

**OCTOBER 11, 2005 THE 3RD DAY
OF THE OCTOBER ADJOURN TERM**

The County Commission met in Associate II Circuit Courtroom at 9:00 a.m. 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 prayer was led by Mike Woody followed by the pledge.

**BRANSON AREA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
MIKE WOODY**

Mike Woody, member of the Branson Area Festival of Lights Committee, addressed the Commission regarding the lights for the Ozark Christmas. Woody stated that the BAROL has been self funded since 1990 and is sited has one of the top “must see” holiday events in the United States. Woody went on to explain that the lease was lost for the Branson Hills Parkway location creating a need to move and that a feasible location to host the lights has not been found. Woody added that the hope is to have a permanent location for the years to come however; there will be a shortage of funds this year with the loss of money from the drive through lights off of Bee Creek Road. Many of the lights from the BAROL have been sold to business owners in the area. Woody further stated that there are two types of lights: impact displays, which are the drive through lights and signature lights, which are the stars that line Hwy 76 and Shepard of the Hills Expressway. Woody explained that with maintenance and electricity each one of the stars averages \$125. Woody expressed that the City of Branson gave approval for the BAROL to invest out of the Marketing Contingency Fund. Woody made a one-year request for the financial support of the county.

Commissioner Herschend asked if the lights sold to the local businesses would need to be replaced? Woody responded that the intention was never to continue the Festival of Lights with their current assets and saw the opportunity to sell some of them off. Herschend then stated that it seems as though Branson just gave them permission to spend their own money. Woody clarified that money is not normally taken out of the contingency fund however, they chose to this year because of the income shortage.

Presiding Commissioner Pennel asked if Branson has given funding in previous years out of same fund? Woody stated that he is not sure and that through the years the financial support has been on and off again. Woody added that 4 or 5 years ago Branson made a \$100,000 dollar investment by lighting two of their own displays.

Commissioner Herschend asked how many visitors there usually are between November and Christmas. Woods responded, anywhere from 600,000 to 750,000 visitors.

Commissioner Pennel expressed that he will need to think about where the next 4 or 5 requests will come from if the Commission funds this project.

Commissioner Herschend asked if this issue could be back on the agenda for next Monday. Herschend expressed he is looking to make a motion in the \$10,000 range as this is a one time request and the impact of the community has been tremendous.

BID RESULTS TRESSA LUTTRELL

Tressa Luttrell, Administrator, presented a bid for a mailing services used by the Collector Sheila Wyatt to send out tax statements. Luttrell explained that Ozark Mailing Service was the only bidder and it was the same bid from last year. Luttrell added that this service puts a bar code on the mail and if there is a change of address instead of sending it and wasting postage it adds the new address and sends it back to the Collectors Office for the proper corrections.

Commissioner Herschend made a motion to accept the bid from Ozark Mailing Service as presented by the Purchasing Agent, Tressa Luttrell. Commissioner Pennel seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Pennel (yes), Herschend (yes), Strahan (yes).

PARK BOARD

Commissioner Strahan updated the Commission on the parks and stated that the last park will be completed soon, which will end park business for this year. Strahan added that this year pavilions were put in Rockaway Beach, Mincy, and Taneyville and that new projects will start again next year.

Commissioner Herschend expressed his appreciation to Strahan for all of his hard work with the Park Board, stating that it has a tremendous impact on the communities involved.

BRANSON UNDERGROUND DONNA NEELEY

Donna Neeley, County Clerk stated that she has received an application for Branson Underground, which is set up under the Presiding Commissioner. Neeley explained that according to the application the Presiding Commission has to authorize her to be the custodian of records giving her the ability to destroy the records that have met retention. Neeley added that she would have access to all records and could authorize other office holders to get their offices records out of Branson Underground as needed.

Commissioner Herschend expressed that he is not comfortable with restricting office holders from their records and stated there could be issues with not being able to

find the authorized person when office records are needed. Herschend added that it would also restrict the likelihood of using that nice facility.

Commissioner Strahan also stated he was not comfortable with giving one-person control over all the records.

Donna Neeley stated that both Rick Findley, Auditor and Helen Souttee, Treasurer have expressed that they will only use Branson Underground for records that have met the retention schedule and are waiting to be destroyed. A general discussion ensued.

Commissioner Strahan made a motion to table this issue in order to talk to office holders regarding this issue. Commissioner Pennel seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Pennel (yes), Herschend (yes), Strahan (yes).

ACCOUNTS ALLOWED

Commissioner Herschend made a motion to approve accounts payable warrants # 91301-91402. Commissioner Pennel seconded the motion and stated that a bill for a Road and Bridge employee plaque should have been included but the county usually does not pay for plaques out of the General County Revenue Fund. Commissioner Herschend then amended his motion to take the bill out. Commissioner Pennel amended his second. The motion passed by vote: Pennel (yes), Herschend (yes), Strahan (yes).

PRIOR MINUTES

Presiding Commissioner Pennel made a motion to approve minutes from September 21, 28, 30 and October 5. Commissioner Strahan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Pennel (yes), Herschend (yes), Strahan (yes).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Herschend made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (1) (2) (3). Commissioner Pennel seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Pennel (yes), Herschend (yes), Strahan (yes).

Minutes taken and typed by: Hillary Bargman