OZARK SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT (OSRD)
ANNUAL TAX LEVY HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
Ozark Special Road District Road Barn
905 N. Riverside Rd, Ozark, Missouri

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Barbara Hover.

Commissioners: President Barbara Hover, Vice President Jerry Countryman, and Secretary/Treasurer Scott Bilyeu.

OSRD Employees: Jennifer Belin, and Jody Stutesmun.

Guests: Patrick Platter (Neale & Newman), Mike Mieseler, Steve Stine, Dennis Clinton, Jeanne McFall, Steve and Kathie Krause, and Karen Trimble.

Tax Levy Hearing

Administrator Jennifer Belin provided an overview of major accomplishments supported by levy funding and summarized key findings from the OSRD Pavement & Stormwater Infrastructure Assessment prepared by Toth and Associates in 2025.

Summary of Accomplishments Supported by Levy Funding

Jennifer noted that levy revenue has enabled OSRD to complete significant infrastructure improvements, including:

- Widening and overlay of Hemlock and Willow
- Implementation of the PressurePave program (~$400,000–$500,000 annually)
- Completion of the McCauley Bridge
- Widening of Smallin Road
- Initiation of a spraying program
- Road striping across multiple roads
- Increasing staff to complete more work in-house
- Joining LAGERS, providing a retirement benefit to recruit and retain employees

She also highlighted recent equipment purchases made possible by levy revenue, including a new service truck, two dump trucks, three mowing tractors, and two zero-turn mowers.

Summary of Toth & Associates Infrastructure Assessment

Jennifer provided a high-level recap of the 2025 assessment, noting:

- At the time of the assessment, OSRD maintains approximately 139 miles of roadway
- OSRD oversees nearly 330 stormwater crossings
- 52 miles of roadway are rated Poor to Critical
- 90 stormwater crossings are insufficient and need repair or replacement

Jennifer emphasized that the backlog of major and minor priority projects totals millions of dollars, not including routine maintenance, minor repairs, culvert replacements, shoulder work, drainage improvements, pavement patching, or lower-priority projects.

She stated that maintaining the maximum levy amount is essential to prevent further decline of OSRD's infrastructure, especially given Christian County's rapid growth.

Public Comments & Discussion

Jeanne McFall

- Asked when the last private audit was completed.
  - Pat Platter responded: 12–18 months ago by an external auditor.
- Questioned whether giving 17 miles back to the City should result in lowering the levy.
  - Barbara stated the miles are under negotiation and meetings with the City are being planned.
  - Pat added that some properties receive tax abatement due to economic development, reducing OSRD revenue.
- Noted the levy notice does not specify "per $100 of assessed valuation."
  - It was clarified that the form is prepared by the County Clerk.
- Commented that half the roads are deficient and estimated revenue of $26,000 per mile.
- Concluded she believes the levy rate should be lower.

Commissioner & Legal Discussion

- Barbara Hover reiterated that OSRD restored the levy in 2022 after Hancock reductions and that projects cannot be completed without adequate funding.
- Scott referenced past tax levy ballot wording inconsistencies.
- Attorney Pat Platter read his legal opinion stating the annual levies have been proper because the law focuses upon the certification of the levy by the OSRD commissioner, the County Clerk and confirmation by the State Auditor on the Pro Forma document used by the State Auditor. This meant that all three officials signed the same document and referred to the same values provided by the District and County each year from 2022 through 2025. He does not see a serious irregularity.
- Barbara added that each year OSRD has held a tax levy hearing. No one has ever attended those meetings with the exception of her husband in 2022. Scott never came to any of those meetings.
- Scott stated he talked to the State Auditor's Office, and stated that, "most corrupt road district there is."
- Additional debate occurred between Pat and Scott regarding Scott's prior resignation and involvement with OSRD.

Levy Rate Review

- It was noted that the levy is reduced annually due to the Hancock Amendment.
- Rates reviewed:
  - 2022: 0.3500
  - 2023–2024: 0.3497
  - 2025–2026: 0.3393

- McFall questioned why the levy is not decreasing this year and stated she will contact the State Auditor.

Additional Public Questions

- Steve Stine asked whether the levy applies to personal property.
- Dennis Clinton asked how much revenue is lost due to abatement. Pat explained abatement schedules and long-term impacts.
- Steve Krause asked whether The Mill is a 353 abatement.
    - Answer: Yes.
- Additional discussion followed regarding blighted property and tax abatement programs.

Tax Levy Motion

Jerry Countryman made a motion to set the 2026 tax levy at 0.3393 per $100 of assessed valuation, as shown on the Pro Forma Computation form prepared by the Missouri State Auditor's Office. Barbara Hover seconded. Approved 2–1, with Scott Bilyeu voting no.

Other Business

Karen Trimble asked about the planned purchase of the 6th Avenue property, including environmental concerns and an appraisal. Commissioners agreed this topic should be addressed at the next monthly meeting rather than during the levy hearing.

Adjournment

Jerry Countryman made a motion to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Scott Bilyeu seconded. Approved 3–0. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned.

Barbara Hover

Barbara Hover, President
Minutes for 8/26/2026

Absent

Scott Bilyeu, Secretary Treasurer

VP

Jerry Countryman, Vice President