

Gasconade County Commission

March 16, 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 3/9/2023 8:30 AM. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT - 119961 through 119988

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

WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT 119961 through 119988

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 mentioned one call received from property owner not happy with the damage done to a landscape bed by one of the new equipment operators on Hecker road and Supervisor Roger Dahl went out to fix it and re-ditched the area. He had also met with Three Rivers Electric who are putting a new 3-phase line down Wehmeyer road; he said one side of the road right-of-way has been given for work to be done, but not the other side. He reminded everyone that several years ago a lot of work was done on that road allowing for 3 curves to be taken out to straighten it, thanks to the Schlottach family giving right-of-way.

Commissioner Holland had a call about a culvert on Weeks road, the same problem reported again on Boy Scout road and Bareis road is being prepped for chip and seal. He also looked at possibly adding Sugar Creek as a BRO project next year for bridge replacement, off Hwy. J and Stolpe Bottom road, but according to Supervisor Dahl it does not meet the requirements. Clerk Lietzow told Commission that upon submitting the county's bill for repair work on Valentine Ford, there was an additional \$758.64 found by MoDOT upon examination of documents; the only item they are missing now is a detailed letter explaining what caused the damage and the need for these repairs and the final closeout documentation, all of which will be done by Travis Hernandez, Archer-Elgin engineer. Commissioner Holland said the county was approved for the VW program grant again; 25% can go towards a new dump truck and 25% toward a new truck/tractor.

Road dept. had revised the bid specs for hot and cold mix according to Presiding Commissioner Schulte's recommendation and resubmitted to Commission for approval today, which was given. Two bids were received and opened for crushed and/or screened gravel; they will be reviewed by road dept. to determine if specs were met with their recommendation to the Commission for acceptance at next week's session. Commission discussed the possibility of not replacing a big truck this year; the one they were considering replacing is older, but there is no trouble with it.

Jeff Banderet, Great River Engineering had ask for an appointment on the agenda, after meeting with Commissioners' at their conference, just to reintroduce his company and let them know they would be interested in any future projects, particularly BRO, Commission might be interested in. He reminded them the applications will be available soon, with deadline in July; Commissioner Lairmore explained we missed the application last year since it was a new way of applying, but we were also in the middle of a big BRO project at the time. One option the Commission would like to consider is the very large project of building a bridge over the Gasconade River at Fredericksburg where there once was a ferry crossing. Mr. Banderet said likely not a BRO because that is about fixing a bridge that is already there, not constructing new bridges where there wasn't one before. His recommendation would be for the Commission to consider a BEAP, ie: Bridge Engineering Assistance Program application, which is 100% funded to study this project. Commission explained that it would be a huge difference in travel distance and time to get to that northwestern part of the county, for school busses and first responders; Mr. Banderet said those are 2 good reasons for accelerating approval for a project like this. Commission also mentioned that MoDOT would have to be involved as their highway runs directly to the river on this east side and then closely on the other side of the river is Osage County; Mr. Banderet now understands the scope of this large project and suggested CDBG funds might be another option to consider.

Commissioner Lairmore also mentioned that he found out that Michel Electric was working this week on County Line road, during the rain, and caused a lot of damage to the road because of the muddy conditions and he told them if it was not fixed before days end, he would demand they quit working; it was fixed by days end.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Presiding Commissioner Schulte had ask for a moment of silence this morning after the Pledge of Allegiance to honor the 2 law enforcement officers shot in Gasconade County on Sunday evening, with one succumbing to his injuries and one still hospitalized. The entire county has been in shock and mourning since the tragic news, including law enforcement and emergency responders all across the state of MO; many across the county and beyond have gathered this week to honor the 2 officers in any way possible. Presiding Commissioner Schulte went on to commend the officials at the Courthouse on Wednesday in how they handled the suspect who had his first day in front of a Judge via videocam.

Commission signed the Victims of Domestic Violence agreement for the surcharge of \$4 for each criminal case; Clerk Jenny Schneider will distribute to each of the Judges within the Circuit, along with Treasurer Mike Feagan and Prosecuting Attorney Mary Weston. Commission also signed the engagement letter for Williams Keepers to conduct the 2022 alternative compliance exam of federal funds received and spent by Gasconade County.

Treasurer Feagan mentioned that he will be meeting with Prosecutor Weston about some additional funding coming into the opioid settlement account; further he filed the annual report due on the LATCF funding the county has received. After receiving the documentation from MO Dept. of Revenue on sales tax funding, he reached out to question the disparity between the original countywide sales tax receipts versus law enforcement sales tax receipts and was told any inquiry needed to be through email, so he will do so.

Presiding Commissioner Schulte signed a grant application for Sheriff's dept. for emergency medical service activities in the amount of \$20000 through MO Dept. of Public Safety; in addition, the Commission signed a letter of support for the dept. in getting equipment upgrades at their Swiss Substation location or into any added facilities with expansion.

Regarding the plans drawn by Archer-Elgin for the buildings at Swiss and Drake and for the elevator, the meeting with Commission to review will likely be next Thursday as they were not quite ready for today; there has been some discussion about having to move a tower at the Swiss location if expanding the existing shed is the option chosen.

Commissioner Lairmore shared that he had been contacted by former Maries County Presiding Commissioner Ray Schwartze who is still actively working on behalf of counties in Jefferson City, particularly with Senator Justin Brown with pending legislation such as, taking local sales tax off food sales, taking personal property tax off of the tax books and removing control of MoDOT fuel tax from that dept. and giving it to the legislature.

Commission would like to move forward with the proposal submitted from RENO DRY as submitted at last week's session; all are in agreement it is a much needed service at the Courthouse. Commissioners' Lairmore and Holland had called some of the County Commissions in the counties named that have used the system and were encouraged with the reviews. Since the cost is above state bid limits, it was agreed Clerk Lletzow would at least advertise the project, even though the use of the system is proprietary and sole sourced.

Clerk Schneider said that when she met with the painters this week, they scheduled her office to be painted, walls only, not ceiling, somewhere between April 10-21; they also said to pass onto the Commission that they are not able to paint in the Prosecutor's office until the plaster is repaired. Presiding Commissioner Schulte has someone who can come in to make those repairs.

Clerk Lietzow mentioned that she is meeting this afternoon with LANEG, aka Lake Area Narcotics Enforcement Group; their organization has been headquartered in Camden County since formation and Sheriff Eiler indicated to her that might need to change, so they are looking at another county within their region that offers the same benefits to employees as Camden county does, and currently that is only Gasconade County. She is going to learn what it would mean as far as additional work and time and investment, if the situation in Camden county should fail.

Commission adjourned regular session and entered into executive session with road supervisor Roger Dahl.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jim Holland made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters authorized by RSMo 610.021 and in compliance with RSMo 610.022. Commissioner Jerry Lairmore seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

RECONVENE

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to close Executive Session and reconvene as the Gasconade County Commission. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jerry Lairmore (Yes), Jim Holland (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

ROAD CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Commission announced their decision from closed session as advertising to hire a full time position with benefits and a part time position due to grader operator quitting in January and a new hire operator quitting this week.

OUTLAWED COURT ORDER AND ANNUAL SETTLEMENT

Commission received for file the annual settlement of Shawn Schlottach, Collector for year ending February 28, 2023 showing charges and credits totaling \$18,432,267.97; also the court order outlawing personal property tax off the books from 2019 in the amount of \$21629.45.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore made a motion to adjourn commission until 3/23/2023. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURES
