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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - July 15, 2024

JULY 18TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis opened the weekly meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer for our community, former President Donald Trump and the family of Corey Comperatore, who was killed at the rally.

Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission

Lambert updated the spreadsheet for the ARPA Funds. The interest is not up to date on this spreadsheet; however it is up to date as of June 30, 2024. The Interest from the ARPA funds totals \$249,257.73.

"I am going to ask Beau Bishop to come in next week to see if there are any federal funds coming down from the Governor," commented Mathis.

Dudley Special Road District received three bids for gravel. They had requested approximately \$40,000 Lambert told the Commission.

The bid process has started for the Bernie Water Basin with regards to ARPA and they will not be using prevailing wages. There was a final rule to not use prevailing wages if it is sole source funding

Tuesday, Annual Foundation Board Meeting for the IDA

Peter Coutavas, Director spoke to the Commissioners about the IDA

There will be the Annual Foundation Board Meeting for the IDA.

"I established a Special Allocation Fund two years ago," commented Peter Coutavas, Director of the IDA. "It is a special fund of \$40,000 to give to businesses at my discretion. This year I have only spent \$11,000."

This Special Allocation Fund is in its second year and has been very successful. Monies distributed to help businesses in the form of signage, A/C repairs, replacing rotted vent pipe, furnace repairs, support art club, washing machine, bakers mixer, BBQ BASH sponsor for a city park, theatre support, food truck, ARC Christmas party sponsor Dexter Mother's Day lunch, Puxico Weekly Presss office improvements, gravel and drain pipe, Eagle Days, and Fire Dept Tanks. These monies go to supplement items that are needed by businesses.

"If I can help in a ny way with giving a little money then I have the power to give a few hundred dollars here and there," Coutavas said. "It really does help a struggling business or bringing in a new business, or even a charity trying to raise money. Each city has a \$5,000 fund I can use at my discretion and it is working. This year I only spent \$11,000."

"Our landfill receipts for this fiscal year have been received," commented Coutavas.

Totals for the year are 1st Quarter - \$85,060.98, 2nd Quarter - \$79,904.01, 3rd Quarter - \$74,836.46 totaling \$239,801.45 thus far with 4th Quarter still to be received.

The 1/2 million dollar grant fund has been distributed this fiscal year have been sent to Dudley \$ \$31,857.50Puxico \$50,000, Bernie \$45,000, Bloomfield \$50,000 and Puxico \$18,585 which goes to their Improvement Corporations to help struggling or new businesses inter communities.

Income comes from the landfill, \$1.50 for every ton that goes into the landfill....it is a tipping fee per Mathis.

"We are also assisting with the hotel fund with the sewer and water fund for \$750,000 to the city of Dexter," continued Coutavas.

Mathis asked if there was an Enhanced Enterprise Zone Committee? No one was for sure there was a board for that. More investigation into the committee will be performed prior to the next Commission meeting.

Air Conditioning Issues in the IDA Building and the Wildflower Boutique

Motion to seek bids to replace the HVAC and Heating unit in the IDA Building made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

SB190 Senior Citizens Tax Credit Application by Josh Speakman, County Collector/Treasurer

"I don't want to make it a hinderance this year, but want to make sure it is the person applying for it and not someone else," commented Speakman.

Motion to authorizes Speakman to adopt the Tax Credit Application to use the last 4 digits of the social security and to have the document notizarized was made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

"This is something new and a key point you made earlier is that we may have to make some changes in the future to this document," stated Mathis.

The Collector/Treasurer's office will have employees who can Notarize the documents. Application process will begin September 1, 2024.

Update on the Clean-Out of Drainage Ditches #13-33 and #14

Commissioner C.D. Stewart has looked at the drainage areas that need to be cleaned out per their previous bid. This was not in the original bid process, but really needs to be completed. The ditches nor of Highway 25 will cost an addition \$800 and the ditch along Highway C will cost an additional \$6,000 and other areas will cost an additional \$7,950 totally \$14,750.

Motion to extend the clean-out of ditch clearing and clean out on ditch #13.33 north of Hwy 25 in the amount of \$8,750.00 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

"We have the money to do this and will be taken out of general revenue because they don't have the money," stated Mathis. "This is a 25 year clean-out and I am not going to let \$15,000 keep us from doing this. We have the money in general revenue."

Motion to extend the clean-out of ditch clearing and clean-out on Ditch 14 extending to County Road 208 in the amount of \$6,000.00 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion regarding Change Order #1 and Change Order #2 Stoddard County Commissioner authorizes to use General Revenue Funds if funds are not available in those Ditch accounts made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded Commission Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Scenic Byway

"I think we need to get a meeting together to let folks know," stated Commissioner C.D. Stewart.

The Commissioner decided to make August 5th a date that citizens can attend the Commission meeting and discuss the Scenic Byway.

Board of Equalization Closure

On Tuesday, July 16th the Board of Equalization will close at 10 a.m. As of today no one has made an appointment. The Board of Appeals will open at that time.

Johnson Grass Board

The Dept of Agriculture usually sends a letter out. Mathis has a letter from April 2024 and needs to update the three board members. Their term expired in December 2023.

Mathis and Stewart will get with those three board members to see if they want to serve another 3 year term. The Commission decided at this time not to advertise the positions.

Carl Hefner, Stoddard County Sheriff's Department

A deputy wrecked a car and the insurance will be paying, but they haven't heard if the vehicle is totaled yet, but sure looks to be totaled. Sheriff Hefner is requesting to go ahead and replace the car with a truck.

"Our trucks seem to be holding up so much better than the SUVs we have currently," stated Hefner. "The radio equipment was salvageable and that's about all."

The Sheriff's department already had a state bid available from Lou Fusz, an authorized dealer in St. Louis.

"We have 8 vehicles and they all have 200,000+ miles on them," stated Hefner. "We got a little behind trading them out."

"The deputy was injured and so with the canine officer," but not too bad," continued Hefner.

Motion to order the new vehicle for the Stoddard County Sheriff's Dept to replace the wrecked vehicle in the amount of \$51,400 F150 Truck Super Crew with police package made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Other Business

Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 8, 2024 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to approve the Bid Opening Meeting minutes from July 8, 2024 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to end the meeting at noon made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

LAST UPDATED ON JULY 18TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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