

TERM OF COMMISSION: September Session of the August Adjourned Term

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

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Keith Schnarre
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Planning and Zoning Director Stan Shawver
County Counselor John Patton
Deputy County Clerk Shawna Victor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Subject: Planning and Zoning

Commissioner Schnarre noted that during Planning and Zoning sessions, the Commission will receive a report from staff and then the Commission will have the opportunity to ask staff any questions. The Commission will then move to a presentation from the applicant or agent of the applicant on behalf of their request. After that, the Commission will convene a public hearing where any testimony in favor of or in opposition to will be welcome. Following the public hearing, the Commission will discuss the issue and then vote on the issue.

Stan Shawver, Director of the Planning and Building Inspection Department, stated that the Boone County Zoning Regulations and the Subdivision Regulations are entered into the record. (note - the file copy is retained in the Planning and Building Inspection Department).

A. Request by James and Donna McManama for a Day Care Center on 1.53 acres, located at 10901 Hwy 22, Centralia

Stan Shawver stated this site is located approximately 1 mile west of Centralia at the intersection of State Highway 22 and March Road. The property is zoned A-2 (Agriculture) as is all the surrounding property. The property is currently vacant. This site is within the Centralia R-6 school district. Water is provided by Public Water District No. 10. The original zoning for this tract was A-2. It was rezoned to A-R last month. This request is for a day care center. The Master Plan designates this area as being suitable for agriculture and rural residential land uses. The property is located within 1/2 mile of a Boone County Fire District Station. Law enforcement and emergency medical services can easily access the property due to its proximity to Highway 124 and Highway 22. The proposed use is consistent with the master plan. Staff recommends approval of this request.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on this request on September 18, 2003. There were nine Planning and Zoning Commissioners present at the meeting. A motion was made to recommend approval of this request to the County Commission and this motion received unanimous support.

Harold Gooding, 20150 Highway 124, Centralia, was present on behalf of the applicants.

Harold Gooding stated since the process began, another day care in the Centralia area has closed. This facility is needed in this area. The facility will be licensed by the State.

Commissioner Schnarre asked if the day care will have 20 children. Mr. Gooding stated that is correct.

Commissioner Schnarre opened the floor for a public hearing on this request.

There was no one wishing to speak on this request.

Commissioner Schnarre closed the public hearing.

There was no further discussion on this request.

Commissioner Elkin moved to approve the request by James and Donna McManama for a Day Care Center on 1.53 acres, located at 10901 Hwy 22, Centralia.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 460-2003**

B. Request by Elizabeth Souder to rezone from A-2 (Agriculture) to C-G (General Commercial) of 3.46 acres, more or less, located at 9676 N Rte B, Hallsville (*appeal*)

Mr. Shawver stated this site is located on State Highway B, approximately 3 miles south of Hallsville on the west side of the road. The property is zoned A-2, as is all of the surrounding property. There is a house, shed and barn on the property at this time. The applicant is requesting that the property be rezoned to C-G (General Commercial). This site is within the Hallsville R-4 school district. Electricity is provided by Boone Electric Cooperative. Public Water District 4 in Hallsville provides water service to this area. The Master Plan designates this area as being suitable for rural residential land uses.

The Master Plan identifies a sufficiency of resources test as a means to judge the suitability of land proposed for rezoning. The resources necessary to support the proposed rezoning can be broken down into three categories: Utilities, Public Safety Services and

Transportation.

Utilities currently available to the property include electricity, telephone and water.

- Boone Electric has adequate infrastructure in place for the needs for the development.
- Public Water District Number 4 provides water service. There is a well located close to the property in Brown Station which could provide needed fire flows necessary for a commercial development. While there are sufficient fire flows available in close proximity to the site, it would be necessary to extend lines to the site that would provide adequate commercial flows.
- Note that a central wastewater system is not available at this site.

Public safety services include police protection, fire protection and ambulance services.

- The Boone County Fire Protection District maintains a fire station in Hallsville approximately 3 miles to the north.
- The Boone County Sheriff's Department is located approximately 6 road miles from this site.
- The nearest ambulance is situated approximately 6 road miles from this site.

Transportation includes road access.

- This site is located on State Highway B, a state maintained, high speed road.

Staff has concerns about the location of this proposed development. The master plan suggests the use of the planned district component for the development of commercial land uses. Staff believes that commercial development along state highways should be restricted to intersection locations due to the high volume of traffic existing on these type roads. State Highway B is the main traffic artery leading to the city of Columbia from the northeast part of the county. Without plans it is impossible to determine whether the owner can mitigate the conflict between a high volume, high speed road and a commercial development.

Staff recommends that this request be denied.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on this request on September 18, 2003. A motion was made to recommend denial of this request to the County Commission and this motion received unanimous support. The applicant did file an appeal in a timely fashion and it comes before the County Commission on appeal this evening.

Kenny Souder, 9679 N Rte B, Hallsville, was present on behalf of the applicant.

Kenny Souder stated to his understanding of staff's comments, commercial property should be restricted to intersections due to the high volume of traffic. Route B has a high volume of traffic. He sent in a response to the staff's comments on this issue. He believes

the visibility is good on Route B, especially in this particular location, and if there is going to be an accident on the road it will happen whether a business was at the location or not.

Mr. Souder noted there is a quick service shop a few miles down the road located at an intersection and he believes this intersection is more dangerous than it would be where the property in question is located. He has a problem understanding the concerns with the traffic.

Mr. Souder stated the majority of the traffic on Route B is going to and from work. There are other highways east and west that carry as much traffic as Route B.

He understands the staff denial of the request.

Commissioner Schnarre asked Mr. Souder what the plans for the property are if it is rezoned. Mr. Souder stated he submitted a statement regarding the property and what it would be suited for. He has had a number of people ask questions about need a place for used automobile sales, small grocery outlet, small strip mall, or other related businesses.

Commissioner Elkin stated the Mr. Souder had been inquiring about this property and asked if people had been asking questions about purchasing the property. Mr. Souder stated the questions have been about leasing the property. These questions have been coming up for the last three to five years and people want to locate their business outside the city limits of Columbia.

Commissioner Elkin asked if Mr. Souder is presenting any different information than what was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Souder stated when he was here for the last meeting the denial was made because of the traffic on Route B and he does not understand why that would be a legitimate reason for denial. He has had people tell him they would like to locate their business on the property but are unsure if they can because of the zoning. People do not want to start the process for opening a business and find out they cannot open the business because of zoning. This is why he is back here, to receive a better explanation of the traffic on Route B. He cannot move forward without knowing if the property will be rezoned to commercial and if it is not then they will end the process.

Commissioner Schnarre opened the floor for a public hearing on this request.

Misty and Junior LaRoe, 9554 N Rte B, Hallsville, were present to show their opposition to this request.

Mrs. LaRoe read a letter from John and Kay Stroudman, 9660 N. Route B, Hallsville. They were unable to attend the meeting this evening because they are out of town. The Stroudmans do not believe it is appropriate to rezone this property to commercial. The Stroudmans are concerned with the safety and traffic in the area if the request is approved.

Mrs. LaRoe stated her property line is south of the Souder property line. They are concerned with property values and the increase in traffic on Route B if the request is approved. There are grocery stores, gas stations, storage facilities and used car lots within five to ten minutes of where they live. If the Souders want to have a commercial industry, there are other areas along Route B that are zoned for this.

Terry Trickel, 4890 E. Flamingo Drive, Hallsville, she agrees with the comments made in the letter from the Stroudmans and the comments made by the LaRoes. Route B is busy at all times of the day and there are serious accidents all along Route B. There are three convenience stores located within four miles of the property in question. She is concerned with the comment Mr. Souder made about a used car lot. She wants to know who will make sure it does not become cluttered. At the last meeting, Mr. Souder indicated the request is being made for family income.

Commissioner Schnarre closed the public hearing.

Mr. Souder asked if the Commission denies the request if there can be any commercial business at all on the property. Commissioner Schnarre stated that is correct. Mr. Souder asked about a garage sale. Mr. Shawver stated a periodic garage sale even once a month is not prohibited in the zoning regulations. When a yard sale is established everyday of the week that is a commercial operations similar to a flea market.

Commissioner Elkin stated the neighbors do not want this in the neighborhood and have serious concerns and asked if Mr. Souder had any response to the neighbors. Mr. Souder stated he does not understand the concerns that the neighbors have. He has stores all over the country that are located on both sides of the road and does not understand why Route B would be an exception. He has been told by developers that if there is a quick shop on one side of the road there is usually another on the other side of the road. He does not understand the concern of the neighbors about vandalism. If the Commission does not approve the request then he will move next to law enforcement. He has heard the Sheriff's Department is locating some outposts to respond to calls.

Commissioner Schnarre stated the Planning and Zoning and County Commissions have both been reviewing rezoning requests for Commercial zoning. C-G zoning has almost been impossible to be approved. Usually the Commission request Planned Commercial (C-GP) be brought forward. The County Commission reviews request on a case by case basis; how does the request relate to the neighborhood, traffic, and other items. He sees this as a residential area and cannot support the rezoning request.

Commissioner Miller stated she believe this request is premature. There is a possibility in the future Columbia will move further north or Hallsville will move further south and at that time it would be appropriate to place commercial development. At this time, it is not appropriate and would do a disservice to the community. She cannot support this rezoning

request.

Commissioner Elkin stated zoning usually goes with the surround land and how it is zoned not the property owner. There are so many different businesses that can go in a general commercial zoning area. He drives Route B everyday and knows how bad the traffic is on the road. He cannot support this rezoning request.

Commissioner Elkin moved to deny the request by Elizabeth Souder to rezone from A-2 (Agriculture) to C-G (General Commercial) of 3.46 acres, more or less, located at 9676 N Rte B, Hallsville.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 461-2003**

C. Petition submitted by P. A. B. Properties, LLC to vacate and re-plat Lot 54, Lakeland Acres Plat 5 and Lot 2, Lakeland Acres Plat 6

Mr. Shawver stated this is a petition to vacate Lot 54 Lakeland Acres Plat 5 and Lot 2 Lakeland Acres Plat 6. This two lots are zoned R-S (Single Family Residential). The purpose of the vacation is to request, under the Subdivision Regulations, a re-plat those two lots into three lots. There is an existing house on Lot 54 Lakeland Acres Plat 5.

Section 1.8.1.3 of the subdivision regulations require the County Commission to hold a public hearing in order to consider any petition to vacate and/or re-plat, taking into consideration character of the neighborhood; traffic conditions; circulation; the proper location and improvement of streets and roads within and adjacent to the subdivision; property values in the subdivision; public utilities; facilities and services and the re-plat will not generally adversely affect the health, welfare, or safety of persons owning or possessing real estate within the subdivision to be vacated or surrounding real estate.

Chad Sayre, Engineer with Allstate Consultants, was present on behalf of the applicants.

Chad Sayre stated if this petition is approved, the result of the re-plat will increase the size of Lot 54 Lakeland Acres Plat 5 by 3,000 sq. ft. Lot 2 Lakeland Acres Plat 6 will be split into two lots, one in excess of 13,000 sq. ft and the other in excess of 14,000 sq. ft. according to the draft plats. The applicants do not believe this will affect the character of the neighborhood. There will be an adequate amount of frontage on the remaining lot. They believe it meets the requirements of the vacation process to be brought forward to the Commission.

The minimum lot size for R-S zoning is 7,000 sq. ft. and these proposed lots will be well

over the minimum requirement.

Commissioner Elkin asked if a lot could be built on Lot 2 Lakeland Acres Plat 6 without a public hearing. Mr. Shawver stated that is correct.

Commissioner Elkin asked if either lot is contiguous with any of the older portion of the subdivision. Mr. Shawver stated Lot 54 is contiguous with Lakeland Acres.

Commissioner Elkin asked about Lot 2. Mr. Shawver stated this lot is contiguous with Breezewood Estates.

Commissioner Schnarre asked if Breezewood Estates is being developed. Mr. Shawver stated Breezewood Estates is still under development.

Commissioner Schnarre asked what the lot sizes are in Breezewood Estates. Mr. Sayre stated he did not know lot sizes in Breezewood Estates. This request is to create a lot with smaller frontage and more efficient use of the lot.

Commissioner Miller asked if there were smaller lots in Breezewood Estates. Mr. Sayre stated that is correct. Mr. Shawver stated he believes the smallest lot in Breezewood Estates is 10,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Sayre stated this would not be the smallest lot but noted there are larger lots, similar to the size of Lot 54 in Breezewood Estates.

Commissioner Elkin asked if only a single family home could be built on this lot unless it is rezoned. Mr. Shawver stated that is correct.

There was discussion about the lots in the neighborhood and an unlabeled area on the plat the Commissioners had.

Commissioner Schnarre opened the floor for a public hearing on this request.

David and Lanette Bowring, 6306 E. Molly Lane, Columbia, were present to show their opposition to this request.

David Bowring stated there is a road between Lots 50 and 51; this is one of the accesses from Breezewood. The unlabeled area that previously discussed is a drainage easement that goes from Penny Lake, between Lots 54 and Lot 2 and into Welch Lake. Since they have lived in the neighborhood, the amount of wastewater has increased into Penny Lake. He noted the drainage easement does flood and does not believe the lot is suitable for a house. In addition, before the owner purchased the land owned both lots and used both as their yard.

Lanette Bowring stated in Lakeland Estates the majority of the homes are older homes on larger lots and she believes this request would change the characteristic of the neighborhood. She noted her home is directly across from Lot 54.

Mr. Bowring stated Lots 50, 51, and 52 in Breezewood are wooded lots. The drainage easement below Lot 2 in Lakeland is also a wooded lot.

He is concerned with the sewer in the area. Since Breezewood was built, the sewer has been backing up and the Sewer District has come out to clear the sewers.

He is also concerned with the traffic conditions. There has been an increase in the traffic in the neighborhood, there is more speeding, and there has been an increase in the construction equipment traffic.

Mr. Bowring believes the property values in Lakeland Estates would decrease if this request is approved. He asked how the developer could build two houses on Lot 2 without a variance for the set back.

Mrs. Bowring stated she is opposed to this request. She does not believe that two houses on the one lot is acceptable.

Heidi Barnhouse, 2637 Penny Lane, and Susan Botkin, 2651 Penny Lane, were present in opposition to this request. Ms. Barnhouse submitted seven pictures to the Public Record.

Ms. Barnhouse stated if houses are built on the lots, as submitted, then Penny Lake will back up and will not be able to drain. Also, if houses are built, the topography of the land will change. She is also worried about how construction will affect the drainage.

Ms. Botkin noted the dam and overflow from the lake are on Ms. Barnhouse's property.

Ms. Barnhouse stated there is a large pipe someone built on her lot before she moved there that drains the water from the lake. The pipe comes out under the dam and drains into her yard. If houses are built on top of this, not only will there be more backup from wastewater and sewage but the habitat will be ruined.

Ms. Botkin stated Roger Holloway, Director of Education at the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, came to the neighborhood to look at the habitat. Mr. Holloway identified four bird species that he believed it relevant to keep the current habitat. Mr. Holloway also informed her that if this is done then maybe the reptile and amphibian life would not have a way to go back and forth between the lakes.

Ms. Barnhouse stated if this request is approved, it will upset the delicate environmental balance that is in the neighborhood.

The Bowrings identified many of their concerns about property values and the character of the neighborhood. Ms. Barnhouse noted there are small lots in Breezewood but are not in the area that is being requested to be vacated.

Ms. Botkin stated there are currently 12 to 14 houses for sale in the Breezewood Estates.

Jack and Mary Carroll, 2430 N. Linda Lane, were present in opposition to this request.

Jack Carroll stated the drainage easement could be called a swamp because it is wet year around. Penny Lake stays the same level, even during a drought. It would be a problem if even one house is built on Lot 2, toward the right of the lot to allow for any water to drain between the two lots. To break Lot 2 into two smaller lots may meet the minimum but is out of character of surrounding lots.

Mary Carroll stated she agrees with previous comments that were made. She has lived in her home before the subdivision was built. The road will not be able to withstand the additional traffic and water and the County will be replacing the road every year.

Bill Barnhouse, 2637 Penny Lane, stated if the owner of the house that is currently on Lot 54 would stay and split the property, that would be one thing but this is cutting and running and trying to make a profit. He believes this is the wrong move to make and there are plenty of other houses available in the area.

Jeff Lancaster, 6301 E. Molly Lane, stated he is opposed to this request.

Commissioner Schnarre closed the public hearing.

Chad Sayre stated this requests meets the requirements except the character of the neighborhood. He requested the Commission table this petition to the next meeting to give him the time to discuss this with his client.

Mr. Sayre stated property values can be attested to and there are ways they can assure the property values will not decrease. He is not concerned about what the biologist told the neighbors and he would like to hear some of that testimony. He is concerned when neighbors have a concern. He would also like to review the drainage concerns.

Commissioner Elkin asked how big the drainage easement is. Mr. Sayre stated he needs to look at the plat.

Mr. Sayre stated this is a situation where it is appropriate to table the petition to be able to address all concerns and questions brought forward. He requested this item be tabled.

The Commission did not have any objection to this request from Mr. Sayre.

Commissioner Elkin moved to table the petition submitted by P. A. B. Properties, LLC to vacate and re-plat Lot 54, Lakeland Acres Plat 5 and Lot 2, Lakeland Acres Plat 6 until the October 28, 2003 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Schnarre seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 462-2003**

D. Request by Robert Kinkead on behalf of Fabick Companies to approve a revised Final Development Plan for M-LP zoning on 22.3 acres, located at 7841 E ABC Lane, Columbia

Mr. Shawver stated at the September 2, 2003 meeting, the County Commission approved the Revised Review Plan for this request. All changes were incorporated that were required. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved this final development plan.

Commissioner Elkin moved to approve the request by Robert Kinkead on behalf of Fabick Companies for a *Revised Final Development Plan* for M-LP zoning on 22.3 acres, located at 7841 E ABC Lane, Columbia.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 463-2003**

E. Receive and Accept the following plats:

- **Hackman Estates**
- **Tremaine's Place**

Mr. Shawver stated Hackman Estates is located off Koontz Lane and is zoned A-2. This is a one lot subdivision.

Tremaine's Place is a two lot subdivision off Route E and is zoned A-2.

Commissioner Miller moved to receive and accept the following plats:

- Hackman Estates
- Tremaine's Place

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 464-2003**

F. Second Reading and Approval of Amendments to Sections 1 to 5 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Shawver stated the following is an outline of the changes that have been made to Sections 1 to 5 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance:

Section 1. Title, Purpose, Intent

No change

Section 2. Definitions

Adult Cabaret (new definition)
Bar or Tavern (modified per Commission request)
Kennel (modified per Commission request)
Sexually Oriented Business (new)
Specified Anatomical Areas (new)
Specified Sexual Activities (new)

Section 3. Districts and Boundaries

R-D added minimum lot size for duplexes
R-M added minimum lot size for duplex and multiple-family

Section 4. General Provision

No change

Section 5. District Use Regulations

M-L Light Industrial District

Conditional Uses
Sexually Oriented Business (new)

Commissioner Schnarre stated there were 10 public hearings, one in each township in Boone County, on these changes. The Commission reviewed comments made at those hearings and incorporated the comments into the changes. The Commission has also made other changes.

Mr. Shawver stated these are portions of those sections. For example, there are some

portions of Section 4 where no amendments but there were some language changes.

John Patton stated the Commission is not repealing anything but only making amendments.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt and approve the Amendments to Sections 1 – 5 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 465-2003**

Subject: Public Works – Second Reading and Approval of Recommendation for Speed Limit on New Haven Road

Commissioner Miller stated the Public Works Department preformed a speed study on New Haven Road. After evaluation, the department has made a recommendation to increase the speed limit to 45 mph from the City Limits of Columbia to Rangeline Road and post an advisory speed placard of 30 mph for the s-curve east of the intersection with Rolling Hills Road.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the recommendation from the Boone County Public Works Department to increase the speed limit on New Haven Road from the City Limits of Columbia to Rangeline Road to 45 mph and authorize the posting of an advisory speed placard of 30 mph for the s-curve east of the intersection with Rolling Hills Road.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 466-2003**

Subject: Clerk’s Office – Second Reading and Approval of Budget Revision

Commissioner Elkin moved to approve the following budget revision:

DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT AND TITLE	AMOUNT DECREASE	AMOUNT INCREASE
1123-86800: Emergency	\$20,029.00	
1132-85900: Voter Registration – County Election Expense		\$20,029.00

Said budget revision is to cover the County’s share of expenses for the April 2003 election.

Commissioner Schnarre seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 467-2003**

Subject: Second Reading and Public Hearing for Approval of Contract Amendment #9 and Budget Amendment for the Child Assessment Center Services

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the following budget amendment:

DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT AND TITLE	AMOUNT INCREASE
1420-84200: Social Services – Other Contracts	\$68,593.00
1420-03451: Social Services – State Reimbursement	\$68,593.00

Said budget amendment is to establish a budget for the Child Advocacy Grant for June-December 2003.

The County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve Contract Amendment #9 for the Child Assessment Services with the Missouri Children’s Services Division.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and no public comment.

The motion passed 3-0. **Order 468-2003**

Subject: First Reading of Order Regulating Firearms/Lethal Weapons on County Property and in County Owned/Leased Buildings

John Patton stated the County historically has never adopted any regulations regarding the specific use of County property. State Statute 49.266 authorizes first class counties to regulate and restrict the use of any county owned or leased property, for example, parking lots.

With the passage of the concealed weapons law, a portion of that law says that counties

and municipalities, if they desire to exclude persons with a concealed weapon permit from their building, then that entity has to adopt rules or ordinances prohibiting anyone to carry a concealed weapon and to post that prohibition on accesses to their buildings.

Mr. Patton has drafted a proposed policy. He noted the Commissioners are the policy makers for Boone County. He reviewed the paragraphs of the drafted order and the State Statutes in the paragraphs. Basically this order would limit only peace officers, as defined in 49.266 RSMo, would allowed to carry concealed weapons in County buildings.

Commissioner Elkin stated he understands prohibiting weapons in the Courthouse. To him, if someone has gone through the training to carry a concealed weapon, then they should not be restricted in a County building. This is his personal opinion. The County also owns property such as the Fairgrounds and a portion of the MKT Trail.

Commissioner Miller stated she disagrees with Commissioner Elkin and does not believe anyone should carry a concealed weapon in any County building. The County goes to many lengths to protect employees from irate people and the last thing the County needs is weapons in the buildings.

Commissioner Schnarre stated he believes the Courthouse and the Government Center should not allow concealed weapons.

Commissioner Miller asked about weapons in the Johnson Building. Commissioner Schnarre stated the downtown campus of County buildings should not allow concealed weapons.

There was discussion about what buildings should be included in this policy.

The Commissioners requested Mr. Patton to draft another policy and bring it back forward for review and a first reading.

Subject: Second Reading and Approval of Recommendation from Health Trust Committee

Kay Murray, Health Trust Committee Chair, was present on behalf of this item.

Kay Murray stated the majority of the comments she received were about the proposed elimination of the co-pay.

The majority of the comments the Commissioners received were also about the proposed elimination of the co-pay. There were a few comments made about the dependent coverage. A few expressed concerns about the current employee premiums that are being paid.

Deputy County Clerk Shawna Victor stated it is difficult for people to budget a doctor visit when they do not know how much it will be for the office visit.

Ms. Murray stated office visit prices are negotiated with the insurance company.

Commissioner Miller stated there have been requests made to delay a vote to hold employee question and answer sessions about the proposal.

She noted in the draft budget for 2004, there is only \$170,000 in the budget not the proposed \$220,000 that the Health Trust is requesting.

Robert Perry, Court Administrator, stated he is present representing the county-funded court employees. When the notice was received, it was circulated among the employees and comments were received back. The comments received were mainly about the co-pay. They believe they have had a good plan and realize health costs are increasing. The county-funded court employees make a recommendation to increase the amount of co-pay, instead of eliminating the co-pay benefit, to \$20 or \$30. Another option would be to continue the co-pay benefit as it is now but after a set number of visits to the doctor, then the co-pay would not apply.

Mr. Perry stated the county-funded court employees believe that this would be penalizing employees for seeking preventative services. If preventative services are not utilized then it could have a negative effect on both the employee and employer. Also, they believe the first priority of the health insurance plan be given to employees, then to the child of the employee, then the spouse of the employee.

Mr. Perry requested the Trust give more notice to the employees regarding recommendations. Commissioner Miller noted the Trust was trying to meet a self-imposed deadline of October 1, 2003.

Commissioner Schnarre stated he would like have the co-pay benefit discussed more by the Trust. He suggested increasing the co-pay but limiting the number of visits that a co-pay could be used.

Commissioner Miller stated if any of the proposals are changed then the dependent coverage will have to increase. She noted the Commission agreed to only do 18% of employee actuarial cost.

The Commission requested this be sent back to the Health Trust Committee for further discussion and review.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Attest:

Keith Schnarre
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner