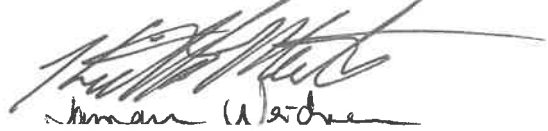


# HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2022

## MINUTES


1. The meeting of June 2, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Brigitta Gardner, Sarah Gardner, Brian Bennett, Aleia Ream with The Index and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of May 26, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the demand warrants and documents for payroll for the pay period ending May 28, 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
3. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file County Clerk Tamara Weidman's report of monthly fees collected for the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$17,346.91.
4. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for forwarded for file Prosecuting Attorney Keaton Ashlock's report of monthly fees collected for the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$530.00.
5. Public Comments:
  - The radio communications tower at the old Dollar General should be installed by a crane early next week provided the rain doesn't hold up progress.
  - There are a number of citizens complaining about pot holes and roads. With gas prices at an all-time high, the Road and Bridge department will not be jumping around on the roads, they will stay on the normal rotation.
  - Sheridan with KBRPC send a letter of resignation as she is going to work for New Growth, a part of West Central Community Action Agency.
  - Shannon with KBRPC said that FEMA changed their match requirement from 10% to 25% which is the reason for the increase on the match fund letter to create the hazard mitigation plan.
  - Shannon also asked what the Commission would take for the recycle trailers. The Commission discussed and decided they would be willing to take \$10,000 as is. Shannon will post on their social media page.
  - Hickory County's unemployment rate is 2.5%.
  - Brigitta would like the road to be closed by her house. Commissioner Breshears explained the petition process to vacate a road.
6. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz called Tier One regarding upgrading to 50 Mbps. When Tier One pitched Mitel/Nitel to the Commission, they explained it would be no problem to upgrade but you could not downgrade. Now, Nitel wants to charge a fee for a coordinated disconnect. Tier One is working on a solution.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz provided an update on the Clear Basin/ GovernMentor matter between the Collector and the Assessor. He received an email from GovernMentor with a bill for \$3,000 to create software that will convert the data Clear Basin sends the Collector.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote



Tamara Weidman


**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of June 6, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Brian Bennett, Carolyn Ream, Sue Dorman, Rebecca Richards and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of June 2, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
  
2. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file the County financial statements for the month of May 2022.
  
3. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Recorder Pamela Hutton's report of monthly fees collected for the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$8,036.50.
  
4. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith's report of monthly fees collected for the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$3,137.60.
  
5. The Hazard Mitigation plan document was tabled until Thursday's meeting so the Commissioners can speak with Sarah with Missouri Emergency Response Commission.
  
6. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Sheriff Greg Burke's reports of monthly fees collected for May 2022 for Civil Service in the amount of \$950, for CCW's in the amount of \$300, and General Revenue in the amount of \$1,761.49.
  
7. Public Comments:
  - According to the newspaper, there is another meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. before the town hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz received a quote from the Buyer's Guide to place the ad for bids on the Blackwell place at an amount of \$113.75 per week for all circulations. The Commission decided to extend the bid period to open on June 27<sup>th</sup> and award on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
8. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Carolyn Ream discussed the EMPG grant for the next fiscal year and how she increased the request to pay for a full-time director. The total request is \$68,508.88, with the County match at \$34,254.44 as the grant is a 50/50 match.
  - Missouri Emergency Response Commission would like to have consolidated districts for the LEPC boards. This change will come soon.
  - Commissioner Breshears explained he would not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow evening due to a funeral.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
Tamara Weidman


**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of June 9, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Brian Bennett, Carolyn Ream, Rebecca Richards, Brigitta Gardner, Sarah Gardner, Aleia Ream with the Index, Dennis Hutton, Marc Dye, Maurice Pitts and Deputy County Clerk Tommy Holt. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
  
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and second by Commissioner Pearson the demand warrants and documents for accounts payable for the end of May 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
  
3. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and second by Commissioner Breshears the match letter for Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission to complete the Hazard Mitigation plan for Hickory County was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
  
4. Public Comments:
  - Many present, commented on the town-hall meeting held June 6, 2022. A vote held at that meeting in favor of moving forward on feasibility study to move Judicial System to Old Dollar General Store. Presiding Commissioner Mertz stated that the matter will be placed on the agenda for Commissioner's meeting held on June 13, 2022.
  
8. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz discussed the radio communications tower at the Old Dollar General is now installed. The antennas will be installed by the end of next week.
  - Chief Bennett asked about the down time of communications when switching to new tower. Presiding Commissioner Mertz was re-assured the communications would run through surrounding towers until new tower was up and running.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz stated there were no updates on the Clear Basin and GovernMentor issue.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
James Widmer

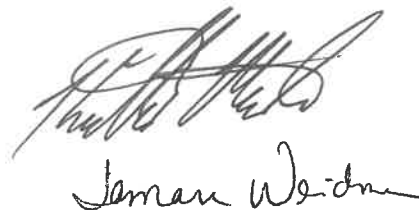
**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of June 13, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Carolyn Ream, Rebecca Richards, Brigitta Gardner, Sarah Gardner, Aleia Ream with the Index, Recorder Pamela Hutton, Billy Pitts, Anita Moss, Sarah Roach, Amber Baldwin, Trisha Romesburg, Assessor Clint Baker, Sheriff Burke, Beverly Ryan and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the minutes of the Meeting of June 9, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
  
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the proposal for N-Form Architecture to proceed with the feasibility study to renovate the former Dollar General building into a judicial center at a cost of \$10,800 for phase 1 which is the schematic design. Phase 2 – 6% of phase 1 fees will be credited to phase 2 which is the construction phase.
  
3. Carolyn Ream, Emergency Management Director, needs 2 letters from the Commission in support of a full time Emergency Management Director and an Assistant Emergency Management Director for the EMPG grant submission. Presiding Commissioner Mertz explained the Commission will appoint the position and it will be advertised for applications. The positions are also contingent on grant approval. Commissioner Pearson made the motion to approve the support letters and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote
  
4. Public Comments:
  - Several public comments were made in support of the feasibility study to renovate the former Dollar General building into a judicial center and agreed something needs to be done regarding handicapped accessibility.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz placed ads in the Sac Osage papers with the extended deadline for the Blackwell house with extra showings on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - There is an LEPC meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Blackwell house.
  
5. Matter for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Sheriff Burke commented he needs more space for interviews as well as deputy space and would appreciate consideration for an office in the Courthouse if the judicial center move takes place.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
Tamara Weidman

**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of June 16, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Brigitta Gardner, Aleia Ream with the Index, Harold Barger, Dan Wisdom and County Deputy Clerk Tommy Holt. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the demand warrants and documents for payroll for the period ending June 11, 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
3. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the additions and abatements in the amount of \$9,124.31 and \$1,337.86 respectively was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
4. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file the appointment of Shelly Aubuchon to the Library Board of Trustees for a four-year term beginning on July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2026.
4. Public Comments:
  - Harold Barger expressed his need to be paid for mowing Weableau Cemetery for past several years. Commissioner Pearson made a motion to release the CD's to the Board of the Weableau Cemetery. After lengthy discussion the motion was tabled to an unspecified later date.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz stated that the Commission will meet with N-Form Architecture Monday June 20, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at the former Dollar General to start the feasibility study to renovate the building into a judicial center.
  - Dan Wisdom introduced himself and talked about his knowledge in server weather. Mr. Wisdom will be assisting Carolyn Ream with Emergency Management on a voluntary bases with storm watches and warnings.
5. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz discussed that new communications tower should be up and running Monday afternoon.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn at 11:07 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
Dan Wisdom

**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of June 23, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Aleia Ream with the Index, Sue Dorman, Beverly Ryan, Brian Bennett, Marc Dye, Larry Senyard, Mandy with Whisper Internet and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
  
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the demand warrants and documents for accounts payable for the end of June 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
  
3. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Public Administrator's report of monthly fees collected in the amount of \$184.09.
  
4. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file the employee leave summary report for June 2022.
  
5. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the Quad-Lakes Solid Waste Management District annual membership dues for FY2023 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
  
6. Public Comments:
  - Chief Brian Bennett thanked everyone for helping on Monday on moving the repeater and building to the new tower location. The Commission also thanked Brian for his work throughout the process.
  - The radio tower has helped significantly with communications although they are not digital yet. There is still a need for better communications in the Almon Valley area East of Preston, but Presiding Commissioner Mertz feels that when we are able to go digital even this area will improve.
  - Mandy with Whisper Internet joined the meeting to talk about newly installed towers, one by Skyline school and one on HH Highway in Urbana. Future plans are for the Cross Timbers and Wheatland areas where they will be building their own towers. They offer speeds from 25 Mbps up to 400 Mbps. The Commission expressed interest to lease a space on the new radio communications tower for an internet company. She also talked about a program called ACP for low income or fixed income individuals. Qualifying individuals could qualify for a \$30 credit for internet.
  
7. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - The 911 system is currently being tested with AT&T. They will continue to test one at a time until all are up and running.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote


  
Tamara Weidman

# HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2022

## MINUTES

1. The meeting of June 27, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Sue Dorman, Marc Dye, Carolyn Ream, Rebecca Richards, Barbara Brugh, Brigitta Gardner, Sarah Gardner, Theodore Koehler and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the minutes of the Meeting of June 23, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. There were no bids received on the Blackwell property.
3. Public Comments:
  - There was a lot of storm damage after early Sunday morning storms. Jason Darby and Mark Benedict with Road and Bridge and Presiding Commissioner Mertz spent a lot of Sunday morning and afternoon clearing County roads of trees.
  - Sue Dorman says radio communications were no better over the weekend in Pittsburg area.
4. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Treasurer Kenny Ratliff reported that CART money is ahead \$19,198 from last year.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote



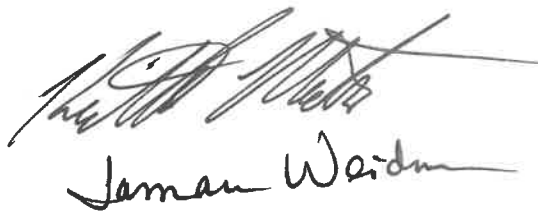
Tamara Weidman

# HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING OF JUNE 30, 2022

## MINUTES

1. The meeting of June 30, 2022 was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Sue Dorman, Carolyn Reams, Sarah Gardner, Aleia Ream with the Index and County Deputy Clerk Tommy Holt. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of June 27, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the demand warrants and documents for payroll for the period ending June 25, 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
3. Public Comments:
  - Commissioner Pearson stated that Wheatland School was awarded grant funds for new playground equipment.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz stated that Shannon Stewart will be present for July 7, 2022 Commissioner's meeting.
4. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz discussed the need to have a closed session July 7, 2022 to discuss the Blackwell Property.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz informed those at the meeting that Governor Parsons would be signing into law the release of Cemetery Trust Funds. It was discussed the County's need to work up guidelines on how to proceed with this new law.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote



Jaman Weidman