

**Phillips County Commissioner
Meeting Minutes¹
January 9, 2026**

The board held a work session with Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren following the meeting.

Call to order

Chairman Tom Timm called the meeting of the Phillips County Commissioners to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:00 a.m. on January 9, 2026, at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner meeting room.

County Attendees

Chairman Tom Timm, Commissioners Garold Roberts and Terry Hofmeister, Administrator/Planner Andrew Nygaard, County Clerk Beth Zilla, Assessor Doug Kamery, and Human Services Director Lori Lundgren

Additional Attendees

Janelle Krueger, Kelley Sullivan, Trisha Herman, Jeremy Thompson, and Shawn Dalton

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

None presented.

Approval of Agenda

Roberts moved to approve the agenda as presented. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Hofmeister moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items:

- a) Approval of the minutes of the BOCC 12.31.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of Invoice lists
- c) Approval of Veterans Service Officer monthly report
- d) Approval of Public Trustee quarterly report
- e) Acknowledge receipt of Treasurer's semi-annual report
- f) Acknowledge receipt of CAPP reports
- g) Acknowledge receipt of Workers Comp reports
- h) Acknowledge receipt of 2025 Abstract of Assessment
- i) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log
- j) Acknowledge receipt of Event Center/BOC Pavilion annual reports
- k) Acknowledge receipt of Event Center/BOC Pavilion/ Facilities rentals

Public Comments

None presented.

Appointments

The board met with Administrator Andrew Nygaard, who reported on the following topics:

- Road and Bridge worker Ed Glennemeier ripped the racetrack and the outdoor arena on January 6. He ripped the top $\frac{3}{4}$ of the track and did not do anything in front of the grandstands. Glennemeier pulled up enough material that he doesn't believe any more material needs to be added to the track.
- The DOLA Energy Impact Grant is opening on January 12 and closing on February 13, with awards scheduled to be made in May. There is \$15M total available, with Tier I up to \$200,000 and Tier II \$200,001 to \$1M. It was the consensus of the board to apply for the grant for a new landfill office and use the new door that had already been ordered for the current office. The board would also like to raise the east door of the current landfill office for drainage purposes.
- Sullivan, Green, Seavy, Jarvis LLC expect to have suggested revisions to the Phillips County Land Use Code regarding wind energy, solar energy, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) to the county this month. Nygaard contacted them regarding data centers, and they recently researched land use impacts of data centers and will make sure those are specifically addressed.

¹Minutes prepared by Beth Zilla are a summary of **discussions**, not a verbatim account.

They do not believe a moratorium on data centers is necessary since it requires a major land use change, but a moratorium is an option for the Commissioners to consider.

- CCI sent a survey to counties seeing if they are going to request a county classification change for elected officials' salaries in the upcoming legislative session. Counties are assigned a category (I-VI) and a subcategory (A-D) in statute for the purpose of setting salaries for elected officials. The category assignments are based on factors including population, the number of people residing in the unincorporated areas of the county, assessed valuation, motor vehicle registration, building permits, and other factors reflecting the workloads and responsibilities of county officers. If a county wants to change its category or subcategory, it requires legislation. Phillips County is currently V-A. Nygaard reported that if the county does want to propose a category change, CCI would follow up for specifics. He reported that the increases for officials winning 2026 elections and taking office in 2027 would be 20.48%, for a salary increase of \$68,286.90 combined for elected officials, a FICA increase of \$5,223.95, and a retirement match increase of \$2,731.48. Kamery said there were no changes in the factors used to assign the categories that would warrant a category change. It was the consensus of the board not to pursue a category change, and Nygaard will inform CCI.

The board met with County Clerk Beth Zilla, who reviewed specific ownership taxes that have been received from 2021-2025.

The board met with Trisha Herman to discuss the Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days conference scheduled for July 8-10, 2026, in Yuma. Herman requested a sponsorship for this event. She said Holyoke City Council approved \$1,000 and there are different levels of sponsorship. She requested a \$2,500 sponsorship from the county. Herman also discussed the expedited fast track adoption through Proposition 123. A resolution needs to be adopted for an expedited review process, and there is a local planning capacity grant from Proposition 123, and they are looking at pooling money regionally to do a regional housing plan. The grant is for \$50,000 and the resolution can still be adopted in 2026, but the grant will be less than \$50,000.

The board convened as the Board of Human Services at 9:17 a.m., meeting with Director Lori Lundgren. The minutes from this portion of the meeting will be maintained by the Department of Human Services. The board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners at 9:20 a.m.

The board met with City of Holyoke Superintendent Jeremy Thompson and Holyoke City Council Member Shawn Dalton to discuss city wide cleanup and the voucher system. Thompson had been approached by people who would like to start a business hauling items that residents themselves cannot or do not want to haul to the landfill. The board said there is a dilemma in working with a commercial enterprise, and they don't want to go down the path of picking and choosing which businesses can use the landfill without charge. Dalton and Thompson said the commercial enterprise would not be asking to use the landfill without charge, since the landfill charges are incorporated into their business plan. The voucher would come from the city to the homeowner, and the homeowner would pay the commercial enterprise. It was the consensus of the board that the commercial entity would not be able to use the vouchers, and that the homeowners could use the vouchers if they haul the items to the landfill themselves, but they could not transfer the vouchers to the commercial entity.

They also discussed the cost of dumping processed wood at the landfill. There was a time when the landfill took in processed wood and then hauled it to the Sedgwick County Landfill. In the Phillips County Landfill, the processed wood is very hard on the wheel compactor, as are shingles. Processed wood currently goes into the hole at the landfill and is run over by the compactor. It then must be covered by six inches of dirt and compacted every day. Other area landfills also charge a higher amount for construction debris. The Commissioners will leave the landfill rates as they are for the time being.

Unfinished Business

The board discussed the work done at the racetrack. Nygaard reported that Joe Bellm with BST Racing requested bonding material like mulch to be added, but it was the consensus of the board not to do so. Nygaard noted that BST Racing will be paying the county \$1,200 per race in 2026, an increase from \$1,000 in prior years.

New Business/Motions

The board tabled the decision on a sponsorship to the Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days conference.

Roberts moved to approve the B&B Investments 2026 Phillips County Raceway contract and the 2026 PCR race schedule as presented. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the Phillips County Organizational Chart as presented. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the roadway occupancy agreement submitted by PC Telcom for underground replacement of a fiber optic line that will run 5,280 feet in County Road 10, running east from County Road 41 to County Road 43 in Section 9-6-44, and will be buried 48" deep and will not be in a conduit, culvert, pipe, or sleeve. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Timm adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

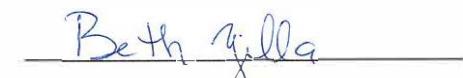
Next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2026

Phillips County Commissioners:

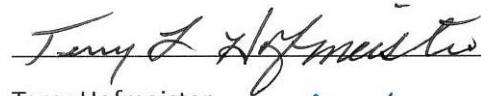
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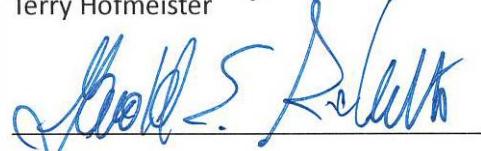
Tom Timm



Beth Zilla, County Clerk



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts