

**MARCH 25, 2005 THE 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF  
THE JANUARY ADJOURNED TERM**

The County Commission met at the Long Horn Cafe in Forsyth, Missouri at 12 noon pursuant to adjourn with Chuck Pennel, Presiding, Ron Herschend, Western District, and Danny Strahan, Eastern District present. The following proceedings were had and made a matter of record.

**COUNTY POLICIES AND CONCERNS**

Pennel read the following list of issues:

- ❑ Pre-Employment Drug Testing
- ❑ The GIS department is the Information System Department is now controlling the use of the county jeep. Pennel asked if the elected officials felt we needed another vehicle as the jeep use has increased greatly.
- ❑ Should rates for mileage be increased?
- ❑ Employee Parking- Pennel requested all employees and elected official use the parking garage for parking. Concerns were expressed that not all elected officials would direct their employees to utilize the parking garage.
- ❑ Our insurance provider has asked us to use Dr. Hale as our work related injury doctor.
- ❑ Court House Security was discussed.

The floor was opened to discussion. John Lavender expressed concerns for fire exits if we close all but one door. Sheriff Jimmie Russell suggested using a card swipe system to increase security. Ron Herschend said we had to look at this from a cost standpoint. Herschend stated that there are more attacks on judges at home than in the courtroom. Russell stated that we are charged with keeping the Court House safe. Associate Judge Tony Williams stated that so far he has not felt threatened. Williams stated that Court House security has to do with the Sheriffs Office that he hasn't heard of anyone shooting a Commissioner. Commissioner Danny Strahan said that we don't have a choice; it may be mandated in the future. Tony Williams stated that Judge Eiffert was concerned about courthouse security.

Pennel asked how everyone felt about Pre-Employment Drug Testing. There were no negative comments. Pennel asked if the Officials felt we needed another vehicle? The consensus was yes, we do need another vehicle.

Pennel asked if everyone like the noon meeting better, and the majority responded yes. The Commission will meet with the elected officials once a month for a noon meeting.

**RECESS**

**RECONVENE**

The County Commission met in the Associate Court Room II with the Branson Mayor, Branson City Council, and the Taney County Sewer Board at 2:00 pm pursuant to adjourn with Chuck Pennel, Presiding, Ron Herschend, Western District, and Danny Strahan, Eastern District present. The following proceedings were had and made a matter of record.

The members of the Sewer Board, the City Council, and the Commission discussed the territorial agreement the City of Branson has, which requires individuals or companies to contact the City of Branson before making arrangements for the handling of sewage, and the impact it has on the citizens of Taney County. Ron Herschend stated that the contract was not a good contract if new developers must pay a premium to go the distance it would require to hook up to sewer. Herschend said the concern was that citizens would have to pay more. Danny Strahan stated that he didn't think it was fair to have the citizens of Taney County who are not furnished with any of the City Benefits to have to ask for sewer outside of the City Limits of Branson. Teri Doty said this was a misunderstanding, that the City of Branson does not force someone to go on Branson Sewer, just to contact them first for options. Doty stated that if the City asked for the pipes to be larger that they always paid the difference. Ron Huff stated that they just wanted the citizens in the area of the territorial agreement to come to the City of Branson and compare the cost of obtaining Branson Sewer verses a Package Plant. Larry VanGelder stated that citizens were forced to go on Branson Sewer, but they are forced to look at the cost of Branson Sewer verses other possibilities. Pennel asked why a citizens has to come to the City of Branson to put a septic tank on 20 acres of land. Larry Van Gelder said it was to provide them with information to let them know the cost difference. Ron Herschend stated that if a county resident wanted to put septic in they can go to the sewer district first, why is the city more capable of dealing with these issues then the Sewer Board. Teri Doty said it is an economy of scale issue, that ad development occurs even further West, the more influence captured into the Branson Facility the cheaper it will be as we go further out in these areas. Jasper Reynolds stated that the Sewer Board had no say on the Engineering firm for the Bee Creek project and that the board was concerned over the cost. Herschend stated that the Sewer Board had no input until after the plans had been done. Herschend said that they were always in a reactionary mode to design work being done.

No motions made, no votes taken

Ron Herschend made a motion to adjourn, Chuck Pennel seconded the motion. Motion passed by vote, Pennel (yes), Herschend (yes), Strahan (yes).

Minutes taken by: Donna Neeley