

January 9, 2025
1st Day of the January Adjournment Term
Commission met pursuant to December 19, 2024
Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble
Others Present: Carol Hardy, Treasurer; Tim Harbison, Coroner; Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Janice Helms,
Sheriff-Admin Assistant; State Auditor Office-Kelley Davis & Samantha Brown

Meeting called order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded the motion.

COMMISSION REPORT: Meeting started with a moment of silence in memory of Former President of the United States Jimmy Carter.

LANTZ CEMETARY: A deed of trust was presented for the formation of a cemetery. The county is not responsible for the maintenance of the said cemetery. AC Campbell made the motion to accept the deed of trust for a cemetery for Roberta Lantz and descendants on County Road 11 and authorized PC Scaggs to sign the deed. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SCHRADER LAW FIRM LEGAL AGREEMENT: AC Campbell made the motion to renew the legal agreement with Schrader Law Firm & give PC Scaggs authority to sign. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Campbell made a motion to move into closed session per RSMO 610.021 (17) to discuss legal issues at 10:24 am. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Campbell made a motion to move out of closed session and back into regular session at 12:36 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye
All in favor, motion carried. No action taken during the closed session.

SHERIFF: Discussed purchasing a storage container and other budget needs for 2025. He has received a grant from the Edgar Foundation for purchasing tasers and has also applied for a USDA block grant.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Discussed capital improvements for 2025. TAP-sidewalk grant will take place in 2026.
ROAD & BRIDGE: Tabled

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims-tabled B.) Other-Treasurer Hardy presented the 2024 Annual Settlement. AC Campbell made the motion to accept the annual settlement as presented. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
With no other business, AC Hinkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 pm. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

January 23, 2025

1st Day of the January Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to January 9, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge Dept; Connie Reed, Recorder; Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Tim Harbison, Coroner

Meeting called order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: Limbs on the lawn will be cleared by a community service worker & the janitor & R&B will pick them up. SEMO Regional Commission meeting discussed SB237 is related to Local Sales/Use tax. If passed it would reinstate sales tax that the legislature exempted on certain types of businesses. It could be an extreme loss in sales tax revenue for the counties if we do not get the tax reinstated. The SEMO Regional Commissioners agreed to send a letter in support of the bill.

RECORDER GRANT: The recorder would like to apply for a grant for shelving in the records room to replace the wood shelves that could damage the old books. AC Campbell made the motion to approve the request to apply for the grant. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2025 LIBRARY BUDGET: The Commission received and reviewed the 2025 budget and financials of the Ozark Regional Library as statutorily required.

SB237: PC Scaggs reviewed the fiscal negative impact on counties if SB237 would not pass. SB237 is related to Local Sales/Use tax. It could be an extreme loss in sales tax revenue for the counties if we do not get the tax reinstated. AC Campbell made the motion to approve a letter of support for SB237 from the Commission to be sent to state officials. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SHERIFF: discussed MULES charges.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: discussed the installation of the new telephone and internet system.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP-tabled B.) Bids for Hogan Shed opened and reviewed. AC Hinkle made the motion to award the bid to Jetta Contractors for the building of Hogan Shed. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. C.) Other-the 2nd MACK truck has been built & inspected. The bed is being installed now. Road crew has been out working on limb cleanup & road repairs after the ice storm.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims will be approved for payment after the budget is reviewed and accepted by the Auditor's Office. B.) 2025 Budget was presented by County Clerk Womble as follows: A review of the 3 Major Funds: The big grant opportunities that have occurred over the past few years has come to an end. General Revenue will have an estimated deficit spending of \$800,000. The majority of the expenditures is tied to salaries, health, work comp., & property insurance. General Revenue has a beginning balance of \$1,877,146.54 with anticipated revenues of \$2,642,656 and expenditures of \$3,392,850 resulting in an estimated ending balance of \$1,126,952.54 The beginning & ending balances in General Revenue includes monies held in CD's. Road & Bridge has a beginning balance of \$314,143.81 with anticipated revenues of \$2,465,395 and expenditures of \$2,741,380 resulting in a projected ending balance of \$38,158.81. Assessment has a beginning balance of \$142,188.30 with anticipated revenues of \$258,030 and expenditures of \$395,396 resulting in a projected ending balance of \$4,822.30 SB40 has a beginning balance of \$28,182.80 with anticipated revenues of \$210,000 and expenditures of \$210,000 resulting in a projected ending balance of \$28,182.80. AC Campbell made the motion to approve the 2025 Budget for Iron County and SB40 as presented with no changes. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. C.) Other: AC Campbell made the motion to renew membership with the AV Chamber of Commerce. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve Court Order 2025-02 for renewal of the line of credit with First State Community Bank. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Next Commission meetings are scheduled for February 6th & 20th. CCAM required annual conference/training is February 26-28th.

With no other business, AC Campbell made the motion to adjourn at 1:00 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

February 6, 2025

3rd Day of the January Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to January 23, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge Dept; Connie Reed, Recorder; Crystal Skaggs, Collector; Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Dave Huff & Ben Young, Assessor Office; Carol Hardy, Treasurer

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting.
AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: AC Campbell is working on someone to repair the cannons. AC Hinkle stated cleanup has started in Hogan from the truck spill. PC Scaggs was able to obtain a copy of the State budget and reviewed it with those present. Also, discussed was the possible non-funding of the Secure Rural Schools program. If funding is halted Iron County schools could lose approximately \$200,000.

PC Scaggs met with some legislators while in Jefferson City and discussed SB237 and trying to get the bill moved forward. He also found out there is still ARPA funding available that could be used for additional Courthouse renovations. He will pursue the grant.

COMMISSION OFFICE LOCATION: AC Campbell made the motion to start meeting again in the old commission office (now Division III Courtroom). AC Hinkle seconded. Discussion was held. AC Campbell withdrew his motion to move back to the other office. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES: AC Hinkle made the motion to accept individuals already appointed to the committees with addition of himself on Workforce Development. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Committees/boards as follows: EMAA, Ben Young; Workforce Development, Josh Campbell; Emergency Management Director, Lucas Anderson; Flood Plain Manager, Jim Scaggs; University Extension, Kenny Wooten; Regional Planning Commission, Jim Scaggs; Solid Waste Management, Jim Scaggs; Transportation Advisory Committee, Scaggs, Helton, McClanahan; Law Enforcement Restitution (LERF), Micah Inman. Also discussed was RSMO 49.098 additional duties of the Commission & RSMO 49.140 County Commission prohibited from doing certain things.

SHERIFF: A.) State Auditor responses-once the audit is released responses & procedures will be reviewed openly. B.) Other-prisoner count is down. Discussed prisoner per diem & adjustment from DOC reimbursement.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-small balance left in the grant. Sheriff Helton needs to see if there are any additional needs that would qualify for the renovation grant. B.) TAP-sidewalk- Reviewed Phase I Cultural Resource Survey. Commission agrees to proceed. C.) Other-discussed Eddings Masonry quote for paint removal, etc. on the 1964 end of the Courthouse. PC Scaggs is working on the RFP for 1964 addition. Also, discussed repairs needed on the gazebo. PC Scaggs will be pursuing a CDBG grant for a saferoom addition to the Tax Office.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC-tabled B.) Other-2025 Mack Dump truck will be delivered on Friday. MODOT would like to start bridge inspections on Monday. Material bid request publication will be next week. Road & equipment maintenance discussed. Roger H. received three quotes for ¾ ton Chevrolet work trucks from Don Brown, Autry Morlan, & Baldwin Group. AC Hinkle made the motion to accept the bid from Baldwin Chevrolet for the purchase of two work trucks as long as we can get both within budget. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Reviewed a quote from Republic Trash Service. AC Campbell made a motion to approve the proposal from Republic Trash Service and give PC Scaggs authority to sign. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented and approved for payment. B.) Other-AC Campbell made the motion to approve the following disbursements to schools as presented: Court Order 2025-03 School Fines; Court Order 2025-04 School Surplus; Court Order 2025-05 Railroad & Utilities to Schools & Court Order 2025-06 Private Car tax. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Hinkle made a motion to recess and move into closed session at 12:05 pm per RSMO 610.21 (1) & (17) to discuss personnel and legal issues. AC Campbell seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell, aye; AC Hinkle, aye; PC Scaggs, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Hinkle made the motion to adjourn from closed session and move back into open session at 12:30 pm. AC Campbell seconded. Roll Call: PC Scaggs- aye; AC Young-aye; AC Chandler-aye All in favor, motion carried. No action was taken during the closed session.

With no other business, AC Hinkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 pm. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

March 6, 2025

4th Day of the January Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to February 6, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge Dept; Connie Reed, Recorder; Crystal Skaggs, Collector; Dave Huff & Ben Young, Assessor Office; Carol Hardy, Treasurer

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting.

AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: AC Campbell spoke with Friends of Fort Davidson's Brick Autry to assist with cannon restoration. Eddings Masonry will be sending a quote for the staining of the brick on the back of the courthouse. PC Scaggs discussed HB903 which reduces commercial assessed valuation from 33% to 19%. Estimated 1.7m loss in revenue to General Revenue. HB321 bill to reinstate sales tax to mining, manufacturing & utilities failed. Fiscal note from state estimates \$35m loss in revenue. HB743 & SB185 now exempt broadband and solar companies from sales tax. Iron County has had approximately \$270k loss in sales tax revenue between 2022-2024. These types of sales tax losses are devastating to rural counties. Secure Rural Schools (federal funding) was not appropriate, which means we will also lose Title III funding in the Road Department. PC Scaggs met with USFS concerning the Crane Lake project. If it is approved & signed this fall, they could possibly go out for bids in 2026. State road repairs in 2025-Highway 49 & BB bridge; Highway 72; Highway 21 @ tip-top. A letter the Assessor received from the State Tax Commission was discussed. STC is requesting the Assessor sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating he will increase the level of assessment. He is currently at approximately 62% of market value. STC wants us to be at 90-110% of market value. Values were raised in 2019, 2021, & 2023. 80 counties are out of tolerance. The Assessor has been trying to protect the citizens for many years and is now being forced to increase property values. He told STC he will increase values on residential by 15%.

MURAL-A cost estimate was received (with options) to remove the mural from the Arcadia Valley Bank and install it in the courthouse hallway on the First floor. AC Campbell made the motion to have it installed in a glass case and framed. AC Hinkle seconded. Discussion was held. AC Campbell stated he would donate funds to the project. All in favor, motion carried.

PARKLAND REDI INVOICE: Received the quarterly Parkland Redi Invoice which is shared with four other counties to research rural economic development. AC Campbell made the motion to approve the quarterly invoice for payment. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ELECTION EQUIPMENT: County Clerk Womble presented a contract with the Henry Adkins Company for the purchase of new tabulation equipment to be paid for over 3 years. The current equipment is 10 years old. She received a grant for \$11,500 that will pay for a portion of the equipment. This company is the sole source for acquiring equipment that will work with our current ADA equipment. After reviewing the contract, AC Campbell made a motion to approve the contract and give PC Scaggs & Co Clerk Womble authority to sign. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SHERIFF: tabled

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-tabled B.) Sidewalk-tabled C.) Other-the RFP for the County Clerk's office has been published and due March 27th. AC Campbell is working on the RFP for the 3rd Floor offices. Discussed the support beam for the courtroom and how to proceed. RFP will need prepped for the beam project. Historic Preservation is requesting photos of each window and location, etc. to determine if it will qualify for replacement with DNR conservation easement. Brockmiller asked to purchase 1860 era lumber for repairs to the Dillard Mill. After discussion to determine price and quantity needs, AC Campbell made the motion to sell 100 linear feet at \$10 per foot for the Dillard Mill restoration. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC-waiting on allocation of funds. B.) Material Bids-Bids were opened and turned over to Foreman Turner for review and tabulation. Rick will submit his recommendations at the next Commission meeting. C.) Road Closure (32A)-discussed and determined the end of the asphalt is the end of county maintenance. D.) Other-Hogan shed should be started in a couple weeks. ERPA requirements scheduled to for March 18 @ 11 am to decommission the 2 dump trucks to meet grant qualifications. Various road maintenance discussed. New trucks may get here by June. The bridge on County Road 20 is being repaired.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented and approved for payment. B.) Treasurer Hardy presented the January 2025 reconciliation. AC Campbell made the motion to accept the January 2025 reconciliation as presented. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. C.) Other- AC Campbell made the motion to approve Court Order 2025-07 for payment of the beginning of installation of Spectrum equipment from ARPA funds. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. January & February 2025 Personal Property assessment changes approved. Recorder Reed commented that the 1st grant she received is complete and is moving forward with the shelving grant.

With no other business, AC Hinkle made the motion to adjourn at 12:10 pm. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

March 20, 2025

5th Day of the January Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to March 6, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Roger Medley; Connie Reed, Recorder; Vicki Branstetter, Heather Hulse & Brandi Declue-Iron Co Health Coalition; Carol Hardy, Treasurer

Meeting called to order at 10:20 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. AC Hinkle made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting.

AC Campbell seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: none given

COUNTY TORNADO: Discussed the March 14th Tornado. Tremendous support has been given to the Village of Des Arc and surrounding area. Emergency Management and the volunteer fire departments that responded did an outstanding job! The EM Director was available any time he was needed. He may not have always been onsite but was a phone call away. Communication has been the big issue with no electricity, land lines out and no cell service available. East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA) has been a huge help. MO Baptist Disaster Relief has been there. Scott Oatman has been fantastic with getting assistance down there. There have been food trucks, individual & business donations, dump trucks, equipment donations, etc. The Health Department has been there as well. Sen. Jamie Burger, Rep. Tony Harbison, and Congressman Jason Smith have all been there to survey damage and find out the needs. The mail for the Des Arc Post Office (which was destroyed) will be transferred to Annapolis at this time. Zones have been set up to organize and plan on a daily basis. The county may have to rent a skid steer with grapple to assist with debris removal. Deputies and Road & Bridge employees will have overtime. After reviewing the Personnel Policy, AC Campbell made the motion to pay overtime to R&B employees and deputies for cleanup & security. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to give PC Scaggs authority to rent and sign a contract for the rental of a skid steer with grapple if they find there is a need. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

IRON CO HEALTH COALITION-Opioid Funds: Vicki Branstetter introduced the ICHC members and explained their mission is to improve the health of Iron County citizens. Iron County contributed opioid settlement funds to the ICHC to be used to assist in the prevention of opioid use. They discussed the 2024 accomplishments of the Iron Co Health Coalition. There are drug drop-off locations, kits to destroy opioid drugs at home and kits for securing opioid drugs. Pamphlets are available for opioid prevention education and resources for connecting the citizens of Iron County with assistance. Narcan use training is available with Missouri Highlands. They have been making presentations at schools. They have a Youth Coalition in which students give presentations about drug prevention to their peers. 988 is the mental health number for texting and calling for assistance. AC Campbell made the motion to extend the ICHC contract for another year. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COUNTY CLERK COPIER: Co Clerk Womble discussed her copier being very old and parts were getting harder to find. She presented a contract from The Rite Group for a new copier and a decrease in the copier maintenance fee. AC Hinkle made the motion to give PC Scaggs authority to sign the copier lease with The Rite Group Co. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SHERIFF: The Donation account has been transferred to the Co Treasurer as requested by State Auditors.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-Four bids have been received for the fencing at the front of the Sheriff House (admin). Commission will review the options and decide at a later date. B.) TAP-tabled C.) Other-RFP for Co Clerk's office due March 27th. RFP's for the 3rd floor are still being prepared by AC Campbell.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC- TABLED B.) Material bid awards- TABLED C.) County Road 32A-AC Campbell discussed state statute that says if a co road is not maintained for a number of years it is considered vacated. The portion of the road in question has not been maintained for many years and is actually fenced off. The Commission discussed the owners' deed still showing the road. The landowner needs to petition the Commission to amend the deed to have the easement removed.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented and approved for payment B.) Other-Treasurer Hardy discussed the upcoming maturity of CD's

With no further business, AC Hinkle made the motion to adjourn at 12:00 pm. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

April 3, 2025

1st Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to March 20, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Chuck Helton, Sheriff & Roger Medley, deputy; Carol Hardy, Treasurer; Crystal Skaggs, Collector; Bill Thompson, 911 Director

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 5a.) Budget Review and the removal of 9c.) Co Road 32A. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: PC Scaggs will be attending Legislative Day on April 15th in Jefferson City.

Discussed sales tax review on random utility bills from different citizens. There are discrepancies in the sales tax calculations on certain invoices issued by various companies. PC Scaggs met with FEMA, SEMA & Flood plain management last week. Governor Kehoe has asked for a declaration from the federal government. Iron County's storm assessment is just over \$3m. Efforts are currently underway to clear the creeks to safeguard the bridges from potential flooding. Donations for the Des Arc community have been outstanding.

5a.) 2025 Quarterly Budget Review-Expenditures are right on target at 24.6% however, we did miss on the revenues. Forest crop land revenues are expected to be down by \$200k; Railroad & Utilities are down; sales tax has been reduced statewide by 24%. The Road & Bridge Fund hasn't received Mineral Royalties yet, CART is on target. R&B Expenditures are at 19.5%. If the federal government does not disburse Secure Rural Schools funds it will be a big hit for the Road & Bridge Department.

IRON COUNTY HEALTH COALITION: AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the Court Order 2025-08 to be paid to the Iron County Health Coalition for opioid abuse treatment and prevention. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Also, discussed was investing the Opioid Funds into a CD. The commission agreed to the treasurer investing the Opioid Funds in a CD.

SHERIFF: Brush guards on the vehicles purchased through LERF was a worthwhile investment and protected the vehicles from damage. Sheriff Helton hasn't heard if he will receive the DPS grant for new equipment yet. He is reviewing the possibility of charging weekend prisoner holds in advance as other counties are doing.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: RFP for the tuckpointing/paint removal is out for bid. Currently, there are no bids. One bid from Brockmiller was received for the Co Clerk's Office RFP. PC Scaggs will contact them for more information. Discussed bids for railing around the pea gravel in front of the Sheriff Administration building.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC-waiting on the environmentalist. Discussed cost estimates discussed were from 4 years ago. This will need to be addressed. B.) Material bids-AC Hinkle made the motion to approve bids at the recommendation of Foreman Turner. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Bids awarded as follows (all bids on file in the County Clerk's Office):

SALT: Thompson Farm Supply

FUEL/OIL: Bauman Oil

SNOWPLOW BLADES: Lacal

ASPHALT: Leadbelt

ROCK QUARRIES: Due to the various locations where needed, all quarries were accepted.

C.) Other-The contractor has been working on the Hogan shed. Roads put the two freightliners out of commission 2 weeks ago per EPA grant requirements. County Road 60 & 61A maintenance was discussed. FCC license is up for renewal this year. Bill Thompson said he would take care of it. There will be a lot of hand patching taking place this year. A quote on a grapple attachment for the loader was discussed. Commission agreed to proceed with getting measurements, etc. for quote accuracy.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims were presented and approved for payment. B.) Treasurer Hardy presented the February and March balanced reconciliation reports. AC Campbell made the motion to accept the reconciliations. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. C.) Other-Collector Skaggs presented 2 tax sale redemption requests. AC Campbell made the motion to approve the requests. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Hinkle made a motion to adjourn at 11:42 am. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

April 17, 2025

2nd Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to April 3, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Crystal Skaggs, Collector; Connie Reed, Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: AC Campbell discussed reviewing a washout of a culvert. It is not the county's responsibility to repair the citizen's culvert. PC Scaggs discussed FEMA & SEMA assessments for the tornado. No word on a declaration. Flood damage was also reviewed this week with FEMA & SEMA. Open Door Church in Sabula inquired about holding an open-air meeting May 23-24, 2025. Commission has agreed.

MAC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: PC Scaggs attended and met with some of the Governor's staff to discuss some of the bills that could impact the County. Watching HB903-Personal Property tax reduction. (could be 1.7m loss to Iron County including all entities) and HB185-Sales tax exemption for broadband and solar farms. PC Scaggs will be attending at Northeast Regional meeting to explain the effect the passing of the bills could have on rural counties.

IRON COUNTY HEALTH DEPT: ICHD receive notification they will receive a \$200k cut in DHSS funds. EMAA Headstart programs across the nation are being cut.

SB190/753: General discussion was held.

SHERIFF: Discussed the Sheriff Retirement fund and bills that have been presented to fund it. Sheriffs no longer qualify for any county retirement program due to bills that have been passed.

Sheriff Helton has applied for a grant with Wal-Mart. He has also received some used laptops & tough books from 2 other counties, and the computers are being updated for use in his department. Upcoming DPS inspection and a monitoring system that is available for single cells. He is also working on finding funds to update vehicle laptops.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-discussed pea gravel area & updating cell doors. B.) TAP-tabled C.) RFP Co Clerk to be re-bid. Discussed the layout of the office.

ROADS: A.) FLAP/RAC-PC Scaggs signed an extended contract this week. A zoom meeting will be held to discuss allocation of funds. B.) Other-Questions concerning Co Road 124 & 131. No funds are available currently. Flood repair has depleted the road & bridge budget. Co Road 163 to Des Arc-almost lost an abutment. Repairs have been made to stabilize it. Co Road 142 needs major repairs due to a mud slide. The road department is doing the best they can to repair roads as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented and approved for payment. B.) Other-AC Campbell made the motion to renew MULES agreement with St. Francois County. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Hinkle made the motion to go out for bids for the 2024 Single year audit. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Campbell made the motion to adjourn at 12:40 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

May 1, 2025

3rd Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to April 17, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Crystal Skaggs, Collector; David Huff & Ben Young, Assessor's office; Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge; Beau Cotton, McCoy Construction

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: AC Campbell discussed a private bridge that was lost in the flood. The owners are inquiring about FEMA assistance. Nothing new on cannon repair. AC Hinkle discussed a road that a citizen asked about the county taking over. He needs to research the process in statutes. He also discussed a contractor dumping old construction materials on the side of a county road. PC Scaggs spoke at the NE Regional Commission & Co Clerk meeting about sales tax exemptions and bills at the state. Adair Co. recently had a solar farm installed and will receive no sales tax revenue from it. He attended MAC Legislative Day in Jefferson City and met with numerous legislators about the sales tax exemption bills. MAC boarding meeting is next week. The Department of Revenue has agreed to investigate sales tax discrepancies on utility bills. SB190 discussed.

SHERIFF: Discussed board bill collection options. Sheriff Helton will be purchasing a shipping/storage container to use instead of paying for storage units. He is looking into a new reporting system that does more than the current system does and could save the county money.

SPECTRUM: Transition of phone/internet service to Spectrum and the new IT company will begin in the next couple weeks. AC Campbell made the motion to give PC Scaggs authority to make decisions as needed during the transition and with email & website transition to the new provider. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

FEMA: No declaration has been made. There is a meeting scheduled for citizens of Des Arc this evening.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-waiting for price quote on chuck holes for cell doors. B.) TAP sidewalk-tabled C.) RFP Co Clerk Office-Received one new bid. AC Campbell made the motion to accept the bid from Jetta Contracting. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

D.) Other-AC Campbell made the motion to accept the bid for paint removal of the section of the courthouse from Eddings Masonry. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC-tabled B.) County Road 139-discussed road closure request. C.) McCoy Construction-Beau Cotton reviewed bid for a grapple attachment for a loader.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented for payment and approved. B.) Other- AC Campbell made the motion to renew Air Evac. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve the request for payment of materials to Jetta Contracting for the Hogan Shed. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Campbell made a motion to adjourn @ 11:33 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

May 15, 2025

3rd Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to April 17, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Crystal Skaggs, Collector; Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge;
Carol Hardy, Treasurer; Frank Cameron, CR 109

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda with addition of RPC dues. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: AC Hinkle stated that a window company is wanting to donate some windows to the Des Arc Community. He'll need to contact Des Arc Council. AC Campbell discussed more siding being dumped on another county road, but he thinks it's been taken care of. PC Scaggs presented a thank you card that the County received from the South Iron High School students that toured the courthouse. They really enjoyed it. The MAC meeting was 05/07/2025. There was a lot of discussion concerning solar farms and sales tax exemptions. Discussion was held concerning the lack of funding to the Sheriff's Retirement fund. Funding options were discussed at the meeting. SB190 was discussed also and there were many different opinions whether the senior tax freeze includes school bonds. Spectrum will be working on transitioning our current telephone & internet system next week. MODOT projects are underway in the surrounding area. Work on Tip Top continues and there will be traffic delays this summer. Royal Gorge work is supposed to start after July 4th.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Bidding for the upcoming year was discussed. AC Campbell stated that he may check with some surrounding agencies. Co Clerk Womble will contact our current agent to come to a Commission meeting to give an overview of our current health insurance situation.

GRANTS: MDNR non-playground equipment grant is available. The picnic tables and benches are made from recycled tires. AC Campbell made the motion for AC Hinkle to pursue the grant. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNUAL SETTLEMENT: PC Scaggs asked Collector Skaggs if she had completed the Annual Settlement yet. She is finishing the 2023 settlement and will begin 2024 soon. She will have to put the totals on MO Form 205 as required by Auditors. She gave Co Clerk Womble a copy of the collections book for 2024.

PARKLAND REDI: AC Hinkle made the motion to renew with Parkland Redi for economic development research. SEMO RPC manages the program for the counties sharing the expenses. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SEMO RPC Dues-AC Campbell made a motion to approve the SEMO RPC dues as presented. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SHERIFF: A.) MO Blue Shield Program designation for the county was discussed. It allows more opportunities for receiving grants and funds for the Sheriff Department. We will need to pass a resolution & provide a letter from the county. The deadline is the end of the month. AC Campbell made the motion to approve the Court Order 2025-09 to adopt the designation of Iron County as a MO Blue Shield Program County. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. B.) DSSSF Grant application will need to be signed soon. It will fund an additional \$2,000 annually to full-time deputies. C.) Other-discussed collecting board bill payments and a new reporting system that is available for the admin office & jail that will save the county money.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-AC Hinkle made the motion to purchase and install chuck holes in three cell doors from Brockmiller Construction. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. B.) TAP-tabled. C.) CDBG Grant-\$750,000 grant opportunity. Possible uses were discussed. AC Campbell will pursue the grant. D.) Other-Work on the Hogan shed is still in progress.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC-Project is moving forward. A partial fund release will be in 2025 and the other in 2026. The funds need to be released at the same time. They are trying to coordinate laying base with the RAC Grant. B.) County Road 139-the road needs to be marked where the owner wants to place the gate and needs to be reviewed for a suitable place for a turnaround. C.) County Road 109-Frank Cameron discussed the condition of the road. Maintenance was delayed due to the recent storms. Equipment had to be moved to those areas to address storms, and they have just made it back to his area. He also asked about a landfill permit and discussed an area on Highway 72 that there is a lot of trash. Iron County does not have landfill permits and the area he is concerned with is on the State Highway. Iron County has no jurisdiction for it. D.) Other-discussed repairs need on the motor grader. AC Campbell made the motion to replace the long block engine on the motor grader. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Road Maintenance on County Road 102 discussed.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented and approved for payment. B.) Other-AC Campbell made the motion to accept the April reconciliation as presented by Treasurer Hardy. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Campbell made the motion to adjourn at 12:06 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

May 29, 2025

4th Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to May 15, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge; Tony Harbison, Rep. 144th;
Brian Parker, Pros. Attorney; David McKinney, Custom Insurance

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: AC Campbell spoke with Brick Autry about the cannon restoration, and it will probably be in the fall. PC Scaggs discussed the FEMA declaration for tornadoes and floods. The RPC meeting was this week as well as SEMO Commissioners meeting. There was a discussion concerning the Sheriff's Retirement bill that is now on the Governor's desk for signature. A lot of discussion was held about sales tax exemptions bills with numerous State Reps in attendance. The RPC in NE Missouri has researched how local sales tax exemptions can hamper local entities. They also discussed RSMo 259.220 taxation of Mineral Rights. Rep. Harbison discussed the things that happened in the legislature this year. He feels next year will be a better year for passing legislation to help rural counties. He was instrumental in establishing an advisory committee to work on some of the legislation that will help us survive. Rep. Harbison also filed a bill for reimbursement of timber sales from MDC like USFS does. PC Scaggs also discussed the incorrect taxes on Brightspeed bills. He asked Rep. Harbison if he could assist and he stated that he would reach out to some people. The city of Annapolis was awarded a grant to assist with water treatment.

HEALTH INSURANCE: David McKinney, Iron County's agent with Custom Insurance, gave an overview of the processes the county has used in the past and to date to provide health insurance to employees. Iron County in a fully insured ACA plan which is for 2-50 employees. The ratings are established by a massive pool. There are currently two carriers for ACA plans left in MO. If we break 50 FT employees, we will have to go to the open market, which will cause a massive increase in premiums. Iron County currently provides health coverage for qualified full-time employees with no cost to employees in the base plan. We've seen an average increase of 7.23% annually since going to the ACA plan. Without this type of coverage, we could have potentially been paying \$70k per month. If we go above the 50 employees, threshold annually, we will have to pay a penalty.

COUNTY POLICIES: A.) Audit review-discussed establishing a grant policy as well as reviewing the things the Auditors recommended: Annual Collector Settlement on proper form; Closed Session properly recorded in minutes; eliminated County paid annual employee meeting; Sheriff salary mid-term increase-letter was sent to previous Sheriff requesting reimbursement; County Commission policy for quarterly password changes; backup of computers; County Commission sunshine request policy. We will continue to work on implementation.

SHERIFF: Board bills for prisoners were sent out from March 2023 to current. Discussed warrant service for municipalities and reimbursement. Chow holes for the cell doors have been ordered. The contractor will have to coordinate with the jail for installation. Block Grant application needs to be signed. DSSSF Grant has been submitted. MO Blue Shield Program designation documents have been submitted. The shipping container has been purchased, and storage units will be cleared soon.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: A.) Jail -tabled B.) TAP GRANT-tabled C.) CDBG Grant due July 28th. D.) DNR Grant – 3 tables & 5 benches for each side. Due June 18, 2025

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC-tabled B.) County Road 139-discussed statute requirements for closure. We need to find out where the property line is. C.) Other-discussed preparation for FEMA. Road maintenance reviewed and the need for a road grader while the 2nd one is being repaired. Discussed Royal Gorge closure and the planned detour for at least 45 days. The beginning date is July 7th. The wall must be hammered. MODOT's recommendation for detour is through Lesterville to Highway N. Highway 49 & BB bypass is expected to be put back in mid-June. New trucks are expected to be 6 weeks out.

AC Campbell made a motion to move into closed session per RSMO 610.021 (1) to discuss legal issues at 12:15 am. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Campbell made a motion to move out of closed session and back into regular session at 12:40 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye All in favor, motion carried. No action taken during the closed session.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims presented and approved for payment. B.) Other- AC Campbell made the motion to accept the only bid received for the 2024 Single Audit from Mueller Oberkfell & Jones, LLC AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Being as they were the only bid and we needed to move forward for scheduling due to the deadline of September 30, the company was contacted to proceed with scheduling. This company took over for Daniel Jones and Associates who has completed our audits for numerous years. The County Clerk reached out to 3 companies and received 2 responses. One company responded with a decline due to scheduling and Mueller responded with a bid. No response was received from the 3rd company. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Court Order 2025-10 for disbursement of Mineral Receipts. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Court Order 2025-11 for disbursement of National Forest Minerals/1908 Act to schools. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Hinkle made the motion to adjourn at 12:56 pm. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

June 12, 2025

5th Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to May 29, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle (arrived late)
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Chuck Helton, Sheriff; Rick Turner & Roger Hampton, Road & Bridge; Carol Hardy, Treasurer; Connie Reed, Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. PC Scaggs seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to approve Minutes of previous meeting. PC Scaggs seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT: PC Scaggs will be speaking next Thursday at the Northwest Commissioners' meeting about sales tax exemption bills. He also participated in a SEMA meeting & a FEMA meeting last week for the FEMA declaration for the recent severe storms. Disaster survival set up for the next 2 days in Des Arc as well as from June 30-July 3rd. Next week there will be an emergency management meeting to discuss the MODOT closure of Highway 21 at the Royal Gorge and the emergency response plan.

SB40: AC Campbell made the motion to approve the requested re-appointment of Marcy Smith. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

COUNTY POLICIES: AC Campbell made the motion to approve the Iron County Grant policy. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SHERIFF: Blue Shield Program Designation discussed. He should receive communication in July with how to proceed with grant opportunities. DSSSF application has been submitted.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: A.) Jail-only thing left is the chow hole installation in cell doors. B.) TAP-tabled C.) CDBG Grant – AC Campbell selected 4 engineering firms to request RFQ's. The plan is to add a storm shelter onto the Tax Office. Application is due July 28th. D.) DNR Scrap tire grant – AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the application. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. E.) Other-Recorder stated she did not receive the shelving grant from the state. Renovations to the County Clerk's Office should start within the next 2 weeks. The RFP for the 3rd floor needs to be prepared soon.

ROAD & BRIDGE: A.) FLAP/RAC – nothing new B.) County Road 139 – AC Hinkle made the motion to approve vacating a portion of County Road 139. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Public notice was posted in 3 places.

C.) Workforce Development Block Grant – PC Scaggs requested two workers but can now get 3 workers. People must meet qualifications of displacement. The county will be notified when they locate individuals that qualify. D.) FEMA/SEMA – Usual reimbursement is 75% from federal and 25% from state. We haven't received notification that the state will pay. There are two projects. One is from tornadoes, and the other is the flood. Discussed bridges that may need to be replaced due to storm damage. DR4867 tornado March 14-15 has public assistance & individual and DR4872 March 30-April 8 has public assistance but no individual assistance yet. E.) Other – Road Department is trying to keep up with maintenance but it's difficult with as much rain as we've received. Both new trucks should be here by the end of June. Tentative schedule for the county auction is October 11th.

FINANCIAL: A.) Claims approved for payment. B.) Other – AC Campbell made the motion to accept the May reconciliation report as presented. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. CD renewal discussed. AC Campbell made a motion to renew both CDs for 6 months. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Campbell made the motion to adjourn at 12:04 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

June 17, 2025

6th Day of the April Adjournment Term

Commission met pursuant to June 12, 2025

Members Present: Presiding Commissioner (PC), Jim Scaggs
Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble

Others Present: Connie Reed, Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by PC Scaggs.

AC Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda with addition of Court Order 2025-12. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Minutes unavailable.

COMMISSION REPORT: Disaster Survey Assistance was last Thursday & Friday in Des Arc. Disaster Recovery Center will be setup June 30 – July 3 in Des Arc.

CDBG Grant – AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the Resolution for funding to apply for the CDBG application. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried. AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the RFQ for engineering services qualifications. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Court Order 2025-12- AC Campbell made the motion to approve Court Order 2025-12 for the Code of Ethics for 2 years. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Campbell made a motion to move into closed session per RSMO 610.021 (1) to discuss legal issues at 11:26 am. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye. All in favor, motion carried.

AC Campbell made a motion to move out of closed session and back into regular session at 11:36 pm. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye All in favor, motion carried. AC Campbell made the motion to join Ste. Genevieve Co as co-plaintiff as relates to SB157 & 93 which amended 144.054 Rsmo to exempt mining, manufacturing, energy production & utility industries from paying local sales tax. AC Hinkle seconded. Roll call: AC Campbell-aye; PC Scaggs-aye; AC Hinkle-aye All in favor, motion carried.

Discussed the staining schedule of the tan brick on the back of the courthouse.

With no other business, AC Campbell made the motion to adjourn at 11:41 am. AC Hinkle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner

June 27, 2025
7th Day of the April Adjournment Term
Commission met pursuant to June 17, 2025
Members Present: Associate Commissioner (AC), Southern, Dustin Hinkle
Associate Commissioner (AC), Western, Josh Campbell
County Clerk, Marsha Womble
Other Present: Carol Hardy, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by AC Campbell.

AC Hinkle made the motion to approve the agenda. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
Minutes unavailable.

DEPOSITORY AGREEMENT: One depository agreement was received by the deadline of June 26th at 10 am. The agreement was received from the First State Community Bank and was reviewed with the Treasurer and County Clerk. AC Hinkle made the motion to approve and accept the agreement as presented by First State Community Bank. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

With no other business, AC Hinkle made the motion to adjourn at 10:20 am. AC Campbell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Jim Scaggs, Presiding Commissioner