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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Dental Extraction Program, ARPA Update, and SB190 Info

APRIL 22ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Dental Extraction Program, ARPA Update, and SB190 Info

The Stoddard County Commissioners opened their meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis. He prayed for Brent Stidham, who lost his grandmother, and the family of Mrs. Lisa Reitzel, Administrator Cape Girardeau County. He also said that we needed a little rain for the farmers.

Kevin DeArman, Dental Minister for Smiles of Hope

"This is the 14th year for the Smiles of Hope in Stoddard County. We host a volunteer dental extraction clinic and have extracted over 16,000 teeth for 9,000 people. Cost is \$10. Veterans and inmates are free. Stoddard, Scott and Mississippi counties are locally served. A new building is being built with over 30 chairs to serve our area," stated DeArman.

Sheriff Hefner has asked the Commission that a dental clinic be set up at the Stoddard County Jail. This will be the first type of its kind.

Dr. William Kane, Dexter, is the chief dentist and is responsible for the clinic. There are a few hurdles would have to be worked out, but they are not that huge for instance the sterilization of instruments, the x-ray machine which is hand-held certified by the state and a certified person to run the machine. There would be no expenditure on the part of the county except the hand-held x-ray machine and having a place within the jail to place a chair. Cold sterilization would be used on the instruments so that eliminates other

equipment.

"We have everything to donate as far as a chair, the instruments, etc," stated DeArman. "We are covered in liability under the Smiles of Hope so there would be no liability on the County."

"The biggest thing that the public needs to know is that we are not spending tax dollars, but using the commissary money that the inmates have actually built up by purchasing items that they need. This is money that the inmates spend while inside the jail and can only be used for the inmates."

The cost of an x-ray unit is about \$7,000 - \$8,000.

Inmates are shackled hands and feet when they have to deliver them to the Smiles of Hope. This would eliminate the cost of deputies having to take them and the expense of the gas and time as well. There are no narcotics given for pain only amoxicillin as the antibiotic and over the counter ibuprofen.

The Commissioners made no immediate decision on the Smiles of Hope Clinic, but would like to include Dr. Kane in the discussion.

Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission

GoSEMO Fiber gave 101 pages of supporting documents for their rural Puxico project and are cleared for the \$229, 467.20 and can now be paid. They have \$1 million pre-approved in ARPA funds for rural Puxico. This will be their first draw on that amount.

Motion pay SEMO Electric Cooperative \$229,467.20 from the ARPA funds for their fiber optic project in the rural Puxico area made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

City of Puxico has requested \$5,748.00 for fire gear from ARPA funds.

Motion to reimburse the city of Puxico \$5,748.00 for fire gear out of ARPA funds that was previously approved by the Commission made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, and seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Water District #6 gave cancelled checks to Mrs. Lambert and they are approved to be paid for their \$12,000 of ARPA funds.

Motion to approve the County Distribution Agreement for ARPA funding for Water District #6 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion approves the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement Commissioner and Water District #6 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to reimburse Water District #6 in the amount of \$12,000 for the month of March and February to Cas Construction from the ARPA funds made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Jeremy Billington, Billington Insurance Agency, Inc.

"I have a different TPA now and I just picked up the city of Cape Girardeau this year," commented Billington. "I am just stopping by and letting the Commission know that if there is anything I can do or take a look at I would gladly do that."

"I have a couple direct contracts with Southeast Hospital now Mercy, and that direct contracting is to remain in place. I have Cape School District as well," continued Billington.

He is currently using Crescent Health Solution based out of Asheville, North Carolina as his new TPA, a third party administrator, not-for-profit company.

"When we were with them before, if you had a major health issue you could go off the insurance as an employees and go onto the ACA MarketPlace/Obamacare and that would not hurt the overall cost of the healthcare plan to the County. They sweetened the pot by paying the deductibles, etc." commented Mathis.

"Health Insurance is just about shifting the cost to somewhere else, but to who?

Discounts are in place at different hospitals" stated Billington. "Doctors can charge a million dollars, but healthcare is nothing more than shifting costs. The doctor knows he won't get that million dollars, he may only get \$250. Yes we still do some of that shifting to the ACA MarketPlace/Obamacare Insurance Plans."

