Part 1 of 2

Minutes of the Daviess County Commission

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Daviess County Commission met this 18th day of August 2021 at 8:10 a.m. Jim Ruse, Presiding Commissioner, called the meeting to order. David Cox, 1st District Commissioner, and Wayne Uthe, 2nd District Commissioner, were present.

James Lewis, Road and Bridge Supervisor, met with the Commission to update them on ongoing work.

His crew will be finishing in Salem Township this week replacing some tubes and placing rip rap. They will be mowing in Marion Township this week, weather permitting. Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of some repairs on a low water crossing.

George “Chip” Winger, Sheridan Township resident, met with the Commission to advise them the township had received the resignation of Charles Radabaugh due to health issues. He also advised he had resigned his position on the board, and the township was recommending that he be appointed to the Trustee position. They will be looking for a replacement for the board position also. Wayne Uthe made a motion to appoint George “Chip” Winger Trustee for Sheridan Township, David Cox seconded. 3-Aye, 0-No. Motion passed. Ronetta Burton, County Clerk, swore in Mr. Winger.

Tiffany Tadlock, Deputy Collector/Treasurer, met with the Commission to advise them the county had an offer on a lake lot that had been on the delinquent list for several years. The sale will get the parcel back on the tax rolls.

RaCail King, County Health Director, spoke by phone to the Commission to advise them of current Coronavirus cases in Daviess County. RaCail advised as of Wednesday morning the county numbers were 22 actives, 841 total, 3 hospitalized, 802 out of isolation, and 17 deaths. Daviess County’s vaccination rate is currently approaching 25%.

Discussion was held regarding road closing/opening petitions around Trager Quarry in Sheridan Township. Project road and fence repairs are nearing completion.

Jackie Spainhour, Work Ready Communities, & Kaylee Walker, Extension Nutrition Specialist, met with the Commission to advise them that Daviess County's application to be a Work Ready Community has been accepted. Jackie will be working with county employers to get them familiar with the benefits of the Work Keys program. Ms. Walker is working with Bright Futures programs, and some elderly strength and stamina programs in the county.

Michael Marriott, MO DOT, met with the Commission to discuss upcoming road projects. Repair to I-35 bridge over Grand River, resurfacing Hwy 69 and I-35 south to Clinton Co, Hwy 190 from Hwy F to Hwy U, and others in the next 18 months were discussed. Changes to the BRO Bridge replacement program was also discussed.

Craig Lambert, Salem Township resident, met with the Commission regarding a bridge on Harbor Ave, and the maintenance of Granite Ave in Salem and Grand River townships. The bridge in question was closed by MO DOT and has a 26% efficiency rating.

TAX LEVY HEARING – 10:00 am, Senior Services Tax Fund

Present were Loren Uthe, Debra Snyder, Linda Evans, Pam McNeel, Jean Fales, Jim Ruse, David Cox, Wayne Uthe and Ronetta Burton. No one from the public attended. Ronetta Burton stated the assessed valuations for 2021 were $ 109,316,363 RE and $ 41,534,192 PP; and advised the maximum levy allowed by the state was $0.05 per $100 assessed valuation. David Cox made a motion to set the levy at the state maximum of $0.05 per $100 assessed valuation, Wayne Uthe seconded. 3-Aye, 0-No. Motion passed.

TAX LEVY HEARING – 10:20 am, Daviess County

Present were Jim Ruse, David Cox, Wayne Uthe and Ronetta Burton. No one from the public attended. Ronetta Burton stated the assessed valuations for 2021 were $ 109,316,363 RE and $ 41,534,192 PP; and advised the maximum levy allowed by the state was $0.35 per $100 assessed valuation. Wayne Uthe made a motion to set the levy at last year’s rate of $0.2717 per $100 assessed valuation, David Cox seconded. 3-Aye, 0-No. Motion passed.

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The Commission discussed American Rescue Plan Act funding and ongoing rules changes. They hope to have an application process soon for the seven major funding categories. Each applicant entity will have to choose from sixty-six funding categories. Issue continued.

Jim Ruse discussed courthouse maintenance issues including roof/wall leaks and trimming/removal of the bushes around the courthouse. Issue continued.

The Commission received information on a new FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant that is available. Requests must be submitted by September 7, 2021.

Jim Ruse, Presiding Commissioner, signed the title application for the new sheriff replacement vehicle.

Discussion was held regarding recording procedure for a deed error in the Treasurer’s office. Wayne Uthe made a motion to have the Recorder process the document for no fee, David Cox seconded. 3-Aye, 0-No. Motion passed.

Ronetta Burton, County Clerk, presented information to the Commission regarding a former employee’s unemployment request. The Commission advised Ronetta to note the former employee’s refusal of part-time work made earlier this month and return the form to the Unemployment office.

Janie McKinsey, Recorder, presented to the Commission her training certificate for 20 hours of training for 2021.

Shelby Berkemeier, North Central MO Business Facilitation, and Ellie Anderson, Feline Pride Cat Sanctuary, met with the Commission to update them on new business activity from March 1, 2016, through August 2021. Ms. Anderson advised the Commission she was opening a cat sanctuary, initially for feral cats, with plans to expand the sanctuary to include large cats as well. Her sanctuary will be located in a rural setting in Daviess County.

The Commission received a 401/404 Permit request for signature from MO DOT for the BRO 031 (38) bridge project. Jim Ruse signed the permit and returned it to MO DOT.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved:

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Presiding Commissioner 1st District Commissioner 2nd District Commissioner

Attest:

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