

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

**THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024**

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

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

THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 8, 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.

Mr. Felix Meyer, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Commission and reported that 'River Stage' is falling.

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

- \*Mowing continues to be done by R&B Department on 'daily basis'.
- \*Mr. Schmieder reported that R&B Department continues to perform 'Dig Out' of spots on County Roads that require 'patching'.
- \*Routine Maintenance being completed.
- \*Commissioner Ruzicka gave 'Shout Out' to R&B Department for the assistance they offered with 'Fairgrounds'.
- \*Fuel Bid Request needed by R&B Department. Request was 'placed for bid'. 'Low Bid' awarded to MFA Oil w/the following pricing:
  - \*\*"On-Road" Fuel - \$3.242/gallon.
  - \*\*"Off-Road" Fuel - \$2.972/gallon.
  - \*\*"Gasoline" - \$2.927/gallon. (Copy of Fuel Bid Request attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Commission reviewed 'On-Site' Reviews conducted with Mr. Bill Robison w/Smith & Company Engineers. Mr. Robison provided insight on the following:

- \*Bodine Road - Cost Effective Measures to be reviewed in effort to improve drainage on said road @ 'site' of hydraulic study. Mr. Robison noted that he will provide details as they become available.
- \*Fourth Street Bridge - Site of 'FLAP Grant'. Mr. Robison reviewing the necessary reporting detail that needs to be sent/submitted to MoDOT.

Report provided from 'FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Seminar that was attended by both Commissioner Ruzicka as well as Commissioner Marberry. Following were the details provided from the same:

\*Disaster Responses reviewed.

\*Update provided as it pertains to 'Lineage of Authority' in the event of a 'Disaster'. One critical component surrounds 'How to run the scene'. Chain of Command in the event of a 'Disaster' was stressed again.

\*Commission is to be 'Communication Center' w/avenues of 'how' to present information.

\*Seminar stressed the importance of having a 'Plan in Place' for 'Emergency Preparedness'. Complete segment dedicated to 'Hazmat Situations'.

Local constituent that resides on Brushy Creek Road appeared before the Commission due to severe 'dust conditions' on said road, especially at point of his residence. Following were several items of concern presented:

\*Resident noted that Air Conditioning Unit getting 'choked' with dust; he noted that they have a 'pool' that they could not set up due to severity of 'Dust'.

\*Resident noted that severe dust deters property owner from enjoying his property as he has health condition that creates additional issues making it unsafe/unhealthy for him to breathe the air surrounding his home due to 'dust'.

\*Resident noted that he has resided at his residence for 34 years and would like to 'see' something get done. Resident would like to see road paved.

\*The Commission advised that they are in the process of reviewing 'alternatives' and 'solutions' to dust control. Commissioner Marberry working with a vendor and awaiting answers surrounding the same. As additional information becomes available; detail will be presented. The Commission emphasized that they were understanding of frustration; when making the determination for what road can be 'paved' and 'how' to facilitate the most urgent needs for BOTH Commission Districts is a constant 'juggling act'. They noted that there is a tremendous amount of evaluation that has to be placed on 'What' projects to do, etc.

Commissioner Stuppy provided report from Bloomsdale City Hall Meeting that she attended. Following were the items reported:

\*It was noted that 'Well House Roof' needs to be replaced; issues with 'Contractor'; details are in process of being worked out.

\*Issue w/'variance' on easements surrounds 'concrete' issues; details are in process of being worked out.

Commissioner Marberry reported on meeting that he attended w/Maintenance Department @ Community Center. Following were items of importance noted:

\*Maintenance Staff noted that they would be interested in taking 'course' on fiberglass repair in effort to be able to 'repair' waterpark slides without having to rely on contractor. It is their belief that this would help save on cost. Question was posed as to how best to 'budget' for the same?

\*It was also noted that 'Maintenance Staff' would be interested in having someone train in 'rapelling'. Additional review of 'Cost Details', etc. would have to be investigated.

\*Condensor Motor needs to be replaced; work to be completed 'In House' for cost saving measures.

- \*No serious 'leaking issues' were noticed after most recent 'heavy rains'.
- \*Several UV Lights at the 'Water Park' need to be replaced; work to be completed.

Joe Steiger – City of Ste. Genevieve Alderman, Aaron Smith – Tourism Director, and Brock Gibson appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Tourism Advisory Council as well as the Tourism Tax Commission as it pertains to a 'Lodging Transient Tax' that they would like to propose be placed on 'ballot'. The purpose behind said 'Tax' would be as follows:

*"Lodging Transient Tax – commonly referred to as a 'Bed Tax', a transient guest tax is a fee charged on all sleeping rooms paid by the guest of hotels, motels, and licensed lodging facilities. It is authorized by Section 67.1003, 1 RSMo . Communities may impose up to five percent on occupied room(s) per night".*

Mr. Steiger felt the 'County' and the 'City' needed to do more in the 'way' of Transient Tax to benefit both 'City' as well as 'County' and noted that they are 'thinking' a request of approximately 1% would be justifiable amount.

\*Commissioner Ruzicka noted that he felt said 'Tax' would be warranted, especially since it does not 'hurt' the local constituents; but, rather, is geared towards collecting on visitors coming into our community. Suggested 'tax percentage' by the 'City of Ste. Genevieve' is a tax of 1%. Our neighboring communities appear to be collecting more than this amount.

\*Commissioner Ruzicka also noted that said 'Tax', if approved, would be designed to solely benefit 'Tourism' and would benefit the 'Tourism Budget'. (Copy of 'Letter of Support' from 'Downtown Ste. Genevieve Non-Profit' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Copy of 'Lease Agreement' confirmation letter as it pertains to 'building' @ 233 Merchant Street as has previously been reported has been provided to the County with the confirmation that 'cost' to the county is \$50/month as previously agreed upon. (Copy of 'Agreement Letter' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Sealed Bid Opening held @ 10:00 A.M. for the 'Design Build Contract' for 'Storage Shed' with the dimensions of 30' x 90' being 15' Tall to consist of 'Concrete Foundation' around perimeter. Design was to be 'Pole Structure' w/'Trusses' on 4ft. 'Centers' w/Purlins 2ft. 'Centers' and 'concrete piers'/'steel posts' in front of building. Only (1) Bid received.

\*Sole Bid received from Gettinger Construction LLC w/'Bid Price' of \$76,100.00.

\*Building designed to place equipment under cover. Mr. Schmieder, R&B Foreman noted that 'Spreader Beds' currently out in the weather. Length of 'life' will be shortened if equipment not 'under roof'.

\*The Commission advised that they will review proposal from contractor with determination to be made at 'future meeting'. (Copy of 'Proposal' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Drew Christian w/SEMO RPC appeared before the Commission to confirm the 'choices' that the Commissioners wish to proceed with as it relates to their Transportation Advisory Committee

Projects. Review was completed surrounding 'All Projects' and 'Multimodal' Accounts. The following details to be supplied to MoDOT regarding 'Projects' as indicated:

ALL PROJECTS – Top (5) Projects categorized as indicated: 1.) Highway C & Highway 32 - "Sign needed on 'C' to let people know if vehicle in approaching on '32'. 2.) Improve 'Shoulders' on Highway "C". 3.) Intersection with Rt. "F" and "AA" – re: "Poor visibility as vehicles approach intersection." 4.) Intersection of Rt. 32 & Intersection Rt. O – "Sight Issues @ Intersection". 5.) Route 32 & N. Fork Jonca Creek – "Widen Bridge".

\*Top (5) Projects for MULTIMODAL Projects: 1.) "River Access for Emergency Response on Mississippi River. 2.) Ferry - \$100,000 Operating Cost. 3.) New Bourbon Road – "3<sup>rd</sup> Mooring". 4.) New Bourbon Port – "Inner Freight Loop. 5.) New Bourbon Port – "Walkway/Loading ramp for riverboat stops.

\*The 'key factor' to remember as it applies to Multimodal Projects is that 'Multimodal' relates to any projects NOT related to the road and bridge network. This includes ports, airports, rail, transit, sidewalks, and trails. (Copy of categorized T.A.C. List of Projects attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

County Treasurer, Sara Hoog, appeared before the Commission to provide update as it relates to 'Sales Tax'. She has been working closely with Department of Revenue. It was confirmed that reimbursement being sent to Ste. Genevieve County is, in fact, correct. Thus, this verifies that 'Sales Tax Figures' are 'down' in our County. Additional discussion will be on-going surrounding this issue.

County Collector, Lisa Marschel, appeared before the Commission to advise/update the Commission on research she is working on surrounding requirements as it pertains to Merchant's Licenses as well as 'Home Based Businesses'. As additional information becomes available, said detail to be provided.

Accounts Payable for Date 7/11/2024 in the amount of \$17,687.44 were reviewed and approved for payment by the Commission.

#### ADJOURN

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stuppy to adjourn @ 12:11 P.M. Commissioner Marberry seconded the Motion.

Ordered that the Commission adjourn until 7/15/2024.

SUBMITTED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

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PRESIDING COMMISSIONER