

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

13TH 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 ARE SCHEDULED TO READ AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULE COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025.

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

*Roads – Preparation Complete.

*Fuel Tickets received from most recent fuel purchase through MFA Oil. (Copy of said 'Fuel Tickets' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Commissioner Ford provided update as it relates to HVAC for 'Admin Building' @ Community Center. Commissioner Ford noted that no 'Proposals' to be received from Associated Sheet Metal or Crystal Heating & Cooling. Additional information to be provided/reviewed regarding this matter @ Commission Meeting scheduled for 2/20/2025.

Jennifer Hoskins w/Charter Communications contacted the Commission to review 'Federal Funding' through the 'State' with "BEAD – Broadband Equity and Deployment Program". Program is 'State Funded' and administrated through the 'Office of Broadband Development'. Program directly created to assist with the following:

*Areas of unserved population.

*'Internet' is through 'Spectrum'.

*There are 6,900 'Spectrum Employees' in St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

*Offerings include 'Internet/Global/TV'.

*Ms. Hoskins noted that Spectrum offers program, "Spectrum Internet Assist", which helps low-income/Senior Assistance.

*Ms. Hoskins also reviewed "RDOF". This acronym stands for "Rural Digital Opportunity Fund", which is a multi-year effort to further build out network.

*Ms. Hoskins advised that the 'areas' that they are looking at would consist of area off Exit 162 (OO-DD) in effort to get 'Internet' to residents that do not currently have service.

*Ms. Hoskins advised that 'Bid Process' does through the 'Office of Broadband Development'.

*Ms. Hoskins noted that she will be forwarding 'language' that relates to 'Scope of Project'.

*The 'County' emphasized that the 'County' would NOT be providing 'Contribution of Matching Funds'.

*Commissioner Ruzicka noted that based on past history w/Spectrum, there would have to be 'Total Transparency' and 'Quality Control would be a MUST!' He noted previous issues that had transpired with Spectrum. (Copy of Broadband Equity Access & Deployment Program attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Jack Garvey appeared before the Commission to provide update as it relates to 'National Opioid Settlement'. Following were items provided:

- *National Opioid Settlement continues to be 'On-Going' Litigation.
- *Defendant – Purdue reviewed.
- *Optum/Express Scripts remain in litigation - @ Federal Court Level in Cleveland.
- *Update provided surrounding 'how' Express Scripts became involved in litigation.
- *It was noted that on-going case in Jefferson County has 'potential influence' in litigation outcome.
- *Purdue – In 'bankruptcy' – "Has to be approved in bankruptcy Court".
- *Ste. Genevieve County's 'Agreement' with Attorney General is that we receive 40% 'Funding'; not necessary to provide 'State Reporting'.
- *One primary 'approved' spending measure is for 'Transitional Treatment'.
- *Ste. Genevieve County was made aware of additional payment they are scheduled to receive as a result of 'National Opioid Settlement'; payment is scheduled to be received from "McKinsey" for amount of \$9,891.83. (Copy of 'settlement' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Bryan Boyce and Jeff Banderet with Great River Engineering appeared before the Commission to offer presentation as it relates to services that their company can offer. (Said firm was 'instrumental' in assisting Ste. Genevieve County w/CDL Training Program that has been extremely cost effective to the 'County'.)

- *Firm very knowledgeable in 'Bridges'/'Bridge Design' and noted that they are very familiar with "BRO Program" as well as its requirements.
- *Commissioner Ruzicka questioned if they were aware of program for 'Dust Control' on 'County Roads'. It was noted that they recommend use of 'Magnesium Chloride' Product, which is less corrosive than 'Calcium Chloride'.
- *It was noted that 'Base 1' can offer product that will suppress further; however, it does not offer as much in the form of 'Dust Control'.
- *"Pavement Preservation Industry" currently very important in the 'Market'.
- *GRE currently working with approximately 30 'Counties' on "BRO Projects". They reviewed primary 'Types of Bridges' that they work with: Concrete (mainly), Pre-Cast, etc. to include 'Aluminum Box Culverts'.
- *GRE is a 'Civil Engineering Firm' that has approximately (6) Offices throughout the 'State'.

Commissioner Ruzicka reviewed response that was provided to Bryant Wolfin, State Representative, of 'Financial Impact Statement regarding 'Sales Tax Exemption'. (Copy of said memo attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Notification received from MoDOT advising Ste. Genevieve County of the 'Bid Award' for Ste. Genevieve County for "BRO Project" for 'Main Street over N. Gabouri Creek' Bridge as was submitted to MoDOT. Project identification to be noted as "Project #BRO-R095(002) – '2024 Off-System Bridge Replacement Program. (Copy of 'Notice of Award' can be located in corresponding project folder in County Clerk's Office.)

A 'Motion' was made by Commissioner Marberry to 'Enter' into 'Emergency Closed Session' Meeting at 11:14 A.M. – pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1) – as it relates to 'Litigation'. Commissioner Ford seconded the 'Motion'. All in favor. Motion passed. Roll was Taken. Commissioner Ruzicka – Aye. Commissioner Marberry – Aye. Commissioner Ford – Aye.

A 'Motion' was made by Commissioner Marberry to 'Exit' the 'Emergency Closed Session' Meeting at 11:50 A.M. – pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1) – as it relates to 'Litigation'. Commissioner Ford seconded the 'Motion'. All in favor. Motion passed. Roll was Taken. Commissioner Ruzicka – Aye. Commissioner Marberry – Aye. Commissioner Ford – Aye.

Accounts Payable for Date 2/13/2025 in the amount of \$46,324.23 were reviewed and approved for payment by the Commission.

ADJOURN

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

Ordered that the Commission adjourn until 2/20/2025.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPOINTED BY:

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER