

TERM OF COMMISSION: August Session of the July Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center
Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Kenneth M. Pearson
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Deputy County Clerk Josh Norberg

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Public Works

David Mink, Director of Public Works, was present on behalf of these items.

1. Minor Hill Road Bank Stabilization Inspection Proposal (first reading)

Mr. Mink stated this is a proposal for inspection on the Minor Hill project, which is currently under construction. This was budgeted in 2007 and carried forward to the 2008 budget in the amount of \$10,000.

Commissioner Pearson stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk to schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with an appropriate order for approval.

2. Change Order #2 – Hi-Lo Subdivision Drainage Improvement & Overlay (first reading)

Mr. Mink stated this change order is in the amount of \$32,745.73. About three-fourths of that is due to additional dig out repairs that had to be made when the asphalt trucks started coming into the neighborhood, and additional areas needed to be repaired. Approximately one-fourth of the amount is for the rising cost of asphalt. The contract has an asphalt oil index built into the contract per MODOT guidelines, and that allowed the contractor to ask for more money because of the rising price of asphalt. This project was originally budgeted at \$197,000 so we are still well under the original estimate. There is a possibility for another change order that would be less than \$1,500. That would be for some additional ditching that is sometimes required at the end of the project.

Commissioner Pearson stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk to schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with an appropriate order for approval.

3. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Elkin stated he met with the Hospital Trustees. The construction on the parking garage at Boone Hospital is progressing. The City is going to be doing some major utility relocating of sidewalks and the stop light by the new garage, which was about half a million dollars that Boone Hospital was anticipating paying, but the City wanted to do that themselves. Construction plans are under development for the new patient bed tower. It will probably be spring when that bids. He stated with all the new buildings and plazas on the north side of the hospital, people are getting lost and not being able to find where to exit the hospital. With the new patient bed tower, there are going to be a few more greeters and staff helping people get where they need to go.

4. Public Comment

Michael Hutcherson, 508 East Booneslick Road, Jonesburg, MO, was present.

Mr. Hutcherson stated he wanted to correct something for the record about Tommy Dee Wright. He asked if it was the Commission or the Historical Society who made the decision to put Tommy's name on the Vietnam memorial wall.

Commissioner Elkin stated the Historical Society is responsible for all of the names on the wall. The County owns the monument but the Historical Society maintains it.

Mr. Hutcherson stated he knew Tommy. He stated there a letter from Dennis Mills, who is with the Centralia VFW. He asked to what extend did the Mills letter play a role in accelerating this process.

Commissioner Miller asked when the name was put on there.

Commissioner Elkin stated last month.

Mr. Hutcherson stated he did not become aware of the Mills letter until about a week or so after March 21, 2008, when it showed up in Montgomery County. He personally knows Ms. Wright and all the sisters. He stated Mr. Mills had an admirable motive; he just misrepresented the facts a little bit. He stated he has a letter that was created by Mr. Mills and signed by Ms. Wright. He also has a letter from Ms. Wright dated February 4, 2006. Mr. Mills didn't even know of the existence of the Wright family until Mr. Hutcherson called him. He didn't know anything about the family at all. He stated he only asked Mr. Mills one thing, and that was to let him finish the deal in Montgomery County before it goes to Boone County. He agreed to that orally, but he changed his mind in 84 days because 84 days later the letter showed up. He created this letter and took it to Ms. Wright to sign it. He basically put words in her mouth. Her wish has always been to see Tommy's name on a stone before she dies, so he does understand her perspective on this. He stated, however, that he resents Mr. Mills taking Mr. Hutcherson's intellectual property and using against him. He stated he would like to go through the letter and show that it is clearly written by Mr. Wright.

Mr. Mills wrote the date on his letter in military, Ms. Wright wrote her letter in civilian. Ms. Wright also always used to call her son Tommy Dee, never Tommy or Tommy D. There are several instances in the letter where Mr. Mills refers to Tommy as Tommy D. or Tommy. In the military, Vietnam is spelled Viet Nam rather than Vietnam. In Mr. Mills' letter, he spells it Viet Nam. At the end of the Mills letter, Ms. Wright's name is also spelled wrong.

Mr. Hutcherson stated he is glad Tommy's name is on the stone. The sad part is there are very few people from Montgomery County who even know his name is on the stone in Boone County, much less will come see him. He lived 10/12 of his life in Montgomery County. He has no social or cultural connection with Columbia at all. Mr. Hutcherson stated he understands the process, but that if Mr. Mills' letter is what helped get this going, it is false and misleading information.

Commissioner Elkin stated he would like to explain how this progressed from the County's end. He stated Mr. Mills called him and asked what he had to do to get a name on the wall, which he's done before. Commissioner Elkin told him he needed to go through the Historical Society. He contacted them, and there were probably multiple correspondences. Somehow, Commissioner Elkin got some correspondence from Mr. Hutcherson about Tommy. Commissioner Elkin stated he understood there was an issue as to where Mr. Hutcherson thought the name should go. He called and talked with some people in Montgomery County and they stated the policy is clear that it is where the person lived when they enlisted. He told that to Mr. Mills and Mr. Mills went forward and got the name on the wall.

Mr. Hutcherson stated he is here applauding the Commission for that. He just wanted to correct the record orally and state that Mr. Mills' actions were not correct factually. He thanked the Commission for their time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Attest:

Kenneth M. Pearson
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner