

TERM OF COMMISSION: January Session of the January Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center
Boone County Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Kip Kendrick
District I Commissioner Justin Aldred
District II Commissioner Janet Thompson
Captain Brian Leer
Deputy Director Kristin Cummins
Boone County Counselor CJ Dykhouse
Office Administrator Victoria Walter
Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt
Senior Buyer Liz Palazzolo
Deputy County Clerk III Jodi Vanskike

Conference Call Information:

Number: 425-585-6224 Access Code: 802-162-168

The meeting was called to order at 1:30PM and roll call was taken.

Boone County Sheriff's Office

1. First and Second Reading: 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Award Acceptance

Captain Brian Leer stated this is a local solicitation and the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Columbia and the County of Boone was previously approved. Captain Leer stated they have been awarded \$42,512.00, which is consistent with the intergovernmental

agreement. Captain Leer stated the City of Columbia will receive \$25,507.20 and the County will receive \$17,004.80. He said the County intends to use the funds for a ballistic shield and a hydraulic breaching tool and the City intends to purchase portable radios.

Commissioner Aldred moved now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the acceptance of the 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), awarded to the Boone County Sheriff's Office.

It is further ordered the Presiding Commissioner is hereby authorized to sign the attached 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award, accept this grant award online, and represent the County as an Authorized Official and Chief Executive for the administration of this grant.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.
The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order #007-2025**

Community Services

2. First Reading: Agreement for Funding for Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence contract with True North of Columbia, Inc.

Deputy Director of Community Services Kristin Cummins read the following memo:

The Community Services Department requests approval for the 2025 Funding for Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence with True North of Columbia, Inc. The application was submitted by True North of Columbia, Inc. to the County of Boone through the 2025 Funding for Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence's Notice of Funding Availability. The contract will pay for shelter services for victims of domestic violence.

The contract will begin upon approval by the Boone County Commission with two contract installments made to True North of Columbia, Inc. A total of \$23,952.00 will be provided through Department number 2030 and account number 86900. The current fund balance is \$23,952.00.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

County Counselor

3. First Reading: Consultant Agreement with Sonja Boone

Boone County Counselor CJ Dykhouse stated this consultant agreement would allow some transition of corporate memory. Sonja was with the County for two terms of office as the official Public Administrator. Those eight years, combined with previous years as administrative assistant and deputy public administrator in the same office, mean she leaves with almost three decades of experience. Counselor Dykhouse stated Sonja worked in that office under Connie Hendren so she knows all of the systems and having access to her for a period of time would be very helpful for the new Public Administrator. Counselor Dykhouse stated this contract is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

IT

4. First Reading: Request Administrative Authority to Purchase Technology-Related Items for FY25

Office Administrator Victoria Walter read the following memo:

The purpose of this request is to seek administrative authority for the Information Technology Department to purchase technology-related items in FY2025 as follows:

Part 1 – Request to extend authority for the IT Department to purchase from cooperative agreements for the fiscal year 2025. The department’s authority expired on 12/31/24. Samples of cooperative agreements include the State of Missouri’s CDW-G (Computer Discount Warehouse-Government), NACo (National Association of Counties), and NASPO ValuePoint. This request has been presented to and approved by the County Commission for the past 22 years.

Part 2 – Request to extend authority for the IT Department to use the “Unanticipated Emergency Hardware” funding (Departments: 1172, 2708, 1171, 2012, 2083, 6107; Account: 92301) to replace existing technology items that fail and are not cost-effective to repair. This authority would cover equipment with a replacement cost of up to \$2,000 without additional Commission review. This allows for less interruption for our technology users and reduces the number of “spare” items to be kept as backup equipment. This request has been made and approved for the previous seven years.

Part 3 - Request to extend authority for the IT Department to purchase new assets, as needed, where the item’s total purchase price is \$999.00 or less. These purchases should not have annual operating expenses or licenses. Monitors are the best example of this need. This request has been made and approved for the previous seven years.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

Purchasing

5. First and Second Reading: Contracts and Amendments Signed by Purchasing Director for 4th quarter of fiscal year 2024

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

Attached is the list of contracts and amendments that were awarded and signed by the Purchasing Director for the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2024.

The Notice of Awards that explains the justification for award is posted on our web page under the Purchasing Department. The Bid Tabulation listing the Bidders/Offerors with pricing is also posted there. These contract documents have been added to the Boone County Clerk bid file.

Commissioner Thompson moved now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby acknowledge the attached report documenting the contracts approved by the Purchasing Director as the County's Purchasing Agent (as designated in Commission Order 114-2022) during the months of October, November, December 2024.

Commissioner Aldred seconded the motion.
The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order #008-2025**

6. First Reading: Award of Contract C000959 from cooperative contract CS242555001 for Temporary Clerical & Laborer Personnel Services with 22nd Century Technologies, Inc. – Countywide Term & Supply

Senior Buyer Liz Palazzolo read the following memo:

Purchasing requests approval for the award of contract C000959 from contract CC242555001 established by the State of Missouri as a cooperative contract Qualified Vendors List (QVL) for the purchase of temporary clerical and laborer personnel services. Consistent with the concept of a QVL and allowing for the County to have three specific vendors from whom to obtain quotes as opposed to all 43 contractors on the state's QVL, the County is establishing three contracts to be used for specific project quotes at the time a county office or department determines it needs clerical or labor support. The County has previously contracted with 22nd Century Technologies Inc. of McLean, Virginia, for this same service when pricing was contractually fixed. The labor market is such that contractors are unwilling to contract for a

specific period of time for any as-yet-to-be-determined clerical or labor support project at fixed pricing.

The contract period will run January 01, 2025, through November 30, 2025. There are two (2) one-year renewal options available.

This is a Countywide Term and Supply contract.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval

7. First Reading: Amendment #6 to contract C000123 (19-02MAY19 - FACE with the University of Missouri

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

Attached for signature is contract amendment #6 to contract C000 123 for bid 19- 02MAY19 - FACE with The Curators of the University of Missouri (on behalf of the Missouri Prevention Science Institute).

This amendment renews the contract for the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. It adds a renewal amount of \$3,600,801.38 for FACE. This contract is for the Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE) of Boone County. FACE consists of two program branches: Community-Based Services and School-Based Services. This program helps Boone County families with a child between the ages of 0-19 to have improved access to high quality mental health care.

Invoices will be paid from department 2162 - CSF Program Funding, account 71106 - Contracted Services. \$14,500,000.00 is budgeted for 2025.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval

8. First Reading: Amendment to contract C000801 - Bear Creek Affordable Housing Project with City of Columbia, a municipal corporation of the State of Missouri

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

ARPA Funding contract C000801 - Bear Creek Affordable Housing Project was approved by Commission for award to Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, a municipal corporation of the state of Missouri on June 25, 2024, Commission Order 297- 2024. The amendment

changes the expense incurred deadline to December 31, 2025, in the contract and the ARPA funding certification.

No additional encumbrance is required for this amendment from department 2983 - American Rescue Plan Act, account 84200 - Other Contracts.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

9. First Reading: Amendment #1 to contract C000721 - City Park Updates & Renovations with City of Sturgeon

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

ARPA Funding contract C000721 - City Park Updates & Renovations was approved by Commission for award to City of Sturgeon, Missouri, on February 8, 2024, Commission Order 63-2024. The amendment changes the expense incurred deadline to December 31, 2025, in the contract and the ARPA funding certification.

No additional encumbrance is required for this amendment from department 2983 - American Rescue Plan Act, account 84200 - Other Contracts.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

10. First Reading: Amendment to contract C000795 - Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements with City of Centralia

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

Boone County, Missouri received ARPA grant funding from the federal government and the County Commission engaged in an RFP process to determine ARPA funding awards. This ARPA award is for County contract ARPA Funding Subrecipient: C000795 - Sewer Line Repair and Lift Station Overhaul with City of Sturgeon, Missouri.

Contract award is for a not to exceed amount of \$300,000 and will be paid from department 2983 - American Rescue Plan Act, account 82400 - Other Contracts.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

11. First Reading: Amendment #2 to contract C000722 - Water & Sewer Infrastructure with City of Sturgeon

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

ARPA Funding contract C000795 - Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements was approved by Commission for award to City of Sturgeon on August 27, 2024, Commission Order 412-2024.

The amendment changes the expense incurred deadline to December 31, 2025, in the contract and the ARPA funding certification.

No additional encumbrance is required for this amendment from department 2983 - American Rescue Plan Act, account 84200 - Other Contracts.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

12. First Reading: Amendment to contract C000796 - Hallsville Water Infrastructure Improvements with City of Hallsville

Director of Purchasing Melinda Bobbitt read the following memo:

ARPA Funding contract C000796 - Hallsville Water Infrastructure Improvements was approved by Commission for award to City of Hallsville on June 18, 2024, Commission Order 284-2024.

The amendment changes the expense incurred deadline to December 31, 2025, in the contract and the ARPA funding certification.

No additional encumbrance is required for this amendment from department 2983 - American Rescue Plan Act, account 84200 - Other Contracts.

Commissioner Kendrick stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting with appropriate order for approval.

Commission

13. First and Second Reading: Board Appointment – Board of Adjustment

Commissioner Aldred moved now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby appoint the following:

Trynton	Board of	New Appointment	Term	Period
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Roberts	Adjustment		3 Years	January 9, 2025 through January 9, 2028
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Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.
The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order #009-2025**

14. First and Second Reading: Application for Organizational Use of the Courthouse Plaza and Chambers on 1/18/25 by Mid-Missouri Peaceworks for the People's Rally

Commissioner Thompson moved now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the application for the organizational use of the Boone County Courthouse Plaza and the Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers by Mid-Missouri Peaceworks on January 18, 2025, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm for the People’s Rally.

Commissioner Aldred seconded the motion.
The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order #10-2025**

**15. Second Reading: Calling for a Special Election on August 5, 2025 – First Read
01.07.25**

Boone County Counselor CJ Dykhouse stated he worked with Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon to look for ways to do cost containment in the administration of this special election and the results of that were not what he expected. Counselor Dykhouse stated he asked Clerk Lennon to explore the cost of doing a mail ballot election. He thought, with the number of polling places that have to be staffed with bipartisan teams and the two weeks of in-person no excuse voting that has to happen for every election, that there would be some cost savings with mail in ballots, but he was wrong. Counselor Dykhouse stated we have a vendor that does the envelopes and mail packages for traditional absentee voting by mail. We can tell by ballot tracking when it has been placed in the mail, when it has been delivered, when it has been put back in the mail to the Clerk’s office, and when it has been received by the Clerk’s office. Counselor Dykhouse stated it costs \$3.04 per ballot package. To conduct a mail-in ballot election under provisions 115, we would mail a ballot to all of the 117,172 active voters which would result in an election cost estimate of \$356,203.00. Counselor Dykhouse stated, based on Clerk Lennon’s best estimate for conducting a regular election with polling places, bipartisan election teams and deployed staff is \$200,000.00. Counselor Dykhouse stated he’s disappointed there was not a way to get the costs lower, but those are the fixed costs of running an election in a county of this size. Counselor Dykhouse stated there is potential for further cost savings with this being a county election if, sometime prior to May 27, 2025, another taxing entity in Boone County decided to place something on the August 2025 ballot. In that case, there’s a pro rata cost share between the County and the other entity, but that’s not likely. Counselor Dykhouse stated, in the administration of an election, all of the entities calling for an election pay a proportional share based upon the size of their ballot issues. Commissioner Thompson asked, “Since the initiative petition specifically stated that this should appear on the next occurring

August or November election, that's not something the Commission can ignore and put on the April ballot to avoid extra costs correct?" Counselor Dykhous stated the language in the petition that voters signed contained the language, among other things, "at the next soonest August or November Election," which removes the County's discretion to put it on the April ballot. Counselor Dykhous stated, if that hadn't of been on the petition, it could have been placed on the April ballot and shared the cost with all the municipalities. Commissioner Thompson asked, "So we don't have the discretion to do that, we are mandated to choose the next August or November election?" Counselor Dykhous stated "Yes. That is my legal opinion." Commissioner Thompson stated, last night as she was preparing to leave, she got a call from a voter in Boone County who said she had heard about this item coming before the Commission again and said she didn't understand. Commissioner Thompson stated the voter was very concerned this will raise questions about the validity of the program. Commissioner Thompson stated the voter told her she was deemed eligible for the program; she signed up for it, she is really excited about it, and she was pleased at how it was organized and implemented. Commissioner Thompson stated the voter asked her, "why are we doing something like this?" Commissioner Thompson stated the voter told her news reports talked about exemptions, so she had a long conversation with the voter about the statutory exemptions that are within the language of the statute and the voter understood those. Commissioner Thompson stated she explained that, if the voter had construction done on her home or if she was annexed into another jurisdiction that had a different tax rate, the assessment would change. Commissioner Thompson stated she explained that those two things were statutory exemptions from this program. Commissioner Thompson stated the voter then asked what else was at stake and she told the voter it seemed to her that the two things that are still out there are the blind pension fund and the voter approved bond indebtedness. Commissioner Thompson told the voter that, to her understanding, Cheri has been consistently in favor of the exemption of the blind pension fund from this program, which is constitutionally protected from this kind of program. Commissioner Thompson stated it's her understanding that the voter approved bond indebtedness is where Cheri has a difference of opinion. Commissioner Thompson stated, when she tried to explain this to the voter, she explained that the voter approved bond indebtedness is also constitutionally protected. Counselor Dykhous stated he would agree that both of these items are constitutionally protected. Counselor Dykhous stated, even in a post-Hancock world with Hancock sealing and statutory rollbacks, when you get to the levy rate calculation that is certified by the State Auditor, at the end of that algebra is a plus whatever the rate is necessary to serve as voter approved general obligation bonds. Counselor Dykhous stated, after all the caps, you get an add-on for voter approved bond indebtedness to levy whatever is necessary. Counselor Dykhous stated his legal opinion is that it is constitutionally accepted, so there were two statutory exemptions and two constitutional exceptions. Commissioner Thompson stated she's never served in the state legislature, but she has read statutes for over 40 years and never has she seen a statute that says at the bottom of it, "this statute should not be interpreted to violate the constitution." Commissioner Thompson stated she doesn't know if anyone in the state legislature has ever drafted legislation that says that, but it seems to be an understood rule of drafting of government, that a statute cannot supersede the constitution. Commissioner Thompson stated she explained to the voter on the phone that it is not in the statutory language,

it is the underpinning of our government. Commissioner Thompson stated the voter remained confused at the end of the conversation asking why we are going through this process for something that's constitutionally protected. Commissioner Kendrick stated we were the 12th in the state to adopt a program and at least seven of the eleven counties that went before us made the same constitutional exemptions. Commissioner Kendrick stated it is good to have others go before you on a new program like this so you have examples. We have examples. We became the 12th and then other counties followed suit making the same constitutional exemptions after the effective date of SB 756 that was passed in the 2024 general assembly. Commissioner Kendrick stated there are counties across the state who have made these same constitutional exemptions, and he feels good their program has been adopted and implemented and has provided tax relief to 21% of residential parcels across Boone County and can withstand legal scrutiny of current existing law. Commissioner Kendrick stated they certainly take an oath to uphold the Missouri constitution and it is their responsibility to make sure they can adopt a program they feel is within the bounds of the state constitution as well as state statute, that's certainly why they are here. Commissioner Kendrick stated debt levies are a small portion of the overall levies, so in theory what we are doing is going down a path that is a gamble. Maybe it survives, maybe there is no challenge in the future and maybe the school district or fire district don't ever choose to challenge it, and the program continues without any hitches and provides relief. Commissioner Kendrick stated, it is important to note that the vast majority of the freeze that is in place right now that people are participating in are the operating levies and are the largest portion by far. Commissioner Kendrick stated debt levies are small. Commissioner Kendrick stated we are changing one flavor of the partial freeze that the Commission feels confident is both constitutionally and statutorily in play and in balance and would withstand legal scrutiny, with a new flavor of a partial freeze that will ultimately, he would assume, be approved by voters in August and likely implemented shortly thereafter. Commissioner Kendrick stated it will ultimately be that debt levy portion being included in the program, a small portion of that ultimate credit, that he would consider a potential risk to the program. Commissioner Kendrick stated, with the risk and reward, he is a bit more conservative in his approach to that so he doesn't know if he would take that risk but here we are. Commissioner Kendrick stated we are going to go down that path and he hopes the program will continue in the future and the Commission will do what they can to ensure that it can continue.

Commissioner Thompson stated, with where they are with the language that puts this on the August ballot, with the initiative petition before them and the signatures that have been certified by the Clerk, the Commission doesn't have the authority to ignore this initiative petition despite the uncertainty it might include. Commissioner Thompson stated her paternal grandmother used to say very proudly that her family was related to Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the Treasurer. When you read the works of Mr. Hamilton, bond indebtedness is a huge piece of how governmental entities can function. Commissioner Thompson stated that was one of the pillars on which he based the ability of our federal government to survive and to grow. Commissioner Thompson stated to create this uncertainty with bond indebtedness is something that goes to the core of how a government functions. Commissioner Thompson stated the people of the State of Missouri put this into the Constitution of our state and recognize the difference between voter approved bond indebtedness and other forms of taxation. Commissioner Thompson stated we

must have certainty; bond holders must have some certainty in order for a governmental entity to survive and Mr. Hamilton recognized that when this country was being birthed. The people of the State of Missouri recognized that as they put this into our Constitution as well. Commissioner Kendrick stated, ultimately, the bond holders have to be paid so this would cause a pretty quick tax increase on everyone else because they will raise the debt levy to be able to pay back their obligations.

Commissioner Aldred moved now the County Commission, having received a petition in support of a referendum on Boone County’s senior property tax relief program signed by at least 5% of the registered voters of Boone County voting in the last gubernatorial election to be held at the next August or November election date, the certification of which from the Boone County Clerk is attached hereto and incorporated herein, the County of Boone, pursuant to RSMo Sec. 137.1050, hereby calls for an election to be held on Tuesday the **5th day of August 2025**, for the purpose of submitting to the voters the proposition contained in the following Notice of Election and Sample Ballot:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the County of Boone that the County Commission of said county has called for an election to be held in said county on the **5th day of August 2025**, from and between the hours of six o’clock a.m. and seven o’clock p.m. on said date, to vote on the proposition contained in the following sample ballot:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF MISSOURI
TUESDAY,
August 5, 2025**

Proposition 1:

Shall the County of Boone, Missouri exempt senior citizens from increases in the property tax liability to all of the taxing authorities due on such senior citizens’ primary residence?

YES

NO

Instructions to voters: If you are in favor of the question, darken the oval opposite the word “Yes”. If you are opposed to the proposition, darken the oval opposite the word “No”.

The County Clerk of Boone County is hereby authorized and directed to provide notice of and conduct the election pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 115 RSMo.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.
The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order #11-2025**

16. Public Comment

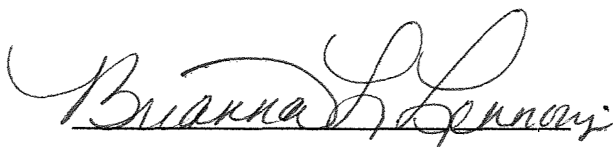
None

17. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Aldred stated he wanted to thank the Boone County Road & Bridge Department for clearing up all the ice and snow, laying down salt, plowing roads, and preparing for additional snow.

Commissioner Thompson stated that yesterday the Missouri Association of Counties Policing, Justice & Mental Health Steering Committee met and heard from Mary Quandt, who is part of the Applesseed Network. Commissioner Thompson stated Ms. Quandt has received a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to help implement a program to address something that is to begin in every state in the country as of January 1, 2025, to make certain aspects of Medicaid available for certain juveniles in detention facilities. Commissioner Thompson stated Mary is working through the Applesseed Network to get every juvenile who is detained to be signed up for Medicaid. The Steering Committee is now engaging with her to get the data to understand where kids are detained, which kids are being detained, the process that gets them there, and the process that gets them out to be able to access the federal Medicaid benefits under the program.


Attest:



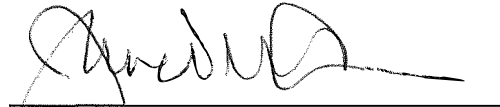
Brianna L. Lennon
Clerk of the County Commission



Kip Kendrick
Presiding Commissioner



Justin Aldred
District I Commissioner



Janet M. Thompson
District II Commissioner