Wednesday October 7, 2026

Name	Position	Present	Quorum
Becky Plattner	Presiding Commissioner	Yes	Yes
Monte Fenner	Southern Commissioner	Yes	
Stephanie Gooden	Northern Commissioner	Yes	

Becky Plattner called the meeting to order at 8:59 am.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2026 session. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve a payment schedule. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to approve the payment schedule as presented. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented commission order #6818 in the amount of $200,082.56 for a cash transfer of payroll, order #6819 in the amount of $35,184.32 for 941 taxes, and order #6820 in the amount of $4,654.73 for CERF .7% and elective savings. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve the commission orders as presented. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Youth Program Associate Emma Porter from the MU Extension was present to talk about 4-H. She explained that in the 2025-2026 program year, the Saline County Extension had 7 community clubs across the county, they partnered with 6 school districts for in-school programming, and they reached 481 kids. Through these programs, young people develop leadership skills, communication and responsibility skills, as well as other opportunities to explore agriculture, STEM, healthy living, civic engagement, and more. The Extension is proud of the continued reach of 4-H in Saline County, and they are grateful for the support of their volunteers, schools, community partners, and county leaders. She thanked them for their support and explained that this week is 4-H week, so all the counties across the state are celebrating and promoting 4-H. In Saline County, the clubs have set up displays in each town that they are in. Becky Plattner stated that the Commission has a proclamation to give and will present it after session.

Emergency Management Director Brad Hinz introduced Public Affairs Specialist Anita Bing from the Small Business Administration (SBA). He gave a reminder of the storms that went through the county April 23rd-28th, and of the tornado that went through Slater and Gilliam area. FEMA, SEMA, National Weather Service, and SBA all came through at one point or another to see what they could do after the storms. The county did not get a private declaration from FEMA and the president for those storms, but the Small Business Administration is offering programs to help those trying to recover. He asked Anita to update the Commission and give some information about the programs that are available.

Anita Bing explained that she is from the Office of Disaster Recovery. She stated that the SBA has not had very much response from the public on the disaster declaration, and she believes part of it is that more understanding is needed. This disaster declaration is a new type of declaration that the SBA has, and normally the thresholds for assistance are higher. The SBA created the Rural Agency Declaration, and it only requires major damage to one house or facility in the county. The SBA is then allowed to bring in low-interest loans to assist families and businesses with recovery. The interest rates on the loans can be as low as 2.875% for homeowners, 4% for businesses, and 3.625% for non-profit organizations. The low-interest loans allow a period of non-payment for up to one year from the first disbursement, which gives the community time to recover from the disaster financially. The SBA is the largest lender of federal dollars for disasters. The loans can generally be processed in about 15 days. In the case that a loan is not approved, it is usually something simple that needs to be fixed, such as missing information or additional information needed. For families on limited or fixed income, especially households with multiple generations, sometimes it can be helpful to add family members onto the application. Citizens can call 855-SBA-HELP to ask questions about the type of assistance available, or they can go to the SBA website, SBA.gov. They can click on the links for disasters, or they go straight to lending.SBA.gov to get additional information. The unique part of the loans is that they can be catered to the needs of each particular family. No two families or businesses get the same type of loan conditions. Monthly payments and repayment terms are designed based on the family's or business's situation. The longest lending term is 30 years for homeowners and 7 years for businesses. If a business already has an SBA loan, this loan would be in addition to the existing loan. For businesses, there are two components to the

loan dollars, one for physical damage and one for economic injury. Homeowners and businesses have until October 27th to apply for loans for physical damage, but because the impact on businesses takes longer to surface, businesses have until May 28, 2027 to apply for loans for economic injury. Economic injury is the working capital shortfall that businesses have. The working capital dollars will help businesses to maintain and keep their obligations current. Low-interest loans are also available to private non-profit organizations that are not of a governmental nature, such as nursing homes, libraries, or community centers. The economic portion is available to small ag co-ops as well. The SBA might be able to help families refinance their loan if they need to relocate. They also have refinancing dollars that would help a family that might be faced with two mortgages when they have significant substantial damage to their property. They combine the two loans into a single mortgage product at the lower interest rate. The funds are available to cover any uninsured losses that an applicant might have. If an applicant is still negotiating with an insurance company to recover funds, the SBA can lend the money to the family before they receive their insurance settlement. Once the settlement occurs, the SBA captures the insurance proceeds and uses them to pay down the balance of the loan, so the family ends up with a smaller loan balance. They are encouraging families to apply by going to lending.SBA.gov, or by calling the toll-free number at 855-SBA-HELP. Commissioner Gooden asked if the SBA loans are available for crop damage. Mrs. Bing replied that she would have to check for Saline County in particular. She knows that there is a Secretary of Agriculture disaster declaration, but she would need to check into the specifics of that. As a general rule, farmers would go to the USDA for anything involving crops. For families that have a home on the farm, SBA can lend to them to help repair their home. The Farm Service Agency also has their own loan products and specific categories of loans for farmers as well. Commissioner Fenner asked if there is a cap on how much can be borrowed. Mrs. Bing responded, yes, for businesses it is $2 million which includes both components of the working capital and physical, and for homeowners it is $500,000.

Treasurer Jared Brewer gave a report on the various sales taxes received for the month of October. Sales tax collected in the amount of $121,316.65. Law enforcement tax #1 collected in the amount of $90,987.50. Use tax collected in the amount of $99,690.33. Law enforcement tax #2 collected in the amount of $30,324.79. Economic development tax collected in the amount of $121,298.93.

Auditor Karlin Breshears said that she is preparing for the annual budget. She is hoping to have budget worksheets sent out to office holders next week. She explained in 2025, the County laid a budget of $47,000,000. In 2026, The County laid a budget of $44,000,000. The budget consists of 48 different funds and all but one of those funds is restricted by State statute. Grant funds are controlled by elected officials. The one fund not restricted by State statute is General Revenue. 20 departments fall under General Revenue. The only salaries not paid from General Revenue are the courts, juvenile office, Road and Bridge, and the Sheriff's Department because they have their own funds. General Revenue has a 50% match that covers the Emergency Management grant for their salaries and day-to-day expenses, as well as a 50% match for the PA's retirement. General Revenue also contributes funds to the Jail facility to help with day-to-day expenses. In 2025, General Revenue contributed $1.3 million to the Jail-Justice fund which is in addition to the taxes that are received for their budget alone. That contribution primarily comes from the Use Tax that is received. Currently the County contributes $681.57 per employee per month for insurance coverage. Salaries alone out of General Revenue were over $1.8 million for 2025. Local sales tax collections run about $1.4 million for the year. $1.1 million was received in Use Tax last year. Every year, all the funds have a carryover balance. Those carryover balances help balance next year's budget. Without the carryover the County would not be able to operate. There was a $6.5 million carryover from 2025 for all funds, but only $1.3 million was carried over in General Revenue. This year, there are things that need to be looked very closely at, like the possibility of losing the Use Tax and a major increase in health insurance premiums. The County set the tax rate at its ceiling for the first time in 14 years to help with increasing costs and the possibility of the loss of income. The ceiling is half of what it should be due to a voluntary rollback that took place in the August election of 1980. It was put to the vote of the people who voted to impose a countywide sales tax of ½ of 1% and reduce its total property tax levy annually by 50% of the total amount of sales tax collected in the same tax year. Before the rollback, the tax ceiling was at 0.35, and now the ceiling is at 0.1536. Commissioner Plattner asked if the County had a $9 million carryover. Auditor Breshears replied no, the County has never had a $9 million carryover. Of the 48 different funds in the County budget, only one is used to pay most of the county expenses such as the day-to-day operations and maintenance on 7 buildings. She stated that the County works very hard every year to budget conservatively and they are hopeful to have a carryover to help balance the next year's budget and help with expenses. She commended the office holders for

working hard on their budgets every year and staying within budget. They work hard on that and budget conservatively as well. They always budget for what they need and if something comes up, they approach her or the Commission to get guidance on how to take care of an unexpected expense. There are a lot of things that have happened in the County which would not have happened otherwise because of the hard work of the Commission and other office holders to secure grant funding, and they should be very proud of that.

Sheriff Daniel Kirchhoff reported that they currently have 58 inmates in the Jail, and they are working on a grant to update the video system in the building.

County Clerk Brittni Burton announced that the last day for new voters to register is today. New voters have until 5:00 pm to submit their application to the County Clerk's office.

Stephanie Gooden reported that she attended a TAC meeting on September 28th where they voted on the needs list for MODOT and the Saline County panel of 8 voted highly to create safe travel routes across Highway 65 for pedestrians. They voted on the unfunded needs list for future road improvements and improvements to Highway 240 remain high on their needs list as well. She attended a Pioneer Trails quarterly board meeting on September 30th. She attended a NACo Agri meeting on September 28th. On Monday October 5th, the Commission received an update from Great River Engineering's Brent Kane about the Junction. The northwest quadrant of the sewer project is complete and ready for hookups. Pyro City and Xpress Mart have been connected. The northeast quadrant is being worked on. Central Missouri Electric is waiting on transformers that are on backorder. They are hoping to have them in November, and the project is scheduled to be completed by December 24th.

Monte Fenner reported that girders are being installed on the Nitrogen Avenue bridge this week. One lane will be closed on eastbound I-70 from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am all week. They are expected to have the bridge finished by December 1st. He looked at the progress of the 245th bridge yesterday. They were pouring concrete footings at that time and are also expected to be completed by December 1st. This Friday, October 9th, the Commission will be in Sweet Springs to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for 15 new single-family houses that are being built.

Stephanie Gooden announced that there is a copy of the ballot from 1980 available for the press that shows the rollback of the tax levy, and the Develop Saline County quarterly board meeting will be held on October 21st at 9:30 am.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:29 am. Monte Fenner made a motion to adjourn. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Becky Plattner
Presiding Commissioner

Monte Fenner
Southern Commissioner

Stephanie Gooden
Northern Commissioner

Certified by:

Brittni Allison Burton
County Clerk