

Ste. Genevieve County Commission Minutes

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

9<sup>TH</sup> Day of the January Term. The Commission Met Pursuant to Adjournment. Present were Presiding Commissioner Randy Ruzicka, Associate Commissioners Cory Ford and Mark Marberry along with Deputy County Clerk, Michele Gatzemeyer.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDING COMMISSIONER RUZICKA AT 8:15 A.M.

THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 WERE READ. COMMISSIONER MARBERRY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SAID MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER FORD SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

Meeting began with a “THANK YOU” to the Ste. Genevieve County Road & Bridge Department as well as the City of Ste. Genevieve Street Department for the much appreciated removal of the massive snow piles affecting ‘parking’ in downtown area. Their efforts have made a drastic improvement and are greatly appreciated. (Copy of ‘Resignation Letter’ attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

The Commission reviewed ‘Resignation Letter’ from Fair Board Member. After careful consideration, Commissioner Marberry made a ‘Motion’ to approve the ‘Resignation’ from Ms. Robin Duncan as it relates to the ‘Fair Board’. Commissioner Ford seconded the ‘Motion’. Commissioner Marberry yea. Commissioner Ford yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of ‘Resignation Letter’ attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

The Commission reviewed ‘Resignation Letter’ from representative that served on LERF (Law Enforcement Restitution Fund) Board. After review of the same, Commissioner Marberry made a ‘Motion’ to approve the ‘resignation’ of Mr. Brad Arnold from said ‘Board’. Commissioner Ford seconded the ‘Motion’. Commissioner Marberry yea. Commissioner Ford yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of ‘Resignation Letter’ attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

The Commission reviewed ‘Request for Appointment’ from local constituent that is very involved in the Community and has requested to serve on the LERF – Law Enforcement Restitution Fund – Board. This ‘Board’ is extremely important to the community as it utilizes ‘legal funds’ that can be utilized for resources that enhance public safety and promote justice for victims and communities. After careful consideration, Commissioner Ford made a ‘Motion’ to approve the ‘Appointment’ of Mr. Jason Blum to the LERF Board. Commissioner Marberry seconded the ‘Motion’. Commissioner Ford yea. Commissioner Marberry yea. All in favor. Motion passed. (Copy of ‘Request for Appointment’ attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Dena Kreitler w/the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Commission. Ms. Kreitler simply wanted to obtain update as it pertains to 'Transient Tax' Issue, which is scheduled to be placed on the 'Ballot' for upcoming 'April' Election. (Ballot Language has been provided to the Commission by County Clerk, Sue Wolk, regarding the same.) Ms. Kreitler also noted that the Ste. Genevieve License Office has their own 'parking' for their customers. This has resulted in confusion for persons that had previously utilized parking to visit other establishments.

Mr. Jerry Bergtholdt w/Bank of Bloomsdale, appeared before the Commission to review upcoming 'Note' that is due for renewal. The Commission advised that they will have to review this information in greater detail.

Mr. Scott Schmieder, R&B Foreman, appeared before the Commission to present report for today's meeting. Following were the items reported:

\*Purchase Requisition with applicable detail for Bomag 413 'Pull Behind Paver' received by Mr. Schmieder; Motion has already been made surrounding this purchase. (Copy of 'Purchase Requisition' for the above attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Mr. Felix Meyer, Emergency Management Director for Ste. Genevieve County, will be out of the office for 'Medical Leave' for approximately 6 weeks. Mr. Meyer noted that, in his absence, should an 'emergency' arise; the 'County' can reach out to Mr. Patrick Naeger or Mr. Jeremy Mantz, Assistant Fire Chief.

Local residents from 'St. Mary' appeared before the Commission (as listed on 2/5/2026 'Agenda' to review their many concerns surrounding the 'progress' as it relates to "Franklin Bridge". Ste. Genevieve County has been working with Smith & Company Engineers along with oversight by MoDOT on this bridge via BRO Project "BRO-R095(001)" identified as the *STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY PROJECT NOTED AS "SECOND STREET BRIDGE IN ST. MARY, MO/FRANKLIN BRIDGE"*. Said project has been "In-Progress" going back to 5/12/2023 after determination was made on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 that 'flooding events' had resulted in one of the spread footings to rotate out of plane and, therefore, make said bridge structurally 'unsafe'. Said issue resulted in the 'closing' of said bridge.

The constituents that appeared before the Commission with concern surrounding this 'Bridge' were identified as follows: Mr. Mike Ritter, Mr. Mark Wengert, and Mr. Jordan Ritter. The 'County' explained their stance regarding this project and noted that *WITHOUT A BRO-GRANT; STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RE-INSTITUTE SAID BRIDGE DUE TO THE FINANCIAL BURDEN THIS WOULD PLACE ON THE COUNTY*. The 'County' also noted that as of current, the most recent progress that has transpired is that 'Floodplain Development Permit/Application has been completed and forwarded to MoDOT as required. It was also noted that 'Engineer' keeping very close observation on '2<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge Project' and had submitted a 'required' Cultural Resources Survey; this 'slowed down' clearance from SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office). Clearance was received in November. Engineer is following all requirements as it relates to 'paperwork trail' for this project.

While the constituents present all acknowledged that they understand and appreciate the lengthy process as well as the 'paperwork requirements'; this does not relieve the problems and issues that they are dealing with on a daily basis. Following were the 'ISSUES' that were reported and supported by all (3) constituents in no particular order. They are as follows:

\*All three rely on farming for their livelihood and advised that there are 'parts' of their farm(s) that THEY CANNOT ACCESS due to 'lack of bridge access'.

\*The hardship being faced as a result of this challenge adds exorbitant time to their schedules that has also placed 'stress' on livestock, which has resulted in the need to 'decrease' amount of livestock that can be included in farming operations; thus, this results in LOST REVENUE creating financial hardship.

\*All acknowledged that they have 'serious' concern surrounding the *PUBLIC SAFETY ASPECT OF ABSENCE OF BRIDGE AND CITED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICS PERTAINING TO THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE:*

*\*LARGE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS COMBINES, GRAIN TRUCKS, ETC. HAVE TO BE RE-ROUTED AND TAKEN ON ROADS THAT ARE CONSIDERED 'BACK ROADS' LEADING TO SAFETY CONCERNS. For example, in effort to 'move equipment', person or persons have to 'halt' on-coming traffic as roads that now have to be travelled are not 'safe' for 2-lane traffic. This often leads to equipment having to go through areas that result in damage from trees/limbs/etc. that cause 'damage' to equipment. This is yet another 'unforeseen' cost that these persons are dealing with adding to financial hardship. Above scenarios have resulted in accidents/mishaps.*

*\*One of the largest worries expressed surrounds 'kids' that are now required to walk approximately 1.5 miles in effort to get to school bus and must walk same distance when school bus drops kids off. The 'bus service' could not 're-route' their normal traffic route creating this challenge. As is all too familiar, this creates huge concern for the residents that are dealing with this challenge along with the many other challenges they are facing.*

It was noted that concerns were acknowledged and would be forwarded so that they could hopefully be addressed in effort to 'return life to normal' as soon as was humanly possible.

Representative w/Charter Communications reached out to the Commission regarding potential for 'cable installation' and 'what permitting would be needed'. Area in question is in Commissioner Ford's district. Commissioner Ford to reach out to 'Charter Communications Representative'. As additional information is provided; additional detail to be given.

The University of MO Extension Council provided their 2025 'Annual Report'. Report reviewed. (Copy of 'Annual Report' attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Kris Fulford, Ste. Genevieve YMCA Director, appeared before the Commission to provide report for today's meeting. Following were updates provided:

\*Ms. Fulford reported that there are (3) sets of children's tables that are no longer needed and are property of the 'County'. Arrangements have been made to address the same.

\*Ms. Fulford presented 'Equipment Bill of Sale' regarding equipment at the 'Ste. Genevieve and Bloomsdale' facilities that are being presented for 'purchase' by YMCA. Review

will need to be completed and applicable signatures provided for 'transaction' to be fully executed. Additional review of this 'Proposal' to be conducted at Monday's Commission Meeting.

\*Agreement(s) between YMCA and Ste. Genevieve Library, University of MO Extension, and Sunshine Day Care still in process of being completed. It was noted that 'agreement' between YMCA and 'Library' to be 1<sup>st</sup> one to be completed. Agreements should be done soon.

\*Ms. Fulford noted that 'Party Packages' have been revisited.

\*The YMCA met with representatives from 'Challenger' Organization; their intent is to perform 'Group Coordination Efforts' between the (2) organizations.

\*Ms. Fulford met with representatives as it relates to 'Gym Hockey'. All concerns have been reviewed; all is good!

\*Ms. Fulford noted that several issues have surfaced pertaining to the Bloomsdale Facility; all have been addressed.

\*Ms. Fulford advised Commission that 147 new members were 'signed' in January.

A 'Motion' was made by Commissioner Marberry to 'Enter' into 'Emergency Closed Session' Meeting at 11:21 A.M. – pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) – as it relates to 'Personnel'.

Commissioner Ford seconded the 'Motion'. All in favor. Motion passed. Roll was Taken. Commissioner Ruzicka – Aye. Commissioner Marberry – Aye. Commissioner Ford – Aye.

A 'Motion' was made by Commissioner Marberry to 'Exit' the 'Emergency Closed Session' Meeting at 11:48 A.M. – pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) – as it relates to 'Personnel'.

Commissioner Ford seconded the 'Motion'. All in favor. Motion passed. Roll was Taken. Commissioner Ruzicka – Aye. Commissioner Marberry – Aye. Commissioner Ford – Aye.

Purchase Requisition submitted for 'County Car' that was facilitated via 'State Vendor List'. Purchase was already previously approved by Commission as a result of vehicle being on said 'list'. Said vehicle (2026 Chev. Traverse) purchased through 'Jim Butler Chevrolet' at Total Cost of \$38,295.00 with funds to be allocated through 'County Cars'. (Copy of said Purchase Requisition attached to Commission Record Supplement for this Date.)

Accounts Payable for Date 2/5/2026 in the amount of \$141,278.20 were reviewed and approved for payment by the Commission.

Elected Officials responsible for SB190 'Senior Tax Credit' appeared before the Commission to review 'Application' Process as 'Process' began as of Monday, 2/2/2026. Final processes need to be determined. For example, if applicant(s) do not meet the requirements, denial must be administrated.

\*It was reiterated that persons not registered to vote do not 'QUALIFY' as noted on Application.

\*Additional meeting to be held on Monday surrounding this matter as 'time ran out' in today's meeting. Commissioners had additional obligations that needed to be attended to.

**ADJOURN**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ford to adjourn @ 12:15 P.M. Commissioner Marberry seconded the 'Motion'.

Ordered that the Commission adjourn until 2/9/2026.

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Michele Gatzemeyer – Deputy County Clerk

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Randy Ruzicka – Presiding Commissioner