

**Phillips County Commissioner
Meeting Minutes¹
October 20, 2025**

The board held a 2026 budget work session after 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 October 20, 2025, at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner meeting room.

County Attendees

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

Additional Attendees

Janelle Krueger, Lanelle Krueger, Marlin Kumm, A.J. Brandt, and Rick Cleaver

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Additions:

- 11) Updates from Commissioner Roberts
- 12) Solar updates
- 13) NECALG updates

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Consent Agenda Items:

- a) Approval of the minutes of the BOCC 10.08.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of Invoice List
- c) Approval of Public Trustee Quarterly Report
- d) Acknowledge receipt of CAPP Reports
- e) Acknowledge receipt of Workers Comp Reports
- f) Acknowledge receipt of Treasurer Reports
- g) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log
- h) 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:

- Nygaard reported on the virtual meeting he attended on October 17 regarding SNAP benefits. About \$123 million is issued in SNAP benefits in Colorado each month. On October 15, counties started processing new SNAP applications that would receive their October benefit, and traditionally this group would also receive November benefits as well, but they cannot receive November benefits due to the government shutdown. Households already receiving SNAP benefits will not receive their November benefits on the usual schedule, and notices will go out to all affected households on October 21 explaining the situation.
- Nygaard updated the board on a meeting held with Commissioner Roberts, Landfill Manager Bill Andrews, and Assistant Landfill Manager Heather Kellan on October 10 to discuss the landfill office. Discussed changes to the office included getting a new door, painting, consolidating and straightening signage, and lowering and extending the main counter. Maintenance will also begin cleaning the office one time per week, which began on October 16.
- The Arctic Cat in the Weed and Pest department had to be taken in for repairs to the rear brake and charging system. There were also problems starting the Dodge sprayer pickup on October 9, so that has also been taken in for repairs.

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

- The First Responder Day Chili CookOff on Wednesday, November 5, was discussed. The Commissioners were asked if they could be the judges for the chili. Commissioners Timm and Hofmeister will be able to attend.

The board met with Marlin Kumm and A.J. Brandt with PC Telcom to discuss changing the county's phone system over to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP.) Kumm reported that the county's ESI unit is nearing its end of life and that the county should start thinking about converting to VoIP in the next couple of years. Road and Bridge and Landfill buildings would not have to change to VoIP. PC Telcom will get the county a quote and perform a walkthrough with representatives from Platinum Technology, the county's IT company.

The board met with Rick Cleaver, representing Camp Machasay to discuss the concerns raised about trees being in the county's right of way. Cleaver will meet with Hofmeister and Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott to come up with a plan to remediate the site to make the intersection safer.

The board convened as the Board of Human Services at 10:00 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 10:39 a.m.

Roberts updated the board on the jail remodel project that the maintenance department has started work on. This involves cutting the bars and moving at least part of the bars on the west side to the east wall as well as getting a new floor. The jail door and box mechanism can also possibly be saved.

Roberts discussed constructing a maintenance building at the fairgrounds where the current maintenance building sits as a possible project in 2027 and shared a preliminary drawing with the board. The door would be 12'-14' and the cost would be around \$300,000.

Timm provided an update on NECALG and the new ombudsman for the region will be coming to a future Commissioner meeting. Timm also said that NECALG is looking into buying a new building for their case managers.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

Motions/New Business

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren to hire Ashley Tarin as Income Maintenance Technician at HS Grade 62 Step 1, effective November 3, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the contractual agreement between Phillips County Commissioners and Rebecca Van Pelt to serve as Phillips County Fair Manager for the term effective October 1, 2025, until September 1, 2026. Her compensation will be \$1,000 per month to be paid from county funds, with any overage to be paid from Fair Board funds. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the roadway occupancy agreement submitted by PC Telcom for underground construction of a fiber optic line that will be 5,219 feet long in County Road 32, running west between County Road 3 and County Road 1, on the north side of Section 19-8-47, and will be buried 48" deep and will not be in a conduit, culvert, or steel pipe. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the roadway occupancy agreement submitted by PC Telcom for underground construction of a fiber optic line that will be 5,170 feet long in County Road 3, running north between County Road 30 and County Road 32, on the west side of Section 20-8-47, and will be buried 48" deep and will not be in a conduit, culvert, or steel pipe. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the roadway occupancy agreement submitted by PC Telcom for underground construction of a fiber optic line that will be 1,500 feet along the north side of County Road 30, running west from Section 20-8-47 to Section 19-8-47, and crossing County Road 3 250' north of US Hwy 6 on County Road 3, and will be buried 48" deep and will be in a conduit, culvert, or steel pipe. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Phillips County Economic Development Director Kendra Calderon to waive fees for their 2026 Phillips County Internship Fair at the Phillips County Event Center on February 26, 2026. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to amend Resolution 2025-09-30-01, which places a moratorium on the processing of applications for utility-scale solar energy systems or battery energy storage systems within unincorporated Phillips County, Colorado, through March 30, 2026, adding the following in Section 2,

Moratorium Enacted, which reads, "Battery systems less than 25-megawatt hour energy capacity and 5 megawatt discharge and less are exempt from this resolution." Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

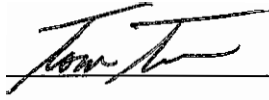
Chairman Timm adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

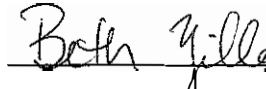
Next meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

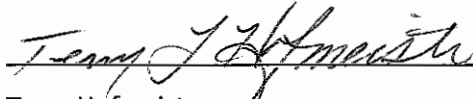
Attest:



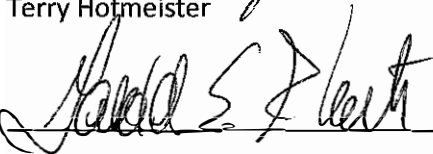
Tom Timm



Beth Zilla, County Clerk



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts