

TERM OF COMMISSION: September 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  
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

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

**SUBJECT: Southern Boone County Athletic Boosters Request for Funding**

Commissioner Stamper explained that the County Commission has earmarked the funds generated by the hospital profit share for community projects that promote health and well-being.

Commissioner Miller commented that she had met with the folks from Ashland who were presenting their project today and felt that they had turned over every stone and reached out to every organization in order to gain support throughout the community. This is the only issue, she said, where she had gotten letters of support via email. Commissioner Miller said it was apparent that the community strongly supported the track project because of the number of people who had turned out this Tuesday morning.

Marilyn Thorpe introduced Joe Miller and Mark Hooibrink and said they appreciated the opportunity to present their proposal for the Track and Field of Dreams project. She said that several years ago the community had a cinder track that was used extensively by students and the residents of Ashland. When it came time to build a new vocational agriculture building and parking lot, the facility extended into the area where the track had been. Today, she said, the people and students of Ashland are forced to the streets to maintain their wellness.

In 1996, the Athletic Booster Club and the Jaycees created a community effort when they began the track project. They presented their idea to the school board who approved the project, paid the initial architectural fees and designated a six-acre tract for the project. Ms. Thorpe said that the Southern Boone County Athletic Boosters, the Ashland Jaycees and the Eagle Foundation realized that this is a huge project and are not entering into it blindly. She provided the Commissioners with a packet of information regarding the project and asked for the Commissions support and financial assistance.

Mr. Miller, president of the Eagle Foundation, reiterated that the project had been a grass roots campaign and stressed three areas: growth, challenges and commitments. He said that there has been 117% growth in Ashland. Growth, he said, is a positive issue, not a negative one. In a small rural community like Ashland, he said, the school is the central and most visible institution. In 1997 the construction of a new high school was completed and already they have been looking at building a new elementary school and hope to begin that construction in two years. This rapid growth has taken a toll on the school district financially, he said, and the school does not have the current financial werewithal to meet this challenge. He stressed that a track would give children and senior citizens a place to safely walk, run and train. Currently, Ashland has few facilities to meet the needs of families and a track would tie in with the community swimming pool and city park, creating a triad of recreation. He also said that the intramural soccer league sponsored by the Ashland Optimists would use the facility constantly for games and practice. Mr. Miller said that the community has already raised \$100,156.

Mr. Hooibrink, vice president of the Southern Boone Athletic Boosters gave an overview of the design and costs of the proposal. He said the design was for a 400 meter all weather track with a north and south orientation. The track is designed to allow room for a soccer field, giving community groups a place to practice and hold their games.

Commissioner Miller asked what was the intended use for the grassy field in the center of the track.

Mr. Miller said that would be the area where the soccer fields would be placed.

Mr. Miller also explained that the \$100,000 raised to date included the value of the land at \$72,000. The rest, he said, has been raised and is in-hand, but does not include future fund raising.

Mr. Hooibrink said that the Eagle Foundation will resume the responsibility of bidding the project and said they had had some cost analysis, but no formal bids. The three cost estimates, he explained, are close to what he felt would be the final cost of the project..

After completion of the project, said Mr. Miller, the school district would accept the responsibility of the improvements.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Mr. Hooibrink said that with Ashland's ideal central location, the facility would be an excellent site for events for the Show Me State games.

Jean Gill, Ashland, said she lives in the country by choice, on a gravel road, but drives into Ashland to walk for exercise. She said she was fully in support of this effort. Speaking, she said, as a mother of a track member who took third in State competition, where her daughter achieved a time that was sixth in the state for 4-A schools, she wanted to see her daughter on a competitive practice field. Right now, she said, the practice area is four hurdles on a grassy field and her daughter never runs a full set of hurdles until competitions. To increase her potential for a scholarship, they would have to move to Columbia or Jefferson City.

Jane Flink, publisher of the Southern Boone County Journal, said she looked at the Track and Field of Dreams from the most removed position because she has no children in the school district and lives in Hartsburg in the country. She said it is a wonderful thing for Ashland, as services to the people there are expanded. Ms. Flink said that when she lived in Centralia she found that instead of being a high school adjunct, the track was used as all sorts of people as a gathering place and was amazed by all of the people out walking. One of the things she said that is so important is the cooperation between the school and the community. She said this track is an excellent idea that she supports.

Jay Richardson, president of the Ashland Optimists, said they are a service organization that supports youth and community. The Optimists, he said, fully support the Track and Field of Dreams. Right now, he said folks are running and walking in the streets because Ashland doesn't have a lot of sidewalks. The soccer programs they sponsor are expanding exponentially and this type of facility would help meet the needs of the growth. Mr. Richardson thanked the Commissioners and asked for their assistance with the program.

Bob Sappington, legendary resident of Southern Boone County, said that he was here to show a force of support and he hoped that the community would receive support from the Commission.

Ann Hooibrink, Ashland, said she was interested in the track for safety reasons. She said that she had worked as the school nurse and knew that the kids had enjoyed running on the cinder track and knew that a lot of adults came and walked. She was concerned for the kids she saw running in the streets. She said, she also had selfish reasons for wanting a track because she would like to get out and walk on a nice smooth place that wasn't concrete because it's hard on her legs. She knew several ladies in their 50s who would love to walk if they had a place to walk safely.

Representative Chuck Graham approached the Commission as a citizen who lives in Columbia but works in Ashland with the Jaycees and is a personal contributor to the project. All projects, he said, can generate controversy, but he said he had not gotten one call, one email or one letter in opposition to the track and he feels it is important to proceed. A lot of groups, he said, come to the government looking for a handout or a bail out, but this group already had over \$100,000 in commitments. Even after there was the possibility that the County Commission might help with funding, Rep. Graham said that Ms. Thorpe was still out raising money and gathering contributions. The support, he said, has continued to increase. Earlier this summer, he said, one of his constituents at Jeff City Helias was on a state championship team. Rep. Graham said that she was a hurdler and has the opportunity to become the best hurdler because she has the facilities in which to do so. How do you do that when you're running the streets of Ashland, he asked. He said he was looking forward to the day when the Governor would call him to his office because of

the Ashland team and said he was looking to the Commissions support to make the dream come true in the Ashland community.

Marianne Decker, member of the Optimists, said that her husband is the principal at the elementary school. One point, she said, that had not been mentioned is that Ashland has a track record of successful partnerships between the community, schools and service organizations. She said that the swimming pool was a prime example because that project was created 10 years ago and has worked well and become an important part of youth activities.

Commissioner Miller thanked the Southern Boone Athletic Boosters and residents of the community for showing their support. She said it was one thing to receive letters of support but it was quite another when residents actually came out in person for a show of support. She said she had had many calls and has made the commitment to Mr. Hooibrink that she will publicly support this effort. Commissioner Miller said it was unclear as to how the funding for different projects would go, because each project was equally important to each community, but she said they would be at the table for them.

Commissioner Vogt commented that when the Commission decided to put health care dollars back to work by placing those dollars in situations to be used for wellness programs that would keep people healthy, rather than for buying services for people, she was concerned as to how people would view that. She said she had not heard one comment in opposition. Nothing could please me more, she said, than to fund all of the projects that the communities had brought forward, projects that would help keep their communities stay strong and grow and be the best that they can be. She said she was looking forward to reviewing all of the projects and thanked them for their presentation.

Commissioner Stamper said that a few months ago, when the County Commission made the decision to earmark the profit share dollars, it became an issue of empowerment, to take dollars derived from the community and helping things happen that might not have otherwise happened. Because of the nature of the profit share money, it is not predictable and the Commission needs to keep those funds for one time matching investments. He said he did not underestimate the commitment of the communities or their fundraising abilities, but these types of funds could help move things along. That is the Commission's vision, he said.

Commissioner Stamper said they were looking at 1998 budget year allocations and will conclude the review process the end of 1997. He said that the Track and Field of Dreams project was the type of project they were hoping to create and he thanked them for emptying the town of Ashland in a show of support and for the presentation.

**SUBJECT: Planning and Building Inspections Budget Revision for Noise Monitoring at the Fairgrounds**

Director of Planning and Building Inspections Stan Shawver said it was a delight to sit in the Commission Chambers with a group of people who were in support of an issue. He presented the Commission with a budget revision for noise monitoring at the fairgrounds.

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

Dept.	Account	Account Title	Transfer From	Transfer To
1123	86800	Emergency	\$3,881	
1710	71101	Professional Services		\$3,881

Explanation: to cover shortage in 1710 budget due to noise monitoring at Boone County Fairgrounds. 1710 71101 professional services budget = \$3,000, actual charges from Shell Engineering & Associates = \$6,881, shortage = \$3,881.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 394-97.**

**SUBJECT: Bid 42-06AUG97, Mowing Term and Supply**

Purchasing Director Beckie Jackson said that her office had been notified that Trail Blaze refused to enter into a contractual agreement with Boone county for the award made on August 26, 1997, commission order 359-97. According to item nine of the Standard Terms and Conditions "Failure to deliver as guaranteed shall disqualify Bidder from future bidding."

Ms. Jackson said that no reason had been given. She said that the bid had been substantially lower than that from other vendors and she could only assume that the vendor erred in their pricing. Ms. Jackson said that it was her recommendation that because the scope of the contractual requirements have now changed and the bidding process will have to be redone that the County buy services on the open market until the end of the contractual season in October. Next year, she said, the job can be rebid with new specifications.

Commissioner Miller asked that a requirement of the bid disallow mowing of the Courthouse grounds on Thursday nights in June and September, due to the Twilight Festival.

Ms. Jackson said this issue was based directly on that action.

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone void the award of bid 42-06AUG97 for mowing term and supply sections 4.7.12 and 4.7.13 to Trail Blaze and authorize the Purchasing Department to remove the vendor from the County Vendor list.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 395-97.**

**SUBJECT: Purchase Requisitions for 1997 City Grants**

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign the following purchase requisitions for the 1997 City Grants:

Dept.	Account	Item Description	Amount
2070	85800	Hallsville 1997 Grant	\$30,000
2070	85800	Rocheport 1997 Grant	\$10,000
2070	85800	Ashland 1997 Grant	\$30,000
2070	85800	Hartsburg 1997 Grant	\$30,000
2070	85800	Sturgeon 1997 Grant	\$20,000
2070	85800	Centralia 1997 Grant	\$30,000
2070	85800	Columbia 1997 Grant	\$30,000
2070	85800	Harrisburg 1997 Grant	\$20,000

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 396-97.**

**SUBJECT: Appointments to Boone County Boards and Commissions**

Commissioner Vogt moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone appoint Mike Morgan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a four year term; and rescind the appointment of Jeffrey Stevens (Commission Order 352-97) due to the fact that Mr. Stevens does not live within the parameters required by state statutes.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 397-97.**

Commissioner Vogt moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone reappoint Norma Campbell to a three year term on the Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 398-97.**

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone rescind the appointment of Connie M. Sullivan to the Senior Board (Commission Order 352-97) due to the fact that Ms. Sullivan has moved.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 399-97.**

**SUBJECT: Reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Miller reported that the Board of Health is not meeting in September, but will present them with the suggested animal ordinance changes. She said she would report their recommendations after the next meeting in October.

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign the following budget revision:

Dept.	Account	Account Title	Transfer From	Transfer To
6100	60100	Bldg. Repairs and Maint.	\$5,815.33	
	10100	Salaries and Wages		\$5,210.40
	10200	FICA		\$398.60
	10400	Worker's Comp.		\$206.33

Explanation: Transfer funds from Building Repairs and Maintenance to salaries, FICA and worker's comp to cover expenses for temporary painter authorized in Commission Order 337-97.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 400-97.**

Commissioner Miller reported that she had also met with Facilities Maintenance Director Chuck Nichols and he would with Mr. Bruce Florea and look at the MKT Trail maintenance.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.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