

# 12-03-2025 Minutes

## McDonald County Commission—Minutes

December 3rd, 2025

Present:

Bryan Hall - Presiding Commissioner

Jamey Cope - Eastern Commissioner

Rick Lett - Western Commissioner

Jessica Cole - County Clerk

### General Business

The Salary Commission met to discuss McDonald County Office Holders salaries. Discussed was the change in assessed valuation that took effect back in 2024. When a change in assessed valuation occurs this allows the change in base pay salary for office holders per RsMo 50.333. The Salary Commission has to meet at least once prior to November 30th and originally met on October 20th in which a 4% COLA was discussed and passed. At today's meeting, the discussion was held regarding a \$2000(4.65%) increase to the base pay schedule for Office Holders as listed in RsMo 50.333 (7) would also take effect.

Clerk Cole stated her concerns that should the Salary Commission vote to approve this increase, she questioned whether it be applied during the current term or the following term of all office holders. She stated that this being a mandated allowed increase by the law if it should take immediate effect or until the beginning of the next terms. After several discussions and statements from the Public Administrator and Prosecuting Attorney, The members of the salary commission read section 7 of the RsMo 50.333 stating:

*"...Such increase shall be expressed as a percentage of the compensation being paid during the term of office when the vote is taken, and each officer or office whose compensation is being established by the salary commission at that time shall receive the same percentage increase over the compensation being paid for that office during the term when the vote is taken. This increase shall be in addition to any increase mandated by an official's salary schedule because of changes in assessed valuation during the current term. "*

With no further discussions, Salary Commission moved to approve the \$2000(4.65%) increase to the base pay schedule for Office Holders as listed in RsMo 50.333 (7) this would be in addition to the previously approved 4% COLA. These increases are to take effect January 1, 2026 for those in their current term and subsequent terms.

After the Salary Commission meeting, the Office Holders discussed updates within each office. In the Clerk's office, the tax credit position has been filled and has started sending out applications to Senior Citizens who will be eligible to receive a tax credit to their real estate taxes incoming tax year 2026. Also discussed was the language debate on whether or not the County is to place additional language to apply a tax credit to all applicants in McDonald County for real estate.

The Commissioners met with the McDonald County Chamber of Commerce to discuss projected regional growth and its impact on the I-49 corridor. During the meeting, the Chamber proposed adding a dedicated budget line to support economic development and new businesses to the County. Specifically, they requested a partnership to provide \$2,000 per month for a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO). The Chamber projects this partnership to become self-sustained after the first year of investment. This funding would help establish a foundation for marketing and development efforts along with Grant writing opportunities. The Commissioners acknowledged the proposal and stated they would review the request alongside other departmental budgets before making decisions for 2026.

County Treasurer Fuller provided a current asset report to Commissioners acknowledging three of the County funds running in deficit (Health (-30,361.75), Assessment (-19,751.12), and Law Enforcement (-423,990.21). After review Commissioner Cope moved to issue a Court Order to Treasurer Fuller to transfer the following \$305,000.00 from General Revenue into the Law Enforcement Fund and \$41,862 from General Revenue into the Assessment Fund effective today. Commissioner Lett second the motion. All were in favor. Motion Passed. They will await to see Sales Tax Distributions before moving any more