



Christian County Commission

100 West Church St, Room 100
Ozark, MO 65721

January Term

<http://ChristianCountyMO.iqm2.com>

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, January 22, 2015

9:20 AM

The Christian County Courthouse

I. Convene

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM by Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ray Weter	Presiding Commissioner	Present	
Bill Barnett	Western Commissioner	Present	
Vacant Position	Eastern Commissioner	Excused	
Cheryl Mitchell	Assistant	Present	
Julia Maples	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Norma Ryan	Chief Deputy County Clerk	Present	

II. Agenda

Motion/Vote - 9:23 AM Christian County Commission

Discussion - Approve Agenda

The meeting was attended by Commission Secretary Cheryl Mitchell, Judy Dollarhite, Hollis Overall, Lynn Kempen, Robert Palmer, Jim Billedo, Rance Duffy, and David Widner.

Commissioner Weter said the discussion about renovation will be regarding soliciting RFQ.

Commissioner Weter entertained a motion to approve the agenda for January 22, 2015.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Barnett, Western Commissioner
SECONDER:	Ray Weter, Presiding Commissioner
AYES:	Ray Weter, Bill Barnett, Vacant Position

Motion/Vote - 9:25 AM Kay Brown-County Clerk

Minutes & Financials Approval - Approve Minutes & Financials

The meeting was attended by Commission Secretary Cheryl Mitchell, Judy Dollarhite, Hollis Overall, Robert Palmer, Lynn Kempen, Jim Billedo, Rance Duffy and David Widner.

The Commission met to approve any minutes or financials.

There are no minutes or financials to approve.

Motion/Vote - 9:30 AM Christian County Commission

Discussion - Renovation Discussion

The meeting was attended by Commission Secretary Cheryl Mitchell, Judy Dollarhite, Hollis Overall, Robert Palmer, Lynn Kempen, Paulette Overall, Jim Billedo, Rance Duffy, Amelia Wigton and David Widner.

The Commission met to discuss the renovation of the Judicial Building and the question of whether to advertise for a RFQ.

Commissioner Weter said Travis Tindell of nForm Architecture attended a previous meeting and indicated he would like to offer his services for renovation of the justice center. To do this it will require a RFQ and bid this out. Commissioner Weter said if we are going to do this, time is of the essence and we need to begin to solicit for these services. Bill said he would like to hear from the audience. Robert Palmer said at the last meeting he said good planning is money well spent. He would suggest that the citizens committee be given the opportunity to come up with ideas that might benefit the present situation and those be put together prior to soliciting outside services. Bill said Travis said he would work with the Task force. Ray said we have until February 15 to decide on a task force. It would be helpful to have someone waiting in the wings to be ready to talk to the task force. He would like to have that resource in place. Robert said you can move forward. Hollis said the RFQ is not to say you have to award. If we need it we have done our homework ahead of time. Ray asked how do we phrase that. Jim Billedo said this is something that as far as the remodeling of the facility that will have to be done. The people will have to have that background to be able to advise on that portion. Ray said to have the county attorney prepare a statement to advertise for a RFQ for candidates to participate in the remodeling of the judicial facility. Robert Palmer said the building is going to have to be remodeled. That may be a band aid. Ray said the proper phrase is someone will need to relocate and they will have to accommodate. Ultimately we want to put the new courtroom in the facility. Short of building a new facility someone will need to move and relocate others within the building. David Widner asked how much is this going to cost. Ray said he doesn't know. We might get a half a dozen candidates and we will need to interview. Paulette Overall asked if Travis did the renovation of the existing building. Ray said he provided the oversight and coordination. Paulette asked if they do new buildings or just renovations? Her concern is if this is going to be a band aid. Ray said it is nForm Architecture and they are qualified to do new and remodeled. Bill said Bates and Associates did the initial building and they have plans of shutting off roads and adding on to the west side of the building. There should be a picture of the design in the vault. Judy Dollarhite asked if Travis would analyze the building when we have the planning and zoning to do the work. The architectural firm would do the work. Why do we need another individual if we are hiring a qualified architecture. Robert Palmer asked first you have what you are going to build. First you have to have someone to design. Do they have engineering or just architecture design. Are we going to try to combine or are we going to have two firms? Ray said he doesn't see how we can make decisions until we see qualifications. Judy asked if we are going to piggyback the same firm doing the renovation doing the construction on a new facility. Ray said no. Judy asked if there would be discussion of the third floor of the historical courthouse. Ray said he doesn't know who he would move. Judy asked about the old jail cells. Ray said juvenile still uses some of them. Bill

said he doesn't know where else you would go on the third floor except the cells. Ray said there is nothing to vote on today, just the discussion is helpful. He does know at some point we need to get a credentialed firm to look at things and tell us what is possible. Lynn said the citizens committee is going to be put off until February 15. You are looking for quotes before the committee is chosen.

Motion/Vote - 10:03 AM Christian County Commission

Discussion - Signing of CART Agreements 2015 Sales Tax

The meeting was attended by Commission Secretary Julia Maples, Judy Dollarhite, Hollis Overall, Paulette Overall, Robert Palmer, Lynn Kempen, Jim Billedo, Mayor Clint Ellingsworth, Scott Grider, C2 Supervisor Brent Young, Highway Administrator Miranda Beadles and David Widner.

The Commission met to sign the CART 2015 Sales Tax Agreements. This is between the Special Road Districts and the County.

Robert Palmer asked about the funds going to C1 and C2. Julia said this is cart funds not sales tax.

Commissioner Weter entertained a motion to approve the signing of the CART Sales Tax Agreements for 2015 with the Special Road Districts.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Barnett, Western Commissioner
SECONDER:	Ray Weter, Presiding Commissioner
AYES:	Ray Weter, Bill Barnett

Motion/Vote - 10:30 AM Christian County Commission

Discussion - Task Force Committee Discussion

The meeting was attended by Commission Secretary Cheryl Mitchell, Judy Dollarhite, Hollis and Paulette Overall, Robert Palmer, Lynn Kempen, Jim Billedo, David Widner, Sheriff Joey Kyle, Andy Arndt, Roger and Laura Umphenour, Bob Rubino, Dave Stalder, Kent Stalder, Chris Guise, and Anita Jones. Headliner arrived at 10:59.

The Commission met to discuss the Task Force Committee. This is a continuation of how to put together a group of citizens to brainstorm the accommodations for a second circuit judge. It is a controversial issue because it will involve an expense to the county. It is a continuing subject. Commissioner Weter caught up the new citizens in the audience with the prior decisions of the previous meetings. It is the desire of the Commission to have this chosen by February 15 and have decisions made by 2016 for the 2017 Judge. Cheryl said we are up to 33 names. Ray said how do we decide who the 15 are out of the ones signed up. The important thing is there is a representation of the entire county. It will be a little problematic getting an even representation. At the end of the day the decision making process stops here. We need to make sure the county commissioners have some representation in this task force. If there is a caucus, that is

fine but he wants to make sure that he and Bill have some picks on there. Ray had a suggestion made of goals and objectives. Conduct interviews, processes necessary, a list of recommendations on how to accommodate a new judge to the commission. The county is separated into 7 regions. Here is where the rubber meets the road. How many members of the 15 committee are going to be selected by Bill and himself in total with the rest of the group in a caucus fashion selecting the others. They will have to consider the geographic location of the applicants. Ray thinks it is worked out except how many picks the commission gets. Judy Dollarhite said to her the task force means picked by the citizens not handpicked by the commission. She asked Bill if he agrees with Ray. Laura Umpenhour said one person one vote because they want to make sure they stay focused. Bob Rubino said this is a republic not a democracy meaning allowing the group to select who has signed up does not represent the county. If you are going to have representation from the county you can not use the group who has signed up. Ray said he doesn't believe that is the case. Bob said if you narrow it down to the ones signed up you are not getting a good representation. Joey said you are getting the people involved in how we are going to meet the needs. The list is a request by the commission to volunteer to be on the committee. It is a representation of the people desiring to be on the committee. This is an extension of the county government to get more people involved in how it is going to be done. It is not a stacked deck. Robert Palmer said it should be a stacked deck. One deck. To come up with solutions. Get a group of people together to solve a problem. Andy asked if the task force is just focused on this one issue. Ray said yes. David Widner said we are going to divide it equally, if you are going to pick people the question is how many. One from each side of the commissioners and that way you have an equal divide. The rest of the people get picked by the group. Robert Palmer asked why we are limiting it to 15. You will not have people being able to be there at the same time. Ray said 15 people is workable. That idea came from the group. Judy said the committee would be open to anyone else that would like to serve. Word will get out. If you have a suggestion, contact these people and let them know your ideas. The general public doesn't understand. The task force will have to do a lot of educating. A town hall meeting will be important to get the word out. Lynn has found a source of revenue that will provide some funds without a lot of expense to the public. The commission can pick the facilitator. Ray said if he picks 2 and bill picks 2. Joey said if the entire commission was in session and they picked 3 that would be a majority. Bill said any way you go the commissioner picks will be talked about. Judy said then let the people pick. Joey said the majority of the people would be opposed to any tax. That is the fear of the commission that the task force would all be opposed to increased taxes. Joey said it is about a decent representation of the county and not a stacked deck. Judy said maybe some of the naysayers may be some of the biggest supporters once they understand what is going on. Joey said it is a delicate balance. We have to find a solution. We can't function. Laura asked if it was discussed about the building on 14 that is empty. Can other buildings be utilized? The lease was \$500,000 per year on that building. Ray said you have to think of proximity. The task force will discover all that . Ray said he is going to have a couple of picks. Andy said you can cut back, get grants or raise taxes. Joey said federal forfeiture will be shut down by the end of the year. Bill said Judy asked him a question and ask her to ask again. She asked if he agreed with Ray. Bill

said we all need to give and take and we won't get anywhere if we don't. Bill said what about if they both took one and they do the facilitator. That would give them 3 picks. Ray would rather have 2. Laura said Ray can pick for the commissioner not there. He can pick from the whole county and the east side. Mr. Stalder said he would have no objection of the commission picking 2 each. Ray said he thinks they could each pick 2 and not interfere with the geographic. Lynn said she is concerned about the geographic. How will that have bearing about the decision. Andy said this is the commission task force. You can pick them all if you want to. Ray said ultimately he and Bill are going to be voting on how to go forward and he hopes they have something to vote on. Hollis Overall said we are forming this whole group to address a problem that is a symptom of another problem. You have a revenue problem. You can raise taxes or cut back, if the learning curve is to learn why don't business want to come here so these problems don't continue to come up. Ray said a month ago we had a discussion about utility tax. The majority of the people that showed up were against it. Ray thought that would be less onerous. It was a tax that would be able to rescinded. If we had adopted that we would not be having this conversation. If it had raising revenue attached to it they would be opposed to it. Does he want to have people on a task force that is opposed to it without some representation from my point of view, no. Paulette Overall said we have to find the solution. The people need to get involved. Most people don't realize that spending money local will make a big difference. You teach her and she will be a stronger supporter. Joey said we have a short term solution but we have a long term problem. If we find a temporary solution it won't fix the long term. Maybe the committee can go on and see if they can fix the long term problem. Bill said he wanted the people to vote. If we put the utility tax on it won't take care of the building addition. If you would have done the utility tax we would still had to go on and ask for a tax. He is for asking the people to decide about the tax. Ray said about the utility tax is Bill is right, there might have come a time when the utility tax is not enough. You could at that time rescind and ask for another tax. Lynn said at the November meeting he is assuming everyone was opposed to the tax. It was the proposal more than the practical solution. Ray said 1/4 cent would have gone to 911 if they need to build a facility. Ray's mistake was in allowing 911 to become the focus. Lynn said that was the presentation that was given. Bill said he wants to stand up for Rance. He might not have been prepared for that answer that day. Joey said Rance is the one who found the resource, that would have been spread. 911 would have received \$240,000. What Lynn heard was it was for 911 but in hindsight we should have done a better job presenting it. Joey said they didn't anticipate that much of a resistance to it. Joey said he had approached the commission about a task force and Ray took it and wanted to go county wide. Joey said it is getting the people to see what they are facing. Ray saw the wisdom of using citizens. Judy said if you can't get the citizens to vote for it it was a wake up call for the citizens. If the commission doesn't get a stellar job of what we have to work with to the citizens, the public will have to cough up some funds. Bob Rubino asked if the task force will be charged with finding a place for the judge what will happen if we don't do it. Ray said we will be forced by the courts to take the money out of county funds. The option stands without doing anything we can find ourselves in a lot of trouble. This is under state law? Office of state courts will not allow us to say no. Ray said to Judy to be thinking about if

we were successful in getting it on the ballot, November or April we will not see any money quickly. Laura said a lot of people are sceptical about money, the task force will be an educational issue. Bob Rubino said the county has forgone revenue. He knew they have forgone levies and because of a court ruling we lost the money collected on sales tax of out of state. How much to pay the state for prisoners do we lose. Ray said it pays \$22 and it cost \$66. We are losing \$40 and have 95-100 a day on holding prisoners. Ray said we don't collect until they are found guilty. Joey said you are looking at about a million a year loss on housing state and federal prisoners. The per diem rates are \$39 but we are going to allocate 1/3 of that. Bob is only trying to bring into play about how much money we are losing. David Widner said if we don't try to solve that problem how will it get any better. Andy said we are not here to do that today. Laura asked how are we going to pick the people. Ray said he feels the commission should have some picks and then he has no problem with the participants caucusing and picking the balance of the task force and then he and Bill will pick the facilitator. Mr. Guise said how much time will they put in and how often will they meet? Ray said they will have to work out the time themselves and remember the time constraints.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was closed at 11:32 AM

The Commission is adjourned until Monday, January 26,2015.


Ray Weter

Presiding Commissioner, Ray Weter


Bill Barnett

Western Commissioner, Bill Barnett