

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025**

3<sup>RD</sup> Day of the January Term. The Commission Met Pursuant to Adjournment. Present were Presiding Commissioner Randy Ruzicka, Associate Commissioners Cory Ford 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 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 WERE READ. COMMISSIONER FORD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SAID MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER FORD YEA. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY YEA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

The Commission met with Julie Bova, Circuit Clerk, regarding a 'solution' that she and Circuit Judge Inman, developed as it relates to 'storage issue' for retainage of records from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Plan was reviewed. It appears that 'locked storage solution' will be the most efficient, cost-effective measure that can be taken. Additional details to follow as they become available.

Commissioner Ruzicka still awaiting response from Republic Services as it relates to 'Trash Services Contract'.

Community Services Forum Meeting was cancelled; thus, there was not report to be provided for said meeting.

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

\*Ste. Genevieve County R&B Department in need of fuel supply. Bids received. Fuel Bid Award was provided to Heil Oil Company w/the 'Low Bid'. Pricing as follows: "On-Road" Fuel - \$2.819/gallon; "Off-Road" Fuel - \$2.609/gallon; "Gasoline" – 2.429/gallon. (Copies of 'Fuel Bid Tickets along w/'Bid Request' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

\*Salt Supply needed – Mr. Schmieder provided 'Tickets for the (2) Loads of Salt that were supplied to R&B Department. Salt vendor is 'Compass Minerals, Inc.'; Mr. Schmieder reported that additional 'salt' will need to be supplied next week for R&B Department as well. (Copies of 'salt tickets' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

\*Mr. Schmieder reported that 'County Roads are passable'. He noted that situation is particularly serious in Womack area; 'Power Lines are down' on East Castor River Road, Coldwater Creek, etc. The 'R&B Department' is trying to handle this situation as quickly and efficiently as possible.

\*Mr. Schmieder advised that he would like to extend a sincere 'Thank You' for the much appreciated assistance that was provided by local residents throughout this most recent storm event.

Review provided surrounding SB190 as 'petition' with ample amount of signatures from area 'Registered Voters' was provided to County Clerk's Office in effort to 'place measure' on ballot in April '2025 Election. SB190 was act for 'Senior Citizens Property Tax Freeze'. The following 'Points of Interest' noted regarding the same in said meeting:

\*Lawsuits will occur'; the 'County' questions legality of this measure, which they consider 'flawed' due to the fact that the 'County' does not have the authority to take money from Taxing Entities; however, this is the placement that the 'County' is being forced to be in. (Ex. Ste. Genevieve RII School District)

\*It must be noted that no person is 'Exempt' from 'Taxes'.

\*Based on data provided from other 'Counties' that have implemented SB190, the 'average' savings to Senior Citizen Taxpayers is 'minimal'.

\*Applications must be completed for persons to qualify.

\*Specific guidelines have not been established by the 'State'; very little support provided for implementation process resulting in great concern to 'County'.

\*Programming Software difficult/not consistent.

Mr. Rick Drury w/Bloomsdale Fire Department appeared before the Commission and provided 'briefing' on information as it relates to proposed 'ballot measure' regarding 'Proposed Fire Districts' for 'City of Ste. Genevieve' as well as remainder of the 'County'. Mr. Drury noted that their next meeting regarding this 'measure' is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. He advised that there will be additional 'Town Hall Meetings' that will be held/conducted with detailed information provided surrounding the same.

Commission reviewed SB190 with both the Collector as well as Assessor realizing that 'measure' will be on the Ballot in upcoming April Election. The Commission noted that the 'County' must prepare for said measure should measure 'pass'. County Collector, Lisa Marschel, noted that the Collector's Association has been addressing this very issue. Said issue will continue to be revisited in effort for 'County' to be best prepared for measure.

County Clerk, Sue Wolk, appeared before the Commission. The following measures were addressed:

\*'Correction' made to County Surveyor's Budget.

\*Recent program that was implemented for 'County' record keeping of 'Commission Minutes' (ARCA Search) reviewed as 'update' is scheduled for upcoming year. Program was previously approved; however, this was noted as it will need to be factored into upcoming '2025 Budget. (Matter surrounds 'scanning' of 'Minutes' for years '2022 through '2024.)

\*Updated signatory paperwork provided for record keeping regarding 'Courthouse Elevator; record on file with County Clerk's Office.

There were no 'Accounts Payable' items to report for 1/9/2025 meeting as 'County' must now work on providing 'Balanced Budget'. Budget Hearing has been scheduled for 1/21/2025.

**ADJOURN**

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

Ordered that the Commission adjourn until 1/16/2025.

SUBMITTED BY:

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APPOINTED BY:

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PRESIDING COMMISSIONER