


**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of November 3, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Robert Sawyer, Beverly Ryan, Sue Dorman, Brian Bennett, Kenneth Rife, Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith, Brenda Vaughan, Jordon Graham, Matt Ford, 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 October 31, 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 October 29, 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
3. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the bid for the Sheriff's 2 in stock trucks was awarded to Corwin Ford of Springfield. 2-0 vote
4. The Commission reviewed 2 quotes on bullet proof vests, one from Gall's in the amount of \$23,861.99 and Anchor Tactical in the amount of \$22,035. Commissioner Pearson made the motion to approve the purchase through Anchor Tactical and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote The purchase of these vests were approved in the Commission meeting of October 31<sup>st</sup> with ARPA funds.
5. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Assessor Clint Baker's report of monthly fees collected for October 2022 in the amount of \$1,246.25.
6. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file County Clerk Tamara Weidman's report of monthly fees collected for October 2022 in the amount of \$6,766.48.
7. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the additions and abatements for October 2022 in the amount of \$46,542.26 and \$4,259.58 respectively was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
8. Public Comments:
  - Jordon Graham asked when the Commission planned to release the requirements for the full time Emergency Management position. Presiding Commissioner Mertz explained he would work on that.
9. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - While replacing culverts on the West side of the County, 3 Brightspeed phone lines were cut.
  - The stairs at the Extension office are closed off until they can be fixed or replaced.
  - Commissioner Breshears mentioned some road complaints on the East side of the County, County Road 192 and 296L.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
Tamara Weidman

**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

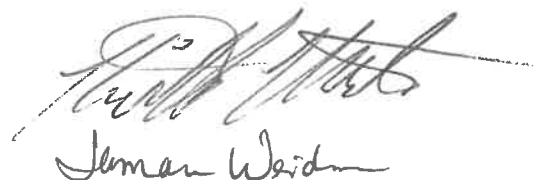
1. The meeting of November 7, 2022 was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Robert Sawyer, Brian Bennett, Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith, Maurice Pitts, Larry and Linda Senyard and Treasurer Kenny Ratliff. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of November 3, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file the County financial statements for October 2022.
3. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Sheriff Greg Burke's report of monthly fees collected for October 2022 for Civil Service Fees in the amount of \$650, CCW fees in the amount of \$411, and general revenue in the amount of \$1178.30.
4. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith's report of monthly fees collected for October 2022 in the amount of \$2,358.27.
5. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Recorder Pam Hutton's report of monthly fees collected for October 2022 in the amount of \$8,771.
6. Public Comments: None
7. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Maurice Pitts inquired about the townhall meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the judicial center proposal.
  - There was discussion about radio communications with Brian Bennett.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote



Jaman Wisdom


**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of November 10, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Robert Sawyer, Brian Bennett, Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Paula Shepard, Aleia Ream with The Index, Becky Richards, Sheriff Greg Burke, Beverly Ryan, Roger Foster, Marc Dye, Terri Brazeal with RCS Communications and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. Paula Shepard, ARPA administrator, presented a spreadsheet listing all ARPA funds requests as well as recipient amounts approved. A total of \$170,828.72 has been awarded to County organizations and are as follows:  
Preston Fire Dept. - \$68,246  
Health Dept. - \$2,044.02  
Preston Fire Dept - \$41,580.02  
Central Hickory Fire – approved for \$17,931.49 of a total request of \$99,555.54  
Central Hickory Fire – approved for \$19,770 of a total request of \$34,500  
Central Hickory Fire – approved for \$20,257.19 of a total request of \$39,429.37  
Applications still being reviewed are Weaubleau Fire Dept for \$114,946.80 and Prairie Chapel Food Pantry for \$34,443.
3. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the demand warrants and documents for accounts payable for the beginning of November 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
4. The Commission reviewed and forwarded for file Public Administrator Venesa Prettyman’s report of fees collected for October 2022 in the amount of \$345.76.
5. Public Comments:
  - Terri with RCS Communications joined the meeting to ensure that they will take care of any issues the Sheriff’s office has with the new radios. The Sheriff explained it is a dangerous situation when a deputy is on a call, and cannot hear or respond to dispatch. She is willing to take a look today and they will also be back tomorrow to fix any issues they have been having.
  - Veterans Day is Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and there will be a ceremony on the courthouse lawn beginning at 1:00 p.m.
6. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Sheriff Burke questioned how to approach outfitting the new trucks with gear. Although the bid threshold is now \$12,000 with 2 new trucks, the bid came in at almost \$8500 each. The Commission explained they must be advertised for bids when over the threshold. They plan to do 1 truck now and 1 later.
  - Sales tax is up 9% overall.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson to purchase 2 - 6x8 sheds to house the repeaters from 54 Buildings & More just outside of Hermitage.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
Tamara Weidman

**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of November 14, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Robert Sawyer, Brian Bennett, Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Marc & Karla Dye, Brenda Vaughan, David Murphy, Carolyn Ream and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of November 10, 2022 were approved as presented. 2-0 vote
2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the petition for a speed limit of 30 mph on County Road 273A in Wheatland was approved. 2-0 vote The Clerk will send the necessary paperwork to MoDot and the MO Highway Patrol. The County will not be responsible for the speed limit signs.
3. Darrell Decker with MAGIC Consortium discussed health insurance renewal rates with the Commission. Overall, the consortium was hit with a 21.1% increase mostly due to COVID related medical issues. There is no change in coverages or plans. The County is going to see an increase of 8.8% premium raise which amounts to \$60.71 per month. The Commission will need to determine how much of the increase the County will absorb.
4. The Commission recessed at 10:44 and reconvened at 12:00 to open bank bids. The County only received one bid from OakStar bank. Presiding Commissioner Mertz read the interest rates offered on a Platinum savings account is at .65%, Platinum Business Money Market at 1.90%, 24-month CD at 3.44%. The Commission discussed what to do with ARPA funds, possibly put the money into a CD with OakStar or MOSIP to earn a higher interest rate.
5. Public Comments:
  - Brenda Vaughan thanked the County Clerk's office for a smooth election on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bridget Plude sent an email to the Commission that she has surveyed off a parcel of land for the Sherman Family Cemetery and needs to know what the next step in the process is.
  - Terri with RCS reported the law enforcement radios are resolved for the time being.
  - Two new ARPA applications were submitted – HCFR requested \$62,014.76 and Pittsburg Volunteer Fire Department requested \$67,556.70. The Clerk will forward these to Paula Shepard, the ARPA administrator.
6. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - Dillon with Kaysinger Basin has been in contact with Carolyn Ream regarding the hazard mitigation plan. The next meeting will be November 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at the Old Dollar General building.
  - Carolyn will be out of town to the Four Corners conference in Branson on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith gave the Commission a letter from Judge Hackett regarding next year's budget if the Commission goes through with building the judicial center. The letter stated they would require a full-time position to operate and maintain security equipment and deal with security issues at the front entrance along with training for the position. They would also need a part-time position as well to cover for the full-time person when sick, or on vacation. Both positions will need to be post-certified.
  - When Presiding Commissioner Mertz reached out to Samantha Henley, Emergency Management Director in Camden County, for qualifications to the position, she explained that Camden County did not advertise the position but the Commission just made the appointment to the position. This will be on the agenda for Thursday's meeting.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

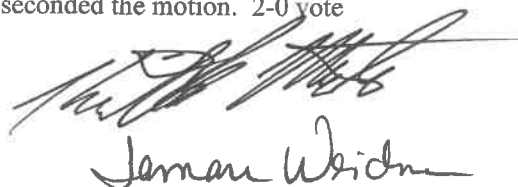
  
Tamara Weidman

# HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2022

## MINUTES

1. The meeting of November 17, 2022 was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Robert Sawyer, Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Marc Dye, Collector Karen Stokes, Recorder Pam Hutton, Sarah Roach, Am'ber Baldwin, Trisha Romesburg, Maurice Pitts, Sue Dorman and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of November 14, 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 November 12, 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
3. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson OakStar bank was awarded the bank bid as they were the only bank to submit a bid. 2-0 vote
4. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears, Carolyn Ream was appointed to the position of Emergency Management Director with the stipulation it is a full-time position and she can only hold one full-time position. 2-0 vote
5. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the reimbursement to County payroll for employee time loss due to COVID for the year 2022 in the amount of \$3,379.34 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
6. Public Comments:
  - The Clerk presented letters to the MO Highway Patrol and MoDot for the reduced speed limit of 30 mph on County Road 273A. The process generally takes a year to implement.
  - Karen Stokes mentioned another option or idea for use of ARPA funds. She suggested the Commission do a feasibility study for moving all other offices in the Courthouse except the Courts to the old Dollar General Building. She and Pam Hutton thought it would possibly be cheaper to renovate for the other offices since there would be less need for major security. Another idea was to bid on the Department of Revenue so there would be rental income to offset some of the costs. Karen's argument is that the Collector's office needs more space as well as many other office holders. Pam felt it would solve the Court's problem for handicapped accessibility since there would be more room on the main floor to have Court proceedings.
7. Matters for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - There will be no Commission meetings next week due to the MAC conference on Monday and Thanksgiving on Thursday.
  - After the townhall meeting Tuesday evening in the Courtroom, where the general consensus was to hold onto the ARPA money, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to freeze what is left of the ARPA funds until they can figure out what they are going to do for the County. Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote
  - The Commission discussed options at the Annex building for the compromised stairwell and old part of the building.
  - Chase Crawford would like to pick up the items the Commission plans to sell next Wednesday.
  - Sue Dorman spoke on behalf of HCFR and Pittsburg Fire regarding the 2 open applications for ARPA funds. She requested the Commission reconsider paying those before freezing the funds as they are much needed equipment for those organizations. The Commission explained that their decision was based on Tuesday evenings meeting and it does not mean they will not award more ARPA funds to organizations, they are just holding off for now.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote



Tamara Weidman

**HICKORY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting of November 28, 2022 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Commissioner Mertz. Present were, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Breshears, Robert Sawyer, Circuit Clerk Cee Cee Smith, Treasurer Kenny Ratliff, Sue Dorman, Shannon Stewart, Carolyn Ream and County Clerk Tamara Weidman. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the minutes of the Meeting of November 17, 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 November 2022 was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
3. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Breshears and a second by Commissioner Pearson the letter of support for Prairie Chapel grant through MO Department of Economic Development Community Revitalization program was approved and signed. 2-0 vote
4. Shannon Stewart with Kaysinger Basin reminded the Commission of the Hazard Mitigation meeting tomorrow at the old Dollar General building at 11:30 a.m. She mentioned several grant opportunities for EMS, Fire Departments, and Peace Officers through the Department of Public Safety which are due by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Also, she talked about how in-kind match grants shouldn't scare applicants away as there are ways to work around it.
5. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and a second by Commissioner Breshears the 8.8% increase in premiums will be absorbed by the County and none will be passed on to the employee. 2-0 vote
6. Public Comments: None
7. Matter for discussion and/or consideration of the Commission:
  - The Clerk presented a vehicle lease agreement that Sheriff Burke had left with her. It is for a part-time K-9 officer who would use his own vehicle which is equipped as a K-9 unit and the County would cover the insurance, fuel and maintenance on the vehicle plus \$1 to lease it. The Commission agreed the age of the vehicle as well as liability to the County are issues of concern.
  - The radios are all installed except for Urbana. Also, Pittsburg has not turned any radios in for the radios they received which are 3-5700's, 3-3720's and a mobile repeater. There needs to be up to 3 more towers and up to 5 more repeaters installed for the Sheriff's office radios to work throughout the County. The Clerk will add this to Thursday's agenda as RCS Communications has provided a quote.
  - Carolyn Ream informed the Commission that she will accept the position as full Time Emergency Management Director with the understanding that she will still work other part-time positions.
  - Carolyn explained she had received an email alerting her to the fact that HCFR had used her county cell phone number on their correspondence. The writer thought since the County paid for the cell phone, it should not be used for HCFR business. She did not catch the error and apologized for it. The Commission explained they were not worried about it as it benefits the citizens of Hickory County.
  - Presiding Commissioner Mertz talked about biodiesel grants that would save the County Road and Bridge department money.
  - With no other matters before the Commission, Commissioner Pearson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and Commissioner Breshears seconded the motion. 2-0 vote

  
Tamara Weidman