

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 1:30 p.m.

1. City of Columbia/MO Dept. of Conservation – Urban Deer Hunting Program

John George, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Tony St. Romaine, City of Columbia, were present on behalf of this item.

Commissioner Elkin stated he got an invite from the Missouri Department of Conservation to a seminar back in March. There is a huge urban deer population, and deer/car accidents are frequent. The Missouri Department of Conservation has been working with communities to try to help reduce the urban deer population. They have created an urban deer hunting program with the City of Columbia, and Mr. Elkin stated he wanted to invite them to talk about it because he knows of one area that would be good to try to help the City of Columbia expand their program.

Mr. St. Romaine stated this program started in 2004. The primary mission was to try to reduce the number of urban deer. There have been a lot of auto/deer collisions in the past. The program has only been going for four years. In the first year, the City Police Department counted 48 auto/deer collisions. The latest statistics from last year were a reported 27 collisions. This has been a very popular program, and right now they are in the middle of doing their deer hunter orientation sessions. The program doesn't teach people how to bow hunt, but they teach them more about the rules and regulations are for hunting on city property. There are currently 7 properties that hunters are allowed to use. Three of the properties are parks: Grindstone Nature Area, Twin Lakes Recreation Area, and Smith Park. There are a couple properties down at the sewer treatment plant. Last year, 288 people registered for the program. In 2004, there was some discussion of whether hunting and the use of parks were compatible uses. That was the big issue of the day. With the rules and regulations and the orientation sessions every year, it has really shown that they are compatible.

Mr. St. Romaine stated one of the requests they get every year is the request to add more properties. He stated they have thought about that, and they may do it at some point in time, but there are very limited parking spaces for the properties there are now.

Mr. George stated when he had a meeting about this in Jefferson City in March, he was trying to get some communities to express interest. He wasn't specifically targeting Boone County. He

thought it might be a good location though because of the suburban population close to Columbia. He stated he thinks the University is starting to aggressively think about participating in the program.

Commissioner Elkin asked Mr. St. Romaine to talk a little bit about the process of registering for the program. He asked if someone wanted to hunt at Grindstone, do you allow fifty people to just go out there at once.

Mr. St. Romaine stated Grindstone is a little bit different because there is some parking available. Some of the more rural locations have designated parking areas they can use. Hunters don't necessarily want to be around a lot of other hunters, so if they see a lot of cars with the hunting parking tags in the parking lot, they will probably go somewhere else.

Mr. George stated what a lot of people do is when they go out to hunt, they swing by these properties and if there are two or three people there they will go ahead to the property they were originally going to go to. Most people go through the program just so they will have the opportunity to hunt on these properties if they want to. Most of them do not exclusively want to hunt on these properties.

Commissioner Miller asked Commissioner Elkin what properties he was thinking about in the County.

Commissioner Elkin stated he was thinking about the Jay Dix Station. Hinkson Creek runs along the south and southwest border of that. It is about 4 open acres and the rest is either creek or wooded area. There is a large deer population in that area and it would be a good opportunity for some urban archery hunting. He stated he thought it could be best to enter into some kind of agreement with the City of Columbia to let them manage the program. We would basically give them the authority to oversee the hunting on that property. He stated he asked the attorney if we could do that and he said there is no problem doing that.

Mr. George stated on the permit, if they harvest deer they are supposed to report it. That way you can see how many deer are being harvested in which areas.

Commissioner Pearson asked how the non-deer hunters know if there are deer hunters out there.

Mr. George stated there are signs in the parking lots saying deer hunting is allowed, and it shows a map with the locations that deer hunting is allowed. There are also news releases telling people about the program.

Commissioner Pearson asked if there is some sort of buffer area between the trails and the hunting locations.

Mr. St. Romaine stated there is 50 feet on both sides of the trail where you cannot hunt and 100 feet on both sides where you cannot field dress a deer.

Commissioner Miller asked if there are any other properties in the County that might be added to this program.

Commissioner Elkin stated the old landfill just south Finger Lakes, but that is a quail habitat.

Commissioner Miller stated there isn't any hunting on that land because it is a quail habitat managed by Quail Unlimited.

Mr. George stated we could ask Quail Unlimited if they would allow archery hunting before quail season opens. Quail Unlimited are bird enthusiasts and they don't usually like deer hunting season because it is an interruption to their quail season. But they may allow hunting on that property before quail season starts.

Commissioner Elkin thanked Mr. George and Mr. St. Romaine for coming.

Treasurer

2. Budget Amendment for Purchase of Clock for Government Center (first reading)

Commissioner Miller stated this is to set up the budget to purchase the clock that has been built for the atrium in the Government Center. Kay Murray thought she had it in the 2008 budget, but somehow it did not get in there, so this amendment will put the funds in place to purchase the clock.

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.

County Counselor

3. Budget Revision to Transfer Funds for Outside Legal Services (first reading)

Commissioner Miller stated this is the revised version of the budget revision Mr. Dykhouse had submitted previously.

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.

Public Works

4. Minor Hill Road Bank Stabilization Inspection Proposal (first read on 8/26/08)

Commissioner Elkin moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the agreement for consultant services with Terra Technologies for Minor Hill Road Bank Stabilization Inspection. It is further ordered the Presiding Commissioner is hereby authorized to sign said agreement.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0 **Order 413-2008**

5. Change Order #2 – Hi-Lo Subdivision Drainage Improvement & Overlay (first read on 8/26/08)

Commissioner Miller moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve Change Order #2 for Hi-Lo Subdivision Drainage Improvement & Overlay. It is further ordered the Presiding Commissioner is hereby authorized to sign said change order.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0 **Order 414-2008**

Miscellaneous

6. Budget Revision for Additional Software Expense (first reading)

Commissioner Pearson stated this revision is to purchase software for document management.

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.

7. Authorize Use of Facilities – Suicide Prevention Workshop

Commissioner Elkin moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the use of the Commission Chambers on September 12, 2008, from 2:00 p.m. through 4:15 p.m. for a suicide prevention workshop.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0 **Order 415-2008**

8. Authorize Use of Facilities – Nocturnal Sunshine

Commissioner Miller moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the use of the Courtyard Square on September 4, 18 and 25, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. for fire and light performance art.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0 **Order 416-2008**

9. Commissioner Reports

There were no commissioner reports.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Attest:

Ken Pearson
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner