

TERM OF COMMISSION: April Session of the February Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper  
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller  
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt  
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

The regular meeting of the County Commission was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

**SUBJECT: Recognize Ruby Marsden as the Boone County Employee for the Second Quarter**

Boone County Prosecutor Kevin Crane read the recommendation he wrote for the Employee of the Quarter selection committee.

“I would like to support the nomination of Ruby Marsden as the next Boone County Employee of the Quarter. Ruby has worked for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office since 1979. Prior to that she worked at the Boone County Sheriff’s Office. She has excellent job knowledge. Her vast experience gives her the ability to alert me to problems before they develop. She has never failed to produce a work product of the highest quality. She truly wants the best service this office can provide. I speak with her about ultra-sensitive issues and trust her advice and ability to be confidential. Ruby gives 100% every single day. She provides advice and counsel to me and I trust Ruby to make independent, sound decisions of great magnitude on a daily basis. She knows when to bring a problem to me and when to handle it herself. Ruby never refuses to do anything asked of her. She trouble-shoots for me within the full range of problems we confront. She handles victims and citizen issues in a firm, respectful and correct fashion while insuring that the staff members she manages do likewise. Her strengths are patience, calm under fire, knowledge of this office, excellent judgment and will work until the job is done correctly, no matter how long it takes. I highly recommend Ruby Marsden for the next Boone County Employee of the Quarter.”

Ms. Marsden addressed the Commissioners and said it had been a pleasure and a privilege to work for the County.

**SUBJECT: Proclamation of National County Government Week**

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone proclaim the week of April 13 to April 19, 1997 as National County Government Week:

**WHEREAS**, when the Federal Government was formed, the framers of the Constitution chose to provide states the freedom to create County Governments; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequently, early state constitutions conceptualized the importance of County Government and its dual value to both the State and the Federal Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the practice of devolution - the shift of responsibilities and programs from the Federal level to State and County Governments - continues to evolve and with these changes come the possibility of greater autonomy and flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, that flexibility and greater local control have been welcomed by counties as they pursue what is best for citizens and the communities in which they live; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the leadership, innovation, and valuable service provided by our nation’s counties:

**LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED**, Boone County Commission designates the week of April 13 to April 19, 1997, as National County Government Week.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**SUBJECT: Request to Locate Reality House on County-Owned Land**

Commissioner Stamper welcomed the board of directors for Reality House: Rusty Antel, Hank Waters, June Pitchford, Ted Boehm and Dennis Winfrey.

Commissioner Stamper said that the board was looking for a permanent site for the Reality House facility and said there had been some discussion that the County could provide land or offer access to an existing County facility.

Publisher of the Columbia Daily Tribune and board member of Reality House Hank Waters told the Commissioners that Reality House was a program for probationers and served as an alternative to jail. Currently renting a facility, the board would like to establish permanent facilities and Mr. Waters asked the Commission to revisit the possibility of moving Reality House to the old juvenile justice facility. He told the Commissioners that Reality House could potentially release space in the County jail, saving the County money and that Reality House was an innovative way for the County to take responsibility for its offenders.

Chair of the Reality House board of directors Rusty Antel reported that Reality House served 12-15 people a month, mostly males. He felt that the facility needed to be remodeled from its current no security standard to a minimum security. He said that Reality House is designed to help people trustworthy enough to have a certain amount of freedom.

Reality House is approaching its third year in the rental facility on Vandiver. The board tried to purchase land within the city, but could not reach an agreement. Mr. Antel agreed with Mr. Waters and said that Reality House seems to be a perfect fit with other correctional programs within the County. Mr. Antel said they were in the process of proposing a new state contract with the option of locating outside the city limits and increasing the number of residents so that Reality House would be serving 18-22 people and to expand the facility so they could accommodate women as well.

Reality House board member Dennis Winfrey responded to questions from Commissioner Miller and said that the program would complement and possibly replace the current work release program offered by the County jail.

Commissioner Vogt said she was familiar with the program and felt it was one of the best programs available in the community. She asked Mr. Winfrey if there was a building fund designated for a new facility.

Mr. Winfrey said that there was some insurance money set aside when Reality House burned a few years ago.

Commissioner Stamper said he had talked with Dr. Mayo in regards to the old juvenile justice center and that Dr. Mayo was willing to work with the County. Commissioner Stamper said that the County had a lot of flexibility if the board wanted to build a new facility or to occupy an existing one.

Mr. Waters said that it made sense to locate Reality House in the old juvenile justice center and said there could be cooperation on food and other services with the jail.

Commissioner Miller commented that it was in the best interest of everyone involved to do things as economically as possible and said that Reality House might find themselves in the position that it would be cheaper to build a new facility than to remodel an existing one.

Sheriff Ted Boehm said that the idea of remodeling the juvenile justice center needed to be revisited and that there would be an added benefit to continue a work release program that kept people out of bunks in a secured area. Sheriff Boehm said he would have no program turning the program over to Reality House. He said Reality House had a similar work release program, the only difference would be the group of people running it.

Court Administrator of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court Robert Perry said that the circuit court values the resource provided by Reality House and said they had historically occupied an important role in the concept of community corrections. Over the years, he said, many young men have been given the opportunity to make their turn around and to remain in the community. Overall, he said, the program has been a positive success. Mr. Perry said that the court was interested in supporting the concept because participants might receive more services than can presently be provided in a jail environment. He said this discussion pointed in the right direction and could be a good foundation piece for future possibilities.

Commissioner Vogt said that joining entities so there would be no duplication of services would create a healthy environment in the County.

Mr. Winfrey responded to questions from Commissioner Stamper and said that initially Reality House would need 6,000 to 8,000 square feet to house forty people. He also said at this point there was not a time issue because they had not heard back from the state.

Mr. Waters said that the state was aware that the Reality House board of directors was in discussion with the County. Their current rental property is not handicap accessible and before they make those renovations they would like to be moved into a permanent facility.

Mr. Antel said the board wanted to move as quickly as possible, but were not under any time pressure.

Commissioner Stamper said he saw this issue as a private/public partnership and an opportunity to expand horizons. He moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone engage in discussions with Reality House subcommittee on site selection to identify a plan for a Reality House facility on county-owned property.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 148-97.**

**SUBJECT: Resolution to Acquire Roadway and Related Easements for the Vawter School Road Project**

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone adopt and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign a resolution to make road improvements on the County roads known as Vawter School Road and Scotts Boulevard South in Boone County and that the acquisition of real estate for public use is hereby authorized and directed to institute condemnation proceedings so that real estate interests may be acquired for public purposes.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 149-97.**

**SUBJECT: Accept Contribution for Trees from Boone Electric**

Commissioner Miller reported that during a morning seminar sponsored by Boone Electric and the Home Builders and Realtors Associations, Boone Electric presented the County with a check for \$2,000 as a contribution for trees in the Courthouse Plaza.

**SUBJECT: Reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Vogt requested that an agenda for National County Government Week be attached to the public record.

Commissioner Stamper reported that the Commissioners had been invited by Mr. Jim Davis for a conservation tour scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 18 to review aspects of the Centre Pointe project.

He also said he wanted to schedule two work sessions during the following week. He asked that the Commissioners bring a list of their concerns and questions regarding Centre Pointe and said he hoped to bring the issue to a resolution in mid-May.

Commissioner Stamper reported that he received road grader driver training earlier in the morning. After a detailed briefing and donning a safety vest and helmet, he made a couple of loops around the backside of the north facility. Driving the grader was a lot harder than he'd anticipated and he said he appreciated the opportunity.

Commissioner Miller reported that the Board of Health had been looking at the regulations for pet stores and found that the state regulates them and the city does not need to adopt an ordinance. She also said that the smoking ordinance is before the City Council again. The issue of requiring smokers to stand 20 feet from a doorway had been dropped because people driving down Broadway and smoking in their cars would have been in violation of the ordinance. She said the city is revisiting the issue and working on rewording.

Commissioner Vogt reported that she attended the Missouri Associated Public Purchasing Association meeting with two County staff members. She said the County had a strong presence there.

Commissioner Stamper asked for verbal approval to travel and spend the night in Kansas City on April 25, 1997 where he would be giving a State-of-the-County address. There were no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Attest:

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Don Stamper  
Presiding Commissioner

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Wendy S. Noren  
Clerk of the County Commission

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Karen M. Miller  
District I Commissioner

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Linda Vogt  
District II Commissioner