

BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2023

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Tom Mooney, Ann Pluemer (via Zoom), George Riddick(arrived at 6:33 pm), Stephanie Robinson, Tom Schneider, Ben Uchitelle, and Steve Wegert

Commissioners Absent: Steve O'Rourke (due to international travel)

Commission Staff Present: Michelle Dougherty, Executive Director  
Michael Hart, Legal Counsel

Others present:  
None

Chairman Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The meeting was in the first-floor conference room at 231 S Bemiston in Clayton and livestreamed to the Boundary Commission's YouTube channel.

ROLL IS CALLED – QUORUM DECLARED

Roll was called and a quorum declared by Ms. Dougherty.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of July 25, 2023. Mr. Mooney seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

Mr. Wegert made a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2023. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

REPORTS

Ms. Dougherty stated she had one item to add to the staff report. She had received the bill from the Election board for the upcoming November 7, 2023 election for the Manchester annexation. The total is \$6,351.42. Ms. Dougherty said the last bill in 2007 from the election board was \$40 and she wanted to make sure it was correct. She explained there are only five entities covering the costs of the election which is why it is significantly higher than in 2007. She explained that it will be covered via an interdepartmental fund transfer. Mr. Uchitelle asked if there was enough money to cover that bill. Ms. Dougherty said there was, but it would leave \$13,000 in the professional services category.

Ms. Dougherty also shared that the website has had 4,000 impressions in the last 30 days and that the highest traffic area was on the Manchester proposal page. She also shared that she is working with the web developer on getting the Commission website in compliance with the new ADA standards.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. D&O, EPPL Insurance Renewal 2023-2024

Ms. Dougherty stated it was the same premium and same coverage as the prior year. (\$2 million per claim made and \$2500 deductible.) Several commissioners asked Ms. Dougherty to check with the insurance broker on what the difference would be if the amount was raised to \$3 million or \$4 million. Ms. Dougherty clarified that the Commission would vote to bind coverage at the current level and could decide later if they want to increase it based on the answers from the insurance broker.

Mr. Wegert made a motion to accept the existing D&O, EPPL insurance renewal for 2023-2024 and bind coverage. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

##### B. Closed Session.

Mr. Mooney made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) regarding legal actions and causes of action or litigation or privileged communication. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Tom Mooney – Y  
Ann Pluemer – Y  
George Riddick – Y  
Stephanie Robinson – Y  
Tom Schneider – Y  
Ben Uchitelle – Y  
Steve Wegert – Y

*The motion passed.* The closed session began at 6:49 p.m.

Mr. Wegert made a motion to end the closed session. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Tom Mooney – Y  
Ann Pluemer – Y  
George Riddick – Y  
Stephanie Robinson – Y  
Tom Schneider – Y

Ben Uchitelle – Y  
Steve Wegert – Y

*The motion passed.* The closed session ended at 7:03 p.m.

## OLD BUSINESS

### A. Publicize Commission Decisions.

Chairman Uchitelle summarized the question before the Commissioners is whether to publicize the various decisions the Commission makes.

Chairman Uchitelle asked Ms. Dougherty to explain the Commission's methods as it relates to informing citizens of activities at the Commission. Mr. Mooney shared his concern with the Commission getting too involved in promoting its activities and decisions could make it look like the Commission is advocating for boundary changes and he would want the Commission to steer clear of that. It could endanger the perception of impartiality of the Commission.

Chairman Uchitelle said he'd like to see more consolidations and mergers among the cities. Mr. Wegert said he agreed with Chairman Uchitelle on a personal level but that the Commission should be mindful of its neutrality. Mr. Schneider clarified that his idea was when the Commission makes a significant decision, like when it approves a merger, that it should be publicized to the public and not rely on the press to let the people know. Mr. Riddick stated he thought that should be the job of the municipalities to let their residents know. Chairman Uchitelle asked Mr. Mooney how he felt about Mr. Schneider's explanation. Mr. Mooney said he preferred to let the market forces dictate what the press covers. If the public is interested in a boundary change, the reporters will cover it and vice versa. He emphasized he would be reticent to promote the Commission's actions and decisions to prevent bias among the public.

Mr. Wegert shared that the Commission decided many years ago to hold public hearings or public meetings in venues not owned by cities or the county to support its position of neutrality.

Chairman Uchitelle suggested the Commission decide on a case-by-case basis if they want to do extra promotion of decisions. The members agreed that would be a good idea.

### B. Commissioner Terms.

Mr. Hart said he and Ms. Dougherty evaluated the appointment history of the Commission since 1999. This effort was initiated because St. Louis County took the position regarding Mr. O'Rourke's appointment that when they make an appointment it's for five years regardless of what the expiration schedule should be.

He explained that some commissioners have terms that expire 'correctly', and others have expirations that got out of sync many years ago. To bring everything back into compliance with the original schedule of having staggered expirations of 3, 2, 2, 2 and 2 terms expiring

Ms. Pluemer asked if the County Council had to approve the adjustment of term schedules. Mr. Wegert stated he felt the terms are the Commission's and shouldn't be subject to the County's current opinion.

Mr. Hart said he could circulate to the commissioners a suggested course correction. He said if nothing is done to amend the terms the Commission could run into a situation where a member is serving and their term is unexpired, the appointing authority says it has expired and they want to replace the member because they think the member is going to vote contrary to how the appointing authority wants them to vote. Mr. Hart clarified that the statute states that members serve until replaced or reappointed.

Mr. Mooney said that the statute has fixed terms, and they roll on a certain schedule. He recommends since the statute dictates when the terms expire, that the Commission communicates with the appointing authorities when those are, and the appointing authorities fill the terms as set by the Commission following the statute.

It was decided to circulate the recommendations and have the Commission approve it at the next meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mooney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Dougherty  
Executive Director

Approved: October 24, 2023