

TERM OF COMMISSION: August Session of the August 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
County Counselor John Patton
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

The regular meeting of the County Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: Call November Election

County Clerk Wendy Noren presented the Commissioners with a Certified Copy of Order that would place the issue of a county-wide sales tax on the ballot. Ms. Noren said that the Commissioners needed to decide a time frame for the sales tax before they adopted the order.

Commissioner Stamper reported that the Commissioners had met with the Auditor, County Clerk and Public Works Department concerning the sales tax issue and had narrowed the time frame down to three alternatives. They could place a five year sunset, a ten year sunset or make the sales tax permanent and asked the Commissioners to continue the discussion.

Commissioner Vogt said that her preference was that the sales tax become permanent. She said that for planning purposes it was difficult to plan without knowing if the funding source will remain stable. With sales tax, she said, there's enough fluctuation to begin with. A permanent tax, Commissioner Vogt argued, would help the department set and accomplish its goals. Permanent taxes, she said, are not uncommon. The City of Columbia and Cole County both utilize permanent taxes. Commissioner Vogt argued that the road systems will not lessen in miles nor will they become less expensive to maintain. She said the tax needed to become permanent and that if down the road funding mechanisms changed, at that time the Commission could decide on a more appropriate method of funding. People want planning, she said, and efficient, effective maintenance of a road system and she said she did not see a reason to sunset the sales tax.

Commissioner Miller said she agreed with Commissioner Vogt's reasoning, but that her gut feeling was to place the issue on the ballot, with an option to renew in ten years. She said she was proud of what the department had accomplished for transportation in the community. The Public Works department began as a maintenance only department, spreading gravel and cleaning out culverts. With this type of funding, she said, Boone County has a full Public Works department, like any of the first class counties, growing at the same rate should have. New subdivision regulations guarantee that the County no longer accepts roadways not built to a proper standard and the acceptance for maintenance of roads increases every year. She agreed that people are pleased with funding the department with sales tax versus property tax, but said her gut feeling was to establish a sunset renewal for the tax at ten years.

Commissioner Stamper said that he had thought long and hard about this tax issue and that two things were leading his judgment. First, he said, the funding allowed the County to restructure the Public Works department until it went from a maintenance only operation to a department with vision, growth and the capacity to meet the needs of the citizens. As a citizen, he said, served by public officials, he liked the idea of the public officials being held accountable and therefore favored the idea of a sunset. He said he liked the idea of the middle ground ten year period that would allow more planning and would allow the citizens and opportunity to step in and make public officials account for their actions. Every time we answer the phone, he said, we're being held accountable by the public.

Ms. Noren said that in the next ten weeks it would be important to educate the voters as to what the County hopes to accomplish in the next few years. Five years is not enough to allow the Public Works Department long range planning and Ms. Noren said the Commission had taken undue criticism for not completing projects within the five year time frame established by Proposition One. What people do not understand, she said, is that it has only been three and a half years since the County began receiving money from the sales tax. Ms. Noren said she favored the

ten year time frame because there are going to be changes and there will need to be different funding mechanisms in place to meet the challenge of a long range plan and a system for handling the urbanization of Boone County. Ms. Noren said that she felt one more ballot issue with a sunset was the best way to go.

Commissioner Miller said that getting the issue passed by the voters was the bottomline and if a renewal was more suitable to that goal, then the sunset was her preference.

Commissioner Vogt agreed that a ten year sunset was better than five and that the department wouldn't be so threatened about planning future transportation measures.

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone establish a ten (10) year funding period for a November 4, 1997 ballot issue that would impose a county-wide sales tax in the amount of one half of one percent for the period beginning October 1, 1998 and ending September 30, 2008.

Commissioner Miller seconded.

Commissioners Stamper and Miller voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Vogt voted in opposition. Motion passed. **Order 356-97.**

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone impose a county-wide sales tax pursuant to the provisions of 67.547 RSMo., 1996, as amended, in the amount of one half of one percent for the period beginning October 1, 1998 and ending September 30, 2008. The imposition of this tax shall be effective only after approval of a majority of the qualified voters casting a ballot at a special election. It is further ordered that the County Commission of said County hereby calls for an election to be held on Tuesday the 4th day of November, 1997 for the purpose of submitting to the voters the proposition contained in the following notice of election and sample ballot.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the County of Boone that the County Commission of said County has called an election to be held in said County on Tuesday the 4th day of November, 1997 from and between the hours of six o'clock a.m. and seven o'clock p.m. on said date to vote on the proposition contained in the following sample ballot:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF MISSOURI
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 1997

PROPOSITION 2

Shall the County of Boone impose a county-wide sales tax of 1/2 (one half) of one percent for the purpose of improving and maintaining county roads, bridges and right of ways; reducing county property taxes levied for road purposes and increasing the amounts paid to cities and the special road district from the county road and bridge fund? The authorization for this sales tax shall expire September 30, 2008.

YES

NO

Instructions to voters: If you are in favor of the proposition, darken the oval opposite the word "YES". If you are opposed to the proposition, darken the oval opposite the word "NO".

The County Clerk of said county is hereby directed to conduct the election pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 115, as amended.

Commissioner Miller seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. **Order 357-97.**

Ms. Noren presented a petition to the County Commission of Boone County, Missouri signed by qualified voters requesting an election in the county for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the county the following question of whether to authorize the incurring of indebtedness and the issuance of general obligation bonds by the county. Ms. Noren certified the petition that had been signed by 574 people who are qualified and registered voters of the County and further certified that the total vote for Governor cast in the County at the last general election, to wit, the election held on November 5, 1996 was 52,216 votes.

Ms. Noren explained that the law requires the petitions to be signed by one percent of the amount of votes in the most recent gubernatorial race and the petition exceeded that requirement. The second item, she said, is an order drafted by bond counsel, ordering an election to be held to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to create a fund for sewer Neighborhood Improvement Districts, similar to the road Neighborhood Improvement District general obligation bonds issued in 1992.

Commissioner Miller said the County had been working on a pilot project with the Pin Oak Neighborhood Improvement District and that the issue of sewer NIDs had been a long time in coming. The \$5.5 million bond would allow neighborhoods to find solutions to on-site problems. She said she could name five neighborhoods who have begged for this solution and the county has been unable to help.

Commissioner Vogt said that the NIDs for roads has been highly successful. She said it was part of County government to help neighborhoods progress and that she highly supported the NID question on the ballot and hoped the public would support it, too.

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone authorize the Order attached Calling a Special Election on a General Obligation Bond Question 1 in Boone County, Missouri and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign the order.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 358-97.**

Ms. Noren said that an election had been called by the Boone County Regional Sewer District and by the City of Columbia, so that the November ballot would have three sewer issues and one road issue.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the offices who worked with the Neighborhood Improvement Districts and said the nuts and bolts of the program would not be possible without the cooperation of all of the Departments.

SUBJECT: Boone County Public Housing Authority Report

Public Housing Authority Director Scott Melton reported on Section 8 housing within the seven county regional district. He explained that the new federal budgets and the welfare reform act had affected all of the counties' abilities to offer affordable housing to people in need.

The Commissioners requested that Mr. Melton report on the Boone County Public Housing Authority on a quarterly basis.

SUBJECT: Award Bid 42-06AUG97, Mowing Services

Purchasing Director Beckie Jackson referred to her memo dated August 11, 1997.

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone award bid 42-06AUG97 for mowing services to:

Award 4.7.1.4. Johnson Building; 4.7.1.5. Ash Street Parking Lot, 4.7.1.6. North County Facility and 4.7.1.8. Brampton Court to Classic Cleaning and Remodeling;
Award 4.7.1.7. El Chaparral County Park to Munie Outdoor Service; and

award 4.7.1.2. Boone County Courthouse and 4.7.1.3. Boone County Government Center to Trail Blaze; as having submitted the lowest and best bids.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 359-97.**

SUBJECT: Surplus Items Disposal

Commissioner Vogt moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve the disposal of the attached list of items to be disposed through the University Auction, except for the six white plastic chairs and one tan plastic chair and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign the disposal forms.

Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Commissioners Stamper and Vogt voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Miller voted in opposition. The motion passed. **Order 360-97.**

SUBJECT: Boone County Direct Dial Database Access Subscription Agreement

Information Services Director Scott Monnig said that the County had initiated a pilot project that provided First National Bank, the City of Columbia and the City of Centralia subscription access to public information. It is the same information that is available in the public terminals in the assessor, collector and recorder's offices. He reported that there were no technical problems at any of the pilot sites and the project helped identify possible customers.

Mr. Monnig said he had met with County Counselor John Patton and they had drafted a subscription agreement, with the assistance of a committee, they had identified the costs.

Mr. Monnig explained that enhanced access will be provided to off-site users from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, giving the subscribers an additional 27 hours a week to gain access to public information. The agreement cites that the County is not responsible for things beyond its control like problems with computers or telephone lines. Subscription rates will be .10 cents a minute with a \$50 set up fee that includes a diskette with the technical documents and required files needed to run ProCon Plus in Windows 3.1, 3.11 or Windows 95. The agreement states that the County will not provide the communication software. Subscribers will be billed once a month for charges incurred the prior month. Subscribers who do not pay their bill within a 30 day period will be disconnected from the system. To be reinstated, they will have to pay a deposit equal to 150 percent of their last average bill, an attempt to discourage subscribers from not paying their bill. Restrictions listed in the agreement include not accessing the system in an unauthorized manner, modifying data (which they are unable to do unless they access the system in an unauthorized manner), and they need to purchase their own copy of ProCon Plus. The agreement also addresses organizations with many members who might want access to the system and in those cases, each individual will pay their own set up fee and will have their own password. That way, Mr. Monnig said, an organization will not be able to monopolize the system. The agreement also states that the County does not guarantee the accuracy of the information.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Commissioner Miller and Mr. Monnig for their painstaking work and said it has been six and a half years since they had started the process. This is a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Miller asked about identifying a minimum monthly charge because it was not stated in the agreement language.

Mr. Monnig agreed that a minimum of \$15 in monthly charges needed to be stated in the agreement in an effort to cover billing costs.

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone authorize Information Services to issue Direct Dial Database Access Subscriptions as presented in the attached agreement; adding a minimum monthly charge of \$15 a month.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 361-97.**

SUBJECT: Harrisburg Community Pool Project

Commissioner Stamper prefaced the discussion by explaining the County had earmarked funds generated through the hospital profit share and to reinvest that money in community projects where local entities would commit matching funds.

Commissioner Vogt said she had begun discussions with Harrisburg concerning their desire to build a community swimming pool. She invited Bill View, Superintendent of the Harrisburg School District and representatives from the Harrisburg Lions Club to present their project ideas.

Mr. View introduced Brent Vorhees and Hal Fisher, both members of the Harrisburg Lions Club, and proposed to the Commission the idea of building an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Harrisburg that would be used by the community and the school district. They have received cost estimates from Vaughn Pools in Columbia for building a pool, shower room and concession stand.

Mr. Vorhees said the current park and community building, created by the Lions Club, are well-utilized year-round by the community and said that a pool would complement the activities held there. He said there was support for the project from the school, Lions Club and the City of Harrisburg.

Mr. View said the Lions Club had spent a great deal of time and effort in putting the proposal together. He said the Club was very aware of the cost of maintaining a public pool and they were willing to take on the financial responsibility associated with it. The City of Harrisburg, he said, has committed \$5,000 a year in support of the pool efforts, even though they won't be responsible for the pool, they know it's an asset to the community as a whole. The Club anticipated operating costs would run \$30,000 annually with a projected revenue of \$25,000 to \$27,000.

Commissioner Stamper said the Commission would be reviewing potential projects through mid-October and would be looking at investments that were sustainable and were geographically balanced in the County. He explained that the County's investment would be a one-time expenditure.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Mr. View, Mr. Vorhees and Mr. Fisher for their report and said they would inform them of the allocations.

SUBJECT: Woods Mill Plat 1

Commissioner Vogt moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone receive, accept and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign Woods Mill Plat 1 final plat and accept the surety bond for the seeding and mulching.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 362-97.**

SUBJECT: Pin Oak Report

Project Engineer Tom Ratermann reported on the Pin Oak Sanitary Sewer Neighborhood Improvement District.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Attest:

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner