

# Gasconade County Commission

September 30, 2021

## MINUTES

The Gasconade County Commission met with Presiding Commissioner Larry Miskel at the Courthouse beginning with Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance: Commissioner Jerry Lairmore, Present; Commissioner Jim Holland, Present; Presiding Commissioner Larry Miskel, Present.

## PRIOR MINUTES

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve prior commission minutes dated 9/23/2021 8:30 AM. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Larry Miskel (Yes).

## WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT - 117641 through 117658

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve the following items:

WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT 117641 through 117658

Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Larry Miskel (Yes).

## ROAD CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Commissioner Lairmore said road dept. is doing the best they can in grading roads that are too dry; he said they are working on building a new structure on Pfeiffer road and they are hauling gravel and have a good stockpile. Commissioner Holland said Dave Slater brought the brush cutter to the Courthouse on Tuesday and used it to cut brush and trees along the north side; Presiding Commissioner Miskel ask who would be picking up all the debris that remains and Commissioner Holland said he will get community service workers here by the weekend.

Commission received notice from Continental Cement Co. that they have filed an application with MoDNR to expand their existing permit to mine clay on 6 acres in Sec. 9, Twp. 41N, R4W and on 8 acres in Sec. 24, Twp. 42N, R5W.

Commission acknowledged that Preston Kramer, MoDOT and Bonnie Prigge, MRPC will be here Nov. 18 at 9:30 am to review the annual county transportation needs.

Commission ask Clerk Lietzow to schedule for their next week session at Drake, the 2 or 3 employees who have mentioned their plans to retire in 2022; Commission would like some details as to when exactly, and how they each intend to use or be paid for the large amount of sick leave accumulated on the books, which they have earned and are entitled to. This will help Commission know what to expect moving into 2022 in regard to staffing.

Rob Conaway, Archer-Elgin Engineers, handling the BRO project on Valentine Ford road, arrived to host the pre-bid meeting which is required to be held 7 days in advance of the bid opening, for any contractors interested in bidding on the project; it's their opportunity to ask questions relating to the specifications for the project and for Mr. Conaway to detail the process and procedures in place as required by both the Federal government since they are funding it and by MoDOT who is responsible for administering it. Contractors were present from: Kozeny-Wagner Inc. from Arnold, MO, Gene Haile Excavating Inc. from California, MO, BuildTec Construction, LLC from Camdenton, MO and Cale Seymour Construction, LLC from Knob Noster, MO. Bids can be hand-delivered or mailed to the County Clerk's Office by 4:00 pm. Wed. Oct. 6 or by hand-delivering to Owensville City Hall by 9:30 am Thurs. Oct. 7 where they will be opened by Commissioners'. The project is due to be completed 180 calendar days from Notice to Proceed issued to final completion; the completion date on the project is no later than Nov. 30, 2022, in large part due to the known delays in getting all supplies and materials needed for the job.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Holland brought into the room the contractor from A-1 Lightning Protection working at the Courthouse today to update the existing lightning rod protection system; he will be adding new ground rods 2' from the building at the 5 locations to lower the ground resistance, adding new cable runs in the four corner domes to provide a second path and bond to water and electric. Commission also noticed that the contractor started work on the floor of the front portico repairing the crumbling marble that has forced safety concerns at the public entrance; Hubenthal Painting was hired by the general contractor, Witthaus Construction, to do the job. Clerk Lietzow said while they knew what the job entailed, no one had given them any details about how it should look when done; she showed them how the flaked design on the porch continues throughout the whole first floor of the Courthouse and should probably mirror that as much as possible, which they agreed and will do so.

Commissioner Holland mentioned that local businessman Calvin Scheidegger passed away and everyone offers their sympathies to the family.

Clyde Zelch, EMD updated Commission on the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant drill de-briefing he

attended at SEMA headquarters last week and said the report showed Gasconade County performed very well during the drill, with fantastic teamwork, good discussion throughout the day and there was nothing found to be insufficient. He was very grateful for the great team in place, since this was his first graded drill, and Commission agreed completely; regarding the individual laptop computers purchased by the prior EMD, he could see where they could be helpful in some instances, but not throughout the room, and Presiding Commissioner Miskel agreed saying that as well as the group does with the paper messages, he sees no reason to attempt re-activating the laptops. There was one event scenario during the drill that was actually handled too efficiently; when a county road had buckled from earthquake tremors and detours had to be set up, the road dept. did their job as they would at any time and fixed the damaged road, but that wasn't part of the plan by the drill organizers. Congratulations was offered to all who participated.

Presiding Commissioner Miskel mentioned that he will not be able to attend the next broadband advocacy committee meeting at MRPC on Oct. 8; Treasurer Mike Feagan said that when he attended the ARPA informational meeting at MRPC yesterday, one of the projects some counties are interested in was doing a site survey in the county to determine where the biggest needs are for broadband. Presiding Commissioner Miskel said that has already been done in Gasconade County.

Commission discussed the policy presented by Julia Baker, Deputy Assessor last week regarding employee remote work as it relates particularly to the Assessor's office during COVID-19; Presiding Commissioner Miskel wasn't at session last week, but had read the policy and offered that he did not support it for the reason that not all offices could take advantage of it, so it wouldn't be beneficial on a county-wide basis. He is more interested in adopting the policy that some counties have regarding premium pay for essential employees; Treasurer Feagan ask that question of Travis Elliott, MAC attorney, while at the ARPA meeting yesterday and he advised to wait until further guidance comes out as it could allow for up to 80 hours off due to COVID-19, and MAC will prepare a template for its' use by counties. Another point made by Mr. Elliott was that it is against MO law for counties' to pay above and beyond for time already paid for so unfortunately, there would be no going back for the 4 employees' who have suffered from COVID-19 this year and it would only be going forward. Getting back to the policy approval question, the Commission agreed it is not something they want to approve for adoption since it wouldn't be beneficial to all; if the Assessor's office wants to use it, the Commission doesn't regulate inter-office policy, they only ask that it doesn't violate any county policy currently in place, that it is only COVID-19 related, and that all security measures are met in using county equipment off-site.

Presiding Commissioner Miskel mentioned that effective tomorrow the state of MO gas tax increase begins at 2.5 cents per gallon each year over 5 years and the county's usetax also goes into effect tomorrow; he also received and signed the new Corner Remonumentation Program agreement with MO Dept. of Agric. that will allow Surveyor Vincent Klott to remonument up to 10 corners.

Clerk Lietzow reported to the Commission on the meeting last week between the 8 offices in the building and 2 companies interested in bidding on a new telephone system for the Courthouse; both STL Communications and Callabyte reviewed the proposals they had submitted with the various options, explaining about the new cloud based option which replaces analog telephones with telephones operating off the internet. While the simple replacement of the Fidelity system within the building requires a significant financial commitment in a lump sum to purchase, the cloud based option, is priced per telephone in the building using the internet already in place, and replacing the Centurylink telephone service currently in place for local and long distance calls. After the presentations the elected officials, or their designees, discussed which option was preferred and the majority of the group was very interested in the cloud based internet telephone service. Clerk Lietzow mentioned that there was a third company that she met at her County Clerk's conference from the Kansas City area that has their systems in 2 Courthouses in MO and would like to present to the group and Commission encouraged that since any action will not be pursued until 2022 budget year.

Before adjourning, Buck Collier, Gasconade County Republican, ask Commission if they were aware there was a vacancy on the Gasconade County Health Dept. board and they were not aware; he knew they were the appointing authority but Commission said that is after the remaining members find a replacement. Mr. Collier also mentioned that a new Director has been hired, but the name has not yet been released.

## ADJOURN

Commissioner Jim Holland made a motion to adjourn commission until 10/7/2021.  
Commissioner Jerry Lairmore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

## SIGNATURES

\_\_\_\_\_