

Gasconade County Commission

January 26, 2023

MINUTES

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

PRIOR MINUTES

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve prior commission minutes dated 1/19/2023 8:30 AM. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

ROAD CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Commissioner Lairmore said road dept. was taking cinder spreaders off the trucks in order to haul gravel again since no blading was needed; they are also doing normal tree cutting maintenance on right-of-ways. Commissioner Holland agreed no blading was needed on the north end of the county either; he had talked to road dept. about the 2 bridges being considered for the next BRO project. He had also called Jeff Medows, Archer-Elgin who will make an appointment to be on the Commissions' agenda in February to talk about the settlement invoice to fix Valentine Ford. Commissioner Holland is also looking at all the roadway agreements collected for Bareis and Wurtz roads, both being considered for chip and seal. All Commissioners' had been thanked by several road and bridge employees for the raises given by the Commission this year. Lastly, Commissioner Holland said the VW reimb. program deadline for submitting application is Jan. 31 so he ask office mgr. Rhonda Stoker to fill it out to send in for possibly getting reimbursed for one of the old trucks.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

When talking about the engineer from Archer-Elgin, Presiding Commissioner Schulte ask if they were handling the elevator project and where were we on that; while it is the same firm, the engineer specific to the elevator project is Cameron Schweiss and Clerk Lietzow said while he did come out to the road dept. and Swiss location, he has not been to the Courthouse, so he should probably be contacted.

Presiding Commissioner Schulte also wanted to talk about putting a committee together, from within the offices at the Courthouse, for a roundtable discussion, about possibly shuffling offices around within the building. He envisions relocating the Assessor's office downstairs to be near the Collector's office and then make the whole entire second floor judicial, by moving the Circuit Clerk's office upstairs, including the Associate Division staff; the Prosecuting Attorney is already located there as well as the Sheriff. Sheriff Scott Eiler, Collector Shawn Schlottach, Circuit Clerk and Recorder Jenny Schneider and Donna Struttman from the Assessor's office were all in the meeting and agreed it made sense and had even been discussed before by Assessor Paul Schulte, because of how closely his office works with the Collector.

Clerk Schneider suggested for consideration, that now might be the time to talk about separating her dual office as she is one of only 16 counties where they are still combined. Clerk Lietzow explained to him that it was actually when his mother was serving in that dual role position, that the law changed encouraging the split many years ago; the financing that came along with that at the time was only enough to cover the salary of the elected Recorder, not for part-time help and office setup, so the Commission chose not to split. While all the information Clerk Lietzow has on this subject dates back to 2002, it was suggested Clerk Schneider get some up-to-date information. She offered that for location purposes, the current large vault she has could easily be made into the Recorder's office with a door added opening into the hallway; it was her intent to remove the roller shelving units in there anyway since they no longer serve a purpose and offer them to the Archives and Records Center. It was pointed out too, that there is a door that opens from the Assessor's Office directly into the Sheriff's current private office that has never been used, but could be opened in order to connect the entire Circuit system, assuming Sheriff Eiler would be willing to relocate his private office. Presiding Commissioner Schulte would also like to see Clerk Lietzow's office have some room for expansion as well.

Last question, Clerk Schneider had was when was the project for her office floor was scheduled and Commissioner Holland confirmed the second week of February; she also reminded him of the vault door situation below her office that she ask to have fixed. When ask about the new Courthouse exterior doors status, there has been no updates on that; he did report that he was notified by one of the local gentleman that is part of a painting crew, that they are set to retire this year, so if we are interested in having that work done here to let them know, which we of course, still are interested. He reminded Clerk Lietzow that in talking with Joe Brazil, TREMCO, he is needing a letter of permission granted to access the roof of the Courthouse again.

Collector Schlottach presented to Commission another tax payment received in her office January 23, but postmarked Dec. 27, 2022 from VW Credit Leasing LTD Tax Dept., 1401

Franklin Blvd., Libertyville, IL 60048 and Commission agreed to accept without penalties.

Commissioner Holland again offered to anyone present that he attended an MRDC meeting and they still have money to lend to small businesses to expand or build new.

Commissioner Lairmore confirmed after talking with a repr. from MO Parks Service that Gasconade County does not have to make a 25-year commitment to maintaining the Rock Island line through the county; that is something the City of Owensville has done. The application for the grant funds has been submitted by MRPC and a copy of that application is on file here.

Collector Schlottach and taxpayer Hitesh Patel owner of the Hermann Motel came before the Commission to discuss his tax payment to her office; he explained to the Commission and provided them information that said according to the federal government guidelines, that if a payment due date falls on a weekend or holiday, then the payment is due the next day. He also told Commission that her office refused his payment twice when he attempted, which was on Nov. 2 when he came in person and then again when he attempted to drop it in the drop box outside the Courthouse and it was locked. Based on that information, he assumed he could come to the Collector's office on January 3 and pay his taxes for 2022 without penalty. Presiding Commissioner Schulte deferred to Collector Schlottach to address the issue as obviously she is the officeholder; she had provided Commission with all her documentation detailing how the situation unfolded. Mr. Patel came into her office on Nov. 2 to pay his taxes before he left on vacation; it was discovered he did not have a personal property bill because he had not submitted his assessment form to the Assessor's office so she sent him to their office where they would input the information and told him when he was finished there, he could come back into her office to pay everything he owed. He instead left the building without paying at all, so she of course, mailed his bills along with all the county bills on Nov. 10. Regarding federal government guidelines Mr. Patel quoted, is referring to when they are making payments which is same as credit card companies, if due on a holiday, you can pay the next business day without penalty. Collector Schlottach is sworn to uphold the laws as spelled out in the MO statutes which clearly states that any payment to her office must be postmarked by Dec. 31 if mailed, with the only exceptions being military service or bankruptcy. She also said that there are 5 methods of payment offered no matter where you are, even if on vacation. The only time the drop box is locked is at 12:01 am January 1 when her Deputy Collector comes up here to remove all timely payments that have been made by the deadline. While no one takes satisfaction in collecting or charging penalties, all 3 Commissioners' agreed that Collector Schlottach has abided by MO law which she is sworn to do and there is no way they can or will change that for any taxpayer and voted accordingly.

MOTION/VOTE - SUPPORT COLLECTOR SCHLOTTACHS FOLLOWING OF MO STATUTES IN TAX PAYMENT DISPUTE

Commissioner Jim Holland made a motion to support Collector Schlottach's following of MO statutes in tax payment dispute. Commissioner Jerry Lairmore seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

ADJOURN

Commissioner Jim Holland made a motion to adjourn commission until 2/2/2023. Commissioner Jerry Lairmore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURES
