SHANNON COUNTY COMMISSION

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 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 Crider called the meeting to order Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025, at 9:03 a.m.

Members Present: Vester Crider, Northern Commissioner

 Herman Kelly, Southern Commissioner

Caitlynn Cooper, Deputy Clerk

Members Absent: Shelly Bland, County Clerk

 Beth Long, Presiding Commissioner

Visitors on Agenda: Michelle Shedd, Shannon County Treasurer

 Mike Bell

Visitors not on Agenda: David Trotter

 Allen Ford, Shannon County Coroner

 Karen Stewart

 Brent Osborne

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

Mike Bell asks if he can go ahead and speak before his scheduled time. The commission approves. Mike asks how the commission tracks mileage. He would like to know if they start tracking it at their homes. Commissioner Crider says that it depends on if they are leaving from the shop or wherever they need to leave from. If they know they will be tracking mileage, then they just start wherever they are. Mike suggests that they start a daily odometer reading. Commissioner Crider and Commissioner Kelly both explain that this is the way it has always been done, and they have never had an issue. Commissioner Crider suggests that he could speak with the County Clerk, Shelly Bland, and ask her to make a different form for more detailed mileage. Commissioner Crider insists that you should be able to trust your elected officials. Mike and the commission try to come to a conclusion. Mike and Commissioner Kelly argue over discrepancies in the mileage, but the conversation gets out of hand, and it is unclear what he means by this as there is no “cheating on the miles”. They argue over who was a bully in school. The conversation starts to get heated and extremely off topic again. Karen Stewart insists that the commission gets back to the meeting. Mike points out that he did ask to speak before his scheduled time and it was approved by the commission, but the conversation got out of hand.

Commissioner Crider asks if there is a mileage form that the state makes available. Caitlynn finds a form online that is almost identical to the form they fill out currently, but it does have a column for odometer readings. Caitlynn agrees to make an odometer column on the current form. Mike repeatedly mentions that all departments should be fully transparent.

Michelle Shedd, Shannon County Treasurer, enters the commission meeting. She asks Mike if this has been the first time he has recorded. He says no. She asks why his full recording was not posted on Facebook. She shared some very pertinent information, and she expresses her disappointment that he cut that part of the video out. Mike explains that he only wanted to post the part of his video that was his scheduled time on the agenda, and he just learned how to upload videos on Facebook, so he isn’t very good at that. He thinks the internet may have been an issue also. Michelle asks if he would please upload the other part of the video. She asks the Commission if they have any objection to that. The Commission sees no issue. Mike explains that he just wants transparency. Commissioner Crider explains that nothing has ever been hidden from the public. Michelle asks Mike again to please post the rest of the video. He says that if he still has access to it, then he will post it.

Commissioner Crider would like to put the old jail recreational pen up for bid. He would like it to be sold as-is and will get measurements this week. Commissioner Kelly agrees.

Michelle explains that she has come to believe that the evidence has been removed from the evidence room in the Courthouse. Commissioners think that is a horrible idea since it cannot be properly monitored or secure.

The Current River State Park is wanting to know if the county will relinquish the maintenance of CR 19D. They have plans to dig new water lines, move electric lines, and add new cabins and possibly a venue. They plan to dig up the existing road and move it to where it will no longer flood. They would like the county to write a letter of support. Commissioner Kelly would like to discuss it with Commissioner Long before a decision is made. Commissioner Crider mentions that they do not plan to close the road, the maintenance would no longer be the responsibility of the county.

Commissioner Kelly brings in quotes for asphalt prices. The county will be paving the road in between Old Hwy 60 and new Hwy 60 that goes by Jack Woods’.

 -Pace - $93.85 per ton

 -Robertson - $69.00 per ton

Michelle brings up the late money orders that were brought to her from the Prosecuting Attorney’s office. Most of them were worth $300 a piece. She learned that if the money order was purchased at the post office then they have no expiration date. Which will be a good thing. She is hoping that most of them will not bounce. Karen Stewart suggests that the county should only accept postal money orders for their restitution payments. Michelle says that if turnover was given to her in a timely manner, then this wouldn’t be an issue. She then brings up that she still has not received any turnover from the Sheriff’s Department. Michelle explains how the restitution funds are distributed. The county has still been paying the deputies from the Deputy Supplemental fund, but no money is being contributed. She doesn’t know if the grant will continue to reimburse the county if she continues to receive no turnover. She explains the ongoing issues with the Sheriff that have not been corrected. Commissioner Crider doesn’t know how to correct the situation. Michelle explains that it should be the duty of the Prosecuting Attorney, but unfortunately, that is not an option for the county.

Karen Stewart has a question about payroll. There is a county-paid charge on full-time employee checks, and she was wondering what it was for. Michelle goes upstairs to the County Clerk’s office to ask Angie Norris, the payroll clerk. Karen noticed that there was an employee that didn’t have the charge. Commissioner Crider explains the part time vs. full-time employee benefits and that there are probation periods for some after they are hired. Michelle reenters and confirms that it is the county-paid life insurance. Karen was wondering because she heard this employee may be involved in a lawsuit.

Tony Hughes and Steven Hogan, Shannon County Sheriff, entered the meeting to give Michelle the entire 2025 year of turnover. Michelle takes a quick look through and doesn’t think that the amounts are correct for the year, but she accepts it. Steven explains that the Sheriff Department doesn’t charge for paper service if it is within the county. Michelle asks why she had to pay for paper service when she had an eviction notice served in Winona. Steven has no explanation. Michelle suspects there should be much more money in their turnover. Steven exits the Commission meeting. Michelle asks Tony to stay so she can explain an issue that was brought to her attention through an email from him. The email was a concern that the window was left open in her office after business hours. She explains to Tony that she and the new courthouse janitor, Erin Corbin, had been experimenting with her automatic window cleaner. After they finished, Michelle decided to leave her back-office window open because she had several leaks from her refrigerator and the room needed some fresh air. Shortly after 4:00 p.m., she was staying late to finish a report but the electric had been shut off. She stepped outside to ask deputies that were there if they knew why it was off. They explained that the electrician had it turned off while they were hooking up something for the jail addition. She decided that she would go have dinner with some family that was in town, and she would return afterwards. She left for around 45 minutes and returned to see the email about her window still being open and the risk she took compromising her office. There was an RSMo quoted in the email that had nothing to do with safety or security and would like to know why Tony didn’t just ask her about the window instead of handling it through email with a bogus statute. Mike mentions that this is another example of why he is here. Michelle says that a lot of things the Sheriff does are just petty. She adds that every amount of money that she receives is deposited the same day that she receives it so there was nothing at risk in her office. Michelle points out that the attitude that she received in their encounter just now is the attitude she had been given since Steven took office. Michelle’s personal opinion is that Steven should have never been elected. She tells a story about how she tried to apologize to Steven after he took office because she hadn’t been very friendly to him in the past. She had planned to resign if he was elected as Sheriff, but instead she is trying to work alongside him peacefully.

Mike says, “how about them Cardinals” and eases some of the tension in the room.

There had been talk about a town hall meeting in the past. Michelle says she has several serious (Family medical issues) things going on in her personal life right now and she wouldn’t be able to commit to this. Karen Stewart says that all any citizens should had to do is speak with their elected officials and if they can answer questions then they certainly will.

Commissioner Kelly explains that they are starting FEMA road damage assessment. Brent Osborne helps with this process as he has worked for Commissioner Kelly on these types of projects in the past. Brent explains that the public should not have to worry about how this complicated process works. We pay our elected officials with hard earned tax dollars to do these tough jobs for us. We elect our officials to trust them. Town hall meetings, in his opinion, just create confusion and chaos. Our elected officials work very hard to keep these processes going smoothly and they may not always have time, but any of these documents are available to the public. Mike would like all elected officials to be held accountable for their actions. Brent thinks that everything should come out in the court of law and, unfortunately, may be the only way to solve the ongoing issues within the county.

Karen Stewart thinks that live streaming the Commission meetings every week would be a good idea. Karen and Caitlynn ask where Mike is live streaming his recording. Mike is unable to explain while Karen and Caitlynn search Facebook. They are unable to find it. Michelle asks Mike if he was asked not to post the other section of his video at the last meeting he attended. He says no he was not. He thought he was only allowed to post the part of the meeting where he was allowed to speak.

Commissioner Crider asks Commissioner Kelly if he would mind if he took the FEMA Representatives with him tomorrow to show them some of the roads that were damaged. He thinks if they were there with him in person then they could show him exactly what they need for this damage assessment. Commissioner Kelly says that is fine, Brent Osborne will be helping with the damage assessment on the South side of the county so he shouldn’t need the representatives. Mike wishes that the county could still collect gravel from the rivers and creeks. Unfortunately, the Park Service has banned purging of rivers, so the county must purchase all rock and FEMA reimburses for disasters. Commissioner Kelly explains that the county must pay 15%, SEMA pays 10%, and FEMA pays 75%. Commissioner Kelly says the county must find ways to stretch the taxpayers’ hard-earned money. Brent says that Commissioner Kelly did a lot for this county when he took office. He worked hard to get the Southern Road District out of the red and back where it was supposed to be. He got a nicer shop, instead of the old shop that had no heat or air. Brent claims that you could have frozen to death inside the building. He also got the county good equipment to work with.

Commissioner Crider and Commissioner Kelly would also like to sincerely thank Rick Norris for his help with their recent grader training. A lot of the county’s new grader employees got a lot of good lessons out of that and it would not have been possible without him. THANK YOU, RICK!

Brent Osborne goes on to explain the road employee’s process. Citizens wonder why the county doesn’t have experienced employees. He explains that the county cannot pay very much so they have to train new employees that don’t have the experience. Then as soon as they get experience, they go to another job that will pay higher for experience. It’s a loop of always having to train employees. Brent talks about some of the comments about these issues that he has read on Facebook. He says there are a million ways to explain how this process could work, but it all boils down to the fact that we need to trust our elected officials and work together for the better of the county.

Mike would like to know what is going to be done about the Sheriff budget. Commissioner Crider says that they will all have to sit down and figure out how much he will be over at the end of the year, if he refuses to get rid of any employees. Karen asks if it is possible for the county to borrow money. Mike asks if the road districts could run their graders longer instead of buying new every year or two. Commissioner Crider says they already run graders for as long as they can. There are only two or three graders in the whole county that are close to new. Caitlynn reminds Mike that Road & Bridge and General Revenue are separate. General Revenue is what is struggling financially. Commissioner Crider mentions again that all elected officials’ budgets are just fine, except the Sheriff and Jail budgets.

Michelle asks what the Commissioners salaries are for a year. Commissioner Crider says that his salary is $26,000.00 a year, which adds up to about $861.00 every pay period. They never claim reimbursements for meals, but they do track their mileage in their personal vehicles when they must make a trip for something. They both say that they work very hard to help people any way they can. Commissioner Crider mentions that he claims no mileage and gets paid no extra money to help his employees whenever they need it.

Commissioner Crider doesn’t know what to do about the Sheriff budget. Mike asks if they tried to shut the previous sheriff’s funds off. Commissioner Crider says no, but he had several unexpected expenses that put his budget over. Commissioner Crider says that they tried to do their job to keep the Sheriff budget under control but then they were sued and scrutinized in court. And continue to be scrutinized. Mike says the Commission shouldn’t hate the messenger. Commissioner Crider asks Mike how he thinks the county is going to make it until January. Michelle explains that Darrin was always shorthanded because he knew that he had a budget to stay in. There was an inmate that had to be hospitalized and had several expensive medical bills. They had to pay a nurse to come to the jail daily for their medication. Their hospitalization also had to be monitored 24/7 because they were facing a murder charge. Michelle says the Prosecuting Attorney also persuaded them to have a jury trial that was costly to the county. Then, the jury found them not guilty and they were acquitted of the charges. The county lost around $109,000.00 because the state does not reimburse the county unless the inmate is found guilty and goes to prison.

Commissioner Crider points out that Steven isn’t doing a bad job, this county just cannot afford the way he is spending, and budgets must stay tight. Michelle says the first month of payroll, she was appalled at how much it was costing, which is where the main spending issue is. Along with overtime paid to Sheriff employees. Payroll is where the main issue is, and Michelle says there are several Sheriff deputies/employees that spend a lot of time smoking and hanging around the courthouse. Karen Stewart says, per her sunshine request, that Steven has 26 employees counting himself. She also says that anyone is welcome to look at any of the documents that she has requested and paid for.

Brent Osborne mentions that everyone should have a budget and if an elected official can’t stick to it, then it is a shame and a travesty. He thinks that the Sheriff’s Department has been mismanaged. Allen Ford, Shannon County Coroner, says that he was blamed for wasting $3000.00 of the taxpayers’ dollars on an autopsy that he thought seemed like was needed. When he got to the scene, January 1st, 2025, stories of the witnesses did not match, the house that wasn’t normally clean was spotless, and the body was in a different position. Brent says that the Sheriff has no authority over the coroner. If anything, they need to work together. The final cause of death lays solely on the coroner.

Michelle would like to add that there has still been no turnover for board bills. The amounts of these should vary month by month depending on how many inmates there are.

Allen says that he has no personal issue with Steven. Steven refuses to sit down with him to work things out between them. The Prosecuting Attorney also refuses.

Karen offers last week’s approved minutes to Mike that she sunshine requested from the County Clerk. There was a lot of helpful information in them that she felt he needed to read. Mike refuses to take them, or any documents that Karen offers. He says that if they have been requested then the documents are out there. It is unclear what he means by this statement.

Caitlynn asks if Karen, Mike, and Allen would like to be on the agenda for next week’s meeting. They all say yes.

Mike asks if the janitor position was posted anywhere. It is Commissioner Long’s position to fill, and nobody was sure if it was posted. Mike thinks it should have been posted for 30 days before the position was filled. He thinks that is how it works for the state. Karen said that she heard the current janitor had quit and there was no way the courthouse could have gone 30 days without filling the position. Caitlynn explains that applications can be completed for any position at any time, and applications are kept in the County Clerk’s office for whenever any elected official is looking to fill a position.

Commissioner Crider and Commissioner Kelly discuss their current situations with their FEMA damage assessments for the new disaster. Caitlynn explains that there will be a FEMA representative in the County Clerk’s office every Wednesday around 11:00 a.m. if they ever need her help with anything.

Commissioner Crider makes a motion to approve the minutes of August 25th, 2025. Commissioner Kelly seconds the motion. Motion carries with all in favor. (H-Y, V-Y)

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)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, 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