SHANNON COUNTY COMMISSION

 PO Box 187

Eminence, MO 65466

Office (573)-226-3965

Fax (573)-226-5325

 Vester Crider Beth Long Herman Kelly

Northern Commissioner Presiding Commissioner Southern Commissioner

Shelly Bland Caitlynn Cooper Angie Norris

County Clerk Clerk 2 Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Long called the meeting to order Monday, September 15th, 2025, at 9:01 a.m.

Members Present: Vester Crider, Northern Commissioner

 Herman Kelly, Southern Commissioner

 Beth Long, Presiding Commissioner

Shelly Bland, County Clerk

Visitors: Mike Bell – To video as a concerned citizen

 David Trotter

 Karen Stewart

 Patty Jones

 Allen Ford, Shannon County Coroner

The Commission approves the presented invoices for payment. (H-Y, V-Y, B-Y)

Commissioner Crider motions to table the meeting minutes from September 8th, 2025. Commissioner Kelly seconds the motion. Motion carries with all in favor. (H-Y, V-Y, B-Y)

Approval of Add Ons and Abatements. (H-Y, V-Y, B-Y)

The commissioners sign the Designation of Delegates to MAC’s annual conference for voting purposes when attending the meetings. (H-Y, V-Y, B-Y)

Commissioner Cider states that he will get with the people at DNR to do paperwork over 19D, the county road that goes into Current River State Park.

Mike Bell states that he is not on the agenda for the meeting today and wonders why he isn’t, Mike says he called on Friday at 11:25 a.m. and left a voicemail and asked why the county clerk didn’t answer her phone because it is after all paid for by the county. Shelly tells Mike that he called the office and NOT her cellphone. Mike says, “I thought that is why they paid for your phone so you could be on call 24/7”. Shelly tells Mike again that he did NOT call her cellphone. Mike states that he called the county office (573-226-3414) Mike asks if you have to have your personal phone number on the county business phone, Shelly tells Mike that it is on her business card. Mike states yet again that he was under the impression that is why they paid for the phone so Herman could get business done 24/7. Commissioner Long states that he DID NOT call her cell phone. He says he called the County Clerk’s Office; Commissioner Long asks Mike what time he called, he says he called at 11:25 a.m. on Friday (September 12th, 2025). Commissioner Long states that Shelly was not in the office on Friday, she was at a meeting on and there was only 1 employee here. Mike asks if he needs to start filming the calls to, Commissioner Long says if that is what he feels he needs to do. Mike says, “So explain this to me” Commissioner Long states that she has not ask Mike to speak, Mike agrees. Mike asks Commissioner Long if he asks her to speak (meaning Karen Stewart) and Commission Long states that Karen is not speaking to the room. Mike says ok and that he did not know how that worked.

Commissioner Long asks Karen Stewart if she has anything as far as topics. Karen states that she has some questions from some people, but she thinks she can research those upstairs in the courthouse. Karen wanted to report that she did talk to the Attorney General’s Office on Thursday (September 11th, 2025) She asks if there was anything they could do to help get an earlier audit or get someone here and push forward any investigative work they need to get done we need to get this resolved and get us back to Shannon County and out of all this fighting and fussing. Karen says she was able to speak with a lady named Holly, the person in charge of taking the messages forward to where they need to go and assured her that she would do all she could to get someone here and get this resolved.

Commissioner Long states that Marvin Corbin or Kathryn Skopec (on the agenda) are not here. Karen states that she thinks Kathryn is on her way. Commissioner Long states that she spoke with her on Friday and she was still planning on attending the meeting.

Karen states that Kathryn don’t just write the news, she also writes for Rolling Stone and the New York Times. Karen wants her to see the county and all the county’s people. Kathryn told Karen that she has watched all the Shannon County films and she is pretty fascinated by what all that goes on. Karen is trying to make arrangements to take Kathryn around to different places around Shannon County and meet some of the people. She is going to take her to the Dairy Shack to see what it’s all about, she made arrangements for her to meet Jack Burrus to see some of his carvings and talk about that. She has asked Patty Jones if she could meet them and explain how the food pantry works and all the work that goes into that, also meeting with Mr. Darrell at the high school and they are going to let her walk through and just see how lovingly they have cared for that old building and speak with Mr. Darrell about him doing that traditional music group. Jenni Chilton is going to meet with them so she can show her the ornament that she was selected to go to Washington with. Karen says she wants to get ahold of Counts sawmill so Kathryn can see the traditional jobs that people do. Karen says she wants to give Kathryn an overview of the county.

Commissioner Long tells Mike that since the others are not here, he can go ahead and ask his questions. He says he has general questions, like the phone call. He says now you are telling me if you don’t have Shelly’s phone number that you can’t get ahold of the county phone that is, being paid for by the county, Commissioner Long tells Mike that he twisted the words and what she said was you didn’t call her cellphone and that is what you are arguing that you called her cell phone and she is supposed to be available 24/7. Mike says he called the county clerk’s office and that is her position, correct. Commissioner Long tells Mike he is correct. Mike asks if they pay for a phone for the County Clerk, Commissioner Longs states every office has a phone and is paid for by the county. Mike says she has a cell phone that is being paid for by the county as the county clerk, Commissioner Long states actually it is no longer paid by the county. Mike says, “it’s not now” Commissioner Long says it is not now. Mike states that he wouldn’t expect to get ahold of her then, Commissioner Long states now that the cellphone isn’t being paid for by the county don’t expect her to answer after 4 p.m. Mike says his call went to voicemail, Commissioner Long tells Mike there was only 1 employee in the office on Friday. Mike asks if that is why the minutes didn’t get typed up, Commissioner Long states that they can table the minutes and that they are 17 pages long. Mike asks how long they will be tabled, Commissioner Long tells him until next week (September 22nd, 2025).

Karen asks Mike if we are live feed or recorded, Mike answers with “Yeah and if you want to gripe about not being on live then she can do it herself” Karen states that she is not griping. Mike tells Karen that she can send the video where she wants to. Mike says he is tired of the comments on here (Facebook) Commissioner Long says, “that’s irrelevant and we are not talking about that in the meeting and if he wants to talk to her after the meeting then that’s fine”.

Karen tells the commissioners that it was good seeing the road guys on the front page of the Summersville Beacon showing their grader training. Patty Jones comments on how refreshing it was.

Commissioner Kelly states that they will be asphalting the road in front of Jack Wood’s this week. Likely on Tuesday and Wednesday. September 16th and 17th, 2025. Commissioner Kelly encourages everyone to go look at the job when it’s completed and that is proud of his crew.

**Commissioner Long tells Commissioners Kelly and Crider that they need to add Michelle Shedd’s name to the sheriff’s accounts although her title is on the accounts her name is not. Commissioner Long states that there are 3 different accounts, they are as follows:**

* **CCW Account**
* **Revolving Account**
* **Commissary Account**

**Commissioner Long states that this was discussed last week and her name needs on those accounts and we need a motion for the minutes to show that we all agree to put her name on those accounts.**

**Commissioner Crider motions to put Michelle Shedd (Shannon County Treasurer) on the accounts listed above. Commissioner Kelly seconds the motion. Motion carries with all in favor. (B-Y, H-Y, V-Y)**

Commissioner Long leaves the meeting to go upstairs to get some paperwork. Mike asks Karen what officer she spoke with at the FBI, Karen states that it was a lady and she didn’t write it down. Mike asks Karen if the lady laughed at her when she told her what she was calling for, Karen says “no she didn’t” Karen tells Mike that she spoke with the lady for 27 minutes and she put her on hold to speak with someone else in the room, she assumed and then got back on the phone with her. Mike asks Karen if it was because he didn’t post the video from previous meeting and that he had malicious intent and wants Karen to explain that. Karen asks if they want that to happen in this meeting, Commissioner Crider states no and that it has nothing to do with the meeting, Karen tells Mike they can speak after the meeting. Mike says “it does have something to do with the meeting because it was in the minutes. Mike states that it was in the minutes that Karen contacted the FBI on him, Commissioner Crider asks “what minutes” Karen tells him it was last weeks. Mike states that it is part of the meeting and he was just trying to get information and who she talked to and that she called the FBI in Springfield, MO. Mike asks Commissioner Crider if he remembers that being talked about, Commissioner Crider states that there was a lot being said last week. Commissioner Crider states that is why our minutes are so long. Mike states that he didn’t talk much last week. Commissioner Crder states that the commissioners didn’t hardly get to say a word. Mike says, “he thought it was kinda pathetic and he thought this was the commission meeting and that they were in charge, that is just what he thought, but what does he know”. Commissioner Crider tells Mike that he was part of the problem. Mike tells Commissioner Crider that he’s not the problem and that he is the person with the camera that everyone hates.

Commissioner Crider asks Commissioner Long about an email that she gave him and Commissioner Kelly to read from the county attorney through MOPERM. Commissioner Crider asks if the case is filed against the county commission, Commissioner Long states that it would be filed against the county since the Prosecuting Attorney is part of the county he is covered under our insurance.

Commissioner Long says to Mike “You told me that you called the clerk’s office at 11:25 a.m.” Mike says “yes” Commissioner Long says, “Right here it says Laura L Bell (your wife) called at 12:26 p.m. and the office is closed for lunch” Mike states that he looked at his clock and it was 11:25 a.m. and he thought he needed to call before noon. Commissioner Longs says, “I don’t know but that is what the log is on the phone”. Mikes says it shouldn’t matter when he calls according to the first meeting and Shelly has a phone and can answer any kind of problems Herman has 24/7 and it wouldn’t matter. Commissioner Long says, “cell phone, that is correct”. Mike states that the people don’t have a “cell phone” directory. Mike says he thinks the call should have been transferred to go to Shelly’s phone because Herman said she was 24/7. Commissioner Long asks Mike why he didn’t ask to be put on the agenda last Monday when he was in the meeting. Mike says he thought he had other plans, and he didn’t know until Friday that he could come. Commissioner Long tells Mike that it sounds like he just wanted to twist and make some good stories. Commissioner Crider asks Mike why he didn’t call back at 1:30 p.m. Mike wants to be put on the agenda for next meetings, he wants to be clear. Commissioner Crider asks Mike again why he didn’t call back at 1:30 p.m. Mike states he had already made the call and left a message. Commissioner Long states that she would have called back if she had to leave a message. Mike states that he thought he could trust the county officials. Commissioner Long states that he has to do his due diligence too. Commissioner Crider states that Mike was put on the agenda and Mike says no he wasn’t. Commissioner Long says that it was posted before he called. The argument ensues. Commissioner Crider states that this stuff is petty, Mike agrees 100%. Commissioner Crider tells Mike he could have called back or called earlier. Mike says, “he could have, could of, could of”. Argument ensues more with nothing resolved.

Commissioner Crider asks at what point did Mike get put on the agenda; Commissioner Long states this morning after listening to messages.

Commissioner Crider asks what else we have to discuss and Commissioner Longs states that we have nothing. Commissioner Crider states that we are going to have to address the budgets at some point, with the sheriff’s budget being over we need a solution. Commissioner Long states if we are not careful all of the county offices will have answering messages because there will be no one in the offices to answer the phone. Commissioner Crider states he doesn’t think we can make a decision without talking with the sheriff. Commissioner Crider states that something has got to happen and the money is going to be completely gone, we still have 3 ½ months to go. Commissioner Longs says that Sheriff Hogan stated last week in the meeting that he was not going to let any of his employees go. Commissioner Long also states that she asked what we were going to do to manage the budget for the remainder of the year and Sheriff Hogan never gave an answer. Commissioner Crider asks how they can move forward with just Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Long, and himself. Patty Jones asks the commissioners if the sheriff is required to attend these meetings. Commissioner Long explains that none of the elected officials are required to attend. The commissioners must attend, and the meetings are open to anyone.

Commissioner Crider says he’s not sure if they ever got a hard number from Michelle Shedd (Treasurer) for the rest of the year we will need estimated revenue along with estimated expenses. He states that we need that number from her. Commissioner Long tells him that Michelle won’t be back until the first of October. Commissioner Long states to fulfill the sheriff’s budget it is going to start taking from the other county offices, which is not right, and the office holders will have to lay off employees. Commissioner Crider states that as a county commission they cannot let that happen. Commissioner Long states that without the offices upstairs there are no jobs here. Commissioner Crider states that they can’t do it on their own and those offices must have help especially with the coming end of the year and tax season. Karen states that she knocked on Sheriff Hogan’s door to his office and didn’t get any answer, Karen also states that she talked with one of the deputies and relayed to him that there were some questions and asked if the sheriff could step in the meeting it would be helpful and ask him to relay the message to the sheriff if he could.

Assessor Jimile Voyles comes into the meeting and tells the commissioners she needs to speak to them about a road. Commissioner Long tells her to go ahead. Jimile states that she was thinking that the commissioners decided that Chip Hollow Road was a public road and wanted to know if that was correct. Commissioner Crider tells Jimile that he got a message about this road from Dan Drees, Commissioner Crider states that he has spoken to Dale Counts (previous Northern Commissioner) about this road and the road down to Chip Pitz was considered a public road (not Chip Brewer), and they graded it about once a year. Jimile asks “so it doesn’t start from 106”, Commissioner Crider states It starts at 106 but don’t go to Chip Brewer’s house. Jimile asks where the public road ends. Commissioner Crider states that he really doesn’t know that answer and they had always graded down to Chip Pitz’s gate. Commissioner Crider states that at one point the grader operator went through the gate and down to the next house because the road was bad and weather that makes that a public road or not, he doesn’t know. Commissioner Cider says that it was always considered a public road, and the county maintained it but it’s not a county road. Jimile asks if she can get something in writing from the commissioners. Commissioner Crider asks what they would need and how they would do that. Commissioner Long states that the landowner is Chip Brewer for a certain section. Commissioner Long also states that there will be multiple landowners that will need to sign off on this. Commissioner Crider states to him it is a bad thing and it’s a mess that you could get into with multiple landowners. Jimile states that the landowners are Chip Brewer, Newmans and Chip Pitz, Jimile says “and now Conrad”. Jimile states that Terri Mae and Conrad now have ownership. Commissioner Crider states that he told Dan Drees that he doesn’t mind going down there and grading the road when there is time. Commissioner Crider says as far as a public road, he doesn’t even know if he has the say on that. Commissioner Kelly tells Commissioner Crider that he doesn’t think he does have a say, Commissioner Kelly states that they always have done courtesy grades once a year for private drives. Commissioner Long states that she thinks the landowners need to get something written up and she would sign off on it. Commissioner Long recommends that the landowners, if in agreement that it is a public road, get it recorded. The commissioners all agree that the landowners need to take care of this with some kind of agreement because that don’t think they should make that decision for the landowners.

Patty Jones asks who usually visits these meetings, she asks if it’s mostly people that have issues with their roads and stuff. Commissioner Kelly tells Patty yes and they try to address all those issues.

Commissioner Crider asks Commissioner Long if they need to respond to the letter about the possible lawsuit discussed earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Long tells him that the county attorney will reply. Commissioner Crider asks to be clear on which attorney they are discussing, Commissioner Long states that he is Al Spradling at Spradling & Spradling Attorney at Law through MOPERM, which is our property insurance. Commissioner Long states that this is the same attorney that took care of the lawsuit when someone broke their leg on county grounds, which is what our insurance is for.

Commissioner Crider asks what Commissioner Long and Commissioner Kelly think they should do about working on the budgets. He asks if they should call a special meeting and set it up for next Monday. Commissioner Kelly asks when Michelle Shedd (Treasurer) will be returning, Commissioner Long states that she will not be back until the first of October. Commissioner Crider tells them that they have got to address this issue, and he feels like they need every office holder in the courthouse in the meeting to sit down and discuss where we are at and what all is going on. Commissioner Crider asks if there are any ideas from anyone. Commissioner Kelly states if we don’t address the issue that we are going to be completely out of money, and the other offices will have to lay their employees off. Commissioner Kelly is concerned that the county could be starting off in the red for the year 2026. Commissioner Kelly states that every office holder knows what their budget is and how important it is to stay within that budget and it’s the office holder's responsibility. Karen Stewart asks if the office holder is given an opportunity to agree with that budget at some point, Commissioner Long tells Karen that they each sign off on the budget. Commissioner Crider states that this is something that is going to have to be addressed and they can’t keep letting it go on. The Commissioners discuss when they could have the meeting concerning the budgets. Commissioner Crider states that it doesn’t have to be on a Monday. Commissioner Crider states that this is probably going to draw a lot of attention and he thinks there will be a lot of people. Commissioner Long says that it is their responsibility to make sure there is adequate space for everyone, and they would have to make sure the courtroom is open so they can use that space if they are expecting a large crowd.

Patty Jones asks, “If you have an issue with one department and If they are over budget that can effect that other departments?” Commissioner Crider answers Patty with, we have a General Revenue Fund Account that everyone’s budget is set from except for his budget and Commissioner Kelly’s budgets and those budgets come from The Road and Bridge Account. General Revenue only has so much money and when one office holder goes over his or her allotted money that draws money from General Revenue where everyone else’s is coming from.

Commissioner Crider states that we are at 71% of the year and he goes over the budget percentages; they are as follows:

* Assessor 72%
* Circuit Clerk 79.1%
* Commission 67.6%
* Building Grounds 64.5%
* Collector 50.3%
* Coroner 66.9%
* County Clerk 71.5%
* Jail 181.3%
* Prosecuting Attorney 64.5%
* Public Administrator 67.4%
* Recorder of Deeds 59.5 %
* Sheriff 114.8%
* Treasurer 72.1%
* Northern Road Dist. 65.9%
* Southern Road Dist. 59.7%

Commissioner Crider states that’s all the budgets for the county and they are all running about where they need to be except for a couple.

Commissioner Kelly states that the county commission had talked to the sheriff prior to this and he was at 45%, Commissioner Long states that yes in March the sheriff’s budget was already at 45%. Commissioner Kelly states that they tried to get the sheriff to cut back at that point to help get through the year and they didn’t have any luck.

Patty Jones asks what the physical year is for the sheriff’s budget, and she was told that it runs from October to October. Patty called Michelle Shedd (Treasurer) and asked her, Michelle told her that it runs from January to January.

Karen Stewart asks if the current sheriff started with a clean slate or if he started with debt. Commissioner Long states that there was some carryover from the previous sheriff, of about $25,000.00 for jail and $25,000.00 for sheriff but that is with any office whenever you take office there are bills to be paid regardless if you were the office holder the year before or not because there are still bills coming in. Commissioner Long states that they decided as a commission they would take care of that $50,000.00 worth of bills and it was not held against for the overage. Karen states that she had heard the sheriff had started out $160,000 + in debt, the commissioners tell her that is not correct. Patty Jones states that you hear a lot and that is why she wanted to come to the meeting. Mike Bell says “that is why he brings his phone to video so people can see what’s going on because they don’t know and they all don’t like me here because I got this thing and I am putting it out to everybody,(Karen states that no one can find the video) and they all want to jump on me like a chicken on a Junebug, I am the news guy, then we got people that want to tear you up, I am a big ole’ boy and I got a big ole’ hind end and they can all have a piece of it, it's ok and I don’t care”. Argument ensues between Dave Trotter and Mike Bell, Commissioner Long says, “that is irrelevant”.

Mike Bell wants to know if the county has any emergency funds or do they have anything such as a “rainy day fund”. Mike Bell tells Dave Trotter that for a guy that is not on the agenda he sure does a lot of talking.

Commissioner Kelly states that he spoke with the clerk in Oregon County and she gave him some figures for their county. Oregon County has 1600 + more population than Shannon County, their sheriff’s department has 5 deputies and 7 cars.

Patty Jones tells Mike Bell that she is not picking on him, but she has to ask him a question, Mike says “sure”. Patty says, “it goes back to the cellphone thing and for the timing that you called it was almost like trying to get a *got ya moment,* that was just my perception”. Mike states that they have answering machines and he put it on the answering machine and what difference does it make what time it was. Patty says, “so it wasn’t a test call” Patty apologizes to Mike. Mike states that he has a farm and he works, and he takes time away from that and comes to the meetings to do this (video and livestream) Mike says that he remembered he needed to call and be put on the agenda, so he left a message. Mike states he finds out he doesn’t need to be put on the agenda because the (commissioners) let anyone come in and say whatever they want whenever they want so he’s not going to worry about it anymore. Mike states that these things (video) scare people to death for some reason and he hasn’t ever figured out why and if they would just do like their supposed to then everything should be fine. Commissioner Long says to Mike “last week we found out we were doing like we are supposed to, but you didn’t believe us” Mike says “such as”. Commissioner Long says, “about the mileage sheets and you didn’t believe us when we were telling you that” Mike says, “that was the way it was told to him”. Commissioner Long says, “that is exactly how it was told to you”. Mike says, “whenever they sun shined the mileage the report didn’t come with it” Commissioner Long tells Mike that Commissioner Crider told him that he keeps a daily log and he uses his daily log to fill out what he turns in for the month. Mike agrees that Commissioner Crider did tell him that. Commissioner Long says to Mike “It wasn’t until the prosecutor sit in here and you ask him the very question that we have been telling you for six weeks”. Commissioner Long asks Mike why he thinks they are all out there to lie to him. Mike says, “he doesn’t know”. Argument ensues over the mileage, minutes, and live streaming on Facebook and the fact that there are a lot of people that can’t see Mikes Facebook live videos. Mike states that he wants to leave the county commission meetings to the county commission and he doesn’t want to take up their time and he is just trying to be the messenger and show people how the meetings are run. More arguments ensue.

Patty Jones asks why the county commission don’t have a camera to video the meetings; Commissioner Long tells her that the commissioners are working on doing that so it can be saved and requested out. Commissioner Long states that it is not something they can do overnight, and it is costly, and it is something that will have to be wired in. Patty asks if the commissioners could use one of their cellphones to video and Commissioner Long says “I can do that but I would rather it be something that if I am not here in the next years then it is still here, because once the county commission starts recording the county commission has to record every meeting, that is by law”.

Karen states that she checked Facebook about thirty minutes ago and she has a live feed from Mike Bell’s video. Karen says to Mike “just so you know, fairness to you and everything I now have a live feed, I did not have a live feed when I checked it earlier”. Karen says she appreciates that because when you say live feed it needs to be live feed for everyone. Mike says to Karen “so are you going to call the FBI and tell them I got it out there this time” Karen says “no” Mike says, “I wonder how hard they laughed when they got that call” Commissioner Long tells Mike what Karen does is up to her and that isn’t something that needs to be done during this meeting. Commissioner Long states to Mike that she is the one that conducts these meetings. Mike asks Commissioner Long “what about all these other comments that are being made in here and you are just letting it go until I speak and then you jump on me like a chicken on a June bug, go ahead show everybody” Mike says that he is trying to let everyone know how this commission operates. Commissioner Long asks Mike what she is supposed to do, not let people speak when they have questions, Mike says “well if you are going to conduct the meeting then you need to look at Roberts Rule of Order”. Commissioner Long says that she wants an open-door policy, and she doesn’t have to follow Roberts Rule. Mike says, “Do it like Herman said they have done it for, how many years now Herman, thirty-seven?” Mike tells Commissioner Long to do it the way she wants to. Commissioner Long tells him she will do it the way she wants to. Argument ensues.

Patty Jones asks if she wants to say anything at all she needs to be on the agenda, Commissioner Long tells her that they can have an open discussion period, and you don’t have to be on the agenda. Commissioner Long states that it is an open door, and she doesn’t want to shut anyone out, but if you have a topic that you wish to discuss then you need to be on the agenda so they can go into that topic in depth.

Commissioner Crider states that they ran into an issue last week and there was a topic brought up, discussed and about 30 minutes later that same topic was brought back up and there is no way to keep minutes on something like that. Commissioner Long states since then we have had to go to audio, and the minutes are really long now. Commissioner Long says that she is not going to turn anyone down if they have questions and the commissioner’s door is always open to come in and discuss anything. But for a particular topic to be discussed that person needs to be put on the agenda. Commissioner Crider agrees. Commissioner Crider states that he thinks they have answered every question that anyone has come and asked.

Commissioner Long states that she has talked with other county commissioners and this is not how they conduct their meetings either with a camera, she asks one commissioner from Howell County if there has ever been anyone in to video their meetings and he tells her that absolutely not, their meetings are extremely lax, that way anyone that wants to stop in and voice their opinion or ask questions then they can. Commissioner Long states that it is the way we have always done our meetings in the past but have had to go stricter now. Patty Jones says it seems unethical to her if she would come in and video everybody. Commissioner Long says there is nothing wrong with it and there is nothing that says you can’t do it. Patty says she understands that, but it just seems like something that the commission would do, and like Commissioner Long said, the commission is looking into that. Mike Bell says, “It’s a constitutional protected activity, it’s called freedom of speech, they are public officials, working in a public building and I am John Q Public and that’s the three big things to make this all good and here we are”.

Patty states that it will likely be next year’s budget before purchasing a video system. Commissioner Long states that the budget that the system would come from is still in good standing and they may be able to purchase something this year, Commissioner Crider comments “if we don’t have to use that money somewhere else”.

Commissioner Crider asks if there is any other business.

Mike Bell states that the commission hasn’t read the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Long says, “we tabled them”. Mike says, “that is their prerogative”. Mike also says, “there are a lot of people on Facebook asking where the minutes are and they are holding them” Commissioner Long tells Mike that there is no holding or hiding. Commissioner Long also says to Mike “we didn’t have a recording of this, and I don’t know if you are aware, but we wanted to make sure the minutes were correct”. Mike says, “OK and now everyone knows, it’s called transparency”. Commissioner Long tells Mike all he has to do is ask a question and not accuse. Mike tells Commissioner Long that he does ask questions. Commissioner Long tells him that he accuses. Patty Jones states that some departments use the word transparency very loosely and they are not very transparent.

Commissioner Crider asks Commissioner Long about the new cameras for the courthouse and outside that was discussed last week. Commissioner Long states that she contacted Devon McClain, our IT. She says there is a company out of Jefferson City that is supposed to come and look at the ones that we already have and may be able to tie into and add more cameras so the cost wouldn’t be as much if we could tie into the ones we have instead of replacing all of them. Commissioner Crider asks if that would affect who could see it. Commissioner Long says from her understanding with this company you could break them off into the different areas so the people that needed to see certain areas would be the ones that have that authority over those cameras. Commissioner Crider states he wants to make sure if they can tie in with the existing cameras then they can be broken into different areas. Commissioner Long states that she has talked with other commissioners from Howell County, Texas County, and Wright County about the camera systems and they all have that. Commissioner Long states that she thinks a lot of the counties have cameras in their offices and they can see the foyer. Commissioner Long states that the courtroom and inside the jail would be for the sheriff but the common public areas in the jail would be open. Commissioner Long says that Howell County told her that she should have access to the courtroom because there could be accidents there. Commissioner Long says she is not sure if this is correct or not. Commissioner Kelly says that transparency in the jail is important because if there is something that happens to a prisoner there needs to be a way to go back and view it. Patty Jones says that is one thing that she was wondering about because if there is just one person monitoring that, shouldn’t there be a committee of 2 or 3 and that way there is not my word against your word. Commissioner Long states that there are cameras in the jail cells but that is a completely different system than we have here in the courthouse. Commissioner Long says, she thinks there should be cameras in the elevator because there are prisoners on them all the time. Commissioner Kelly states if the elevator would get stuck you really need cameras.

Commissioner Kelly states that the city of Winona has asked him to assist in asphalting the road in front of Jack Woods and he agrees to help them out. Commissioner Long asks Commissioner Kelly if we can get some sort of written agreement so we can have that on file, saying you are going to provide the service and they are providing the material, she thinks that it is only fair to keep in our records. Commissioner Kelly agrees. Karen Stewart states that there was a question about the Summersville School where Herman’s crew had done some asphalting and she called and ask Janay Heiney, at the high school about it, Janay told her that they spent sixty some thousand dollars on the asphalt and Herman’s crew provided work, Herman told Karen that the city paid for the fuel and she checked back with the city and that was accurate but it was being said that the county paid for all of that out of the county funds and it was not. Janay told Karen to tell Herman and his crew that they appreciated the work. Commissioner Long states we need something to fall back on that way the county would have something in writing and the cities and schools would have something as well.

Commissioner Kelly states that is something that Dean Cox, Lloyd Rainbolt, and himself started years ago was to work with the towns and they felt like it was tax payers money, and it’s all taxpayers money and if they could figure out ways to stretch that money further that is what the commissioners need to work on so they did just that. Commissioner Crider states that it has saved the schools and cities a ton of money.

Commissioner Long asks about the courthouse parking lot and when they plan to asphalt it. Commissioner Kelly states that he would like to do it when they come over to do Eminence, but they can do it whenever she wants it done. Commissioner Long tells Commissioner Kelly that there is still quite a bit of construction stuff out there, but she wants the asphalt done before they move the tank. Commissioner Long states that the propane tank is going in front of the generator, and they will put the posts around it for safety. Commissioner Long states that last year the state propane inspection commission told her she had to move the propane tank away from the building.

Commissioner Crider asks how long it will be before the jail is done, Commissioner Long tells him that they were sealing in there last week and the fumes were horrible, they moved the inmates out on Thursday, and she isn’t sure if they are back in there at this time or not. Commissioner Long is hoping since they were sealing the jail that it won’t be long before finishing. Dave Trotter states that they will need to furnish the jail with beds, etc. Commissioner Long states that she has a meeting with Maria that is with the Homeland security grant to see if we will have any money left from the jail to be able to supply furnishings.

Commissioner Long asks what Commissioner Kelly thinks the cost of asphalting the parking area. Commissioner Kelly tells Commissioner Long that they will measure it and find out. Commissioner Long states that she will need to budget that in her budget for next year (Building & Grounds). Dave Trotter tells Commissioner Long that the asphalt will probably be around $30,00.00 to $50,000.00 to pave that. Commissioner Crider says, “you are needing that done before next year, correct?” Commissioner Long states that she needs to move the propane tank before next year. Commissioner Long asks Commissioner Crider if he has something that will pick the tank up so they can move it. Commissioner Crider tells Commissioner Long that they have a loader that they can use. Commissioner Long states that the tank will serve two purposes one for CDBG for the grant on the generator. It’s required to have a safety fence around it so putting the tank there It can serve two purposes with one fence.

Commissioner Crider asks if the tank will be set on the asphalt, commissioner long states that she hopes so and she figures they will have to use blocks to level it because the parking lot isn’t level. Commissioner Crider asks, “how are we going to anchor that fence down?” Commissioner Long answers with “No, I’m not doing the fence, we’re doing the posts”. Commissioner Crider states that he thought they were using the fence that is at the county shop that was removed from the jail. Commissioner Long states that the fence is going to cover the new unit for the jail. Commissioner Long tells Commissioner Crider that she is talking about the posts that are drilled in, and you paint them. Commissioner Long asks if the road guys can help with putting the posts in. Commissioner Crider says he’s not sure about getting the posts drilled in and it will need to be a hole 8” and drilled through the asphalt, he’s not sure how they will do that.

Commissioner Crider states that he is about ½ way through the information that FEMA is needing from the Northern side of the county. Commissioner Long asks Commissioner Crider if he meets with FEMA on Wednesday September 18th, 2025. Commissioner Crider states that he does.

Karen Stewart has a question that she would like to clear up. Karen asks, “was the Grand Jury a regular scheduled thing or was it called?” Commissioner Long tells her that it was special, but it was not called a special grand jury because there is a difference and she doesn’t really know what the difference is, it was called because we had several inmates they were trying to get moved through the system and at the same time they done the jail. Dave Trotter states that there was a murder trial too. Commissioner Long tells him there was more than one and we had 5 or more murder cases they were trying to get cleared up. Karen says, “it wasn’t like a routine four year one or anything like that?” Dave Trotter states that they weaponized it against the commissioners. Commissioner Long says, “no”. Commissioner Crider states that he doesn’t think it was ever intended to go where it went toward the end. Commissioner Longs says that she doesn’t know what the intentions were. Dave Trotter states that he knows for a fact that when the judge signed off on the grand jury trial that he had no clue it was going to go that way.

Commissioner Crider asks about the bidding process. He asks Commissioner Long if they run it in the paper and set a date to open and turn them in to Shelly’s office, Commissioner Long says “yes, sealed bids, and don’t put names or anything on the envelopes”. Commissioner Long states that the commissioners set a time to open the bids in the commission meeting. Commissioner Crider states that the person’s name that is bidding needs to be sure and put their name on the inside of the envelope on the bid. Commissioner Longs states if they are selling something they take the highest bid. Commissioner Crider states that he has stuff at the shop that needs to be put out for bid. Commissioner Long tells him to get a list for her. Commissioner Kelly states that the South side puts most of their stuff on purple wave. Commissioner Crider asks if there is a minimum bid, we can have or do we have to take whatever they bid. Commissioner Long states that she isn’t sure if they can do a reserve. Commissioner Long says she will look into it, but if they have a reserve it will have to be listed in the paper with the bid. Commissioner Long does some research and tells the commissioners they can set up a reserve and it can be for each item that they will be taking bids on.

Commissioner Long states that she wants to give Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Crider something to think about. She says that the county has 12 acres out past H highway, and she would like to see getting that listed and out of the county’s name so we could be collecting some tax dollars on it. Commissioner Kelly states that his hope was to put a quarry back in the middle of the county. Commissioner Crider asks what funds that land was purchased with. Commissioner Kelly states that it was purchased with road and bridge funds, so if sold the money would go back to road and bridge. Commissioner Crider says it the timber was cut off that property it would also go back into road and bridge. Commissioner Kelly says “yes”. Commissioner Long states that there may be a few more pieces of property to look at as well.

Commissioner Kelly motions to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Crider seconds the motion. Motion carries with all in favor. (H-Y, V-Y, B-Y)

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 22nd, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the county courtroom, on the first floor of the courthouse.

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Beth Long, Presiding Commissioner

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Vester Crider, Northern Commissioner

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Herman Kelly, Southern Commissioner

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Shelly Bland, County Clerk