

Gasconade County Commission

June 02, 2022

MINUTES

The Gasconade County Commission met with Presiding Commissioner Larry Miskel at the Owensville City Hall 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 5/26/2022 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 - 118660 through 118668

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve the following items: WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT 118660 through 118668
Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Larry Miskel (Yes).

ROAD CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

When Commission convened at Owensville City Hall, they reported on their discussion earlier this morning at Drake with the road dept.: they are still busy fixing roads on south end of the county; Commissioner Lairmore received a call on Valentine Ford bridge from someone concerned about the construction; Commissioner Holland reported some washouts and trees down on county roads and as a separate issue, road dept. will have to rebuild the apron of Catholic Church road as it comes off Hwy. 19.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ron Bench, Melanie Smith and David Kelly, all representing MO State Parks, made a short presentation to update Commission on the Rock Island Trail. They explained one of the main differences between this trail and the Katy Trail, is the right-of-way was sold to individuals in some places along the Rock Island trail. In the city of Bland and in other communities, they hope to partner with private landowners who might be interested in providing a trailhead; specifically, that would be a parking area, water hookup, bathrooms, possibly benches in the shade and an information board with maps of local attractions and history on the area. They are hoping to be able to renovate more than one bridge that is on the trail, including tunnels; they know that there will have to be some form of a gate in places where the trail crosses a road so people look before crossing; some fencing along the corridor, like 5 strand barbwire when there are farm animals in the area, or some kind of boundary marker. Usage will be daylight operations only and obviously include walking and bicycling, but also equestrian in areas where the trailhead can accommodate trailers. Staff needed for the trail are section managers who are usually assigned to State Parks, maintenance workers, law enforcement and volunteers. It was explained they are working on getting grants and any other funding available including private donations. Presiding Commissioner Miskel ask about an estimated timeline as far as completion, but there is no way of knowing, based on funding and support; he and Commissioner Holland both commented on the financial benefit City of Hermann has received based off the Katy Trail. The numbers quoted back in 2012 for the Katy trail were 400000 visitors annually, with 4 out of 5 visitors returning and businesses experiencing \$18.5 million annually.

Treasurer Mike Feagan presented his monthly account balances to Commission and reviewed; he also said that Granny's Cafe has purchased their county business license according to the Collector's office so he has sent their ARPA funds.

Commission held the first hearing for the Deputy Sheriff's Salary Supplementation fund budget amendment in order to add grant revenue from MO Dept. of Public Safety in the amount of \$34709.55 for portable radios, repeaters and chargers and then paying out the same to A&W Communications; comment period is now open until adoption June 16.

Presiding Commissioner Miskel acknowledged receipt of an authorization letter from J. Joyner and Associates, the private auditing firm hired by the State Auditor's Office to conduct the financial audit of Gasconade County for the year 2021 starting in June and hopefully completed by October.

He also went on to say, that when the elected officials and employees met with them recently, there were 2 instances of air conditioning unit problems on the horizon, while they were currently still working; he wants one of those replaced now and wants Grannemann Electric to look at the other since they discovered it during their HVAC processes. He also contacted Archer-Elgin engineers and ask if they would be able to look at putting together a study for an elevator at the Courthouse and they agreed.

Collector Shawn Schlottach reported she had finished her work on the Strain Japan R16 school district lawsuit and hoped that would be the end of that; Presiding Commissioner Miskel said he had contacted MRPC for her and she said that she is still waiting to hear from US Senator Josh Hawley's office.

Others attending the meeting had comments, including Ron Hardecke who said he received a flyer in the mail recently from US Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer that said he had introduced a bill to help small businesses; he knew Commission had spoken to the Congressman's repr. recently. State Repr. Bruce Sassmann was also present for the meeting. Sheriff Scott Eiler reported it had been a quiet Memorial Day weekend. Owensville City Administrator Randy Blaske said the parks dept. has \$140000 of playground equipment supposed to be here by July 1 and the park's dept. is going to start pickle ball games. He said the city has received a half million dollars of ARPA funds to use on storm water and sewer system.

REPORT OF FEES

Commission reviewed monthly report of fees collected for the month of May 2022 from Lesa Lietzow, County Clerk in the amount of \$1414.33.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Jim Holland made a motion to adjourn commission until 6/9/2022. Commissioner Jerry Lairmore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURES
