

Wednesday October 23, 2024

| Name | Position | Present | Quorum |
|------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|
| Becky Plattner | Presiding Commissioner | Yes | Yes |
| Monte Fenner | Southern Commissioner | 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 October 9, 2024 session and the October 16, 2024 special session. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Stephanie Gooden 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 #6580 in the amount of \$175,557.90 for a cash transfer of payroll, order #6581 in the amount of \$32,109.23 for 941 taxes, and order #6582 in the amount of \$3,992.78 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.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented commission order #6583 in the amount of \$10,548.32 for the September 2024 CERF collections. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to approve the commission order as presented. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Sheriff Cindi Mullins submitted a request to hire Madison Love for a full-time position in the Communications Division. Her start date is set for October 23, 2024 and her rate of pay will be \$17 per hour. Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve the new hire. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton explained that no excuse absentee voting started on October 22nd. There were 133 citizens who absentee voted on the first day, with a total of 347 absentee voters so far, not including mail-in ballots. The public test of the voting equipment will be held on October 24th at 9:00 am in the County Clerk's Office. Her office will also be hosting a mock election for all the high schools in the county on October 30th at the Martin Community Center at 10:30 am. All elected officials are invited to be poll workers for the mock election. Her office has completed the April 2025 political subdivision packets which will be dropped in the mail today along with the Form 11A. She has also rolled the year-end with the Assessor and Collector for the tax bills. Forms 1309 and 1310 have been completed and submitted to the Missouri Dept. of Revenue and the State Tax Commission.

Collector Cindi Sims presented the September 2024 distribution report. Collections totaled \$111,869.10 in personal property, real estate, PILT and surtax. She proofed the tax bills in the DEVNET system the previous day and the charged amount for 2024 is \$30,914,596.09, which is up about \$275,000 from last year. The file should go to the company that mails the bills either today or tomorrow so the bills should be dropped in the mail on November 8th and citizens should be looking for their bills in their mailboxes in mid-November.

Prosecuting Attorney Tim Thompson gave clarification on Amendment 6, which will be on the ballot in November. The most important thing he wanted to clarify was that it is not a new tax or levee. Voting yes on Amendment 6 would resume the \$3 fee that goes towards the Sheriff's retirement system and the \$4 fee for the Prosecuting Attorney's retirement system. The fees have existed for several years already and only applies to someone who is found guilty in a criminal case. He stated that a possible alternative, if it does not pass, would be that counties could pay into the systems. The other alternative would be that if the system is not funded, then less people would be interested in the public service positions, which is already a limited number. Monte Fenner asked if it would affect the deputies, or just the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney. Tim answered that it was only for Sheriffs and Prosecuting Attorneys. Becky Plattner asked if it had anything to do with municipalities, like the chief of police or the city officers. Tim answered that it is strictly for Sheriffs and Prosecuting Attorneys.

Auditor Karlin Breshears stated that her office has sent out budget worksheets to all offices for the 2025 budget year. She asks that the worksheets be returned by November 30th and the totals on the worksheets are as of October 15, 2024.

Stephanie Gooden reported that she attended a TAC (Transportation Advisory Council) meeting on October 17th in Concordia and for the first time in years, Saline County has scored first in the top three categories of the Transportation Needs list. Ranked first and second on the needs list was the intersection of Hwy 240 and Hwy 41, and the intersection of Hwy 240 and Hwy C. Saline County scored number one in the Bike and Pedestrian list, and number one in the Long Range Needs list. It was an accomplishment of Saline County to be recognized that there are

significant needs as far as MODOT roads. Also during the TAC meeting, it was discussed by MODOT that the Lemon Trail bridge over I-70 has been hit for the third time. The Lemon Trail bridge and the Nitrogen bridge will be replaced in 2025 as part of the I-70 expansion project. She also gave information regarding the Senior Tax Credit. She stated that the Commission would like to inform voters regarding some of the aspects of the Senior Tax Credit. Approximately 18% of Saline County are of the qualifying age of 62. A spreadsheet created by Collector Cindi Sims gives the best example of how it would apply over time based on 2018 data. Out of the 18% age-eligible, it is not possible to count how many of those are primary residence holders. Saline County has approximately 48 taxing entities that are funded by real estate tax. The three largest school districts have stated that their annual impact would be \$243,000 less for Marshall, \$140,000 less for Sweet Springs, and \$25,000-80,000 less for Slater. The 48 taxing entities are not able to adjust their levees to account for the difference in revenue because Senate Bill 756 states that it is a credit, so it will need to be reported as income received, when in fact, it is not. The difference is that each entity will have slower growth or sustainability. The cost to the County is not yet discovered, but one software quote is over \$22,000. This is the beginning of the estimates, in the future more staff could be needed. It is important for the constituents to know that the County Commission represent the voice of the people. As each one of these taxes were voted by the people, it is also important that the voice of the people adjust those very same taxes. The County Commission does not act like a dictatorship, but rather a true representation of the people they serve. The legislation is very unclear and possibly unconstitutional in regard to the bond indebtedness, and the Commission is looking forward to the results of the question presented on the November ballot.

Monte Fenner announced that the County took possession of five new road graders the previous week for the Road and Bridge Dept. The total cost for all five graders was \$1.96 million. The County has been leasing the graders for 2 to 3-year cycles. The annual lease payment will be \$386,698.70 and the County will put approximately 1800-2400 hours on each grader in the three-year period. It has been found that with that many hours, it is best to turn the graders back in and sign up for a new lease, so the County has a three year lease for five 2024 772G motor graders that are all six wheel drive. He also stated that he will be attending an Extension meeting that night at 5:30 pm.

Stephanie Gooden announced that the Trick-or-Treat on the Square event sponsored by Marshall Chamber of Commerce will be happening tomorrow at 5:00 pm. It will be a great time for families to come and be apart of local businesses and organizations that are gathering together to contribute to the celebration. Becky Plattner stated that the Courthouse will be closed during the event as it will be after business hours.

Becky Plattner reported that she attended an RHSOC (Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee) Zoom meeting the previous day. It is a 16-member board. They updated the deadlines on their grants and elected a new chair and vice chair. She announced that she was elected vice chair and is proud to serve on the board. She also asked that it be made a matter of the minutes that a burn ban advisory has been issued until further notice by the Saline County Emergency Management Agency. She also presented a proclamation on behalf of the Commission. She stated "Whereas the Missouri Dept. of Transportation and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety are challenging drivers to buckle up and put their phones down. Whereas the challenge is simple, when you get into any vehicle buckle your seatbelt and if you are a driver, put your cell phone down. Whereas 64% of fatalities, where seatbelt use was required in 2023 Missouri traffic crashes, were unbuckled. Whereas traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 20 with distracted driving being one of the primary causes. Whereas by buckling up and putting your phone down you will do your part to help make Missouri roads safer and save lives. Whereas the Saline County Commissioners, we encourage Missourians to join the pledge to make the roads safer for themselves and others by taking the Buckle Up Phone Down challenge. Therefore, we the Commissioners of Saline County do hereby proclaim October the 23rd as Buckle Up and Phone Down in the County of Saline." She asked for a motion to approve of the proclamation. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to approve the proclamation and make today Buckle Up Phones Down. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

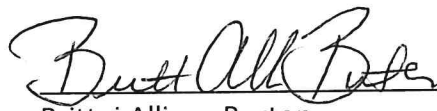
Becky Plattner asked for a motion to adjourn. Monte Fenner made a motion to adjourn. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.


 Becky Plattner
 Presiding Commissioner


 Monte Fenner
 Southern Commissioner


 Stephanie Gooden
 Northern Commissioner

Minutes Certified by:


 Brittini Allison Burton
 County Clerk