Josh Speakman, Stoddard County Collector/Treasurer Discussed the MACA Convention

"They discussed SB190 bill at the Conference," commented Speakman. "There are more questions than anything. There will be a lot of work on the County if this passes and no one is sure how it will look and how it will be even implemented."

"Not sure yet what Stoddard County is doing with regards to supporting the SB 190 bill," commented Mathis. "There will be additional cost to the Collector's office. There is about a \$30,000 cost just for the software alone plus maintenance for each year. It will take one

person full time to do title work research for those 62 and older that own their own home."

Here is the proposed bill....

PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

This act authorizes a county to grant a property tax credit to eligible taxpayers residing in such county, provided such county has adopted an ordinance authorizing such credit, or a petition in support of such credit is delivered to the governing body of the county and is subsequently submitted to and approved by the voters, as described in the act.

Eligible taxpayers are defined as residents who: 1) are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits; 2) are the owner of record of or have a legal or equitable interest in a homestead; and 3) are liable for the payment of real property taxes on such homestead.

The amount of the property tax credit shall be equal to the difference between the real property tax liability on the homestead in a given year minus the real property tax liability on such homestead in the year in which the taxpayer became an eligible taxpayer.

A credit granted pursuant to this act shall be applied when calculating the eligible taxpayer's property tax liability for the tax year. The amount of the credit shall be noted on the statement of tax due sent to the eligible taxpayer by the county collector.

The amount of property tax credits authorized by a county pursuant to this act shall be considered tax revenue actually received by the county for the purposes of calculating property tax levies. (Section 137.1050)

This provision is identical to a provision in HCS/SB 247 (2023) and is substantially similar to SB 715 (2022) and to a provision in SS/SCS/SB 133 (2023), as amended, SS/SB 540 (2023), as amended, and SS#2/SCS/SB 649 (2022).

RETIREMENT BENEFITS INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

Current law allows taxpayers with certain filing status and adjusted gross income below certain thresholds to deduct 100% of certain retirement and Social Security benefits from the taxpayer's Missouri adjusted gross income, with a reduced deduction as the taxpayer's adjusted gross income increases. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, this act allows the maximum deduction to all taxpayers regardless of filing status or adjusted gross income. (Sections 143.124 and 143.125)

These provisions are identical to SB 448 (2023), SB 241 (2023), HB 662 (2023), HB 1206 (2023), SB 871 (2022), HB 2853 (2022), SB 157 (2021), SB 847 (2020), and HB 1725 (2020), and to provisions in HCS/SB 247 (2023), and are substantially similar to SB 585 (2023), HB 156 (2023), and HB 456 (2023), and to provisions in HCS/SS#3/SCS/SB 131 (2023).

Speakman also asked about the Juror Pay that he presented to the Commission at a previous meeting. The Commission is still researching the idea.

Dee Loflin, ShowMe Times

Mrs. Loflin asked that the Minutes from April 1, 2024 be amended as they are not correct. with regards to a discuss she had with the Commission over Vacation Pay for County employees. It was not about FMLA which is Family and Medical Leave.

Motion to amend the Minutes from April 1, 2024 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by C.D.Stewart. Mathis is abstaining since he wrote the paragraph. Jarrell and Stewart voted yes.

Motion to accept the Open Session Minutes from April 8, 2024 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, April 8, 2024

APRIL 12TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, April 8, 2024

The Stoddard County Commissioners began their meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer for those traveling to the area to watch the solar eclipse and the law enforcement to handle all the influx of people in the area.

Loyd Rice, GoSEMO Fiber Internet

"I have submitted our first invoice for the Puxico rural internet that was part of the \$1 million ARPA funds already approved," stated Rice.

The total invoice is for \$229,467.20.

He also updated the Commission. There have been 12 miles of duct complete and 6 miles of fiber pulled through this duct. Also Asherville is getting their lines put in and service will be available soon as well.

Official Election Update, Cecil Weeks, Stoddard County Clerk

Normal for the April election about 11% of the Stoddard County registered voters came out to the polls.

All the votes were certified on Friday, April 5, 2024.

Sewer Project in Advance

Advance City Mayor wanted to change the ARPA request. He wants to move about \$11,500 to purchase a sewer camera to help identify issues perform inspections.

"There are 300 feet from manhole to manhole and this camera system can go 400 feet," stated Daniel Seger, Advance City Mayor.

Motion to transfer ARPA funding from a previously requested area to the \$11,492.00 to purchase sewer camera pending approval from Katelyn Lambert, BRPC made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commission Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Andy Holden, Sheriff's Department

Notified on Friday, the First Responders Equipment Grant, Awarded \$183,600 on the grant, it is a 50% match or you can use in-kind matching.

"We have enough in-kind match so there is no more to add to this grant," stated Holden. "Which is very good for us."

It will cost around \$91,800 to purchase new digital extenders for our radios in the vehicles. "I believe we have to bid this project out since it is over \$12,000," commented Holden.

"We have extenders now in the vehicles; however the ones we currently have are analog and the new digital extenders will be safer option and more up-to-date," explained Holden.

Holden will advertise for bid in the Bernie Banner this week.

Motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$91,800 from the MO Dept of Public Safety made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell and seconded by Commissioner C.D. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Other Business:

Motion to accept Amy Haas to both the Industrial Development Authority of Stoddard County Board Member and Foundation Board of Stoddard County Board member made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart and seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the Ads and Abates for March 2024 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the April 1st Regular Meeting Minutes made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

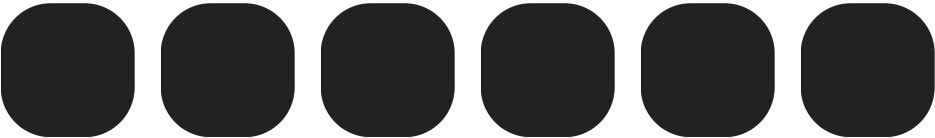
Motion to accept the April 1st Closed Session Minutes made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.d. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to close the regular open meeting and enter into a closed session made by Commissioner Stewart at 11:38, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, April 1, 2024

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, April 1, 2024

The Stoddard County Commission meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis Monday, April 1, 2024 in Bloomfield.

Mother to Mother Program - Theresa Overall

The Stoddard County Commissioners signed a Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation today, April 1, 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell to adopt the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three Commissioners voted yes and the proclamation passed.

Other events planned are a Community Pinwheel Walk on April 13th at 10 a.m. - Noon at West Park in Dexter, MO. No registration is needed. Wear blue and enjoy the free donuts and drinks, face painting and more! There will be vendors on hand with information. You might even win a prize.

The event is sponsored by the Stoddard County Family Resource Center and Dexter Community Regional Healthcare Foundation in partnership with the Missouri Prevention Program and Dexter, Richland, Bloomfield Parents as Teachers Program.

According to the flyers presented at the meeting, "Preventing child abuse is a community effort and there are many ways to get involved. The Community Pinwheel Walk is a great way to raise awareness about child abuse prevention and show solidarity with survivors of abuse."

Bill Aslin, City of Bloomfield Mayor, Industrial Development Authority of Stoddard County Board Member and Foundation Board of Stoddard County Board Member

Aslin presented a letter to the Commission stating the following,

"This letter will inform you of my decision to retire from the above boards as the representative for the Bloomfield community effective at the Annual Meeting to be held on July 16, 2024. It has been my pleasure and honor to have served, as President, on these boards for 30 years representing the Bloomfield Community. As I end my tenure I wish to thank the present and past County Commissioners, present and past board

members, and current executive director, Peter Coutavas, for their support and service to both boards. In addition, two of our past executive directors, the late Gary Capps and the late Julian Steiner, both were instrumental in several successful projects during their tenure. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Sue Tippen for her service of over 20 years as our Assistant Director of both the IDA and Foundation Boards. Last, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to John Pruitt, Treasurer, and Janet Coleman, Secretary of their service of 28 and 29 years respectively."

I would like to recommend Amy Haas as my replacement on both boards to represent the Bloomfield Community. Amy currently serves as President of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and President of the Bloomfield City Park Board. Amy has been very instrumental in helping to secure sites for the new businesses now in Bloomfield."

"I am very saddened to hear you are resigning, but I do want to thank you for your extraordinary work you have done on the board meeting," commented Commissioner Jarrell.

"As I have told my sons there are givers and takers in our community and you have definitely been a giver," stated Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis.

"I have worked with Bill all these years and he is a true gentlemen and his priorities have always been his town and his community," stated Peter Coutavous.

Motion to accept the resignation of Bill Aslin made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

"We will take Mrs. Amy Haas name under consideration and make an appointment at the next Commission meeting," commented Mathis.

Chuck Kasting, Stoddard County Ambulance District Director

"Several months ago I brought this up with Beau Bishop, EMA Director and having been up at Perryville the last time and the influx of people who came there, I felt the need to work on this project extensively," commented Kasting.

"Stoddard County is the 10th largest county in Missouri and we have a lot of flat viewing area. We have 9 ambulances staffed on Monday, April 8th," continued Kasting.

At the current time the forecast is calling for clear skies, warm weather and beautiful viewing of the only eclipse most likely in the next 50 plus years.

"This is a very unique event in our County with totality to be around 1:50 p.m. - 1:56 p.m." Kasting stated.

All schools in Stoddard County will be in session. In Dexter, Amy James, superintendent is locking down the campus to outside viewers. They will use buses at the entrances to the campus to prevent people coming and setting up while the students are also viewing the eclipse.

Kasting encouraged all solar eclipse viewers to wear certified eye protection as the sun's rays will damage the eyes. You also can not take photos with your cell phone without a special lens cover. Once the event is complete around 2 p.m. the traffic may get heavy pretty fast with people leaving the area. Be patient and wait. There will be extra law enforcement on hand to help with traffic as well as any emergencies. Highway 60 and Highway 25 may become congested during the eclipse as people may pull over onto the side of the roadways to view the eclipse.

Ronnie Owens, PWSD #6 Bernie, MO

"We got with Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission, and she stated we might qualify for ARPA Funds for reimbursement for locates for GoSEMO Fiber," commented Owens.

Owens presented a typed official request. "PWSD #6 located in Southwest Stoddard County would like to request \$12,000 from ARPA funds. During the months of February and March PWSD #6 was billed \$2,999.00 and \$9,034.00 respectively. The bills were from Cas Construction, who is in good standing with the State of Missouri. The bills were for the locates and repairs due to the new GoSEMO Fiber optic Project. These expenses were not foreseen and were not included in our budget."

Motion to allocate \$12,033.00 from ARPA Funds for Water District #6 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to amend the allocation of \$12,033 from ARPA Funds for Water District #6 to \$12,000 due to procurement arrangements via text from Katelyn Lambert made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed. Since it is a reimbursement only \$12,000 can be allocated.

Beau Bishop, Director Stoddard County Emergency Management Agency

Bishop has requested that the Commission approve a cyclone Port Maintenance Plan Agreement with SDS Weather LLC for the Omega Radar system in Stoddard County.

The cost is \$5,000 for three year contract.

There will be eight active cameras available for viewing along with weather data in Advance, Bell City, Bernie, Bloomfield, Cyrus, Dexter, Essex and Puxico. The start date would be 2024 through 2027. This is a one time fee of \$5,000 for the enactment of this 3 year plan.

Motion to allows the EMA Director to enter into a contract with SDS Weather LLC for three year maintenance Plan for \$5,000 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D.Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Update on the Siren Project:

The new siren was supposed to be installed last week; however the Chalk Bluff Cemetery siren is not in the correct location." stated Bishop. "Installation has been put back until I can get the necessary paperwork refiled,"

The ARPA funded radios have been distributed. "Everyone is happy to have them," commented Bishop. "I need to submit the receipt to Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission."

Carol Moreland, Stoddard County 911 Services

Presiding Commissioner Mathis received a letter from Mrs. Moreland. The Commission makes Board appointments for the 911 Board; however does not oversee the Board of Directors.

