

Wednesday June 4, 2025

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 9:02 am.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025 session. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Becky Plattner seconded. Motion carried 2-0-0.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve a payment schedule. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Becky Plattner seconded. Motion carried 2-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented commission order #6659 in the amount of \$190,199.63 for a cash transfer of payroll, order #6660 in the amount of \$33,676.95 for 941 taxes, and order #6661 in the amount of \$4,547.65 for CERF .7% and elective savings. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve the commission orders as presented. Becky Plattner seconded. Motion carried 2-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented liquor licenses in the amount of \$2,127, which included renewals for six businesses. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve the liquor licenses as presented. Becky Plattner seconded. Motion carried 2-0-0.

County Clerk Brittni Burton presented Emergency Management contracts for City of Marshall, City of Gilliam, and City of Nelson. Becky Plattner asked for a motion to approve. Monte Fenner made a motion to approve. Becky Plattner seconded. Motion carried 2-0-0.

Monte Fenner reported that 200<sup>th</sup> Road has been fixed and is open, and that the Courthouse will be open on Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Collector Cindi Sims presented the May distribution report. Collections totaled \$205,661.33 for personal property, real estate, and surtax. She also got rid of her last protest. She stated that she has received about 1,200 applications for the Senior Tax Credit and has completed about 450 approval letters so far. She announced that impact notices will be going out for commercial property increases. The State Tax Commission released an article about the increases, and she read a paragraph from the article which states "Under the Hancock Amendment, taxing jurisdictions like schools, ambulance, and fire districts can only increase revenue by the amount of inflation as calculated by the State Tax Commission or 5% annually, whichever is less. A taxing jurisdiction is required to lower its voter-approved tax rate to comply with this amendment when the current rate would produce revenue that would exceed the growth rate. This year, we [which is the State Tax Commission] calculated the number to be 2.9%, so at most the MOUs [which is a letter that the Assessor signed, not just here, across the state] we sent to counties should, on average, raise property taxes by no more than 2.9%." She commented that the article is talking about residential increases which she believes the MOUs for most counties were 15%. She pointed out that in 2021 the county had a \$50 million residential increase, which did invoke the Hancock Amendment. She pulled data for five houses in Saline County: three in Marshall, one rural, and one in Slater. The tax increases for those houses in 2021 were: 15%, 14%, 12%, 34%, and 85%. The assessed valuation increases of those houses were: 29%, 29%, 26%, 49%, and 114%. She said taking the information from the article does not equate to what is going to happen to commercial bills, which is a little misleading. She will estimate taxes for anyone who requests it, but her estimate is a worse case scenario because rates will roll back. They just won't roll back to 2.9%, which is exactly what the article states. That was not the case in 2021. She does not know what the increase will be, it could be more than \$50 million, but at a \$50 million assessed value increase, that did not happen. Monte Fenner asked if the rollback occurs on the local level or the state level. Cindi replied that most taxing districts set their levies in August. When the districts set their levies in their meetings, those numbers are sent to the State Auditor's office, who sends back a pro forma to the County Clerk. Clerk Burton stated that the taxing districts send everything to her, and she turns it into the State. Cindi continued by saying that the State then confirms the taxing districts are not out of line with the Hancock Amendment and anything else that might come into play when those levies are set. Clerk Burton commented that the State tells them what their levies can be. Cindi stated she looked at tax rates from 2020 to 2021, and they almost all rolled back. Looking at Marshall, there was a 36-cent rollback on the school levy and a 17-cent rollback on the city. She concluded by saying that the article was informative, but it cannot be read for commercial right now.

Treasurer Jared Brewer announced that the County has put out an invitation to bid for Saline County banking institutions that are interested in serving as the county depositories. Sealed bids need to be labeled "bank bid" and are due to the County Clerk's office by 8:45 am on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and bids will be opened in session that day.

Auditor Karlin Breshears reported that Gerding, Korte and Chitwood have finished their preliminary audit and are in the secondary part of the audit which includes the single audit process for grants. She stated that GKC was very appreciative of the way the records were kept for the grants and how they were broken out for the Jail fire.

Stephanie Gooden reported that on May 28<sup>th</sup> the Commission attended the Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission quarterly meeting where they went through the formality of approving bills and similar items. The Community Cleanup will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Saline County Fairgrounds. She thanked the Saline County Fair Association for allowing the use of the parking lot, which is where they will be accepting drop offs of furniture, clothes, tires, electronic scraps, bulk debris, and two appliances per household. Household hazardous waste will be accepted at the city, but not during the Community Cleanup event. She thanked the City of Marshall for their associates and for the use of their backhoe, as well as the Saline County Road and Bridge crew members who will be present. She stated that the excavator is planning on being at the Welcome Center site on Wednesday, weather permitting, and that there is a public notice posted for the bridge replacement on Quince Avenue. She announced that the Commission and the Sheriff have been staying on top of improvements at the Jail-Justice Center and one of the improvements is a new hot water heater system. Throughout the project, they will ensure that the inmates are treated with standards of dignity and humanity, and that all inmates have had access to hot water and showers and will continue to be afforded as such. Saline County continues to meet or exceed Section 4 of the Missouri Core Jail Standards, which is to provide for the basic needs and personal care of detainees, and the expected practices for detainees to have showers, toilets, and wash basins. They are ensuring that inmates still have access to hot water and showers in other parts of the jail until the repairs are completed.

Becky Plattner reported that the fire suppressant system is close to being finished at the Jail-Justice Center. Two sets of new doors for the front entrance and the painting of the front office area are expected to be completed in two to three weeks. The total cost of improvements to the jail has brought the insurance claim to \$1,582,842.

Emergency Management Director Brad Hinz reported that during the previous day's storm the tornado sirens were activated in Sweet Springs, Miami, Grand Pass, and Slater. There were limbs down and a few power outages in the Slater area, but things were taken care of quickly. Deputies and Troopers reported high winds in the Miami area. He also gave an update on the hazmat plan for 2027. Working with Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission, they set up the first meeting for July 18, 2025, which will include a core group of people to see what changes need to be made to the existing plan. He also explained that about 12 people participated in the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training they had over the weekend. The THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment) process was started the previous day, which is like a regional hazmat plan. There are two more meetings scheduled. The most important thing with the THIRA and hazmat plans is involvement. With THIRA, there must be regional involvement. With hazmat, there must be town and County involvement. If something is missed on the hazmat plan, and it happens, FEMA will not offer any support or funding for the situation. The Emergency Management Performance Grant that is due to be submitted at the end of the month has not yet been released by SEMA. Also, the storm siren at Arrow Rock State Park, a process that started in the Fall of 2024, was just approved approximately 10 days ago, but was given a deadline of July 31, 2025. This deadline is impossible due to the extensive process of constructing a storm siren. They have requested an extension but have yet to hear back from SEMA.

County Clerk Brittni Burton explained that she received her first email from the State Auditor's Office to start setting tax rates, so those letters will be going out to the taxing entities soon. She also gave a reminder about the Saline County BBQ happening on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. The band will play from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, meals will be served from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm, and the queen contest will start at 7:00 pm.

Becky Plattner asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:31 am. Stephanie Gooden made a motion to adjourn. Monte Fenner seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

 Becky Plattner Presiding Commissioner	 Monte Fenner Southern Commissioner	 Stephanie Gooden Northern Commissioner
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Certified by:

  
 Brittni Allison Burton  
 County Clerk

