

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

REGULAR Day of the April 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 MONDAY, MARCH 31, 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.

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

- *R&B Department assessing any possible storm damage as a result of last night's weather.

- *R&B Department was in need of fuel supply. Bids requested. 'Low Bid' was awarded to Heil Oil Company per the following pricing: "On-Road Fuel" - \$2.859/gallon; "Off-Road Fuel" - \$2.589/gallon; "Gasoline" - \$2.749/gallon. (Copies of Fuel Bid Request along w/Fuel Tickets attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

- *Mr. Schmieder noted that 'Pipes' have been installed on Brushy Creek Road in effort to proceed w/paving project for the same.

- *Mr. Schmieder submitted actual 'Purchase Requisition No. 001' Dated 4/1/2025 for "Lap Top w/Diagnostic Software Package" from vendor, Diesel Laptops for a "Total Cost" of \$16,303.65 w/signature approval from Commissioner Ruzicka and Commissioner Ford. (Copy of said Purchase Requisition attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

- *Commissioner Marberry made a 'Motion' to 'Award Proposal' for paving of Brushy Creek Road to Vern Bauman Contracting per the 'Bids' that were opened as of Monday, 3/31/2025 as said Contractor provided "Low Bid" reflecting 1.5 miles of 'road' @ 3018 Tons @ a rate of \$77.22/Ton with a 'Total Cost' of \$233,049.96. Commissioner Ford seconded the 'Motion'. Commissioner Marberry yea. Commissioner Ford yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of proposal can be located in County Clerk's Office.)

- *In addition, Commissioner Ford made a 'Motion' to approve 'Addendum' to 'Initial Bid' for section of 'Brushy Creek Road' at a section in the amount of 475 feet @ a rate of \$77.22/Ton with a 'Total Cost for Addendum' of \$36,679.50. Commissioner Marberry seconded the 'Motion'. Commissioner Ford yea. Commissioner Marberry yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of proposal can be located in County Clerk's Office.) *Note: Award Letter(s) sent.

Commissioner Ruzicka noted that he attended RHSOC Meeting, which is acronym for 'Regional Support Office, which is a crucial component of the State's Regionalization Efforts, coordinating

Emergency Response with Local Jurisdictions and Various Agencies. It was noted that there are issues on the 'State Level' regarding 'Budgetary Issues'.

Commissioner Ford making repairs to 'Generator Fencing' on Courthouse premises.

Retired former Presiding Commissioner, Garry Nelson, appeared before the Commission to express his frustration over what he feels is 'Misuse of Taxpayer Dollars'. The following 'Items' were addressed by him and noted as follows:

- *Mr. Nelson expressed his extreme disappointment with CCAM and M.A.C. as these organizations are designed by nature to have been established to protect the 'interest' of the 'County'; however, in the case of Ste. Genevieve County and 'Reduction' in Sales Tax Dollars; they appear to be non-existent.

- *It was addressed that Mr. Steve Hobbs who is supposed to represent/support 'Counties' was not present for 'Hearing' in Jefferson City that Commissioners Ruzicka, Marberry, Sheriff Stolzer, and Presiding Commissioner Jim Scaggs of Iron County attended to support legislation proposed in effort to reverse legislation reducing Sales Tax Dollars directly affecting our 'County'.

- *Member Engagement Director – Where is her support?

- *Commissioner Ruzicka reiterated that lobbyist(s) represent multitude of interests; is this not 'Conflict of Interest'? I.E. Rich Aubuchon represents Sheriff's Association but also represents manufacturing that have been removed from paying sales tax. Ste. Genevieve County Voters voted for (5) separate 'Sales Tax Initiatives' which are used to provide services to the residents of our 'County'. If 'County' has no funding; there is reduction in 'Services'.

- *Mr. Nelson pointed out that these are organizations that Commissioners are required to pay 'Dues' to; what is the point of attending conferences/training/paying dues/etc. when these very same organizations are working with and utilizing 'Speakers' at their conferences that are 'fighting against' the 'economic strength' of our 'County'. Mr. Nelson identified the following equation: Training = Cost = 'Waste of Taxpayer's Money'.

- *Mr. Nelson expressed the fact that it was his opinion that previous representatives, Mary Ellen Brennan and Dick Burke had performed the job that was designed to be done. He feels that this is no longer the case with current representation from above-mentioned organizations.

- *Commissioner Ruzicka added that there should be a movement to encourage 'ways' for 'Counties' to increase their resources. Commissioner Ruzicka also wanted to note that Representative Bryant Wolfen did his best in trying to fight for the 'constituents' that he 'serves'.

- *It was also pointed out that Ste. Genevieve County has substantial 'Bond Debt', which was calculated on the projection of what revenues were anticipated as a result of 'Capture' of Sales Tax Dollars. This is not a recipe for sustainability. (Ex. Community Center Debt) Ste. Genevieve County going 'Backwards' vs. 'Forward'.

Sheriff Stolzer appeared before the Commission to provide updated 'Budget' for 1st Quarter.

- *Sheriff Stolzer noted that Sheriff's Department in need of 'Transit Van'. Due to the fact that this is a 'Specialty Vehicle', there are only certain vendors that can supply said equipment. There were (3) separate proposals obtained/provided as follows:

*Broadway Ford Truck Sales - \$82,302.93 – ‘2025 Ford Transit-250 Cargo RWD Medium Roof Van.

*Southern Bus & Mobility - \$99,248.00 – ‘2024 RAM Promaster w/PTV partitions.

*Nroute - \$88,278.50 – ‘2025 Ford Transit Med roof 148” WB Prisoner transport.

After careful review and consideration, Commissioner Marberry made a ‘Motion’ to approve Purchase Requisition No. 25-0008 Dated 3/26/2025 with funds to be allocated through ‘Jail Fund’ for Ford Transit Van through vendor that had ‘low bid’ – Broadway Ford, at a “Total Cost” of \$82,302.93. Commissioner Ford seconded the ‘Motion’. Commissioner Marberry yea. Commissioner Ford yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copies of (3) separate proposals attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

A ‘Motion’ was made by Commissioner Marberry to ‘Enter’ into ‘Closed Session’ Meeting at 10:53 A.M. – pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1) & (2) as it relates ‘Legal Actions’ as well as ‘Real Estate’. 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 ‘Closed Session’ Meeting at 11:25 A.M. – pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1) & (2) as it relates to ‘Legal Actions’ as well as ‘Real Estate’. 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 4/3/2025 in the amount of \$199,426.55 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 4/7/2025.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER