

Wednesday March 27, 2024

Name	Position	Present	Quorum
Becky Plattner	Presiding Commissioner	Yes	
Monte Fenner	Southern Commissioner	Yes	Yes
Stephanie Gooden	Northern Commissioner	Yes	

Becky Plattner called the meeting to order.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2024 session. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to approve. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve a payment schedule. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to approve. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented commission order #6513 in the amount of \$158,307.24 for a cash transfer of payroll, order #6514 in the amount of \$32,966.65 for 941 taxes, and order #6515 in the amount of \$3,986.50 for CERF .7% and elective savings. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve the commission orders as presented. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

The Band Booster submitted a request to use the Courthouse lawn and restrooms on May 7, 2024 for their annual Ice Cream Social from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Monte Fenner stated that earlier this year the County purchased a shipping container for the Emergency Management Department which has been placed at the County's Road and Bridge Department. He commented that three circuits are needed to service generators and keep the batteries maintained. A bid was received from G&S Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$3,247.60 to perform the installation. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Monte Fenner stated that new tables and benches for the Courthouse lawn will be arriving last this week or early next week. These tables and benches were made possible through a MO Dept. of Natural Resources grant and are made from recycled materials.

Stephanie Gooden reported that Lemon Trail Bridge east of Marshall Junction which has been closed for several months has been added to the I-70 West Project. Construction is expected to begin next year. She also stated that the Countywide Cleanup will be held on April 13, 2024 at the Saline County Fairgrounds from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Countywide Cleanup is made possible through a Solid Waste Management District Region F grant.

Recorder Jessica Baker submitted a request to hire Kirsten Larsen for a full-time position as a Deputy Recorder. Her start date was March 18, 2024 and her rate of pay is set for \$17 per hour. Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton gave a reminder that the public test of the election equipment will be held on March 28th at 9:00 am and absentee voting can be done at the County Clerk's office on March 30th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. She stated that the last day for candidate filing for the August primary was March 26th and there is a list on her website of everyone who has filed for positions at Local and State levels. She also commented that she still needs one poll worker for Marshall from the Democrat Party.

MMU's Jim Widel was present to give an update on the USDA Broadband grant progress. He stated there were two grants, one from 2019 and one from 2020. Jim provided a map to show the areas where MMU had already installed Broadband before any of the grants, as well as the location of the Broadband that was completed with the 2019 grant. He reported that MMU has received most of the reimbursement funds from the 2019 grant but is still waiting on a \$150,000 payment from USDA. In Round 1, MMU's target was approximately 60% of potential addresses, and they are only about 20 addresses short of that goal as of present. He provided another map to show what is scheduled for 2024. The map showed areas from the 2020 grant which have been completed and what stage of completion other areas were in. For Round 2, there have been approximately 50 customers hooked up and MMU has expended about \$2 million but has not received any reimbursement funds so far. Becky Plattner asked how much grant money was awarded overall. Jim answered that the first grant was \$1.2 million plus an extra 10% was awarded due to inflation. The second grant was \$10 million plus an extra 10%. He states that MMU had come in close to budget on the first grant and is looking good on the budget for

the second grant. By the end of the project, an estimated 70% of Saline County will be covered and have access to Broadband service. Stephanie Gooden gave a thank you to MMU for applying for the USDA Reconnect Grant and providing Broadband to Saline County.

Becky Plattner reported that at 9:30 this morning, she and Stephanie Gooden will be participating in a virtual meeting with Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission.

Stephanie Gooden commented that she attended a Telecommunications and Technology meeting where artificial intelligence and its role in county government and its policies was discussed, as well as the USDA Reconnect program. She gave an update on the lawsuit between Assessor Jessica Goodman and Collector Cindi Sims along with the Commission. She stated that a decision has not been made yet and, as of January 31, 2024, \$271,240.94 is being held in escrow until a decision is reached, which are funds that are not being able to be turned over to the 46 tax entities in Saline County. Marshall Public Schools' portion of that is \$105,122.91. The lawsuit has cost the County over \$80,000 so far.

Monte Fenner reported that the quarterly Develop Saline County board meeting will be held in the Commission office on April 10th at 9:30 am.

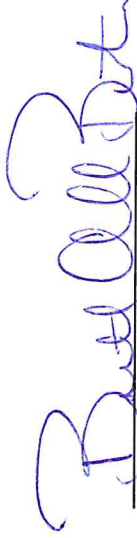
Becky Plattner asked for a motion to recess to adjourn at noon. Monte Fenner made a motion to recess. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.


Becky Plattner
Presiding Commissioner


Monte Fenner
Southern Commissioner


Stephanie Gooden
Northern Commissioner

Minutes Certified by:


Brittni Allison Burton
County Clerk

