

Wednesday March 11, 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 9:01 am.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 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 a payment schedule as presented. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented commission order #6756 in the amount of \$184,413.88 for a cash transfer of payroll, order #6757 in the amount of \$32,887.59 for 941 taxes, and order #6758 in the amount of \$4,740.14 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.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented commission order #6759 in the amount of \$5,000 to add postage to the County postage machine. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to approve. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Prosecuting Attorney Tim Thompson submitted a request to hire Jon Hall as a full-time Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. His start date is set for May 18, 2026, and his annual salary will be \$62,000. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Monte Fenner reported that he attended an MSDC meeting the previous morning at 7:00 am, and phase 1 of the sewer project at the Junction is 90% completed. After phase 1 is completed, phase 2 will begin on the northeast and northwest sides of the Junction. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in late-March or early-April, and phase 2 is expected to be completed by October of this year.

Stephanie Gooden reported that the Commission attended the County Commissioner Association of Missouri training the last week of February. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, they attended the hearing for the lawsuit between the Assessor, Collector, and Commission. The attorneys are waiting to present briefs and answers to the judge to decide the legal entity name to be sued and legal fees. They have received preliminary notification from the State Auditor's Office about the counties that are awaiting reclassification. Under Saline County, it says it is pending litigation. Pettis has received a letter from the State Auditor notifying them that they will become a third class county as of January 1, 2027. Lafayette County will become a third class county. Johnson County is under evaluation for becoming a second class county. They are currently in a holding pattern, but if they maintain their assessed valuation for five consecutive years, they will become a second class county in 2033. Lafayette, Saline, and Pettis will all become third class counties in 2027. The reclassification of Saline County will affect the Marshall Library since it affects the voted in tax that was approved for them. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Commission attended the MU Extension annual meeting at the Saline County Fairgrounds. During the meeting, Monte Fenner was able to present five families with the Century Farm award. Commissioner Gooden asked Commissioner Fenner if he knew how many Century Farms are in the county, and he said he did not know but thinks that Saline County is second in the state, behind Lafayette County. Commissioner Gooden announced that Commissioner Fenner received a Leader's Honor Roll award from the Extension, and they are proud of him for receiving it for his achievements, accomplishments, and service. On March 6<sup>th</sup> the County hosted Government Day along with Steve Olson from the Malta Bend American Legion. There were three schools that came to the Courthouse to learn about local government. Malta Bend, Santa Fe, and Sweet Springs high school students were able to tour the Courthouse after listening to presentations from Elected Officials. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Commission attended the hearing for the Transportation Taxing District for the Love's Truck Stop being built at the Junction. It will be a 1 cent tax on goods sold. It is to be a recoupment for some of the improvements that they are making to US 65, and 116<sup>th</sup> Trail. The tax would only apply to goods sold at the Love's Truck Stop, but not on fuel. The Commission met with the hospital board at Fitzgibbon Hospital where they talked about how the Commission could be of service to the hospital. Fitzgibbon is experiencing a financial hardship and could face closure. They are one of Saline County's largest employers. It was a beneficial meeting as far as understanding, and most of the tools that can be used are needing legislative fixes. They presented the information to Senator Gregory and Representative Nolte, and are hoping the tools can be utilized in the future. On the April ballot there will be a question presented to voters about a Real Estate Tax Credit. The question will state: "Shall the County of Saline exempt eligible taxpayers' primary residence from increase in real property tax liability, above the liability incurred during the initial credit year, pursuant to RSMo 137.1055?" If approved by voters, the measure would establish a Real Estate Tax Credit for eligible taxpayers on their primary residence. Under the program, an eligible taxpayers' initial credit year is 2024, as defined in Senate Bill 3. Saline County is classified as a 5% county, meaning that the tax

liability would increase by either 5% or CPI, whichever is greater. The assessed valuation will continue to increase as the Assessor deems it. It would function similar to the Senior Tax Credit. The County is investigating the implementation if the question is passed. It is known that software cost would be greater than \$17,000, and they are looking at hiring additional staff to process applications. The County is still researching, and it looks like maybe 2027 before the implementation of the Real Estate Tax Credit. There is still litigation from school and fire districts with Senate Bill 3, and they are hoping for an answer soon. The Paw Paw Trail bridge is on target to be completed on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The concrete deck has been poured, and they are making great progress. Commissioner Gooden will be attending a Solid Waste Management District meeting at 9:00 in Pettis County. The Commission is also reappointing Tara Brewer as a Saline County Health Officer, according to RSMo 205.100. They thank Mrs. Brewer for all of her efforts and for being the Health Officer.

Becky Plattner commented that the Commission has had numerous documents that they are to come up with for the E911 lawsuit. Some of the documents that they must provide include budgets from 2017-2026, multiple kinds of correspondence, and implementation of the use tax. They have also had constituents come in with concerns about gravel on the roads due to the recent rain.

Auditor Karlin Breshears stated that they are gathering documentation for the E911 lawsuit, and she has received word from Gerding, Korte, and Chitwood yesterday that she will need to be getting documentation ready for the annual outside audit. She is also working on what will happen when the County gets reclassified and how that pertains to the ending of her position.

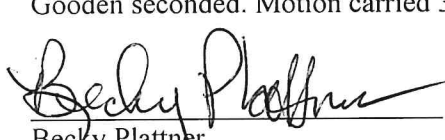

Monte Fenner gave a report on the various sales taxes received for the month of March. Sales tax collected in the amount of \$118,580.71. Law enforcement tax #1 collected in the amount of \$88,935.44. Use tax collected in the amount of \$88,504.22. Law enforcement tax #2 collected in the amount of \$29,651.20. Economic development tax collected in the amount of \$118,518.45.

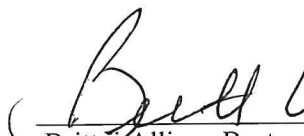
Stephanie Gooden explained that the Commission wrote a letter of support for the community project funding request from Missouri Valley College for proposed improvements to the Burns Center. The repairs and upgrades will have a direct and meaningful impact on residents in Missouri's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District across Saline County. Missouri Valley College serves as an important educational and community anchor in the region that regularly hosts activities and events that brings students, families, and community members from across the District. The project funding request would not be possible without the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Burns Center is going to serve as an emergency shelter during severe weather events. The letter was given to Congressman Alford.

Monte Fenner announced that the Pinwheels for Prevention ceremony will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The pinwheels will be placed in pots and put at the entrances of the Courthouse.

County Clerk Brittni Burton stated that she is getting ready for elections. She has openings for election judges. Absentee voting for the April election started on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and no-excuse absentee voting begins March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:26 am. Monte Fenner made a motion to adjourn. Stephanie Gooden seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

		
Becky Plattner	Monte Fenner	Stephanie Gooden
Presiding Commissioner	Southern Commissioner	Northern Commissioner

Certified by:  
  
Brittni Allison Burton  
County Clerk

