

TERM OF COMMISSION: October 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 1:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Bid Opening for Guard Rail Safety Projects

Boone County received two bids for the Gillespie Bridge Road, O'Neal Road and Tucker School Road Safety Projects.

Commissioner Miller opened a bid from Collins & Hermann, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri for a total bid package of \$88,747.40.

Commissioner Stamper opened a bid from James H. Drew, Sedalia, Missouri for a total bid package of \$67,942.12.

Commissioner Stamper referred the bids to the Purchasing Department and Public Works Department who will return them for bid award recommendation.

SUBJECT: Budget Revision for Fax Machine

Circuit Clerk Cheryl Whitmarsh requested a budget revision in order to purchase a fax machine that would be utilized in the Family Court Division. She explained the department was looking for ways to increase efficiency and eliminate runs to the clerk's office. They felt they could accomplish this by faxing ex-parte rather than needing a deputy to pick up the information up.

Commissioner Miller questioned the need of an expensive fax machine.

Ms. Whitmarsh said the fax would probably be used for other types of business as well. She said her employees are constantly checking the current fax to see if a plea has been faxed in for the 1:30 p.m. docket. To have the fax closer to their work area, she said, would be a great benefit. In response to questions from Commissioner Miller, Ms. Whitmarsh said that Purchasing Director had looked at the request, as had Auditor June Pitchford. She said she wanted a fax that was identical to the one they had just purchased and that they could still purchase the fax under the current 1997 bid.

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve the following budget revision:

Dept.	Account	Account Title	Transfer From	Transfer To
1221	23000	Office Supplies	\$965.00	
1221	60050	Service Contracts	\$965.00	
1221	91000	Office Equipment		\$1,930.00

Explanation: Need for purchase of additional fax machine not budgeted for in Class 9;

and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign the purchase requisition.

Commissioner Stamper seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 451-97.**

SUBJECT: Rocheport Community Hall Renovations Fund Request

Mayor of Rocheport Frances Turner said that they were requesting funding to help renovate the community hall. The funds would complement monies they have already received through a grant that will bring the facility to ADA requirements. Mayor Turner introduced Gayla Newmeyer, a citizen of Rocheport and volunteer who helped coordinate the project.

Ms. Newmeyer submitted the proposal for the Rocheport Community Hall Repair and Refurbishment Project that outlined the statement of need for conducting the Community Hall Project; History of the Rocheport Community Hall; Benefits of the Project to Boone County Residents; Project Activities, Projected Timeline and Anticipated Costs.
copy of packet.

Ms. Newmeyer said the request was for \$13,500 for renovations and repairs to the Rocheport Community Hall. She explained that the community halls is maintained by the city and is in critical need of repairs to the structure and the interior. The building has been used during elections, social community events and those events have in turn had an economic impact on the city. Ms. Newmeyer said that the building was originally a Baptist Church and suffered it's first major degradation when a tornado blew the roof off in 1913. Since, then, she said damage from that contributed to the disbandment of the congregation. Philanthropists, she said, turned the building over to the city and it has been owned by the city since then. She said there had been no complete repair of the building since its construction in 1861.

The most significant budget item for repairing the building, she said, are to bring the building up to current ADA standards and the committee has broken down their needs in three phases. Ms. Newmeyer said that the building is also used by Alcoholics Anonymous, Friends of Rocheport Society, family reunions, post-funeral dinners and other types of events that make the hall the center of the community. She reported that the City Clerk has noted a 33 percent increase in the use of the building and that increased use is now requiring increased maintenance. When they received the ADA grant, she said, it became apparent that some things would need to be repaired prior to ADA compliance.

Phase I will be supported with the funds they are requesting today, Ms. Newmeyer said. With that money they plan to install a water run off system, repaired the cracked foundation and install a sink for cleanup and maintenance activities. They will also rebuild the copper-domed bell tower. Phase II is the ADA compliance, for which the city has secured the grant. Phase III is a fundraising campaign between the city and the Society to get the remaining funds for interior painting once the structural repairs are completed. She said they have also built in a 4% in case there is a cost overrun.

Commissioner Vogt arrived at 1:45 p.m.

Ms. Newmeyer said that they have created separate fiscal accounts and have compartmentalized their needs in order to accomplish their goals. With the mix of federal, county and private funds, they assured the Commission there would be separate accountability. She said they would also approach the Boon County Community Trust to help fund the \$8,000 required to finish Phase III.

She also explained that the ADA grant awarded the community hall \$46,000. Another \$24,400 from that grant has been dedicated to the City Hall building.

Commissioner Miller thanked the group for bringing in their request and said the Commission would consider it along with the other requests they had received for the Hospital Profit Share money.

Commissioner Stamper said it was their intent to make awards in November and that those awards would be included in the 1998 budget.

SUBJECT: Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Miller reported that during the repairs to the roof at the Boone Retirement Center, they found that the insulation under one section was wet and needs to be removed and replaced for a cost of \$8,000. Commissioner Miller said that the project is on hold until the expenditure is authorized by the County Commission.

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone authorize the expenditure of \$8,000 to further repair the Boone Retirement Center roof and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign the change order and budget revision necessary to accomplish that.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 452-97.**

Commissioner Vogt said that she has been talking with constituents in Centralia and has had several discussions regarding the County office located in the Centralia clinic. There have been many questions as to how the office could be used by the public. She said there is a County policy regarding use of a County building in the office there and she has sent a copy of that policy to the Centralia City Council. She said the question has been if they could have birthday parties and exercise classes in the building and she could not recall if the policy addressed those issues.

Commissioner Stamper said that unless they were charging a fee the way the current policy was worded there would be nothing to prohibit that type of usage.

Commissioner Miller said she would hate to see the County allow those types of activities. She said she sees the space as office space to be used for government functions. She said she did not see those requested types of activities as being acceptable.

Commissioner Stamper said that this is an area that would need to be defined.

Commissioner Vogt said that it was a public building and felt that as long as nothing destructive was being done in the building, she would rather see people use it. She said she had gotten a lot of criticism about the lack of the building's use and a lot of questions as to whether or not the building would be staffed. She said she realized the Commission did not have the answers today, but said she wanted to bring these issues to their attention.

Commissioner Stamper said that they were not, at this time, restricted from that type of use and didn't know on what grounds they could refuse someone today.

Commissioner Stamper said they would bring the issue of County room use policy back to the table, but until that time, the current policy stands as written.

Commissioner Stamper reported that they had been aware by Joint Communications Information Center that a six-year-old was instrumental in saving his grandmother's life. Commissioner Stamper said that they will recognize his efforts at a County Commission meeting at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, November 6.

Commissioner Stamper reported that he needed to respond to a letter from the Volunteer Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Miller said that the Community Services Advisory Commission is asking for comments from all agencies for ways to better improve the fund allocation process. She said her concern was opening up the process to every other agency who didn't get what they want to come back to the board and act on that.

Commissioner Stamper suggested he draft a letter identifying receipt of the Volunteer Advisory Committee's letter saying the Commission was aware of the process' shortfalls, and to encourage the Committee to continue their work with the Community Services Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Vogt suggested that they wait until the recommendations had been formally approved.

Commissioner Miller said she had been notified by a landowner who wanted to give land to the County and realign a road at their own expense. She said the Commission owed the folks a response.

SUBJECT: Recess

Commissioner Stamper called for a recess at 2:00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:15 p.m.

SUBJECT: Budget Revision to Cover Utilities at Centralia Clinic

Auditor June Pitchford explained that the Commission was aware that there would need to be provisions for utilities, but not knowing the magnitude of the expense had not provided for that in the budget. She said that the expenditure would be handled differently in this year's budget than it would be in the 1998 budget. Ms. Pitchford said the hospital center's administrative office receives the billings and pays for them directly and then turns around and invoices the County on a quarterly basis. The County reimburses the hospital center and for the current 1997 budget.

She said that until there was a better plan or more rational way to allocate these costs, she would continue to handle the payments in this manner. Ms. Pitchford said this first bill would give the County an idea of what the utilities were running monthly, although the bill did not include telephone service. She said the utilities would be handled non-departmentally next year.

Commissioner Vogt moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve the following budget revision:

Dept.	Account	Account Title	Transfer From	Transfer To
1190	48100	Natural Gas		\$200
1190	48200	Electricity		\$100
1190	48300	Water		\$350
1190	48400	Solid Waste		\$75
1190	48600	Sewer		\$100
1123	86800	Emergency	\$825	

Explanation: To cover utilities at Centralia Clinic.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 453-97.**

SUBJECT: Stop Violence Against Women Grant

Sheriff Ted Boehm submitted a Proposed Violence Against Women Grant Project, explaining the grant was a joint venture between the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Boone County Sheriff and Prosecutor, Columbia Police Department and the Shelter. In researching the Domestic Violence cases in a 13-county area that includes Boone County, Sheriff Boehm reported that of the 3,104 domestic violence cases reported, 64% of those cases occurred in Boone County.

The proposed grant will fully fund the payroll, including the benefit package, and will not cost Boone County any money, said Sheriff Boehm. The administrator of the program, he explained would be the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Sheriff Boehm said the law enforcement community feels it is time to look at this issue and form a partnership with women who are being violated.

Sheriff Boehm said that at the end of the year, the grant would start January 1, 1998, the program would be evaluated and victims would be interviewed to see if the program was successful. Sheriff Boehm said that money would be available through the year 2000 and probably an additional two years beyond that.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there was a funding continuation requirement.

Sheriff Boehm said that it would depend on the people evaluating the program who would see if the program has made a difference.

Commissioner Miller asked what would happen at the end of the grant cycle if the program was successful but there were no more grant funds. She asked if Sheriff Boehm would take an officer from the existing staff and direct them towards this program.

Sheriff Boehm said he would hate to answer that question now, though admitted it could be an option. He went on to explain that not only would the grant fund a full-time employee, the Department was asking for an additional \$10,000 to supplement money needed for serving Orders of Protection. He said they were averaging 56 Orders of Protection per month.

Commissioner Stamper said he appreciated the briefing and, only having had the opportunity to skim the packet of information, questioned the placement of the employee in the Columbia Police Department offices. He asked what was the traditional population of victims in the city versus the County.

Sheriff Boehm said that there were about 900 reported cases in the city of Columbia and 700 in the County.

Prosecuting Attorney Kevin Crane explained that the grant was a package approach that combined law enforcement entities. The grant would impact his department, he said, by providing them with one assistant prosecutor. He proposed that the assistant prosecutor only work with cases of violence against a female. Mr. Crane said that they can get a salaried person 80% paid for by the grant. The grant will fund \$43,752.02 and with a total benefits package, the department will pick up 20% or \$8,750.01. Mr. Crane said the difference would be paid from the check fund that was started in 1993 and has increased over 50% in the last five years.

Commissioner Stamper questioned if this was classic check expenditure.

Mr. Crane explained that they currently paid for a coordinator, assistant prosecutor as well as supplies from the check fund.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there were limits or restrictions placed on the check fund.

Mr. Crane said he was not aware of any, except the rational criticism of the public.

Commissioner Stamper was concerned with the budgetary implication that three year's out, the funding for the program will be gone while the need is still there. He said he was uncomfortable obligating general revenue three years out. Bottomline, he said, the request was for a new program.

Sheriff Boehm said that if the grant were to be approved and supported by the Commission, then the department would be up front with the person assigned and let them know the position is only funded through the year 2000.

Mr. Crane said that from a legal standpoint you would have to do that.

Commissioner Vogt clarified that today's request was to approve the application and if the County cannot find a way to fund the program, they would not be obligated to accept the grant.

Auditor June Pitchford reviewed the information and said the grant is fully funded and in three years the County Commission will be called on to decide the effectiveness of the program. The goals listed, she said, are not specific enough to evaluate the program in three years. She said the program identified what the department would do, but did not identify an impact. At the end of three years, she said, the County needs to be able to say that violence against women cases have been reduced by "X" percent.

Mr. Crane said that in his conversations with the Highway Patrol, there will be statistical monitoring of the program.

Commissioner Stamper said that domestic violence is a very moving issue and asked that the Commission step back and reschedule the issue of the grant for Monday in order to proceed in a logical sequence. He explained that so far he has only been able to skim the information and would like to have some time to look more closely at the proposal.

Commissioner Miller left to attend another meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Crane said that for the past three years the County has prepared a handbook that addressed the issue of domestic violence. The handbook was funded by a grant and a match from the County. Last year, he said, they used volunteer time as their match and received some criticism. This year, he said, they were asking again for matching funds for the program.

Prosecuting Attorney Office Administrator Bonnie Adkins said they produced and distributed 1,000 of the handbooks last year.

Commissioner Vogt moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone authorize the Prosecuting Attorney's office to apply for the STOP Violence Against Women Grant to provide the Boone County Response Sexual Assault Survivor Handbook.

Commissioner Stamper seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 454-97.**

SUBJECT: Hartsburg Request for Funding for Sidewalks

Mayor of Hartsburg Anne Mericle appeared before the Commission to request funding from the Hospital Profit Share money to make improvements to sidewalks in Hartsburg. She said that a lot of improvements had been made to Hartsburg roads since 1993, thanks to the taxes that provided money for the streets. However, she said, it has been decades since the town has been able to address the sidewalks. Apartments have been constructed at the north end of town and there are a lot of folks in wheelchairs, walkers and with canes. She said they wanted to improve the sidewalks so people could get from senior housing to the American Legion Hall and the park safely. The increase in traffic, she said, in town has been amazing. A lot of the senior citizens in Hartsburg, she said, do not drive and regard foot transportation to be as important as vehicle transportation.

After measuring the length of sidewalks that need improvement, Hartsburg is requesting \$30,000 to improve 2,000 feet of sidewalks that will be 42" wide as required by ADA. She also mentioned that there is no tornado siren in southern Boone County and that fixture would be helpful to Hartsburg.

Commissioner Stamper said a siren is \$15,000 per unit.

Ms. Mericle said the number one priority were sidewalks, the number two priority would be the siren.

Commissioner Vogt asked if the city of Hartsburg had looked into a state grant for sidewalks.

Ms. Mericle said she believed there were population requirements necessary that Hartsburg could not meet, but said she would look into it. Ms. Mericle thanked the Commission for the consideration of her request.

SUBJECT: Sturgeon Proposed Activity Center Request for Funds

Darrin Kelly, former Mayor of Sturgeon Charlie Angle, John and Becky Robinson, Bill Frazier and Barb Morgan (representing the school board) appeared before the Commission with a request for Hospital Profit Share money for a proposed Sturgeon Activity Center.

Mr. Robinson said the proposal was sponsored by the city of Sturgeon and the Chamber of Commerce. They are also working loosely with the school to make the center available for indoor recreation during the school season. We have nothing like this in Sturgeon, he said, and we won't unless we get some help to do it. They currently have two options on sites for the building. The purpose, he said, is to have an indoor place for volleyball, walking track, basketball and aerobics. The current school gym is overcrowded, he said. We need something people can use and something that will get the youth off the streets, he said. This is a unique opportunity to bring everyone together in town as the center will be opened and closed with volunteer labor.

Mr. Robinson said that site one is \$35,000 and is located directly across the street from the school. In return for use of the facility, the school has agreed to help fund the utilities. Site two is property owned by the city, one block away from the school. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Curtis has said it is close enough to the school for them to use the facility, but agrees it's not as

handy as the first option, said Mr. Robinson. Site two is also not big enough for the proposed basketball court. They are estimating operating expenses to run \$4,000 a year for insurance and utilities, although they don't plan on having air conditioning. The building, he said, would be a metal prefabricated building. Liability might be covered under the city's current policy should they decide to take ownership. Mr. Robinson said the city has never had a facility like this and they are very excited and interested in the prospect.

Commissioner Stamper explained that the original concept was to take funds that were derived from health care profit share money that comes to the County on an episodic and unpredictable basis. The Commission decided to apply them and reinvest that money into the health and wellness of Boone County. To date, he said, they have done that by building a clinic in Centralia, submitted \$140,000 to the Family Health Clinic and have purchased land for a nursing home site when the Boone Retirement Center eventually moved. The idea, he said, was to open and encourage people to bring presentations that would allow the Commission to invest in local communities by matching funds on proposed projects. He said they have discussed a 75% level as a cap, letting the difference be made up locally or in-kind. He said the criteria for the funds or the projects has not been formalized by the Commission, but they plan on doing that next week. If the project were to be selected, it would be the community's responsibility to raise the rest of the funds.

Commissioner Stamper said they originally planned to announce awards in October, but set the deadline for proposals at October 31. He said they will make the awards in November.

Mr. Robinson explained that grade school children don't have much to do after school and all winter long there's really nowhere for them to go. This would give people a place to go and create a volunteer opportunity using children to help so they would have ownership and the opportunity to take care of the facility themselves.

Commissioner Vogt said this was the first time the Commission had taken a large number of projects and this year decided to put the funds into the communities. She said if they appeared a little unorganized in their approach, it was in order to see what was out there and to let that information guide them in dispersing the money. She also explained the projects would fall under County bidding and prevailing wage laws.

Mr. Robinson said the Chamber would be responsible for running the facility and the city would accept ownership.

Ms. Robinson explained there was also an active athletic booster club who would help raise money.

Mr. Kelly said the goal is for the city and the chamber of commerce to form a recreation board in conjunction with the park board and to form intramural sports leagues for kids and adults and have nightly events.

Mr. Robinson asked if the construction could be done with volunteer labor.

Commissioner Stamper explained that the trick becomes prevailing wage and said there are certain things that volunteers can and cannot do. He said the Commission wanted to fund projects that would be completed and these details were issues the Commission would have to debate.

Mr. Robinson said Sturgeon was full of folks who had the talents and experience to do that type of work and offered to put together a detailed proposal to show the Commission how they could get that work done.

Ms. Morgan asked if a dollar value could be put on prevailing wage for the portions that the community could not provide and then a dollar value put on the prevailing wage for volunteers.

Commissioner Stamper said there was probably a way to skin this cat, they just hadn't figured out what it was yet.

Mr. Kelly asked if the property value was considered a part of the in-kind match.

Commissioner Stamper said the Commission was excited about the money, but now found themselves with more requests than they have money. He said the application of those dollars needed to take place where things like this couldn't happen without extra funding.

Mr. Angle asked if an award was not made to Sturgeon this year, would it be available in years to come.

Commissioner Stamper said they will look at the award process and will decide when future dollars come in how much will go towards building the fund and how much will be made available for additional projects.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.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