

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

16TH Day of the April Term. The Commission Met Pursuant to Adjournment. Present were Presiding Commissioner Randy Ruzicka, Associate Commissioners Mark Marberry and Karen Stuppy. Deputy County Clerk, Michele Gatzemeyer, was absent from today's meeting.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDING COMMISSIONER RUZICKA AT 8:15 A.M.

THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 WERE READ. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SAID MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER RUZICKA SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY YEA. COMMISSIONER RUZICKA YEA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 WERE READ. COMMISSIONER STUPPY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SAID MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER STUPPY YEA. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY YEA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

Wolf Creek Fire Department has received "Right of Way" Permitting from MoDOT as it relates to 'Entrance' to the same. Review completed surrounding possibility of Ste. Genevieve County R&B Department performing installation as 'Entrance' is needed for the proceeding of '911 Tower' as has been previously noted.

*After close review by the Commission, Commissioner Marberry made a 'Motion' to approve a 'Memo of Understanding' between Ste. Genevieve County & Wolf Creek Fire Department for the 'R&B Department' to proceed with assisting in the 'installation' of 'Entrance'. Commissioner Stuppy seconded the 'Motion'. Commissioner Marberry yea. Commissioner Stuppy yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Commissioner Marberry to provide 'Memo of Understanding' @ next regularly scheduled meeting.)

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

*Backhoe in process of being repaired by McCoy Equipment; Equipment under 'warranty'. (Said item is scheduled for 'Buyback' Review next year.)

*R&B Department performing mowing/patching

*'Paving Overlay Project' completed by Jokerst, Inc. Project on Coffelt & Donze Roads came in 'under budget'. Commissioner Ruzicka noted that roads look great! Project is 'huge improvement'.

*Computer paperwork remains to be completed prior to R&B Employee taking CDL Test, which is scheduled for 6/4/2024. Mr. Schmieder wanted to make the Commission aware of this need for 'CDL Classification' to become a reality.

*Mr. Schmieder to assist w/'Survey' water lines @ Ste. Genevieve County Youth Building.

*Beginning Tuesday, May 28, 2024; the Ste. Genevieve R&B Department will begin working four (4) 10-Hour Workdays.

*Mr. Schmieder was notified during meeting that 'Road Sign' stolen; Mr. Schmieder noted that approximately 6-8 'Signs' had to be reinstalled that were stolen. As previously noted, this creates a burden as well as an expense to the 'County'. Mr. Schmieder noted that R&B Department will replace 'signs' before weekend.

Report provided from New Bourbon Regional Port Authority Meeting by Commissioner Marberry. Following were the items reported:

*Commissioner Marberry noted that Jason Hartke w/USDA was at meeting. Steps for construction of 'warehouse' that has been noted by the Port Authority were reviewed/discussed.

*Quasi Ownership does not appear to be 'option'.

*Long-Term Lease 'potential' with lease being drawn for 15-20 years w/this 'Non-Profit'.

*Design/Build Contract reviewed – Said option would have to be elevated to 'Federal Level'. (Mention of (3) Bank Denial Letters discussed before said process could proceed.)

*Should 'Port Authority' proceed with said 'structure'; 'Test Drilling' would have to be completed. Building would have to be constructed on 'Pilings'.

*Administrative Contact 'reviewed'. Southeast MO Regional Planning Commission currently holds 'administrative contract' for the 'Port'. Contract scheduled for 'Renewal'. Current cost is \$42,000. SEMO RPC noting that cost would increase to \$47,000 annually due to inflation as well as the fact that 'clerical work load' is constantly increasing with more demands.

*Authorization Process required for 'Each Port'. Each 'Port' has to put together a 'formal prioritization process' together. Several of the 'Upgrades' recommended/needed for 'New Bourbon Regional Port Authority' mentioned as follows:

*Railroad Crossing – Approximately \$1.1 Million upgrade needed.

*Raising & Paving of 'Port Road', which is needed due to 'on-going' flooding issues – Cost would be approximately \$4.9 Million.

*It was noted that there are (3) Priority Projects for said 'Group' with them being through 'Federal' as well as 'State' Funding.

*RFI (Request for Information) for 'Legal Services' to be sent out for the 'Port'. Thus far, the 'Port' has spoke with 'Gilmore Bell' as well as 'Cunningham, Vogel, Rost P.C.'.

Update provided on Bloomsdale Community Center Location. Concern expressed surrounding the 'Pool' @ Bloomsdale location. Commissioner Ruzicka advised that 'concern' surrounded 'Hydrostatic Pressure'. Commissioner Ruzicka advised that 'Plug' has been pulled from 'Hydrostatic Drains'. In addition, (2) drain lines unplugged; thus, the 'Pool' @ Bloomsdale Community Center location should be 'good'. Concern surrounding said matter addressed.

*Soto Properties - Marketing 'Extra Space' @ Bloomsdale Facility. Only cost that would have to be absorbed by the 'County' is if 'tenant' is discovered for said location.

Request for 'Reappointment' received by the Commission for the Ste. Genevieve Library Board. The Commission reviewed said request. After careful consideration, Commissioner Marberry made a 'Motion' to approve the reappointment of Cynthia Nugent to the Ste. Genevieve County

Library Board for term of (4) years with reappointment effective July 1, 2024. Commissioner Stuppy seconded the 'Motion'. Commissioner Marberry yea. Commissioner Stuppy yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of 'Request Letter of Reappointment' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Commission in receipt of 'Resignation Letter' from Ste. Genevieve County Fair Board Member. Upon review of the same; Commissioner Stuppy made a 'Motion' to accept 'Letter of Resignation' from Ms. Hope Dougherty as presented. Commissioner Marberry seconded the 'Motion'. Commissioner Stuppy yea. Commissioner Marberry yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of Resignation Letter along w/"Thank You" Letter for her service attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Commission noted that replacements will need to be found for the Fair Board as they are in the process after this year's 'Fair' of being down (3) Members. This appears to be an ever increasing problem as 'volunteers' to serve on Boards have become an uphill battle. Commissioner Stuppy noted that she will be reaching out to the University of MO Extension, Beef & Swine Clubs, 4-H, etc. If volunteers are not located; this is one of the many attributes to our 'County' that may not be able to continue. Volunteers are requested and MUCH NEEDED!

Commissioner Stuppy provided report from 'Tourism Advisory Council' Meeting that she attended. Following were the details of importance provided:

- *Impact of Advertisement noted as it relates to 'Gravel Race' – It was noted that 280 'Riders' participated.

- *Pioneer Days – Number of persons attending uncertain. Dena Kreitler w/Ste. Genevieve Co. Chamber of Commerce expressed a great deal of praise; there was a lack of 'volunteers'; however, it was noted that 'Dottie' w/Country Mart did an outstanding job.

- *Ford Truck Event – Held at the Community Center. Event was organized by local resident. Approximately 20 vehicles participated in 'Cruise' with approximately 80 trucks participating in event. Event was held at the Ste. Genevieve Water Park parking lot.

- *French Heritage Festival – It was noted that approximately \$25,000.00 in 'Grant Funding' being dedicated to said event. Aaron Smith (Director of Tourism) along w/Sandra Cabot (Economic Development for Southeast Missouri) are coordination on said event; their goal is to make this a 'Bigger/Better' Event!

- *Honey Festival Update – 'Survivalist' from the weather channel to offer presentation as well as 'violinist' to play modern music. Said event is becoming increasingly popular.

- *Tourism Report Summary noted the following pertinent items:

 - *Ste. Genevieve Tourism in 'Planning Phase' w/Mr. Aaron Smith.

 - *McDaniels Marketing – Utilizing 'Grant' for 'Rebranding Ste. Genevieve'.

 - *MMG Grant – Applies to 'Print Only'; looking at magazines such as *ST. LOUIS MAGAZINE*.

 - *Mr. Smith advised that new 'Social Media Person' has been hired. (Hannah Walker.)

 - *Discussion surrounding addition of 'County Bed & Breakfast' Tax mentioned to be potentially added to 'Ballot'.

*Summer Music Series Update – (3) of the (8) shows have already been sold out.

*It was noted that 'Grass Roots Committee' in planning phase and trying to be organized.

Report from Southeast MO Commissioner's Meeting:

*Ann Marie Baker – appointed as new 'Highway Commissioner'.

*\$1.4 Million in funding for 'Transportation'; \$727 Million projected for I-44 Project in Springfield and Joplin area.

*\$60 Million – dedicated for 'low volume' roads.

*\$60 Million - \$90 Million potentially possible as it relates to 'Unfunded Mandate List'.

(Additional detail to be reported around 7/1/2024.)

*MoDOT currently performing 'Maintenance' & 'Mowing'.

*'TAP' & 'LPA' Grants – Due tomorrow.

*'BRO' Applications – Due in October.

*Chris Crocker w/MoDOT noted that several 'Public' meetings to be held in Southeast Region for public comment, etc. Update provided on 'Chester Bridge' as well as project in St. Francois County from 'Doe Run' to 'Pilot Knob'.

*Jason Kirkman w/DNR spoke about disincorporation of 'City of Aniston'. There was additional conversation surrounding various other areas regarding 'Waste & Drinking' Water Compliance. Additional conversation surrounded 'Castor River' Water Shed w/concern surrounding 'campgrounds' non-safe drinking water supply. This is 'serious' cause for concern.

*Water Operation Certification Training reported by DNR. Training currently being completed in Farmington with training session scheduled for August in Poplar Bluff. (Waste Water 'training' scheduled for October in Salem.)

*DNR reviewed 'issues' surrounding 'Chicken Houses' that have been closed by Tyson Manufacturing in the 'Boothill'. Chicken houses resulting in issues w/storm water runoff.

*DNR 'Scrap Tire Applications' due in June. Commissioner Stuppy handling 'Grant Application Request' for Ste. Genevieve County; Request being made for 'picnic tables' to be located @ Ste. Genevieve County Fairgrounds.

*Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Recycling Event scheduled for 7/12/2024 @ TG Missouri. (There will possibly be 'Holcim' Event of this nature in October, which would be held at Ste. Genevieve Recycling Center.)

*Gretchen Morris w/Workforce Development provided updated report. She noted that 'Cuts' have been made from US Department of Labor. She also noted that 'State' measures 'Employment Training'; their performance measured 'above' State Level. It was noted by Ms. Morris as well that there are (2) employees that are trained and can offer training in the area of 'Active Shooter Training'.

*Jodi with Congressman Jason Smith's Office provided update on 'Ways & Means' Election; 'Loopholes w/501(C)3 taking money from foreign countries; update on 'Border Control' as well.

*Missouri Association of Counties compiled 'survey' for 1st thru 4th Class Counties as it pertains to 'Benefits' in the hope that 'Data' would indicate what is necessary for retaining 'good' employees. Approximately 87 Counties participated in survey. County Clerk, Sue Wolk, has information on record for Ste. Genevieve County.

There were no 'Accounts Payable' to report for this meeting date of 5/23/2024.

ADJOURN

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stuppy to adjourn @ 12:00 P.M. Commissioner Marberry seconded the Motion.

Ordered that the Commission adjourn until 5/30/2024.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER