

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022**

13<sup>TH</sup> Day of the July Term. The Commission Met Pursuant to Adjournment. Present were Presiding Commissioner Garry Nelson, Associate Commissioners Karen Stuppy and Randy Ruzicka along with Deputy County Clerk, Michele Gatzemeyer.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NELSON AT 8:00 A.M.

THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022 WERE READ. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER RUZICKA TO APPROVE SAID MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER STUPPY SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

Commission reviewed 'Toots Hill Lane'. When I-55 was installed; it split existing road in half. Hwy. 'N' was renamed Hwy. 'M'. The 'County' received paperwork from MoDOT noting that the 'State' agreed to maintain such roadway until it was no longer feasible and then indicated that it 'became' the responsibility of the 'County'. As of current time, said 'roadway' is not being maintained by either entity. Commissioner Nelson noted that he will provide detail obtained to resident requesting said information. (Copy of documentation made available attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Rick Francis, Dale Wright, Sandra Cabot, and Alan Wells appeared before the Commission as it relates to necessary changes pertaining to '911' system. Currently, Ste. Genevieve County is facing an approximate increase of \$3,000,000 for necessary improvements. Mr. Alan Wells presented detail regarding the 'changes'. Following was provided:

\*There are (3) Primary Functions of '911' Equipment – 'Internal Computer Systems/Infrastructure; 'Radio Communications – This is a 'dilemma'. It is still working in old analog – Many agencies have phased into 'digital' or 'trunked' system.

\*Ste. Genevieve County has (4) remote receivers, which are 'issue'. Approximately, 14-15 years ago, the FCC narrow banded our 'bandwidth', which reduced power and was 'split' to increase frequencies. (Mr. Wells noted that in today's society, buildings are being built better for structural/safety purposes.)

\*Very LARGE PROBLEM is that with the changes that have occurred in 'building changes'; many critical 'emergency' situations result in the fact that 'talking' capabilities are alleviated. Mr. Wells explained that many emergency management persons cannot speak with 'responders' that are in these buildings.

\*Mr. Wells noted that there are several solutions: 1.) New 'trunked' system. 2.) 'Digital' System with new 'Towers'. 3.) "Total Backhaul" system, which would cost the same but would not require changing all mobile & portable units. This change would continue to allow us to work within our environment while also allowing for future growth.

\*MAIN OBJECTIVE as per Mr. Wells is that there MUST BE SYSTEM in which first responders can communicate internally in buildings.

\*Mr. Wells explained that there are currently (4) Counties utilizing the '911' Back-Dorr System that he oversees; those are: Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, and Perry Counties.

\*Mr. Wells noted that as Chair of State Board; a goal is that the State of Missouri creates minimum standards for '911' services requiring imagery & mapping.

\*Mr. Wells noted that research has been completed; State MOSWIN System is not an option as this system is already overloaded. (MOSWIN – Statewide Public Safety Interoperable Communications System).

\*Mr. Wells noted that 'State of Missouri' behind on this issue.

\*Public Safety – moving to 'wireless world'.

Bottom Line: Although it is apparent that '911' improvements are needed; the 'County' along with the 'City' of Ste. Genevieve are not financially able to pay for these improvements. Mr. Wells has been researching possible grants but wanted to reach out to our representatives along with Mrs. Cabot in an effort to become more aware of possible ARPA Grant Funding, Statewide Funding, etc. Mr. Wells noted that the 'roadblock' he has run into is that money (in this case) is necessary for "Radio" Component.

Decision was made for State Representatives Rick Francis and Dale Wright, along with Mr. Wells to meet with Department of Public Safety on 9/13/2022. As additional details are provided; said information will be reported.

Mr. Wells noted that this is an issue that these are 'Public Communications' Needs. This change is imperative as it would save lives as well as responders. Mr. Wells noted that the motto for 'State Board of Governance' IS **"SAVES SECONDS.....SAVES LIVES"**.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ruzicka to 'Enter' into Closed Session at 9:10 A.M. re: RSMo 610.021 – relating to potential 'contract' issue. Commissioner Stuppy seconded the 'Motion'. Commissioner Ruzicka yea. Commissioner Stuppy yea. All in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ruzicka to 'Exit' Closed Session 'portion' of Meeting @ 9:20 A.M. re: RSMo 610.021 – as it relates to 'Contracts'. Commissioner Stuppy seconded the Motion. Commissioner Ruzicka yea. Commissioner Stuppy yea. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Scott Schmieder, R&B Foreman, appeared before the Commission to provide report for today's meeting. Following were the details provided:

\*Mr. Schmieder requested 'Fuel Bids' be requested.

\*Mr. Schmieder provided most recent 'fuel' purchase tickets from MFA Oil. (Copies of the same attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

\*Mr. Schmieder presented Purchase Order No. 0012 Dated 8/17/2022 for 'Truck Tires' through vendor, Mueller Tire Service, at a "Total Cost" of \$4,439.60 with Commissioner Ruzicka signing for the same. (Copy of said Purchase Order attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

\*R&B Department working on 'Patching', 'Mowing', and intend to continue 'Chip and Sealing' projects next week. Mr. Schmieder noted that it is imperative that 'maintenance' project be completed.

\*Mr. Schmieder noted that R&B Department cannot 'pre-purchase' salt.

\*Follow Up – Bodine Road – County is still waiting on follow up from property owner(s) on said project.

\*Kocher Road – 'Chip & Sealing' to be completed on said road to 'finish' project on said road.

\*Burks School Road – Work to be completed.

\*Mr. Schmieder noted that there are on-going "ROW" issues with Spectrum/MasTec. Mr. Schmieder has yet to be contacted. SPECTRUM HAS BEEN ADVISED ALONG WITH THEIR CONTRACTOR THAT CORRECT 'RIGHT OF WAY' TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE 'COMMISSION' THAT THIS TASK IS STILL NOT BEING RESEARCHED/COMPLETED PRIOR TO 'PEDESTALS' HAVING BEEN INSTALLED.

\*Mr. Schmieder to contact 'owner/developer' of subdivision off Chestnut Ridge Road. Residents in said area have reached out to 'County' for roads within said area to be taken over as 'County Roads'. R&B Specifications have been sent to said residents. Roads must meet specific criteria before this can take place. Local resident noted that 'Contractor' is scheduled to work on said roads to perform this 'task'; HOWEVER, no one has contacted Mr. Schmieder with Ste. Genevieve County R&B Department. County must perform inspections to make sure criteria is met. Mr. Schmieder noted that he would reach out to 'owner'. Additional detail to be provided at next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting. Reply provided to inquiring local resident as well. (Copy of 'resident reply' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Commissioner Nelson reviewed 'checks and balances' performed as it relates to Community Services Forum, which is a 501(c) 3. Commissioner Nelson handled with Mr. Mike Horrell; everything balanced.

Carolyn Bach, on behalf of the Ste. Genevieve Art Guild, appeared before the Commission to provide report for the same with the following details given:

\*Report provided for period of Apr./May/June

\*Quilt show organized by the Art Guild held over Jour de Fete Weekend @ DuBourg Center was a HUGE success!

\*2022 Fall Workshop provided. (Copies of Report/Workshop attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

\*Mrs. Bach noted that patrons have questioned 'Park @ Your Own Risk Signs' near the Art Guild. The Commission advised Mrs. Bach that the reason for this was due to the fact that if persons opened their doors, etc.; they might have scratched them on concrete barriers, etc. Signs were placed to protect the interest of the 'County'.

Commission convened @ 11:55 A.M. They are scheduled to return ! 1:00 P.M.

Commission reconvened @ 1:00 P.M. in effort to review 'Tax Rate' for next year.

County Clerk, Sue Wolk, reviewed information with the Commission to advise them of information that she receives from 'State Auditor' as the 'State Auditor' determines what the 'Tax Rate' can be. Tax Rate Hearing is for 8/29/2022. The following 'points of interest' were noted:

- \*A 'voluntary reduction' in even years will lower the 'tax rate ceiling' for future.
- \*Assessed Valuation for Ste. Genevieve County is \$930,835.621.
- \*Tax Rate Ceiling is .3466.
- \*With Sales Tax Rollback, 'Tax Rate' would be .2945.
- \*Tentative decision by the Ste. Genevieve County Commission is for 'Tax Rate' to be set at .2540. (Copy of prepared spreadsheet by Mrs. Wolk attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)
- \*Final determination to be made @ Tax Rate Hearing scheduled for 8/29/2022.

Accounts Payable for Date 8/18/2022 in the amount of \$19,330.99 were reviewed and approved for payment by the Commission.

#### **ADJOURN**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stuppy to adjourn @ 1:45 P.M. Commissioner Ruzicka seconded the Motion.

Ordered that the Commission adjourn until 8/22/2022.

SUBMITTED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

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PRESIDING COMMISSIONER