report that her unrestricted Fund 850 monies could be used to provide backing funds for the new phones. She supplied a letter authorizing a transfer of funds, intending to transfer \$15,000 from Tax Maintenance Fund to County Revenue.

IN THE MATTER OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19:

Wann returned to report on her dialogue with the medical director of Your Community Health Center and she was urged to try to secure doses of the Moderna immunization through them.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR'S 2021 BUDGET:

Bill Stoltz arrived to discuss his proposed 2021 budget. He said the Ameren appeal of the assessment of the gas distribution

ASSESSOR'S 2021 BUDGET, Continued:

system has resulted in some consolidation of the county cases. The Ameren 2016 appeal was settled in 2017. Stoltz said he had used Ameren's own valuation schedule. His State Reimbursement revenue is capped for 22,000 parcels, but for 2020 he was reimbursed based on 20,000 parcels because the governor withheld. In a discussion regarding his revenues for sale of his data, Presiding Commissioner Verkamp asked about citizens who were going to be taken into the expanded floodplain, and MRPC wants the data. Bill said that if MRPC will "give him the layer" for the expanded floodplain, he can have that data for them in 30 minutes, and his office is available to generate letters. Turning to a discussion of \$75,000 County Share revenue provided to his fund, Stoltz agreed to consider this when requested to do so by the Commissioners. Stoltz acknowledged that his year-end cash on hand had increased, but he felt a year's worth of expenses was a desirable goal. The aerial photography and several other contracts are significant and Stoltz does not want to risk encumbering the county.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY CLERK'S 2021 BUDGETS:

County Clerk Pamela K. Grow presented her office budget for Department 200-2001 and her Elections Department 200-2002 estimates. With only an April election certain, which will be run through Special Election (Fund 300), her expenses are less. She has some equipment needs for personnel and needs to replace some printers.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 19th day of January 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 BRO-B081(13) ROAD 7100:

Commissioner Hicks moved, and Commissioner Auxier seconded to approve a letter by the engineering firm, GRE, for the notice to proceed. Local resident Ray Schweikhardt and Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley were also present. Commissioner Hicks reported that multiple strategies were used to notify local residents of the road closure, including radio and print—as well as online—newspapers.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR'S QUARTERLY:

The Assessor's quarterly representing office expenses from October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 was reviewed. General Fund support of the Assessor's Fund, through the \$75,000 annual transfer, was discussed again. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0920. The clerk asked about the relationship between the Commission and the Assessor, should there be no financial support from County Revenue. The agreement in statute was discussed [137.720]. At this point Sheeley left.

IN THE MATTER OF CRIME AND PRIVACY:

A shooting with one fatality having occurred north of Doolittle on January 16, 2021, Kojro asked why there was no name released and he wondered when the public would be apprised should there be a suspect in such a crime at large in Doolittle. Kojro heard no identification, despite two television stations and online newspapers reporting on the incident.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND:

Sheeley returned to ask about the SRB fund depleting to \$92 over 2021; Presiding Commissioner Verkamp explained that FEMA funds were being spent down in prior years and without floods there was less of that income to support the department. A discussion of flood damage repair costs tied to FEMA reimbursement and whether or not this was actually revenue-generating ensued.

IN THE MATTER OF PHELPS COUNTY STATE LEGISLATORS:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp provided a report of the meeting at MRPC the evening of January 14, 2021 with the four state representatives and the state senator representing Phelps County. Their message was, regarding state coffers, "We're broke." There continues to be a great deal of interest in

PHELPS COUNTY STATE LEGISLATORS, Continued:

funding better roads but all concurred that there usually seems to be a "poison pill" added to the bills. After further discussion of highway funding, Schweikhardt left at 1030. Kojro left about 1045.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR:

Public Administrator Dana Sooter came in to report on progress with her CARES Act application. As the new office holder, her clients have been calling Social Services at times and complaining about their custody arrangements; she voiced an understanding that this is part of the change of administration in her office. Sooter then left.

IN THE MATTER OF ROADS:

Michelle Bock of the Road Department entered about 1110 to report on some of the work underway. The posting by MoDOT at the BRO project should be done today. Assessor Bill Stoltz entered and voiced the opinion that the bridge was historic and picturesque but not up to standards, and certainly not in light of being one lane. There was discussion of ice management strategies, particularly in light of the drastically reduced amount of cinders available with reduction in coal use.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR'S COUNTY SHARE:

Commissioner Hicks opened a discussion of the Assessor's \$75,000 County Share revenue, pointing out that the average expenditure annually for 8 years was \$576,956.50. This year at the end of the year the Assessment Fund would have over \$634,000 as estimated in Stoltz' budget. Commissioner Hicks asks whether he needs that much if the goal is one year's worth. Stoltz said that 9 years ago General Revenue had to "kick in to make payroll"; this is what he wants to avoid. Commissioner Hicks argues that he needs to think more in the short term...the funds are needed to provide an equitable across-the-board 2 or 3% COLA for the county's employees. He argued that if Stoltz were willing to take or absorb a decrease of, say, \$50,000 in County Share this year that this would not be locked in stone; he would have the option of returning next year and request \$75,000.

READ AND APPROVED:

Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 21st day of January 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 MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes of the prior meeting. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was briefly present and then left for a breaking news story.

IN THE MATTER OF HOUSEKEEPING STAFF HOURS:

Evening housekeepers not uncommonly have to work longer shifts when jury trials are being held and have saved records of the extra time they have been working. The limits on the two employees were discussed; one essentially wants to want to minimize and the other wants maximal hours for pension purposes. The department head wants to let them accrue comp. time but Presiding Commissioner Verkamp says that "intuitively the answer should be no" since they are part time. The prepaid legal services attorney with MAC will be consulted.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY CLERK TURNOVER:

The clerk presented her December turnover of \$735 in passport fees and \$1,134.13 in county clerk fees including liquor and auctioneer licenses as well as notary fees.

IN THE MATTER OF BRO-B081(13) Road 7100:

A resident complained that individuals would potentially reach the end of road 7000, attempting a detour around road 7100 during construction, and asked that clear signage be deployed.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD COUNTS:

Michelle Bock of the road department entered at 1000 and performing road counts on Road 4160 and other roads was discussed. Commissioner Auxier inquired about the traffic count of roads between F and 68 Highways.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD DAMAGE:

Tom Paisley of the Road and Bridge Department entered at 1005 to report that an ATV had been burned on Road 3410 overnight and had burned up the asphalt surface due to the heat. St. James Fire Department responded and has owner information. Paisley estimated that a section of asphalt 10 feet wide by 18-20 feet long will need to be replaced. Local resident Chester Crider

ROAD DAMAGE, Continued:

entered at 1010. He said in 30 minutes today he saw 18 cars crossing the bridge. Crider left at 1020.

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR'S 2021 BUDGET:

Assessor Stoltz entered at 1030 and said STC had recommended that he have more money in his fund; he's trying to anticipate future legislation and the cost of the appeals, including legal fees. He has not gone through detailed reassessment and believes that he may have to do this and this will certainly risk the added workload of more Board of Equalization appeals. Commissioner Hicks was emphatic that the County Revenue subsidy of \$75,000.00 annually to the Assessor's Fund deserved serious reconsideration, ideally targeted at a reduction. Presiding Commissioner Verkamp consulted with prepaid legal services MAC attorney Travis Elliot. RSMo 137.720 (4) was discussed in light of the fact that the county revenue subsidy for the assessment fund would never be permitted to go down below the three-year average.

IN THE MATTER OF MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC):

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director Ashley Wann entered at 1155 and reported that 500 doses of Pfizer/BioEntech coronavirus immunization were announced as available by Phelps Health on their social media and all the doses are already spoken for. The announcement was made at 0902 today. Phelps Health is asking for volunteers and the Medical Reserve Corps will be activated by Wann and should be covered under Phelps County liability, though the MRC is only going to do traffic control and clerical tasks. The Phelps Health staff will be administering the actual shots; Wann said that the hospital did not want her nursing staff to help.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of 6 invoices for employee benefits, reimbursements and garnishments in the amount of \$5,905.84.

READ AND APPROVED

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 26th day of January 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 US HIGHWAY 63:

A discussion was held regarding improving Highway 63, and the persisting and unremitting shortcomings of this important thoroughfare. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present.

IN THE MATTER OF DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION:

November 6, 2018 Election documents having met the date limit for retention, their destruction was approved as moved by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Auxier.

IN THE MATTER OF CARES ACT FUNDS, COUNTY DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT:

Phelps County Prosecutor Brendon Fox entered at 0915 to review a document requested by Missouri S&T, and had no reservations regarding several small modifications the University's legal counsel had made. Commissioner Auxier moved, Commissioner Hicks seconded that the modifications submitted by Missouri S&T on their Application For Cares Act Fund Distribution Agreement be approved. Fox then left.

IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE RECYCLING EFFORTS:

Collector Faith Barnes came to verbalize her support for continued recycling efforts by courthouse employees, including the recently-begun effort at recycling batteries. Barnes believes that partnering, especially in advocacy, with other political subdivisions would be valuable; she then left.

IN THE MATTER OF STATE SURPLUS PROPERTY, DONEE AUTHORIZATION:

As moved by Commissioner Auxier, seconded by Commissioner Hicks, the Missouri Office of Administration form, listing those authorized to receive surplus state property, for county departments. Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 0930.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY PROPERTY IN NEWBURG:

Sullivan, MO resident Jim Anderson came to ask about his purchase of Lot 12 and Lot 17 in Block 4 of Newburg, currently owned by the County. He owns residential property in between

COUNTY PROPERTY IN NEWBURG, Continued:

these two parcels. After discussing the process of sale of this property with him, Presiding Commissioner Verkamp left a message for Ex-Officio Land Commissioner Terris Cates regarding the matter.

IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSAL FOR A MEDIA CENTER FOR THE MISSOURI REPUBLICAN PARTY:

Local resident Philip Lohmann entered to discuss various political ideas including a conservative national media center perhaps located in the southwestern part of Missouri. Also, he wanted to discuss more permissive small-business lending and encouraged the Commission to be in contact with other levels of government regarding this.

IN THE MATTER OF PCSD SHERIFF'S PROPERTY:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp said that the two properties purchased in 2020 at 405 and 407 W.  $2^{\rm nd}$  Street, Rolla will need asbestos inspection. Chuck Cantrell with MRPC is able to do that.

IN THE MATTER OF ROADS:

Commissioner Auxier discussed a call he received regarding Road 2350 and Road Department employees throwing brush from a bridge near the northern Phelps County limit of this road; it was suggested that because of torrential rain the preceding days that there was brush obstructing the throat of the culvert and what was likely was that they were merely clearing an obstruction. Additionally, a concern had been expressed about Road 2340 and its grading treatment recently. Then Road 8220 was discussed.

IN THE MATTER
OF ASSESSORS 2021 BUDGET:

Assessor Bill Stoltz entered at 1030 and regarding RSMo 137.720 Commissioner Hicks discussed the provision for an MOU between the Commission and the Assessor for deductions of computer equipment prior to the calculation of the three-year average; since County Revenue may be funding the phone systems—at least the base level models—he wondered if Stoltz would be willing to deduct that from his annual county share support of \$75,000.00. Commissioner Hicks asked if the Assessor's Maintenance Plan would be agreed to unanimously between Commission, Assessor and STC but Stoltz said that this had not always been the case in practice. Stoltz left about 1045.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY MASK MANDATE:

Local resident Jennie Chatman entered at 1100 to ask the Commissioners to eliminate the mask mandate. She says that she and her family members are more active with sanitizing, hand-

COUNTY MASK MANDATE, Continued:

washing especially when returning to their home. Her husband has worked at the St. James Veteran's Home the entire time of the COVID outbreak and went from daily PCR/antigen (alternating days) swabs to now perhaps weekly. She knows only what she reads about the facility in the newspapers, as he is unable to convey much detail due to privacy concerns. She asked if, since the Commission received much input from Phelps Health, whether they sought input from Mercy Clinics. She believed that it would be valuable to sample more broadly the opinions of other providers. Chatman left at 1120. The Commission then discussed handling the expiration of the face covering order on February 2, 2021 if not renewed.

IN THE MATTER OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS:

Phelps/Maries Health Department Director came to report on the tentative schedule for immunization clinics at Phelps Health the first week in February. Phelps Health has no patients in the ICU and none on the ventilator, only 10 ICU patients over the whole hospital. Commissioner Hicks asked Wann for her experience with reaction to second immunization dose. Wann said that Pulaski's clinic is this coming Friday and they have yet to make a website application available. Salem will be the week after Phelps, which is the week after Pulaski's. Wann discussed prior threshold having been 20-30 daily cases and having reached it, she believes it would be difficult to ask the public to continue wearing masks. Wann provided some data on the distribution of cases over time.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the 28th day of January 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 FEDERAL PRISONERS:

Sheriff Mike Kirn entered and revealed the potential of increased numbers of federal prisoners with an additional request for "total care" prisoners who need medical and nursing care. Phelps County Focus Staff Writer Andrew Sheeley was also present. Rachel Buenemann, Community Engagement Specialist and Jean Day, Nutrition Program Associate with Phelps County MU Extension then entered at 0925. Commissioner Auxier remarked that the new pay scale was on par with the prison in Licking.

IN THE MATTER OF PCSD PROPERTY ON 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET:

Presiding Commissioner Verkamp reminded Sheriff Kirn that the two houses on  $2^{\rm nd}$  Street would need asbestos inspections; Commissioner Hicks said a demolition permit would be needed from the city of Rolla.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

Day presented instructions for fruit pizza and provided samples; this would be what she would present to school children, had their school not been cancelled due to snow.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY BUDGET HEARING:

The Commission opened the county budget hearing at 1000 with recommendations that a 3% COLA would be budgeted for excepting law enforcement employees who were to receive slightly more, as presented by Sheriff Mike Kirn as part of his plan for recruitment and retention. Treasurer Carol Green was present. With no further comments the hearing was closed. Sheeley then left.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD 5480:

Local resident Josh Vroman entered and discussed changing the orientation of the parcel entry for his land located on Road 5480. There may be a significant mass of rock there which will render ditching and/or culvert placement much more difficult.

IN THE MATTER OF OUARRY SUBDIVISION:

The Commission discussed the issues with Slate Circle and Quartz Lake in Quarry subdivision.

IN THE MATTER OF LAND IN NEWBURG:

Surveyor Terris Cates arrived at approximately 1030 and reviewed the process whereby some land owned by the county in the city of Newburg might be purchased by an adjacent landowner. The Commission fielded the idea of offering for sale all the Newburg parcels owned by the county in Newburg, at the same offering, and discussed possible methods for doing this.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The Commission reviewed and approved payment of the Group Benefit Services employee insurance premium for February in the amount of \$118,644.54. They also reviewed and approved payment of three invoices for Rolla Westside TIF in the amount of \$21,514.24.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL:

The Commission reviewed and approved payroll for 1/29/2021, representing work dates of 1/1-15/2021, in the amount of \$191,150.58 net wages, \$19,918.99 federal and \$8,036.00 state tax withholdings.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1

Now at this the  $29\,\mathrm{th}$  day of January 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 SHOW-ME MISSOURAH PODCAST:

The Commissioners met at 1300 with Scott Faughn, Editor of the Missouri Times, State Senator Justin Brown, and his legislative aide Ashley Bax were present for a discussion of Phelps County and its history and culture. The meeting was taped as a podcast by Faughn and ended at 1430.

READ AND APPROVED:

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner

Joseph H. Auxier, Commissioner District 1