"We have a board member vacancy. Gary Kitchen passed away last month. Gary was very dependable and served our county well. We would like to recommend Sandra Houtz Hickson for the unexpired term. She lives in Bloomfield and is a Nurse Practitioner in our county. She was formerly a 911 Communicator for Stoddard County Ambulance and Stoddard County Sheriff's Office. She is ver familiar with emergency services. She is a great person focused on serving our County. The unpaired term ends December 31, 2025. House Bill 816 states we must have six members to represent public safety agencies. We have those covered and need a private citizen in the Bloomfield area."

Motion to appoint Sandra Hickson to the Stoddard County 911 Services Board made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Other Business:

Motion to accept the regular session meeting minutes from March 25, 2024 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

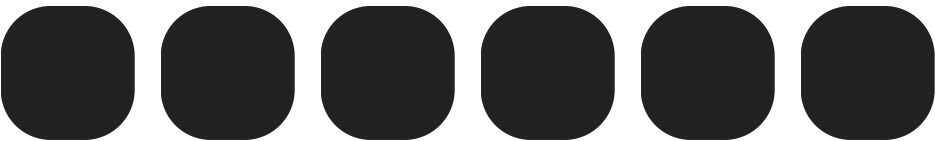
Motion to accept the closed session meeting minutes from March 25, 2024 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to enter into closed session due to a personnel issue in the Stoddard County Sheriff's Office at 11:30 a.m. made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Stoddard County Commissioners Sign Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

APRIL 01ST 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commissioners Sign Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

The Stoddard County Commissioners signed a Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation today, April 1, 2024.

Whereas, children are vital to our county's future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets;

Whereas, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

Whereas, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

Where, communities that provide parents with social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children, ensure all children grow to their full potential;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Therefore, the Stoddard County Commission does hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Motion made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell to adopt the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three Commissioners voted yes and the proclamation passed.

Other events planned are a Community Pinwheel Walk on April 13th at 10 a.m. - Noon at West Park in Dexter, MO. No registration is needed. Wear blue and enjoy the free donuts and drinks, face painting and more! There will be vendors on hand with information. You might even win a prize.

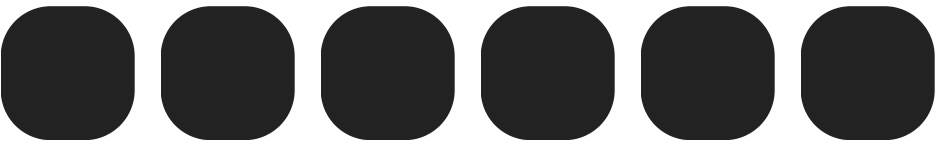
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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - March 25, 2024

MARCH 26TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - March 25, 2024

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

Old Business:

ARPA Funds

Motion to pay \$11,500 to the city of Puxico for the new roof for the Puxico Library which was already approved out of the ARPA Funds made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D.Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

New Business:

Star Acres Subdivision

A new subdivision called Star Acres located on Shoplot Lane in Liberty Township has been newly created.

Motion to accept the plat for Star Acres located on Shoplot Lane in Liberty township made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Other Business:

Canine Death Investigation Update - No updates at this time per Presiding Commission Greg Mathis and Sheriff Carl Hefner.

ADA Documentation Update - Document for the ARPA Funds has been signed by Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis and submitted to Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

Juror Pay Increase Update: Commissioner Greg Mathis stated, "I will get input from the three judges regarding Jurors Pay." At the previous Commission meeting Josh Speakman had requested that the pay for jurors be raised.

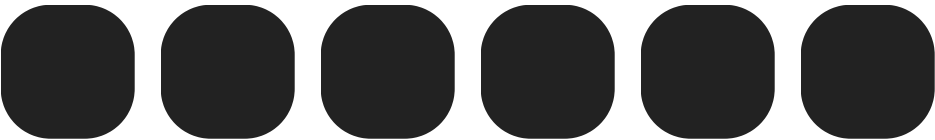
Motion to accept the minutes from March 18, 2024 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to go into Closed Session made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart at 11:02 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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