

Christian County Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Christian County Commission met in regular session at:
The Historic Christian County Courthouse | 100 W. Church Street Room 100 | Ozark, Missouri, 65721
On the 12th day of September 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Presiding Commissioner, Lynn Morris	Highway Superintendent, Brent Young
Eastern Commissioner, Bradley Jackson	Purchasing Agent, Kim Hopkins-Will
Western Commissioner, Hosea Bilyeu	HR Benefits Coordinator, Krista Raleigh
Commission Executive Assistant, Tammy Nuckolls	Administrative Assistant, Ellen Neville-Verdugo
County Auditor, Amy Dent	Mayor of Billings, Mickey Brown
Gretchen Garrity	Tory Pegram
Tricia Huffman-Bailey	Sheriff, Brad Cole
Sheriff Executive Administrator, Alisha Chaves	County Clerk, Paula Brumfield
Payroll Clerk, Madi Raines	Lynn Lovins
Commercial Appraiser, Jeremy Burns	Treasurer, Karen Matthews
Attorney, Jack Garvey	CC Soil & Water District, Steven Phillips
CC Soil & Water District, Cody Hull	CC Soil & Water District, Carabelle Wiles
CC Soil & Water District, Sam Schavmana	Recorder, Kelly Hall

A quorum was established at 9:00 am

Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes approval of today's agenda, approval of regular session minutes from September 5th, 2023, approval of closed session minutes from September 5th, 2023, approval of work-study session minutes from August 30th, 2023, and approval of work-study session minutes from August 31st, 2023.

Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda as stated. Eastern Commissioner Jackson made the motion; Western Commissioner Bilyeu seconded the motion.

Aye: Presiding Commissioner Lynn Morris, Western Commissioner Bilyeu, Eastern Commissioner Jackson

Motion passed.

The Commissioners met with presenter Jack Garvey regarding the Opioid Settlement Update. Purdue originally, when they were sued in this action, filed for bankruptcy. Purdue really had the money to withstand this litigation. Really what's going on there is the Sackler family. There are 16 members of the Sackler family who were involved in decision-making regarding the opioid epidemic. They filed for bankruptcy to protect themselves. What they are asking the Supreme Court is that they want not only Purdue to be protected from bankruptcy, but they want themselves (all 16 of them) to be protected. Right now, there is nothing that we can do about the Sackler's and Purdue. Mallinckrodt also declared bankruptcy, and they were only going to settle for a billion dollars that was going to be shared between 45 states, attorney generals, and counties. They have backed out of this and only want to pay 30% on the dollar. It looks like this is going to be accepted. The pharmacies, Teva and Octavia, settlement, we accepted this settlement. Walmart, CVS, CVS Caremark, and Walgreens have settled in addition to Teva. The money on that is very restricted. With the pharmacies, 95% of that money must go to opioid programming or opioid-related programs, and with the Teva settlement, 85% had to go to opioid programming. You have already entered into the distributor and J&J settlement. The county has received the first two payments. The third payment should be arriving by next week. Both for J&J and the distributors. There was a hold-up,

and we have resolved this. This money is 85% restricted just to opioid programming or opioid-related programs. We have two defendants left, Optum and Express Scripts. Christian County has sued these two PBMs. The judge has ordered that cases be set for trial and that we start settlement talks. Presiding Commissioner Morris asked if there was a time limit on us spending the money. Mr. Garvey said there was no time limit. Western Commissioner Bilyeu asked if the interest be used for whatever they choose. Mr. Garvey said he thinks interest can be used for whatever; it's not restricted to that. Eastern Commissioner Jackson asked what the tracking mechanism on this 95% that goes to programming. Mr. Garvey said that they will send you a questionnaire, each settlement asking what you have done with this money. There is no audit.

The Commissioners met with presenter Sheriff Brad Cole regarding the Graphics Renewal for Ozark Printing. The contract is in place now, and we are asking for you to renew it with Ozark Printing Co. There is no increase in cost for doing business with them for another year.

Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve the graphics renewal for Ozarks Printing. Western Commissioner Bilyeu made a motion. Eastern Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion.

Aye: Presiding Commissioner Lynn Morris, Western Commissioner Bilyeu, Eastern Commissioner Jackson
Motion passed.

The Commissioners met with presenter Amy Dent regarding the 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment Discussion. We are mostly funded by sales tax. Because we have some of the best-elected officials and employees that can do more with less. The day I was sworn into office, the fund balance for payroll funds was 12.8 million dollars combined. This morning it was 20.9 million; the difference is 8.1 million in 5 or 6 years. I am recommending that the commission approve a cost-of-living adjustment to help employees catch up with inflation. The numbers I have calculated include a 15% increase in health insurance. The 5-year revenue increases across all funds that have payroll just the average total is about 1.3 million dollars, and that does not include ARPA and CARES Act Funding. I have a maximum number that will increase the payroll budget by less than one million dollars, and that percentage is 8%. Presiding Commissioner Morris said that this is a one-time cost of living adjustment. Ms. Dent said yes. The cost of living goes to everyone. With the new salary matrix, we are establishing, not all employees will get a raise. Ms. Raleigh asked if there are any caveats about coming along with this recommended COLA, are we going to be able to sustain it? What is this going to look like a few years down the line? Ms. Dent responded that in the five-year forecast, 4 1/2% now and 3% each year vs. 8% now with a freeze for a few years. It actually saves us about a million dollars. Ms. Raleigh asked if we would be looking at a freeze. Ms. Dent said yes. Ms. Raleigh asked what that freeze would entail. Ms. Dent said that there would be no new positions created. The budget that you have January 1, 2024, will be the budget you have January 1, 2025. If revenue slows down, we ask that redundant positions be left open maybe a month longer but will still backfill. Just delayed. Western Commissioner Bilyeu said that this is a cost-of-living adjustment, correct? Ms. Dent said that was correct. Western Commissioner Bilyeu asks if we have accurate numbers on what the cost of living has done in the last year, or is it tied year to year, or are we looking more in terms of the COLA as being able to move people closer to where we would like them to be. Ms. Dent said that it is the cost of living; from I believe from July 2021 to June of 2023. Discounted cost of living adjustments has already been given. This is the last jump. Western Commissioner Bilyeu said that the 8% has not been chosen because the money is there, because when you look at the cost-of-living adjustments given over the last two or three years plus this one, that we will have caught up with that cost of living that occurred during that time. Is that correct? Ms. Dent said that is correct.

Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve the COLA of 8% for 2024. Eastern Commissioner Jackson made a motion. Western Commissioner Bilyeu seconded the motion.

Aye: Presiding Commissioner Lynn Morris, Western Commissioner Bilyeu, Eastern Commissioner Jackson
Motion passed.

The Commissioners met with presenter Kim Hopkins-Will regarding Contract Renewal: Assessor's Office Software. Assessor's office software. Ulrich Software is software utilized by several departments within the county. Today, this agreement is for the Assessor's Office. The Assessor uses this software for real estate and personal property data services. This contract includes licenses and maintenance for the software. This is the first contract renewal for the vendor. The renewal will begin on September 24, 2023, through September 23, 2024. Our recommendation for the award is to Ulrich Software, Inc. the contract renewal.

Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve the contract renewal for the Assessor's office software. Western Commissioner Bilyeu made a motion. Eastern Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion.

Aye: Presiding Commissioner Lynn Morris, Western Commissioner Bilyeu, Eastern Commissioner Jackson
Motion passed.

The Commissioners met with presenter Kim Hopkins-Will/Danny Gray regarding the Contract Renewal: Assessment List Mailing. The original bid, ITB #2021-5, was awarded on September 30, 2021. This would be the 2nd renewal (year 3). This is for the Assessor's Office regarding the Assessment List Mailing for 2024 Edward J. Rice has not raised their prices for this year, except for the current postage rate. Note: The USPS has raised the postage rates several times over the last few years, including twice in 2023. Our recommendation is to renew the contract.

Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve the contract renewal Assessment List Mailing. Eastern Commissioner Jackson made a motion. Western Commissioner Bilyeu seconded the motion.

Aye: Presiding Commissioner Lynn Morris, Western Commissioner Bilyeu, Eastern Commissioner Jackson
Motion passed.

The Commissioners met with presenter Paula Brumfield regarding the Certify Tax Levy. I am here to certify these and get them on the record and to be in the minutes. You will notice on the bottom; the 2023 Assessed Valuations aren't there yet because they won't be there until I do the extended book. Then I will put those on there and resend another form to the Commissioners to show the values.

The Commissioners met with presenter Chance Phillips regarding the Christian County Soil & Water Conservation District. The district is a non-profit organization and is supported by a 1/10 of one percent Missouri sales tax that is divided equally between the state park system and soil and water districts. The support from the Department of Natural Resources is used for cost-share assistance and office operating expenses. It cannot be used for the district's rental equipment program (which is the primary source of local funds income). Cost-share assistance is provided to qualifying landowners who participate in our water quality and qualifying landowners who participate in our water quality and soil erosion prevention practices. This year we are again requesting 10,000. This funding will be spent in the areas of: Newsletters, Equipment and Maintenance, Field Days and Staff Expenses, Technical Equipment and Advertising.


Presiding Commissioner Morris entertained a motion to approve a 10,000.00 allocation for the soil & water conservation for 2023. Western Commissioner Bilyeu made a motion. Eastern Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion.


Aye: Presiding Commissioner Lynn Morris, Western Commissioner Bilyeu, Eastern Commissioner Jackson
Motion passed.


The Commissioners met regarding Communications.

- October 4th from 11:00 – 12:30 is the Employee Appreciation Lunch Fish Fry. The elected officials are paying for this out of their own pockets. No county money is being used.

This meeting adjourned at 9:45 am


Western Commissioner
Hosea Bilyeu
9-19-23
Date


Presiding Commissioner
Lynn Morris
9/19/23
Date


Eastern Commissioner
Bradley A. Jackson
9-19-2023
Date