

OFFICIAL MINUTES

**January 9, 2012, 4th DAY OF
THE JANUARY ADJOURN TERM**

The County Commission met in the Commissioner's Hearing Room at 8:36 a.m. with Ron Houseman, Danny Strahan and Jim Strafuss present. The following proceedings were had and made a matter of record:

PRELIMINARY STUDY MEETING

The County Commission met to review previous meeting minutes and accounts payable. Tyler Franke of Branson Tri-Lakes News asked the Commissioners about the salary study done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Brittan went before the Commission to continue discussion regarding the mulch bagging operation and requested he be put on the agenda to further discuss community economic development grant. Mr. Atchley owner of Aztec Wonder would like to produce Bio-char utilizing the same grant.

CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Commissioner Houseman called the January 9, 2012 meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with all members present.

PRAYER

Treasurer Helen Soutee led the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Strahan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – 12/29, 12/30

Commissioner Strafuss moved to approve the minutes of 12/29 and 12/30/2011 with changes and corrections. Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye) and Strafuss (aye).

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/ JOURNAL ENTRIES/TRANSFERS

Commissioner Strafuss moved to approve accounts payables as follows:

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DATE 1/9/2012

CHECKS	WARRANTS
<u>327339</u> to <u>327414</u>	<u>5556</u> _____
<u>327415</u> to <u>327418</u>	<u>5557</u> _____
<u>327419</u> to _____	<u>5558</u> _____
	<u>5559</u> _____

TRANSFERS

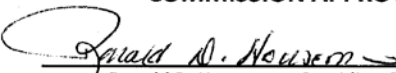
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please sign and date that you have reviewed the included information.

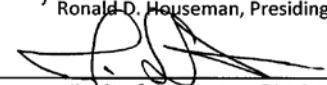
Date	Time	Signature	Comments
1/6/2012	11:00AM	JJ	

NOT APPROVED	CHECKS	TRANSFERS	COMMENTS:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

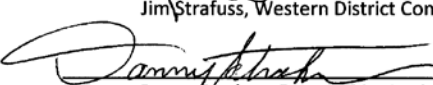
COMMISSION APPROVAL



 Ronald D. Houseman, Presiding Commissioner



 Jim Strafuss, Western District Commissioner



 Danny Strahan, Eastern District Commission

Please keep accounts payable in the order in which you receive them.

Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Strahan asked if a previously discussed item had been resolved. Commissioner Strafuss said it had. The motion passed by vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye) and Strafuss (aye).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN AGFC AND TC

Commissioner Strafuss moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Taney County. Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye) and Strafuss (aye).

RADIO TOWER

Commissioner Strafuss had received a request from Central Taney County Fire to utilize part of the Taney County Radio Tower to better their coverage. Commissioner Strafuss would like a document signed for liability. The Commission would have legal counsel review the issue.

STAFF DEPARTMENTAL MEETING – ROAD AND BRIDGE

Randy Haes and David Stottle of Road and Bridge went before the Commission for a staff departmental meeting.

The Commission gave Mr. Haes a fill dirt agreement at a location near Kisse Mills for his review. Commissioner Houseman signed a permanent and temporary easement previously approved.

Randy Haes brought pictures of damage done to Clevenger Cove. Expenses would be covered as there was an insurance claim filed. Two hour-long safety meetings would be held the end of February. Signs needed to be sorted through and recycle signs no longer needed. A Chip Seal list was being compiled.

Commissioner Strahan asked about permits from the Corp of Engineers for the K Hwy project and one on the Big Creek Arm, near the Big Creek arm in the Protem area. Commissioner Strahan announced Mr. Haes had been appointed as Interim Road Administrator.

RECESS
9:28 AM

RECONVENED
10:08 AM

FINAL READING AND APPROVAL OF THE 2012 BUDGET

Commissioner Houseman read Chapter 50.610 which included stipulations. Commissioner Houseman read the relating statutes.

Commissioner Houseman gave a statement regarding the financial condition of the 2012 budget and stated the 2012 Budget had \$1.4 million deficit but could be as high as a \$1.9 million deficit. Commissioner Strahan stated a 3 to 4 year financial plan would be sought to make a reduction in expenses, such as done with the Road and Bridge budget. Commissioner Strafuss stated the 2012 budget eliminated the intra-county transfers, utilized a fund balance to designate County anticipated funds at the beginning of next year and explained the Salary Study and stated it would still be utilized.

Commissioner Houseman asked if there were questions regarding the proposed 2012 budget.

Treasurer Sheila Wyatt stated Stone County officers and employees worked together to allow pay raises. Ms. Wyatt felt elected officials cut funds to see that the county Commission had funds to make the budget stronger, and though the Salary Study had not been reviewed, she hoped the County would not lose seasoned employees due to a lack of a raise. She hoped as Collector a tax levy burden would not be put on tax payers. Sherry Veltkamp stated one thing she wondered how this would affect much of the decisions made in the coming year.

Commissioner Strafuss moved to adopt and approve the 2012 budget. Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye) and Strafuss (aye).

Tyler Franke of Branson Tri-Lakes News stated last Monday if 5 to 10% cut were made, all employees would receive pay increases. Mr. Franke asked if that was still a true statement. Commissioner Houseman said they would look at county employees across the board. Commissioner Strahan said as we look and review salary schedule and evaluation, some exemplary employees would be taken into consideration first. The Commission appreciated all cuts elected officials and department heads made. Tyler Franke asked if a dollar amount in the contingency fund would be available for raises. Commissioner Strahan said a dollar amount was not available as the study needed to be taken into consideration. Commissioner Strafuss said after all cuts were made, we had \$2.6 million over what was approved in 2011. Commissioner Strafuss stated the budget had an increased budget over 2011, rather than a decreased of 5%.

Jan Clark of the Taney County Times asked the Commission what part of the Budget included the expenses and revenues of the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Strafuss said 117 and 118 were Sheriff's budget lines. Ms. Clark also asked when we made the cuts in road and bridge, why additional employees weren't terminated. Commissioner Strafuss said 28 positions were eliminated last year. The Commission felt with fewer personnel, services provided to the citizens would be affected. Ms. Clark asked if why the Commission didn't ask employees to make a co-pay to save expenditures. Commissioner Houseman said the Commission did consider that but didn't take that action to retain the trained staff within the county system. Jan Clark asked if 2011 had deficit spending. Commissioner Houseman said no; however if you subtract transfers into GCR for admin purposes, then there would be deficit spending. Over \$200,000 was transferred over to 2012. Commissioner Strafuss said projected revenues were less than prior years. Sheriff asked upside on tax revenues, last three months went up. Rick Findley stated Taney County was still one of the best places to live, and felt the County was better off than other counties.

**RECESS
10:50 AM**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL UPDATE PER SECTION 610.021(1), (2), (3) & (12)

Commissioner Strafuss moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), (2), (3) and (12). Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye), and Strafuss (aye).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
11:04 AM**

See Executive Session Minutes for actions, if any.

Commissioner Strafuss moved to go out of Executive Session. Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye) and Strafuss (aye).

Commissioner Strafuss exited the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE
2:30 PM**

**RECONVENED
2:31 PM**

AGENDA REQUESTS REVIEW

The Commission met with Nikki Lawrence to review agenda requests.

Commissioner Strahan moved to adjourn. Commissioner Houseman seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote: Houseman (aye), Strahan (aye) and Strafuss (absent).

**ADJOURNED
2:38 PM**

The minutes were taken and typed by Lyn Wieneke, Deputy Clerk.