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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, February 5, 2024

FEBRUARY 05TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, February 5, 2024

The Stoddard County Commission met for the first time in February of 2024. Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer over the County.

Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission ARPA Update

Mayor Mullins with city of Dudley did get all the necessary documentation and paperwork in order and they are now requesting a check in the amount of \$55,570.00 in ARPA funding for the replacement of water meters. The city of Dudley will pay the \$310.00 difference in the original bid.

Motion to accept the city of Dudley's request for \$55,570.00 in ARPA funds for the replacement of water meters made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All there voted yes and motion passed.

Lambert stated she never got back with Chuck Kasting, Stoddard County Ambulance District Director, for the remainder of their ARPA funds. It totals about \$8,000. Kasting has said he wanted to purchase additional computers.

Lambert also updated the Commission on Water District #2. They hired an attorney for their ARPA funds and the attorney has sent a letter to Lambert. She revised and answered the questions and hd on Friday sent the letter back. As of this morning she has not heard

anything from Joe Blanton, Water District #2's attorney. Water District #2 is the only entity that has hired an attorney to request the ARPA funds from the Commission.

Drainage Ditch Discussion with Josh Speakman, County Collector/Treasurer

Drainage Ditch #14 and drainage Ditch #1333 have been discussed in previous Commission meetings. The ditches need to be cleaned out. This is in Mr. Stewart's district and he will contact the Soil Conservation Office to get specs on the ditch. Those specs will be used to create a bid request to run in the Dexter Statesman.

Ecology Acres/ Stoddard County Park

A resident of Ecology Acres has asked about the park owned by the County. The question was if the park could be sold. Mr. Mathis stated he wasn't sure about the park or any information on how they obtained it. The Commission will do some searching and get back to the person who asked about the park.

Deobligation of the CDGB Grant

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has sent a letter to the Commissioners to close out the CDGB grant for the Puxico broadband.

On December of 11, 2023 the Commission paid back to Bootheel Regional Planning Commission a check in the amount of \$21,600 from general revenue for administrative fees.

Stoddard County Cyber Security Grant

Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS)/Office of Homeland Security (OHS) Grant in the amount \$3,780.00 and an additional grant in the amount of \$199,722.26 to be used for cyber security. The total is \$203,502.26

Stoddard County Sheriff's department applied for a Cyber Security grant on behalf of the Stoddard County Commission.

The Commission will enter into Closed Session to discuss details of the Cyber Security Grant and how it will be used.

Motion to accept the Buffington Brothers Heating and Cooling annual service agreement contract for \$13,752.00 for the Stoddard County jail made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from Monday, January 29, 2024 were not made during open session due to Mr. Mathis wanting to add an item to a specific paragraph.

Motion to accept the closed session meeting minutes from Monday, January 29, 2024 were not made during open session and will be held until next Tuesday.

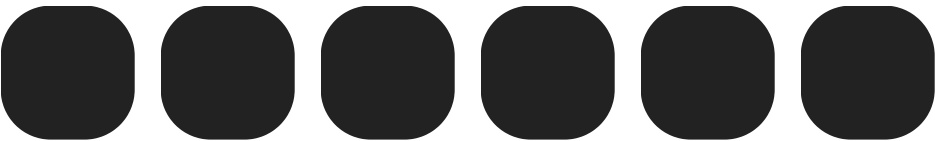
Mr. Mathis stated that the County offices will be closed the next two Mondays, February 12th for Lincoln's birthday and February 19th for Washington's Birthday/President's Day. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. following a holiday.

Motion to enter into closed session at 11:14 a.m. by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - January 29, 2024

FEBRUARY 05TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - January 29, 2024

The Stoddard County Commissioner meeting started their weekly Monday morning with a prayer over the county and a Pledge of Allegiance.

BRPC Commission Block Grant Closeout Hearing

Bootheel Regional Planning Commission Block Grant Closeout Hearing made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed. The Public Hearing is open as directed. Mr. Greg Mathis, Presiding Commissioner, turned the meeting over to Mrs. Melissa Clary from the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

Bootheel Regional Planning Commission building roofing replaced, guttering, electrical, replaced some windows, new doors put in, HVAC replaced, computer lab with new hook-ups,

"There will be a public computer lab with 10 terminals," stated Lambert. "There will be a printer available."

Presiding Commissioner Mathis asked if there will be rules set up and Mrs. Lambert stated yes. At this time there is no time limit and anyone can utilize the computer.

Motion to close the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission Block Grant made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

ARPA Funds Update, Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission

Water District #2 - December 19th is the last time Mrs. Lambert has heard from Water District #2.

City of Dudley - Mrs. Lambert updated the city of Dudley with their replacement of water meters. She has spoken to Mrs. Mullins.

Ambulance District - She spoke to Chuck Kasting about the \$8,000+ that was left on the Stoddard County Ambulance District funds.

Liability Insurance Update with Alan Hedrick, Leavitt Group Insurance Company in Dexter (formerly County Wide Insurance)

"The insurance industry is in a harder market than in year past driven by cost repair, number of losses, and catastrophes (not in our area), but in other areas," explained Hedrick. "You are looking at an 18% increase overall. It is a significant increase on this size of the premium."

"We did try additional market places for you. We had two declines and one that felt they didn't have enough time to get their information in to us," continued Hedrick.

In the last four years \$227,000+ in reserves brought about and \$69,000+ paid out on claims," stated Hedrick.

Hedrick went on to say that employee manuals, policies and procedures in place and having them available can prevent claims in the future. We have requested these items from Travelers, but haven't been able to obtain them.

Commissioner Stewart asked about the Earthquake Insurance and there is about 2.5 million and the County has ascertained Earthquake insurance from an outside source as well in April of last year.

Commissioner Jarrell asked about the policies and procedures are needing to be given to the insurance company and the response was yes, not just the handbook but the policies and procedures for example the Sexual Harassment policy or the use of cell phones while driving are good examples of policies that should be in place.

There is no need to bid out the insurance as it hasn't been four years since the last bid.

They also do not need to file a motion to accept the new increase, the Commission can just sign the voucher and a check be written for the liability insurance.

Motion to accept the minutes from January 22, 2024 made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the closed session minutes from January 22, 2024 made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and

motion passed.

Beau Bishop, EMA Director

Storm Sirens that were approved through FEMA. I have received two bids. Bid opening was on January 7, 2024 at the Stoddard County Ambulance District building.

Three new storm sirens and upgrades to the software for setting off the sirens.

Outdoor Warning Consultants - \$169,207.00 "We currently have now and are electronically sirens. We can also have voice recordings."

Table Rock Alerting Systems - \$129,710.00 "They use century sirens and are electro-mechanical sirens. This does not allow for voice recordings."

All the software will work together on both systems. Battles Communications handles the maintenance on the sirens.

Motion to allow Beau Bishop to accept the Table Rock Alerting Systems at \$129,710.00 made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Radios paid for from the ARPA Funds

All 16 radios have been delivered to Battles and are getting programmed. "I will be keeping up with the radios and will have a spreadsheet showing who has the radio. Also that since these radios are county property then I will have a letter to the recipient of the radio to sign and I will keep up with those as well."

RADAR OMEGA Project - Price per camera 3 year contract for \$5,000. Bishop will get a formal request or invoice from the Radar Omega for the project.

Motion to enter into closed session at 11:05 a.m. made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - January 22, 2024

JANUARY 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - January 22, 2024

The Stoddard County Commission began their regular meeting with a prayer over the county and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Hearing

While the Budget Hearing was in process, Commissioner Carol Jarrell made the comment that the Public Hearing Notice was not in the Dexter Statesman on January 10th as required by law.

"I reached out to the Attorney General's office and said that they could not give an opinion," commented Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis. "They stated they would

reach out to the other office within the Attorney General's office and get clarification. We did proceed to approve the budget as no one come in and asked any questions about the budget."

"If anything else needs to be done we will do that," stated Mathis. "The Budget was approved and passed."

Rebecca Gratton, City Clerk for the City of Dudley

Gratton produced a "Letter to request ARPA Funds" from the Mayor of the city of Dudley, Lucille Mullins.

"We have been working with Katelyn Lambert, of the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission," stated Gratton. "This request is for water meters."

The 3 bids included in the letter:

IMCO - \$62,524.05 - does not include installation, system training, or plastic lids for the meter boxes.

Midwest Meter - \$55,570.00 - Includes installation, system training and plastic lids for the meter boxes. These items are necessary fore the city to ensure the proper installation.

Core & Main - \$46,238.62 - Does not include installation, system straining, or plastic lids for the meter boxes, but does offer software training.

The letter goes on to say that replacing their water meters is not just a necessary expense, but also a strategic investment in the future of Dudley. "This project will have a positive impact on residents, environment, and the city's financial well-being. We are confident that funding this initiative aligns with Stoddard County's commitment to supporting infrastructure improvements and sustainable water resource management within its communities."

On the detailed spreadsheet from previous year, the City of Dudley, was not on the initial listing. The paperwork had been misfiled. Loflin of SthowMe Time and Lamber of BRPC found the paperwork while auditing the files. It was unfortunate that the city of Dudley did not get approved for funding sooner.

Motion to accept and approved the funding of \$55,570.00 to be paid to the city of Dudley for water meter replacement made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Mathis instructed Gratton to turn in the invoices etc to Katelyn Lambert as soon as possible and then a check could be processed.

Old Business:

Motion to accept the December Ads and Abates made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

2024 Budget Appropriation Order must be signed within 5 days after approving the budget by the Commission. It will need to be sent into the Missouri State Auditors office.

Motion to sign the 2024 Budget Appropriation Order made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three votes yes and motion passed.

You can find the requirements RSMO 51 - 60 online if you are interested in running or just want to see what the qualifications are for each elected official.

Cecil Weeks, County Clerk - Election 2024

Filing for County offices start at 8 a.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2024 and ends on March 26th at 5 p.m. in the Clerk's Office.

Public Administrator, Sheriff, Collector/Treasurer, Coroner, Associate Commissioner District 1, Associate Commissioner District 2, Assessor and Surveyor for Stoddard County are all positions that will be on the ballot in the primary in August 2024.

Township County Committee man or Committee Woman Republican Central Committee and Democratic Central Committee - cost is \$100 to the committee

Motion to accept the meeting minutes from January 16, 2024 made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the closed session meeting minutes from January 16th made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

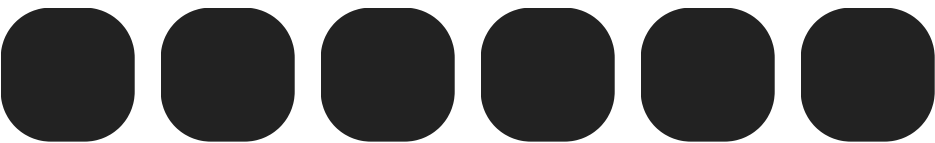
Motion to accept the minutes from the budget hearing from January 18th made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to enter into Closed Session at 10:57 made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Tuesday, January 16, 2024

The Stoddard County Commission meeting began with a prayer by Presiding Greg Mathis and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Mayo - Stars and Stripes Museum/Stoddard County Historical Society.

"In 1964 we organized the Stoddard County Historical Society," commented Mayo. "We purchased the old General Baptist Church and put our museum in there. Over the years we have had to put a roof on it and do other things like fix the basement. We had to sell the old church because the floor was going out and we did sell the church to Bloomfield Schools. They have since torn it down and built a park lot."

"We bought another church and put a new roof on it, but the floor was also falling through so we got another building downtown, but we have a young lady wanting to rent it," continued Mayo. "Do you have any ideas where we can relocate our museum. We have a lot of papers, important historical papers."

"Is there anyway the County can help us out?" asked Mayo. "We want to stay as close to the Courthouse as we can. We are just asking if you all have any ideas or any vacancies?"

Mathis asked, "Is this for just storage or for opening to the public?"

Mayo went on to explain that the membership is getting old and we want to get it set up to turn over to the younger people. We are getting in a bind to find a location.

"We need a place for storage at this time with heat/air." stated Mrs. Sue Mayo. "We have a lot of cemetery books that were printed in 1992 and lots of paper that needs to be stored."

"We have a good history and we should preserve it," Jim Mayo went on to explain. "We need to preserve it. History grows every day and we are trying to save it. It is time for our younger people to take it over, but we want to make it strong for them."

"I think the upstairs of the courthouse would be a good spot," stated Mayo. "The old courthouse would be a great place for the history. Of course we would like to put an elevator in if we open it as a museum."

Commissioner Mathis stated that there is storage area; however it a little messy right now, but he would have to discuss it with some other elected officials as they store important documents in there as well. He would get back to Mr. Mayo as to whether or not that was

a viable option.

Josh Speakman, County Collector/Treasurer

Speakman discussed drainage districts and ditches that need to be cleaned out specifically in the Advance area. Those ditches in question are #1333 and #14. The Commission and Mr. Speakman discussed several ideas and would form a game plan to help with the drainage of those two ditches.

There is monies available. Per Missouri State Statute 243.260 they can combine monies to help eliminate or improve the drainage in these ditches by performing some type of clean-out.

Per MO State Statute 243.260 - Districts may contract with other districts for outlets - cost determined, how. - Drainage districts organized or incorporated under this chapter may contract with each other, and with districts organized and incorporated under any other law of this state or under the laws of other states, for such outlet or outlets as the one may need and the other can furnish on such terms as may be deemed to be just and fair. The cost of obtaining such outlet or outlets to be paid as other expenses of the district for making improvements. If the districts cannot agree upon the compensation to be paid for the outlet, the district supplying the outlet, by action in the circuit court of the county wherein the district for which the outlet is supplied is organized, may recover from such district fair and just compensation for supplying the outlet. Any compensation received by the district shall be applied to improving its ditches or levees or reducing taxation or indebtedness.

Ads and Abates were postponed until next week.

Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from January 8, 2024 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and minutes approved.

On Thursday, Budget Hearing will be at 9 a.m. for one hour per Commissioner Mathis.

Motion to enter into closed session at 11:03 a.m. made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell and seconded by Commissioner C.D.Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Stoddard County Hazardous Mitigation Plan Approved

JANUARY 09TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Hazardous Mitigation Plan Approved

The Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission, or BRPC, received word that the Stoddard County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2023 has been approved.

Approval was designated by State Emergency Management Agency, or SEMA, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. Updates are required every five years for participating communities to be eligible for certain types of FEMA funding. SEMA estimates that every dollar spent on mitigation planning saves \$8 in disaster recovery funds.

The planning process began with a kick-off planning meeting in February 2023. A series of three meetings was held in Bloomfield, Missouri, in the County Commissioners' Chambers. County commissioners, mayors, city clerks, emergency personnel, economic developers and the public were all invited to be part of the update process, voicing their opinions on what mitigation projects should be prioritized with limited resources. A public survey gathered opinions from others throughout the county.

Beau Bishop, Stoddard County Emergency Management Director commented on the importance of the plan.

"Hazard Mitigation planning reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters," Bishop said. "All applicable stakeholders within a community should be represented during this process. BRPC provided a very thorough planning process which ensured that all hazards were considered and discussed, and that all voices were heard. In doing so, they took the lead in completing a comprehensive Mitigation plan for the citizens of Stoddard County."

Besides the content of the plan, the process of updating it created an opportunity for BRPC to meet with county and community leaders as well as stakeholders.

Jim Grebing serves as the executive director of BRPC.

"Hosting community meetings allowed members of our staff to meet with community members and hear their needs," Grebing said of the process. "We look forward to assisting communities with projects they designated themselves to make their communities safer and more resilient to natural hazards."

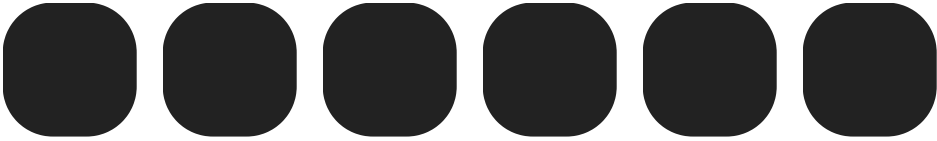
Stoddard is the first of six county plans that will be updated in the coming months in the Missouri Bootheel. The plan will serve as a resource to communities for years to come. To access a copy of the plan, go to <https://bootrpc.com>.

Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission exists to promote and support the economic development of the region and to guide local units of government in a coordinated effort to develop the region in a way which would best promote public health, safety, general welfare and economic prosperity in accordance with existing and future needs. This is accomplished by providing technical assistance to cities, counties, businesses and other development organizations in the area, and by networking extensively with state and federal resource agencies. BRPC works with Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott and Stoddard Counties.

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