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# Stoddard County Commission Meeting for January 9, 2023

JANUARY 10TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Stoddard County Commission Meeting for January 9, 2023

The Stoddard County Commissioners met on Monday, January 10, 2023. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis. Twenty-three people were on hand to start the morning.

District #2 Commissioner Carol Jarrell made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Agenda as well as the Closed Session Agenda for today. Mathis seconded. Both voted yes and passed without prejudice.

Commissioner Jarrell made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Mathis seconded. Both voted yes and passed without prejudice.

Commissioner Jarrell made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, January 4, 2023 as written. Seconded by Mathis. Both voted yes and passed without prejudice.

Stoddard County Clerk Cecil Weeks swore in Mr. Greg Lintz, District #1 County Commissioner. He was congratulated and took his seat. He replaces Commissioner Steve Jordan, northern district commissioner.

## Stoddard County Jail Generator

On August 29, 2022 there was a discussion about the generator after a Commission meeting. There are no minutes of the conversation. It was a verbal agreement that the

old generator for the old jail would be moved to the Justice Center and a new generator be purchased for the new Jail Expansion with a committed pay of \$100,000 from the County. The total project would be around \$380,000.

"Somewhere along the way the agreement got unraveled."

Mr. Shawn Harding, Senior Associate with HMN Architectural Firm, said he had not received a change order for the generator; however Steve Brown with Brown Construction said he emailed the Change Order to him. Brown will go back and find the Order and send to both Harding and Mathis.

Apparently there was a storm that rolled through causing a power outage at the Stoddard County Jail. This is when they discovered the problems that the old generator could not handle the power of the new jail.

Andy Holden stated, "No heat no ac, water control system for the inmates is electric as well. When the power went out a freezer also went out. Back-up lights for 90 minutes only unless on a generator. Elevator also can not work with out a new generator. There are other minor issues, but these are the big things."

We been kicking the can down the road on this situation," commented Mathis. "We will have a generator two weeks." Mathis was first made aware of this situation on Tuesday, his first day at the helm.

Ross & Baruzzini an engineering firm that did the electrical specs for the new Stoddard County Jail has been informed. Mr. Harding will contact them as soon as possible to take care of the difference between the \$380,000 and the \$100,000 committed by the County. They should have known what it was going to take electrically to keep the jail going in case of a power outage.

Cotner Electric is the sub-contractor who did the actual electrical work for the Stoddard County Jail. They could do the electrical work; however it is not currently wired, just sitting there. A temporary generator will have to be put in place, redo conduit for two or three days and then two or more days to wire, so about a week overall.

"I'm putting you on notice. (speaking to Sean Harding with HMN Architectural Firm) I don't want to get into a \$380,000 game of chicken. I'm not blinking," Mathis stated. (Mathis later said he doesn't speak for Jarrell or Lintz)

There were some other issues regarding flooring and cameras. Holden and Sheriff Carl Hefner will go over those items with Mr. Harding today.

**Ben Godwin, Director of the Stoddard County Public Health Center and Jeff Riddle, Health Department Board Member**

The Health Dept is currently doing all the advertising for board positions for the April election, library board, etc and typically in other counties the County Clerk takes care of all that. There are also 3 board positions up for re-election for the Health Dept. We need to get with someone to transition the advertising of these positions to the County Clerk's office.

Statement from Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis in reference to former Commissioner Steve Jordan: "Steve Jordan contacted me at home last Tuesday. He has requested back-pay, insurance, attorney fees, and unemployment benefits. I told him I have no idea if he entitled to all that. Have your attorney send a letter to the Commissioner and any MO State Statutes that may apply. That's all that is being said about that at this time."

**Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission**

She distributed a spreadsheet on ARPA Funding. It shows the amounts requested and those that have received funding.

Russ Oliver, Attorney at Law

Stated he is assisting the city of Advance on funding as he owns a grant writing company in Dexter. They requested \$674,000 in June 2021. Mathis state they are on the list and he will dive into ARPA Funds after the budget is set. That's a major priority.

Stoddard County MU Extension Office turned in their budget requests.

Alisha Trammell, Dexter Chamber of Commerce ask that the fund for the city of Dexter be moved to another project similar to the one they had requested in June of 2021. She could not go into any details at this time, but it was for water and sewer.

"I have reached out to Travis Eliot, county attorney, to see if the monies designated to the previous project can be moved to the new project since it is still involving water and sewer projects." stated Lambert.

City of Bernie has requested via email for ARPA funds for a water project on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 4:12 p.m. by Mr. John Chittenden, Waters Engineering on behalf of Mayor James Tillman.

**Bootheel Regional Planning and Duck Creek Township**

Duck Creek Township, a proposal, street grant, CDGB, Bootheel Regional could not get that grant as it never went passed the process with the previous commissioners. They did not sign by deadline. Bootheel Regional is looking for other options. When CDGB announces their competitive cycle before they can announce for this year's monies. Duck Creek Township will have to applying again.

### **County Road 784 Bridge**

Bridges are graded differently now and it is a long process; however the bridge on County Road 784 has been approved by the MoDOT Board.

Motion from Stoddard County Commission to allow Mrs. Jarrell to sign the Notice to Proceed to repair County Road Bridge 784. Motion by Commissioner Lintz, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All were in favor and passed without prejudice.

### **Cecil Weeks, Stoddard County Clerk**

"Since the legalization of Marijuana, it is legal for the County to impose a 3-cent sales tax on recreational Marijuana only, not medicinal. In order to pass this it has to on the April ballot it has to be approved by January 24, 2023," commented Weeks.

Mathis asked where does the tax monies land and Weeks stated General Revenue. Then the County can decide how to allocate the funds in the budget. It would be at the end of the year before you would see any benefit.

Motion to put on the Tuesday, January 17, 2023 Agenda to vote on the proposed County Sales Tax on marijuana made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Lintz. All three commissioners voted yes and passed without prejudice.

### **Budget Information**

The County must allow a Public Notice to be in the Dexter Statesman for at least 10 days prior to the vote of the budget and at Notice of at least 5 working/business days to let the public know when that meeting will take place. The Commissioners will need to get the county budget done by January 13th and submit a Public Notice to the Dexter Statesman for the January 18th paper. Then they can have a Public Hearing on the Budget on January 25th at 9 a.m. prior to voting in the new budget.

Motion made by Jarrell to go into Closed Session pursuant to RSMo: Section: 610.021 (13) - Personnel at 11:30 a.m. Seconded by Lintz. All three voted yes and passed without prejudice.

The Commissioners came back into Open Session at 1:01 p.m. approximately 1.5 hours later.

General statement from the closed session by Presiding Commissioner Mathis. He stated that they are requesting more information with regards to the employee in question. No motions or votes were taken during the closed session.

### **Employees Health Insurance**

Mr. McCarty from Arch Insurance for the employee/elected officials health insurance for 2023 had available what has currently been proposed. He stated that the Summary of Benefits were not clear when he received that information; however he was to provide steerage towards SoutheastHEALTH. He referred to page 6 showing the upped \$1,500 for in-network and the \$3,000 for out-of-network.

"Does not provide any steerage to the local hospital to protect that hospital. We did go back and get discount approvals. "they" came back with a possible 2 Tier network which can also include a in-network and out-net-work. Southeast is substantially less than St. Francis. We do have the option at no additional cost \$500, \$2,000 and \$4,000."

"Southeast would be a Tier 1 at a \$500 deductible and St. Francis would be Tier 2 at \$2,000 deductible and out-of-network at \$4,000 deductible."

"The County has a credit with Symetra and we will no longer have our stop-loss with them. BRM Specialty is the stop-laws provider now going forward."

Mathis made it clear that he is on the board of SoutheastHEALTH of Stoddard County.

"Based on discounts from SoutheastHEALTH for the county are deeper than with St. Francis."

Motion to give Mr. McCarty from Arch Brokerage Inc. to move forward to establishing Stoddard County Health Insurance for employees and elected officials to a Tier-3 Policy.

Motion made by Lintz, seconded by Jarrell. All in favor and motion passed without prejudice.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Jarrell. Seconded by Linzt. All voted yes to adjourn at 1:28 p.m.

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