

Gasconade County Commission

November 10, 2022

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

Presiding Commissioner Larry Miskel made a motion to approve prior commission minutes dated 11/3/2022 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 - 119350 through 119391

Presiding Commissioner Larry Miskel made a motion to approve the following items:
WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT 119350 through 119391
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 Holland reported some culvert issues, road repairs and needing to cut dead trees down along some roads and he has been working on some numbers for next years' budget for chip and seal project he will propose.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Treasurer Mike Feagan reviewed his monthly sales tax numbers which were average for November and usetax numbers which were better than last month; he also received the first law enforcement sales tax deposit, but in the form of a check since he had not specified an ACH deposit. Since it was only for \$9197.21, Treasurer Feagan reached out to Dept. of Revenue for an explanation and was told that was likely only motor vehicle titling fees and that most businesses October returns are not due until the end of November, so it will take a couple more months to be what is expected. He gave Commission the breakdown showing how much of that amount stays in county law enforcement fund and how much will be divided among the 5 cities by the percentages originally designated.

Presiding Commissioner Miskel had received some grant alert information as it relates to fire, ems and law enforcement which he passed onto Sheriff Scott Eiler; he also announced a meeting next Thursday in Rolla hosted by MO Dept. of Econ. Dev. regarding broadband connectivity and he said he would be attending a meeting at MRPC this evening. He mentioned attending a Hermann Chamber of Commerce meeting this morning where it was announced that a study completed shows Hermann can support a 65-room hotel and 3 landowners have already offered property; investors are now being sought. Lastly, good news is that a factory currently operating in Linn, MO will be relocating to the former Pretium factory building in Hermann; they wanted to own the building they were in and that option did not exist in Linn. They will be keeping approx. 25-30 Pretium employees.

Presiding Commissioner Miskel mentioned for the other 2 Commissioners' to start thinking about how the passage of Amendment 3 will impact the employee policy currently in place as it relates to being under the influence, along with the actual smoking policy outside county buildings. Since it is new for everyone and no certainty on moving forward, Circuit Clerk-elect Jenny Schneider will ask the Judges for any assistance on guidelines.

Clerk Lietzow had been given some free information for display in the hallway and for county employees from Safer at Home Collaborative to raise awareness about suicide prevention; she also mentioned scheduling on their agenda, Sherry Huxol, Treatment Court Admin. for the 20th Judicial Circuit for Dec. 8 at 9:00 am to discuss a new line item to be budgeted in 2023. Commission inquired of Clerk Lietzow how election day had gone and she said very well, with a 54% turnout nearly as predicted. Last thing she mentioned was that Mike LeRoy stopped in the Courthouse to look again at the north entrance door and talked to her about needing to install a floating threshold at that door which he had not included in the original proposal; he did for the front door because he knew it was necessary and she gave him the go-ahead and Commission agreed. He will be installing the front doors before the end of November and since he is having such trouble getting quality glass delivered ready to install, he is getting the glass and then preparing it for installation himself to meet the standards and specifications he requires.

Commission then discussed the feasibility study as had been prepared by Cameron Schweiss, Archer-Elgin engineer for the elevator study and for the construction of 2 buildings at Drake and one at Swiss; now that the actual elevator cost is known, Mr. Schweiss was able to reduce the original proposal by \$3100 and is now \$25700; before the vote, Commissioner Holland confirmed that is just for the feasibility study to determine what the projects would cost and Presiding Commissioner Miskel confirmed that was correct. Clerk-elect Schneider ask if it

included anything for the floor raising project for the Circuit Clerk's office and Commission said it did not but Commissioner Holland said he was meeting with a contractor on Friday to look at that project.

MOTION/VOTE - APPROVE REVISED PROPOSAL FROM ARCHER-ELGIN FOR COURTHOUSE FEASIBILITY STUDY AS DETAILED

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve revised proposal from Archer-Elgin for Courthouse feasibility study as detailed. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Larry Miskel (Yes).

REPORT OF FEES

Commission received the monthly report of collections from Shawn Schlottach, Collector for the month of October 2022 in the amount of \$16889.39

ABATEMENTS AND ADDITIONS

Commission received for file abatements #2262-2263 and additions #9321-9345.

ROAD CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Those present for the annual Transportation Priority meeting included: Bonnie Prigge and Anne Freand, both of MRPC and Preston Kramer, MoDOT, and from the City of Hermann, Patricia Heaney, Administrator and Jesse Geltz, Public Works Director.

Mr. Kramer began by summarizing the good and bad news; with the federal highway bill, there is more money to work with and the new state gas tax is going to generate more money to work with; the bad news is that due to all the years of under-investing in the highways, along with rising inflation costs, there are more projects than ever before and every project is more expensive.

He reviewed the entire list of projects and while they will all stay on a list, the only 2 that are programmed for funding are in 2023 the Hwy. B bridge over Dry Fork Creek due to poor condition and in 2024 the Hwy. 19 bridge over Frene Creek within the City of Hermann. He explained as he has before, that the bridge is in fair condition, but narrow with 2 sidewalks and is in the flood plain. MoDOT's recommendation is not to replace the bridge to fix the flood plain issue as that would impact several businesses. but that the most cost-efficient solution will be to rehab the existing structure by widening and eliminating one of the sidewalks. He said it is currently in the design phase and are hopeful the City of Hermann will help fund the project; another issue it will address is the city's request to continue improvements with the safe routes to schools by the wider bridge with one sidewalk.

Last year the Commission numbered the priority list as #1 Hwy. 19 north of Owensville from Hwy. 28 to the school complex to address safety concerns by recommending turn lanes, but since recent meetings with the school officials indicating that option is not their preference, it will now be moved to #3 on the list for 2022. Last year #2 was safety improvements at the intersection of Hwy. J and Hwy. 100 west of Hermann and that is now being moved to #1 and Mr. Kramer said they are looking at buying the necessary right-of-way on the north side and cutting away the hillside to improve the line of site. Last year #3 was adding sidewalk to the newest Hwy. 100 bridge in Hermann at Hwy. 19 to accommodate a lot of foot traffic from the park as a safety improvement and find a way to continue that sidewalk to Hwy. H along Hwy. 19 to the new library location; that has now become #2 project for 2022 priorities. The #4 project last year added in was the construction of a new bridge over the Gasconade River at Fredericksburg to replace the ferry but since Osage County Commission did not include it, was removed from priority.

Commissioner Lairmore would like to see that the county road approaches to the highways be a priority working with MoDOT as was the case many years ago; Mr. Kramer agreed that should not be a problem at all to resume that practice working with the local MoDOT shed at Drake. Director Geltz wanted to talk about the Hwy. 100 bridge headed east out of Hermann needs to continue the on-going work because it continues to shift and Mr. Kramer agreed also with that.

Mrs. Prigge pointed out a new road and bridge list considered high priority unfunded needs was prepared throughout the MRPC region and she ask Commission if any of the other projects on their list they would like to move here and they agreed #318 which is Hwy. Y bridge over branch of Cedar Creek currently satisfactory condition and #329 improvements to the intersection of Hwy. 28 at Hwy. B at Bland. Another new list was the multimodal types of transportation, including rural transportation services, walking/biking/hiking and even airport runways. Commission ask that #324 which is improvements to the former Rock Island railway across the rural areas of Gasconade County be added here and to include any sidewalk projects in Hermann and Owensville that connect the schools to the downtown areas.

The last portion to discuss was about the new BRO funding opportunities; rather than the county receive an annual allocation of funds from the federal government allowing it to accumulate enough to use for a large project, it is now an application process in September each year which county did not apply for. The former BRO was an 80/20% funding project with the county

spending the lesser amount and now the application process makes it 100% covered. Also in the past, cities could only participate if a county agreed to sponsor their project, but now cities can apply on their own and City of Hermann officials agreed the intersection of Gutenberg St. and 5th St. would be the project to consider. Valentine Ford is on the list and due to it's current replacement nearing completion, will be removed; that leaves bridge over Little Berger creek on Rohlfing road and bridge over Second Creek on Ruskaup road; Commissioners' will look at both of them and decide. Both are rated poor, one with 1733 sq. ft. deck and the other with 3894 sq. ft. deck.

Everyone agreed the most important meeting to be at MRPC is the annual Transportation Priorities of the region meeting on Dec. 8 and the 3 voting members should make every effort to be present in person to vote and if not, send their alternate.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Jim Holland made a motion to adjourn commission until 11/17/2022.
Commissioner Jerry Lairmore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURES
