Gasconade County Commission

October 22, 2026

MINUTES

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

PRIOR MINUTES

Commissioner Ron Hardecke made a motion to approve prior commission minutes dated 10/15/2026 8:30 AM. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jim Holland (Yes), Ron Hardecke (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT - 126118 through 126136

Commissioner Ron Hardecke made a motion to approve the following items:
WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT 126118 through 126136
Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Jim Holland (Yes), Ron Hardecke (Yes), Tim Schulte (Yes).

ROAD CONCERNS

Commissioner Hardecke reported that County Line road has been bladed and he had talked to the Franklin County Commission and they agreed to prepare the road share maintenance agreement without Horstmann road included; they also thanked him for the prompt payment when Gasconade County had been billed for the Simpson trial. He had looked at Lahmeyer, Koebel, Branch and Kottwitz roads which are in good shape; the hill on Rehmert road is in really bad shape; a driveway culvert is needed on Fisher road; he has been working with the property owners on Blue House road with getting the culverts and drainage issues taken care of in preparation for chip and seal, if done; road dept. fixed a problem with a ditch on Shoemaker road and were thanked for it; he had a call on Lake road where it needed gravel and blading and that is done; received a comment on Oak Hill road that it's in the best shape ever; Stranghoener road needs culvert extension. Commissioner Hardecke attended a pipeline safety meeting Tuesday in Linn where fire officials were also present and all were briefed on awareness regarding pipelines and their locations and he feels like the road dept. would benefit from this discussion also so he will share information with them. He talked with Osage County Commission about their use of the product Base One on their county roads and they said it has worked good and was put down 2 years ago. Lastly, he said the road dept's. winter preparedness day found some equipment problems which have been fixed now so they are ready.

Commissioner Holland said there is a dead tree on private property that needs to be trimmed off county right-of-way; Helds Island road is rough; Fowler road needs mowing; Old Iron road needs the chipper in one area that needs to be widened; Brightspeed moved a telephone box on Clifty road; looked at Pershing area roads; Sawmill and First Creek roads are being wet down and bladed regularly; decision on how to fix Lone Grove School road is needed; comment that Bickmeyer road is in the best shape ever. Commissioner Holland also said there were breakdowns with a couple pieces of equipment.

Presiding Commissioner Schulte signed a road maintenance agreement for TNT Underground Construction Inc. for work they are doing on Rosebud, Pfeiffer, Wehmeyer and Paul roads.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Presiding Circuit Judge Ryan Helfrich was scheduled on Commission agenda along with Sheriff Scott Eiler to talk about a MO statute that says the Sheriff shall go through the Presiding Judge to set his deputies' salaries and how many there are; this came up in Osage county, which is also in our court circuit, where he and Sheriff Mike Bonham met with that Commission to talk this through and Judge Helfrich thought it would be a good idea to do the same here in Gasconade County. This law has been on the books for several years, and has been complied with in a rather informal way with Circuit Clerk Jenny Schneider providing him a document for signature anytime there is a new deputy sheriff brought on staff and at what pay rate. Judge Helfrich wanted to open dialogue with the Commission, which he hopes will continue on a more regular basis, and wants them to know he is not here to make demands of them. He brought statistics showing what has happened, just in the last 5 years, with the volume of both civil and criminal cases increasing 60%; he had invited Associate Circuit Judge Ada Brehe-Krueger to attend if she was available today, but unfortunately she was not, but she responded back to him that she wholeheartedly agrees with his assessment. Judge Helfrich went on to quote the number of municipality cases jumping from 1614 to 2128 including 91 city ordinance violations increasing to 580 violations. He attributes these increases to the urban crawl that has come into Franklin county and now into Gasconade County; he is proud to say the Drug Treatment court that is run by this circuit does a phenomenal job trying to change the course of the drug problem. While he doesn't know the timing of the budget work in Gasconade County, he wanted this opportunity to ask Commission to consider putting another officer on the road next year, and was clear he was

not making demands. Sheriff Eiler also shared statistics regarding annual number of calls his dept. has answered has gone from 9689 to over 12000; he also told of the incident in Hermann yesterday which required his whole dept. on scene which left no others covering the rest of the county. Judge Helfrich also talked about the agreement Gasconade County has with Franklin County to board out prisoners and how great that is; he isn't recommending to the Commission to build a jail, he would prefer to see more officers hired and so does the general public as a deterrent. He said as Judges, they expect cases to be tried and heard which is why the jails are full. On a positive note, he commended them on splitting the office of Circuit Clerk and Recorder of Deeds and is so glad to have a full-time Clerk and spoke highly of Jenny Schneider. Mary Weston, Prosecuting Attorney had come into the meeting and Judge Helfrich also spoke highly of her as well because she carries the load of these cases that have been talked about today which she concurred about the volume increasing which is requiring her to spend much more time even though she is considered part-time. That is another decision the Commission will be forced to make before year-end due to the new law that addresses the pay of part-time prosecutors, where she must be given a raise that equals between 30% and 60% of the pay of the Associate Circuit Judge; it was made clear she would still be considered part-time, going full-time requires a vote of the people. The last issue that Judge talked about is the inevitable need for the Commission to do something about the parking lot here at the Courthouse; he realizes the location up on top of this hill doesn't provide many options and hopes they can find a way.

Moving onto other business, Sheriff Eiler told Commission he would probably be able to pay one half of the November prisoner board bill to Franklin County by using what looks to be money left on the fuel line if fuel costs hold steady which Commission was glad to hear.

Clerk Schneider talked about what she hopes to be the first annual Teen Drug Summit yesterday at the First Baptist Church in Owensville; she said there were 175 kids coming from Hermann, Owensville and St. George schools attending along with vendors and volunteers. Judge Brehe-Krueger and Prosecutor Weston spoke as well as a local girl stressing the importance of drug-intervention along with the LANEG drug task force and even former prisoners; there were 6-8 breakout sessions, with lunch outside. Clerk Schneider said it was an amazing, touching event; there will be a smaller version at both schools coming up. Assessor Julia Baker thanked them for the event; on another note, she forwarded to MAC attorney Travis Elliott the Commission answers for the SB190 order.

ROAD CONCERNS

Present for the annual Transportation Needs meeting were: Preston Kramer, MoDOT, Director Bonnie Prigge and Anne Freand, MRPC, Owensville City Admin. Randy Blaske, Hermann City Admin. Tricia Heaney, streets dept. Jesse Geltz and Chamber of Commerce Melissa Lensing, Morrison City Clerk Doris Rost, 2 repr. from OATS transportation, Director Prigge reminded everyone they were here to review the priorities list from last year and make changes as necessary. Mr. Kramer began reviewing indicating those staying on the list since not completed; he did start to remove the intersection of Hwy. J with Hwy. 100, 6 miles west of Hermann after the sign package was updated and there had been no reported accidents, but Presiding Commissioner Schulte asked him to keep it on the list due to the excessive amount of truck traffic hauling from the quarry off Hwy. J onto Hwy. 100. Mr. Kramer said Hwy. 100 east of Hermann to the Franklin county line has funding approved for an overlay in 2029; Presiding Commissioner Schulte asked him before the overlay is done could the road be raised to alleviate the flooding concerns that are also on the list and Mr. Kramer said no, there is no funding for that. Presiding Commissioner Schulte insisted it should be as easy as a change order to allow for the necessary fill and the cost could not be that excessive and made sense to do before the overlay; Mr. Kramer will ask but expected the answer to be no. There were 9 county road approaches that were done this year before funding ran out. The bridge on Hwy. Y over a branch of Cedar Creek is near the Hwy. Y and Lake Road entrance which has sight visibility concerns and Mr. Kramer's only suggestion there was that MoDOT can make recommendations for a new entrance to be put in. It was agreed additional improvements are still needed at the Hwy. 28 intersection with Hwy. B. The Hwy. 19 bridge over the Bourbeuse River is in serious condition where the foundation of the structure needs fixed. The Hwy. 100 bridge over Baileys Creek at Morrison is in serious condition with the deck rating as it's worst feature. The Hwy. 19 bridge over Frene Creek in Hermann which has been redone, but still not raised to prevent flooding and Admin. Heaney said FEMA had said there was no funding for that project. One project to be removed is the Hwy. T at Blue House road visibility concerns and road approach that were taken care of this year. The Hwy. 19 bridge at Brandenburger road where paving the approach would help but more importantly blasting part of the bluff away. The final bridge talked about is the Hwy. 19 bridge over Red Oak Creek and is in poor condition and due for replacement. Commission agreed to leave the priority list in the same order but adding into #4 which is safety concerns on Hwy. 19 from the Hwy. 28 junction to the Industrial Park with the safety improvements to Hwy. 19 in general. #1 remains the flooding concerns in Hermann on both Hwy. 100 east and west, #2 is the bridge over Baileys Creek, #3 is the bridge over the Bourbeuse River, and #5 is the bridge over Red Oak Creek.

Moving onto the Multimodal needs, Admin. Heaney said they are starting on an aviation grant; regarding transit, the OATS repr. said they are operating in Hermann city limits now but desperately need a driver for Owensville and have for over a year. Admin. Blaske will post the

need on the city's website and MRPC will place focus on it. He also mentioned they have a grant to do 7 blocks of ADA sidewalks to the Rock Island Trail. Regarding the trail, MRPC is trying for a $17 million planning grant from Federal DOT for MO and Director Prigge said that is a high priority in the central district. There was discussion about new signage needed at the trail where it crosses Hwy. Y, just after turning off Hwy. 28 and you are at the approach. It was decided to add that project as #332 on the list. Another addition to the list is #331 which is a crosswalk requested in Rosebud at the Lutheran School. Hermann Streets Dept. repr. Geltz ask Mr. Kramer about what can be done with their sidewalk sliding due to erosion at the MoDOT bridge at Hermannhof and if the city can attach to the bridge and Mr. Kramer will look into it. The last step was prioritizing this list and so #1 is continued development of the Rock Island Trail across the county, #2 is crosswalk in Rosebud, #3 is additional sidewalks to connect downtown Owensville to other areas, #4 is the eroding sidewalk in Hermann and #5 is the new Hwy. Y signage at the trail.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Ron Hardecke made a motion to adjourn commission until 10/29/2026. Commissioner Jim Holland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURES

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