

**ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021**  
**13TH DAY JANUARY ADJOURNED**

The Adair County Commission convened at 8:30 a.m. on March 2, 2021 in the Courthouse at Kirksville. All Commissioners were present.

At 10:00 a.m., the Elected Official's monthly meeting was held in the first-floor Division 2 Courtroom to practice social distancing due to the coronavirus. Attending the meeting were Adair County Presiding Commissioner, Mark Shahan; Adair County 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner, Bill King; Adair County 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner, Mark Thompson; Adair County Clerk, Sandra Collop; Adair County Treasurer, Lori Smith; Adair County Assessor, Kent Bryant; Adair County Public Administrator, Rhonda Noe; Adair County Prosecuting Attorney, Matt Wilson; Adair County Circuit Clerk, Linda Decker; and Adair County Sheriff, Eldon Grissom. Those absent were Adair County Coroner, Brian Noe; Adair County Recorder, Pat Shoush; and Adair County Collector, Sonja Harden.

Presiding Commissioner Shahan presented a draft for an informational flyer that is being created supporting the April 6, 2021 County sales tax ballot issue for capital improvements to the Courthouse. It was suggested that additional information be included discussing the deteriorating condition of the building. Officials think it has been neglected for many years and is continually deteriorating. For approximately the past 50 years, deterioration problems have been fixed with "band aids" or literally covered up. It was suggested that the Commission appoint a local spokesman to explain the issue so everyone will be receiving the same message.

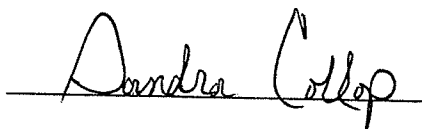
Commissioner Thompson said that some Officials were wanting to have a separate facility to house the County offices. It was noted that if this was the case, then the County would have two facilities to maintain. The Courthouse is on the Historic Register and is obligated to maintain the Courthouse for several years in the future due to receiving grant funding for repairs. Commissioner King said the Courthouse is the hub of the County and the information given should be based on needs rather than wants. Mrs. Decker was concerned with the vault within the Circuit Clerk's Office. She is on the top floor, the Recorder's vault is below on the second floor, and the Division 3 Courtroom vault under that on the ground floor. Over the years, it has been stuffed with paperwork and she is concerned with the additional weight the vault has acquired over the years in paper weight.

Presiding Commissioner Shahan said the informational flyer will be re-drafted using input from the meeting. The flyer will be mailed to Adair County households who typically have voted in past April elections.

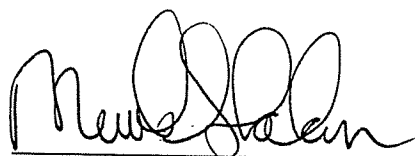
Discussion was then held regarding closing the Courthouse due to inclement weather. Presiding Commissioner Shahan stated it costs the Sheriff's Department approximately \$7,000 and the Road and Bridge Department \$3,000 to close their departments. Ms. Smith said if the Governor closes State offices for any reason, she will close her office as well. She will not require her employee to use a vacation day as it is out of their control. She feels that the County is linked to the State through various offices, and we should be operating the same. Ms. Smith was referring to the closing of State offices by Governor Parsons on February 16, 2021 due to sub-freezing temperatures that lasted several days. The County Commission did not close the Courthouse but did acknowledge a 10:00 a.m. start to the day suggested by an Elected Official.

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Mr. Wilson said that supervisors should make their own decisions. County government is unique; some staff can work from home. Closing due to weather related reasons may not be a hard and fast rule.

Ms. Smith thinks the Elected Officials do not communicate. A call tree is needed. For example, not all Elected Officials notified their employees of the late start. Presiding Commissioner Shahan wants discovery on this subject and asked Ms. Smith for her help by contacting other counties regarding their protocols. He said if the office holder closes their office, it is on them. Mrs. Noe said that all circumstances are different as for closures. It was mentioned that it would be nice to have uniformity regarding closures, but that is hard to do. Comparing offices is like comparing apples to oranges.

Presiding Commissioner Shahan said that all Elected Officials were not following the Handbook on this issue. Mrs. Decker felt - you are open, or you are closed. Sheriff Grissom stated that his officers know when they take a law enforcement job it is 24/7. If they happen to have the day off and it is inclement weather, then good for them. They do not have to deal with it. He does not expect them to be paid extra compensation if they were not scheduled to work that day. Office staff would be considered administrative and if the Courthouse were closed, they would not be required to come to work either plus not lose a vacation day.

Again, Mr. Wilson stated it was his opinion that each office holder should do their own thing. He noted that Law Enforcement gets to retire at 55, but the rest of the employees do not. So again, that is comparing apples to oranges.

Mrs. Noe then changed the subject to: COVID testing when entering the Courthouse. She referred to entering the Courthouse from one entrance, but there were several ways to exit the Courthouse.

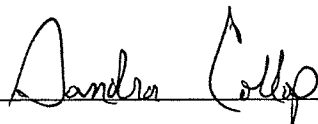
Mr. Wilson said he thought it was asinine. He said he works around all sorts of people at the Annex (where his office is located) and there are no COVID testing requirements there. But when he comes to the Courthouse, he must have his temperature taken and complete a screening survey and he does not like that. He thinks the Commissioners are inconsistent. They provide screening for people entering the Courthouse but there are no procedures for people entering the Annex. Mrs. Decker stated that when Court starts up, procedures will have to be in place.

Mrs. Noe wanted to know when Elected Officials assume leadership as no one seemed to be taking-on any. Presiding Commissioner Shahan suggested we seek a legal opinion from Attorney Ivan Schraeder on Courthouse closures and how it affects employees. Mr. Wilson said what about me? Commissioner King said that Mr. Wilson is our legal opinion. Mr. Wilson stated the appearance does not add up in the Courthouse and all the County buildings. Presiding Commissioner Shahan said we are in the discovery phase and asked Ms. Smith again to contact other counties as to their protocols.

Ms. Smith stated there is no security and no full time Bailiff in the Courthouse. At least now there is someone at the door to help direct traffic. She also feels security is needed for the Courthouse.

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Ms. Smith then mentioned that the County might be eligible for an additional 5 million dollars from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funds would not have the same guidelines as the first CARES money received in the County. The criteria seem to be more lenient in supplying help to everyone. She also mentioned that Legislative Day will be held at the Capital in Jefferson City on April 19, 2021. This event was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus.

Ms. Smith reported that the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) annual meeting will be held at Margaritaville in the Lake of the Ozark the week before Thanksgiving. MAC will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and many special events are being planned for the occasion. The MAC meeting was held virtually in 2020 due to COVID. The Wayfair Bill is being debated in the House and Senate. It does not seem to be gaining any traction due to arguing among the parties. There also could possibly be several issues pertaining to the County Clerks Association on elections. Jury trials in Greene County are being scheduled over 2+ years due to court closures. Mr. Wilson said that jury trials in Adair County are being scheduled for February 2022.

Sheriff Grissom stated their department is trying to fight crime. He indicated there are 3 or 4 cells of violators causing havoc throughout the County. The Sheriff's Department is experiencing problems with non-working surveillance cameras across the County. He encourages everyone to lock their car doors and properties plus record serial numbers on tools and equipment so they can be readily identified if stolen then recovered. He said that older violators being released from prison were bringing new people back to the area with them to engage in criminal activity. Drugs are within our area.

Mrs. Noe reported increases in elderly abuse and exploitation. The elderly population is growing. She would like to see a task force created to help with these situations.

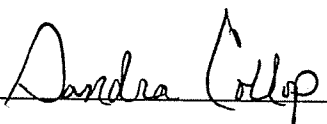
The Elected Official's meeting ended at 11:42 a.m.

The Adair County Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on March 2, 2021.

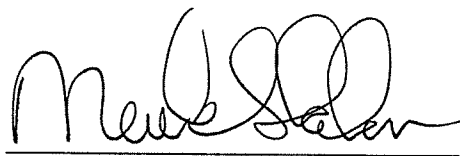
**Unscheduled Public Walk-Ins and other Non-Agenda Items for Tuesday, March 2, 2021:**

None

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