

TERM OF COMMISSION: September Session of the July Adjourned Term

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

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Kenneth M. Pearson
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commission Skip Elkin
Deputy County Clerk Kristina Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

1. Continuation of 2009 Property Tax Rate Hearing

Commissioner Pearson stated that the Commission had a hearing Tuesday evening and the Commissioner decided that they would continue the hearing this afternoon. Commissioner Pearson inquired if any one wished to speak.

Marilyn Colster stated that she lived at 7900 S. Bennett. Ms. Colster stated that she didn't attend the first meeting and she would like to know why the Commission is holding a second meeting.

Commissioner Pearson stated that the reason for the second meeting is to give anyone who wishes to speak a chance to speak.

Ms. Colster stated that she was against any increase in property taxes at this time. She asked why is it any time the County needs a nickel the Commission thinks all they have to do is raise the taxes. She inquired as to why the Commission didn't cut the Commissioners salaries? She stated that instead the Commission goes to the citizens and raises the taxes \$ 33 per \$ 100.

Commissioner Pearson stated that in actuality the proposed tax rate increase was \$ 0.05 per \$100.00.

Ms. Colster asked why the Commission did not do what she did and cut back expenses.

Commissioner Miller stated that they have been cutting back for the last 3 years because our revenues have been decreasing and the County can only cut back for so long until services need to be cut.

Ms. Colster asked what services is she receiving? She stated that she has waited years for the County to asphalt her roads and the County will not even come out and look at it.

Commissioner Pearson inquired if Ms. Colster had anything else she wanted to say?

Ms. Colster stated no.

Wendy S. Noren stated that she is the Boone County Clerk. She stated that she sent the Commission an e-mail this morning, from Kay the Treasurer and herself. Ms. Noren stated that Kay and she have been doing this a long time and they have seen a lot of ups and downs. Ms. Noren stated that in the e-mail Ms. Noren and Ms. Murray both did not believe that the County did not need to increase the property tax rates this year for a couple of reasons. Ms. Noren went on to state that the Commission has budgeted to utilize 1.619 million dollars in fund balance to cover the projected deficit. That hit on fund balance, based on current projections has been reduced to \$ 512,000.00 so in fact the budget amendment that will be needed to justify this tax increase is going to show that the County budget is in a better position rather than in a worse position. For years the county has had a budgetary policy stated each year in this budget document that calls for a fund balance reserve of 15 to 20 % which is an appropriate fund balance reserve for governmental entities. Based on the County's current expenditure estimates that would call for about 3.47 million to 4.6 million dollars in fund balance, the County's current fund balance exceeds the low end of that by 3.3 million dollars. So in other words the County is 3.3 million dollars over the minimum fund reserve balance. If the County uses the fund balance to cover the projected short fall of \$ 512,000.00 the County does not even come close to hitting the fund reserve policy. The County would still have a fund reserve of over 28 % rather than the stated policy for years of 15 to 20% fund balance. The County has been maintaining this high fund balances and continues to tell people the County does this to save for a rainy day. Ms. Noren stated that the rainy day is here and this is a most appropriate use of fund balance, to cover this short fall. In fact reduction in fund balance would be less than 1% if the County uses the fund balance to cover this \$ 512, 000.00 short fall. Ms. Noren stated that she did not believe that there are any cost overruns coming up. The courthouse project is a fifth of a cent; the other projects have done a good job of maintaining their budget. Even if the County did not cut one thing out of the proposed budget, which never happens, and everybody spent everything next year the County would still not fall below the minimum 15 to 20 %, it would be at 16 % and that is assuming worst case scenario. Ms. Noren further stated that the ill will that would be generated by a tax increase in this economic climate damages the County when they may really need something in the future for projects. Ms. Noren stated that the County has an opportunity to show that Boone County government unlike most governments has had sound fiscal governments over the years. The things being pointed out now are all kinds of rumors innuendos about how the County has been spend thrifts. The fact is in good years the County has added to their fund balance. The County has built up a fund balance that significantly increases the County's stated budgetary policy of 15 to 20 %. Ms. Noren stated that she sees this as an opportunity to show how Boone County is different from other governmental entities. Ms. Noren stated that she sees this as an opportunity to show that in 2009 the projected expenditures have become less then what they were 3 years ago. Ms. Noren stated that she sees this as an opportunity to highlight the fact that the County has a treasurer whose been making the best she can out of a terrible investment market, that Boone County has an Auditor who has held us to trying to get to those cut downs to save for a rainy day, that Boone County has a Collector who has ramped up the collection and improved that process, that Boone County has other offices when there transactions went down to fulfill positions on those kinds of things. Ms. Noren stated that this is an opportunity to prove how Boone County as a governmental entity should be lumped in with governmental entities that did not plan for the future, that are unable to adjust their expenditures, that are not able to find creative solutions that the County is doing. Ms.

Noren stated that she believes that this is an opportunity that needs to be taken. To her this could have been a huge PR plus for the Commission and instead it looks like a PR disaster. In addition the tax increase does not send the right message to people, that the County is not doing everything that the County can. The \$ 512,000.00 coming out of the fund balance to her is not worth the ill will. There is no reason to maintain that level of fund balance, and that is all that the County would be doing would be putting a tax in place to maintain a fund balance that is 3 million dollars over the stated reserve policy. Either that policy has been wrong for the last, so many years or the County needs to change their policy. From now on the County thinks that they should save 40% but she does not think that's rational. Ms. Noren stated that not increasing the property tax would send a positive message to people, that the County is trying to do everything that they can, that the County has cut their expenditures, that the County has gone out and beating on trees to get grant money, that the County is doing all that they can to try and keep these kinds of increases from hitting the people in our community.

Kay Murray Boone County Treasurer stated that one of her concerns has always been the cash flow. Really this year the problems with the cash flow are not as bad as last year. The treasurer is running at least \$ 2 to \$ 3 million which is workable.

Commissioner Pearson asked why is that? Why have the financial problems improved this year over last year when the sales tax revenues have still gone down.

Ms. Murray stated that she has not really analyzed that but it could be the way that the County has really adjusted how the expenditures go through. Ms. Murray stated that she agrees that she does not believe that they should increase the tax this year. Ms. Murray stated that she really thinks that it is good for the County to have the discipline of where the County really needs to stay within their bonds and try very hard to control the County's expenditures. Ms. Murray stated that if next year the County is still in really bad shape then the increase is much more feasible. Ms. Murray stated that due to the drop in the perceived deficit to half a million that now is not the time for the increase.

Commissioner Elkin stated that when the elected officials discussed the capital improvement sales tax. Commissioner Elkin stated that over the fund balance that he kept hearing that the County is not going to have enough, Kay needs to have so much money, and that is kind of how the officials came about the 15 %.

Commissioner Miller stated that it was really 18 % that the County did not want to go below.

Commissioner Elkin stated that if the County did use the fund balance to cover what that short fall was expected and the County did get to that 15 to 16 % would Kay still have that cash flow that is necessary?

Ms. Murray stated that she believed that she would have enough money. Ms. Murray stated that the fund is money that is not being spent or received. Ms. Murray stated that she does not have the same concern that she had.

Ms. Noren stated that \$ 500,000.00 which is the projected deficit would lower the fund balance from 28.82% to 28.22%. So, the fund balance is still considerably above that amount. Ms. Noren further stated that it has been sold to people that the County has been saving the money for a rainy day.

Commissioner Miller stated that it has been saved for one time expenditures.

Ms. Noren stated that the Commission has used the funds for one time expenditures and this is why she is saying even when the County has used it for one time expenditures, in most years the County has been able to add to the fund balance. Why doesn't the Commission take this and prove to people that they were right, that they could make those one time expenditures and still save for a rainy day, that the County was not being spend thrifts and buying long term investments that they were going to need 10 15 years from now. Ms. Noren further stated that right now it is being portrayed that the County has spent money that they should not have spent, that they should have saved. Ms. Noren stated that the County has saved money for this time period. Ms. Noren stated that she believes that this is good public policy that the County did that. The County is different from other public entities. The message to raise taxes is a bad message for County government.

Commissioner Miller stated that the Commission has not given a message yet.

Ms. Noren stated that she understands that which is why she has put this down and out there. Ms. Noren believes that this is a very positive thing to portray to people. Ms. Noren stated that they have had their arguments in the past and the County has had budget cuts when some of us grossed because the County was adding to surplus, well, it is a good thing that happened. The County has been saving making it possible to come to a year such as this and potentially a year like next year and not raise taxes.

Commissioner Elkin asked when the last day that the Commission has to approve the budget was.

Ms. Noren stated that today is the last day to approve the budget because the budget must be approved by the 20th. Ms. Noren stated that she did not see the numbers until right before the hearing.

Commissioner Miller stated that neither did the Commission.

Ms. Noren stated that she knew that. Ms. Noren stated that one concern she has in addition is that she would hate for the County to be in a terrible situation that the County begins seeing money from this cash from clunkers situation and would it be possible that the tax surplus is implemented and then the County adds to the surplus this year.

Commissioner Miller stated that she thought that would be terrible and she agrees with Ms. Noren.

Ms. Noren stated that she thinks this number is small enough that it does not hurt the County's fund balance but it is volatile enough that if there is some up turn then the tax increase could throw us into a surplus.

Commissioner Miller stated that the public needs to understand how the County got to this point. Commissioner Miller stated that the County has been working on department budgets but elected officials do not have to turn in their budgets until September 1. Then by September 3 the Commission had a budget meeting with Ms. Noren to understand what the maximum rate was and those kinds of things, and at that time the County was looking at that time at roughly \$ 1.4 million short fall. Commissioner Miller stated that that was the point the County decided to do the hearing and the Commission took half of what the Commission could go to and stated that this is the worst case example of where the County would go. Then budgets were locked down on September 10 and a decision must be made by September 20. Commissioner Miller stated that the Commission had a work session on September 14 as soon as June could get the budgets together next the hearing was scheduled for September 15th.

Ms. Noren stated that she does not disagree that the Commission was trying to find good numbers to work with. Ms. Noren stated that the County did budget to use fund balance.

Commissioner Miller stated that \$ 700,000.00 of that is emergency fund that the County does not ever expect to spend.

Ms. Noren stated that she understood.

Commissioner Miller stated that the County really only budgeted for \$ 900.

Commissioner Pearson stated that he was going to say the same thing as Commissioner Miller about the process, where the Commission is and how they got where they are. This is a public hearing and it was to discuss the tax rate and so he does not see this as an inappropriate discussion because it's a hearing.

Commissioner Miller stated that the County does know that it is going to have some sequestered jury trials another \$ 40,000.00 coming out of emergency sometime this year and that is the minimum. So there are things that are going to come up that are going to add some to the negative number but as you said the cash for clunkers might add positive numbers. Commissioner Miller further stated that this is the problem with trying to budget with numbers that are not factual.

Ms. Noren stated that the most recent numbers were used in good conscience for the basis of the Commissioners decisions. Ms. Noren stated that something that could be turned into a very positive thing about county government and about things done in county government the last 8 to ten years, not to spend every dime every year, and keep a fund balance that could cover the County in very lean years. Ms. Noren stated that she believes that this a very positive message to send out to the public, that differentiates the County from other governmental entities. Ms. Noren further stated that the cost to the County is pretty low.

Commissioner Pearson asked Ms. Noren if the County sales tax revenues continue to decline, would Ms. Noren hypothetically support a rate increase next year.

Ms. Noren stated that the County certainly wants to stay within that reserve target. She stated that she does not disagree with that. Ms. Noren stated that if the County gets down to 15 to 16 % the County cannot continue to dip into that well. Ms. Noren stated that there is a reason why the County has kept that fund way above that well is so the County can make long term investments. Ms. Noren stated that in 2007 when the County made one of those big long term investments that people are blaming this tax increase on the County added to the fund balance. Ms. Noren stated that the Commission has an opportunity to say the County has a policy. The County has stuck with the policy, the County has maintained these fund balances; the County has only used it for long term investments or to save it for a rainy day. Ms. Noren stated that the time is here as an alternative to a long time investment the County needs to send the citizens a message that unlike other governments have saved for these economic periods.

Commissioner Pearson asked June if she wanted to come up and give the Commission her perspective.

June Pitchford Boone County Auditor stated that the comments that she has to offer go with the timing of the information that is available. Typically, the County's revenues have been stable and although the County monitors that closely during the year and during expenditures as well, there has been quite a bit of stability in that. What the County saw this year was a beginning of a steep decline in the primary revenue source, sales tax. Ms. Pitchford stated that the decline sounded an alarm, and it was concerning to many elected officials the Commissioners as well as the Treasurer. Ms. Pitchford stated that the Commission had a lot of information about key revenues, the Recorder kept the Commission up to date on revenue there, some of the County's key revenues are not received until the end of the year, so she believes that when the time came to set the tax rate hearing and the rate for that there was concern for the Commission what the financial situation looked like. The Commission was very concerned about that and Ms. Pitchford stated that she was to. Ms. Pitchford stated that she would not know the expenditure side until she received information back from elected officials. The expenditures received the budgets on the tenth and Ms. Pitchford and her staff worked the next few days to pull that together. At the hearing on the fifteenth the good news was that spending for the County was way down. Ms. Pitchford further stated as stated on Tuesday night that in the general fund the primary savings was due to vacancies and turn over in Class 1. Ms. Pitchford stated that all of the vacancies from different departments have come out to be a fair amount of money. Ms. Pitchford stated that the County has budgeted for the gas prices a year ago when the prices were much higher and those have come in significantly under budget. The property and casualty insurance premiums actual expenses came in under budget. There was an election budgeted for the hospital board of trustees which will not be taking place. Ms. Pitchford stated that all of these have helped to relieve the overall expenditures.

Commissioner Miller stated that her biggest concern is having a large tax increase one year being next year if the Commission does not pass the proposed property tax increase this year.

Commissioner Miller stated that she would personally rather have a little this year and a little next year rather than all at once. People need to know that if the County does not do this then the County goes into next year with a negative and the County is already at the negative 2.4 mill as it is with no work. Commissioner Miller stated that she believed that a little increase this year and a little increase next year might be better than a big number next year and it's just the unknowns, it is hard to know what the right thing to do is.

Commissioner Pearson stated that all the elected officials and department heads have worked really hard over the last two years to cut their spending. Commissioner Pearson stated that while the County expected a shortfall it was not as bad as expected. That does not mean that the same situation is going happen next year. The County needs to continue to look for savings and at some point though there is only so much that can be cut. Commissioner Pearson stated that he thinks the County needs to be prepared when looking at next year to ensure that the County can continue to meet their obligations, provide the services, continue to have a fund balance, and continue to work together.

Commissioner Elkin stated that the County almost needs an understanding that an excess of the fund balance would specify what that's for, expenditures and or rainy day. 28% is a significant fund balance in his opinion.

Commissioner Miller stated that when the County met that day and they thought that they were a million five in the whole and the County could have levied ten cents but they choose to put \$ 0.05 as a maximum that increase would have been a million, we would have still had a negative \$512,000.00. Under those auspices the County should not do an increase but everybody needs to understand there will probably be an increase proposes up or down in the budget next year and then depending on the conditions it may go up.

Commissioner Elkin asked if the County gets into next year and things just really really start to turn south, all of the County's contracts with outside agencies does the County have the authority to with hold?

June Pitchford stated that once the contract is executed and certified by the Auditor it is an enforceable obligation against the County.

Wendy Noren stated that if the contracts are written in such a way it would not be. Ms. Noren stated that the County should check with CJ to determine if a change could be made in the contracts.

Bettie Johnson stated she has at least one contract that is based upon appropriations.

Commissioner Miller stated that once the County appropriates the County gives that authority and she would say that it pretty much says the funds are there.

Bettie Johnson stated it would not be on going.

Commissioner Pearson stated that one of his concerns for next year is the State is going to have to cut which would be into County appropriations. The State already does not appropriate the amount they are required for in law for prisoner per diem so that could be a concern for the County.

Wendy Noren stated that the top portion of the order contains levies one for general revenue, one for road and bridge, and group homes. These are the same as last year; this is the motion that needs to be passed. The surtax which was set by the constitution in 1984, the next set of levies are a collection of levies that were turned into my office from all of the other taxing entities from what they have set from their own public hearings and what their governing bodies have voted on and so these would be the levies that they would extend on the tax books for the Collector to collect.

Commissioner Miller stated that the general revenue for Columbia is \$ 0.41 and the County is \$0.12 for Centralia its \$ 0.65 and the County is \$0.12 and Ashland is \$ 0.26 and the County is \$0.12 and they all have sales taxes and do not have to roll back. Commissioner Miller stated that people need to recognize that the County is in a different world then everybody else, but she stated that she thinks the County is manageable for this year but she is really worried about next year.

Wendy Noren stated the State has no recognition that basically there are municipalities and unincorporated areas. County government areas are not set up to handle that at all. Either from a structural perspective or from a funding perspective. Municipalities are not required to have courts or jails or elections or collect taxes except when they do not send them on time or all these things that county governments were set up to do. This was what the County levy was set up to fund. Unfortunately there has been in the last year 30 years with the massive transfer of population from municipalities to unincorporated areas which has created a bigger burden.

Commissioner Elkin moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby set the 2009 tax rates per hundred dollars of assessed valuation for county purposes as follows:

County of Boone	Total \$.2802
General Revenue	\$.1200
Common Road and Bridge	\$.0475
Group Homes	\$.1127
County-wide Surtax on Subclass III Property	\$.6100

Now be it further ordered that the County Commission, having received reports from the various political subdivisions, so sets their tax rates per hundred dollars of assessed valuation as instructed for the year 2009:

State of Missouri	\$.0300
Columbia Public Schools	Total \$4.7717

Incidental Fund	\$1.3917	
Teachers Fund	\$2.5581	
Debt Service	\$.8019	
Capital Projects	\$.0200	
Southern Boone County R-I Schools		Total \$4.5462
Incidental Fund	\$3.2162	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$1.2800	
Capital Projects	\$.0500	
Hallsville R-IV Schools		Total \$3.9929
Incidental Fund	\$3.0293	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$.8036	
Capital Projects	\$.1600	
Sturgeon R-V Schools		Total \$4.7245
Incidental Fund	\$3.4464	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$1.2781	
Capital Projects	\$.0000	
Centralia R-VI Schools		Total \$4.3595
Incidental Fund	\$3.4695	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$.8900	
Capital Projects	\$.0000	
Harrisburg R-VIII Schools		Total \$4.5004
Incidental Fund	\$ 3.3504	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$ 1.1500	
Capital Projects	\$.0000	
New Franklin R-I Schools		Total \$3.8907
Incidental Fund	\$3.4010	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$.4897	
Capital Projects	\$.0000	
Fayette R-III Schools		Total \$4.2385
Incidental Fund	\$3.500	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$.7385	
Capital Projects	\$.0000	
North Callaway R-I Schools		Total \$3.6301
Incidental Fund	\$3.0379	
Teachers Fund	\$.0000	
Debt Service	\$.5922	
Capital Projects	\$.0000	

City of Ashland	Total	\$.3302
General Revenue	\$.2612	
Debt Service	\$.0690	
City of Centralia	Total	\$.9499
General Revenue	\$.6561	
Parks & Recreation	\$.2938	
City of Columbia	Total	\$.4100
General Revenue	\$.4100	
City of Hallsville	Total	\$.8689
General Revenue	\$.5789	
Debt Service	\$.2900	
Town of Harrisburg	General Revenue	\$.3345
Village of Hartsburg	General Revenue	\$.5141
City of Rocheport	General Revenue	\$.2588
Special Business District		\$.4759
Boone County Fire Protection District	Total	\$.6293
General Revenue	\$.6010	
Dispatch Fund	\$.0283	
Southern Bo. Co. Fire Protect. District	Total	\$.4318
General Revenue	\$.2125	
Dispatch	\$.0280	
Debt Service	\$.1913	
Boone County Library District		\$.2986
Centralia Library District	Total	\$.3745
Library	\$.2960	
Library Bond	\$.0785	
Columbia Regional Library	Total	\$.5221
General Revenue	\$.2971	
Debt Service	\$.2250	
Callahan Watershed Subdistrict		\$.0897

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.
There was no further discussion or public comment.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order 438-2009**

Purchasing

Melinda Bobbitt from Purchasing was present on behalf of the following items.

3. Bid-Award for the Recycling Roll off (second read)

Melinda Bobbitt stated the Bid for *Roll-Off Recycling Containers* closed on July 28, 2009. Four

bids were received. Following completion of the bid evaluation, Purchasing and Planning and Building recommend award to Gregory Container Company for offering the lowest and best bid for Boone County.

Award is for six containers for a total of \$29,329.50 and will be paid from department 1360 – Solid Waste Recycling, account 91300 – Machinery and Equipment. \$8,000 was budgeted for this project. A Budget Amendment and Budget Revision are attached.

Commissioner Miller moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby award bid 38-28July09 – Roll-Off Recycling Containers to Gregory Container Company. It is further ordered the Presiding Commissioner is hereby authorized to sign said contract.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion or public comment.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order 439-2009**

4. Surplus Disposal (first and second reading)

Commissioner Elkin moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the following request by Purchasing to dispose of the attached list of surplus equipment.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion or public comment.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order 440-2009**

5. Sole Source Approval for Tiger Mower Parts (first read)

Melinda Bobbitt stated that Public Works Department requests permission to utilize Crown Power and Equipment as a sole source vendor to purchase boom mower parts for the Tiger mowers located in the Public Works Department. Cooke Sales and Service was the territory dealer for the parts and were our sole source vendor until they recently went out of business. Tiger Corporation was approved as a temporary sole source provider until the dealer assigned Crown Power and Equipment as the territory dealer.

Commissioner Pearson stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk to schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission.

Sheriff's Department

Chad Martin from the Sheriff's department was present on behalf of the following items.

6. Authorize acceptance and signing of the JAG Award (first and second reading)

Commissioner Miller stated that the authorization for the application was already approved and that this was the good news, the result of the hard work.

Chad Martin stated that the Sheriff's Department requests that the authorized official sign the JAG Award.

Commissioner Elkin asked to be refreshed over what this was for.

Chad Martin stated that the FY09 Edward Byrne Memorial Grant. This provides equipment.

Commissioner Elkin moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby authorize the acceptance and signing of the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award for the FY09 in the amount of \$ 79,718 for Boone County.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion or public comment.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order 441-2009**

7. Authorize signing of Sub-recipient monitoring agreement between the City and the County for the FY09 JAG grant (first and second reading)

Chad Martin stated this agreement requires the city to submit their information to the county to include for reporting purposes. This is the sub-recipient monitoring agreement that was started with Recovery Act funds, and it follows through with all Justice Assistance Grants or Justice Programs where the County is the primary recipient of the Grant funds are responsible for monitoring and reporting of such.

Commissioner Miller moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the sub-recipient monitoring agreement between the City of Columbia and Boone County for the FY09 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). It is further ordered the Presiding Commissioner is hereby authorized to sign said contract.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

There was no discussion or public comment.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order 442-2009**

8. Budget Amendment: Authorize budget for FY09 JAG (pending approval by Auditors Office; first read)

Chad Martin stated that \$ 79,718.00 will be received and of the total grant \$ 47, 831.00 will go to the City of Columbia. This is the budget that we submitted with the grant application.

Commissioner Pearson stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk to schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting following the 10- day waiting period with an appropriate order for approval.

Miscellaneous

9. Budget Amendment for the Sapp Building at the Fairgrounds (first read)

Commissioner Elkin stated that this was the culmination of the Commission's work session the other day. This just approves the change orders that had taken place. Commissioner Elkin stated that the first change order that came out for \$7,300.00 as the Commission may recall the Public Works department was going to do all the foundation work in house. Due to pending projects and weather they did not get to it. The remaining change orders strictly had to do with foundation. The area was so mucky out there that Allstate consultants which was required by code to be out there on site required over digs to hit stable soil. These change orders were field authorized and they all came through Commissioner Elkin and he updated the Commissioners at that time to keep the project moving forward. Due to the project being internal, there was no contingency fund.

Some things that may not be in the paper are about the \$ 400,000.00 building that was donated to the County. There has probably been close to \$ 100,000.00 donated to the County in donations and voluntary labor. There has been very strong support from trusts and individuals. There is a lot of positive support for the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Pearson stated this is a first reading and requested the Deputy County Clerk to schedule this item for a second reading at the next available commission meeting following the 10- day waiting period with an appropriate order for approval.

10. Authorize Closed Meeting 610.021(1) for September 23rd

Commissioner Elkin moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby authorize a closed meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 243 of the Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center at 801 E. Walnut, Columbia, Missouri, as authorized by 610.021(1) RSMo. to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

There was no discussion or public comment.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order 443-2009**

12. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Pearson stated that he went over to the Chancellors residence the previous night to recognize the University of Missouri Columbia as a Truman Foundation Institution merit. Commissioner Pearson stated this is a very prestigious award and the University leads in the greatest number of individuals who have received the Truman Award.

13. Public Comment

The meeting adjourned at 2: 47 p.m.

Attest:

Kenneth M. Pearson
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner