

THE COUNTY COMMISSION  
OF  
STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI  
April 28, 2026

STATE OF MISSOURI |  
COUNTY OF STONE |

Be it remembered that a session of the County Commission of Stone County was held in the courthouse at Galena, on April 28, 2026. Those in attendance today were Presiding Commissioner Gordon Weathers, Southern Commissioner Hank Smythe and Northern Commissioner Wayne Blades.

**9:00 AM**

Work session

**10:02 AM**

Presiding Commissioner Gordon Weathers opened the meeting with a pledge of allegiance. Following the pledge, Those that were in attendance were: Counsel William McCullah; Denise Dickens, Stone County Clerk and Amanda Parton, Stone County Clerk's Office.

**Approval of Commission Minutes**

The matter to approve the minutes for Stone County Commission meeting dated April 23, 2026, was brought to decision by a roll call vote: Weathers – yes; Smythe – yes; Blades – yes. Minutes ordered approved.

**Schedule of Bills - 1**

Presiding Commissioner Gordon Weathers presented a schedule of bills that have been submitted to the County Commission from the County Clerk's office in the amount of \$248,218.72. This matter to accept the bills for payment was brought to a decision by a roll call vote: Smythe – yes; Blades -yes; Weathers – yes. Order to pay carried.

**Sign Memorandum of Agreement with White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. regarding State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds (SLFRF)**

Agreement memorializes the County's financial contribution to the Cooperative in support of the White River Connect fiber deployment project, intended to expand broadband access within Stone County. The matter to sign Memorandum of Agreement with White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. regarding State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds was brought to a decision by a roll call vote:

Blades – yes; Smythe – yes; Weathers – yes. memorandum signed.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
*(ARPA-Funded Fiber Broadband Match Contribution)*

This Memorandum of Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into as of, by and between White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Cooperative") and Stone County Commission of Missouri ("County").

**1. PURPOSE**  
This Agreement memorializes the County's financial contribution to the Cooperative in support of the White River Connect fiber deployment project ("Project"), intended to expand broadband access within Stone County.  
The contribution was made using funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and served as a local match for grant funding associated with the Project.

**2. COUNTY CONTRIBUTION (COMPLETED)**  
The County pledged funding on March 8, 2022, in total amount of \$4,300,000. The Contribution was disbursed to the Cooperative in five (5) installments, with the final installment paid on May 2, 2024. The Cooperative acknowledges receipt of the full Contribution.

**3. USE OF FUNDS**  
The Cooperative affirms that the Contribution has been used, or will be used, solely for eligible fiber infrastructure costs consistent with ARPA and applicable grant requirements.

**4. COMPLIANCE & RECORDS**  
The Cooperative agrees to:

- Maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate compliance with ARPA and grant requirements.
- Retain records for applicable audit periods.
- Provide reasonable documentation to the County to support ARPA reporting obligations, if requested.

**5. PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES**  
The Cooperative is responsible for:

- Design, construction, and operation of the fiber network
- Administration and compliance of associated grant funding

**6. OWNERSHIP & SERVICE**  
The County acknowledges:

- The Contribution does not create any ownership interest in the broadband network.
- The Cooperative retains full ownership and operational control.
- Service availability and pricing are not guaranteed to specific locations.

**7. TERM**  
This Agreement shall remain in effect for the duration of required reporting, audit, and compliance obligations associated with ARPA and related grant funding.

**8. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- Each party shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Nothing herein waives any legal immunities or protections.
- This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding regarding the Contribution.

**SIGNATURES**  
White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

By: Chris Hanson Date: 4/21/26

Stone County Commission, Missouri

By: Gordon Weathers Date: 4/28/26

By: Blades Date: 4/28/26

By: Wayne Blades Date: 4/28/26

## Review of Risk Assessment Policy, Accounting Policies and Internal Controls Procedures

The County Commission will review Stone County's Risk Assessment Policy, Accounting Policies and Internal Controls Procedures. Discussion Only.

**Recess Time:** 10:15 AM

**Public Time:** Time was extended to anyone who wanted to speak to the commission at this time.

## Announcements

**Adjournment:** The adjournment of the Stone County Commission meeting was brought to decision by roll call vote: Blades – yes; Smythe-yes; Weathers – yes. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM