

**Phillips County Commissioner
Meeting Minutes¹
December 19, 2025**

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 December 19, 2025, at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner meeting room.

County Attendees

Chairman Tom Timm, Commissioners Garold Roberts and Terry Hofmeister, Administrator/Planner Andrew Nygaard, Sheriff Michael Beard, Treasurer Steve Young, Deputy Assessor Toby Thompson, and Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren

Additional Attendees

Janelle Krueger, Brianna Brauer, Brittany Daniel, Dawsyn Daniel, Erica Korf, Marlen Korf, and Aaron Sprague

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Additions:

- 11) SB 25-258 and HB 25-1112
- 12) Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study
- 13) Pleasant Valley road and bridge building plumbing

Approval of Agenda

Hofmeister moved to approve the agenda as amended. Roberts 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 12.09.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of invoice list
- c) Acknowledge receipt of HUTF Summary
- d) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log
- e) 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:

- On December 14, during cleaning up after Melissa Memorial Hospital's Christmas party, hospital personnel were raising the chandelier in Heginbotham Hall in the Phillips County Event Center and the cable snapped, causing the chandelier to fall to the floor. No one was injured, and maintenance personnel ordered a fall protection retractable lanyard as a further safety mechanism, which arrived on December 18.
- Nygaard reviewed year-to-date hours for seasonal road and bridge workers.
- The revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study Report (FIS) have been received, and comments are due within 30 days of December 15, 2025. Following that period, the final maps will be released, and Phillips County will be asked to adopt the updated floodplains.
- Nygaard discussed the preliminary Phillips County Raceway schedule received from Joe Bellm, who was still working out specific proposed dates. Bellm is aware that no advertising for events is to occur before the schedule and contract are approved by the board.

¹Minutes prepared by Andrew Nygaard are a summary of **discussions**, not a verbatim account.

- Nygaard reported that a gas meter rental for the landfill from Pine Environmental, who changed their address and meter was returned as undeliverable to the Holyoke Post Office when Phillips County Landfill personnel tried to return the unit. Pine Environmental had originally agreed to take off half of the rental cost, but they charged the weekly rate instead of daily, meaning Phillips County's portion would be \$1,000 which is a decrease from the \$3,500 they originally wanted to charge. Nygaard said that Assistant Landfill Manager Heather Kellan did a great job in working with Pine Environmental to reach the best outcome available for the county.

The board met with Sheriff Michael Beard, who informed the board that he anticipated the jail budget being overspent by a little over \$2,000 in 2025. The board and Beard agreed that there's not a lot to control in terms of spending to house and feed inmates since the number of crimes cannot be anticipated. Beard said Blessing Kahari's academy costs in 2026 will be covered by a grant. The academy runs from January to May, with graduation typically in the second week of May. He reported that both Abe Magaña and Robert Corrado are certified as field training officers.

The board met with Brianna Brauer, Brittany Daniel, Erica Korf, Marlen Korf, and Dawsyn Daniel, who discussed Phillips County Fair Royalty sponsorship levels. They requested the use of the indoor arena at the BOC Pavilion for a gymkhana event with a date that is yet to be determined. They will contact Event Center/BOC Pavilion Reservationist Carrie Anderson to determine a date. The board will review the sponsorship levels and make a decision after a date is determined.

The board met with Aaron Sprague, representing the Republican River Water Conservation District. Sprague updated the board on the forces behind the changing of the fee and that the goal of the district is to maintain compliance and the viability of irrigation. Other topics included the historical consumptive use analysis required by the state, the 50-50 split of the approved fee change between per-acre and per-acre-foot-pumped, and the deadline for retirement of acres. The district would also like to work on the pipeline infrastructure and footprint to help with redundancy. There will be a press release in the next couple of weeks on RRWCD's website with additional information.

The board convened as the Board of Human Services at 10:15 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 10:30 a.m.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

Motions/New Business

Roberts discussed HB 25-1112, which allows local authorities to enforce vehicle registration requirements and requires courts to waive fees and penalties if a failure to register a vehicle was for good cause or if the person's household had an income below a certain threshold when the violation occurred. These waivers may reduce revenue for counties and municipalities already enforcing vehicle registration. Roberts also discussed SB 25-258, which temporarily reduces the road safety surcharge for each vehicle class for any registration period that begins on or after September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2027, by \$3.70. These funds are credited to the highway users tax fund and allocated to the state highway fund, counties, and municipalities. This would reduce HUTF funds by approximately 2% and reduce Phillips County's HUTF by approximately \$27,514.

Timm updated the board on the NECALG Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study. There is a kickoff meeting on January 9 in Limon. There were initial concerns about some of the studies getting completed and hiring consultants for the different types of studies, but everything is set to move forward.

Hofmeister informed the board that there is a Colorado State Land Board county roundtable discussion to be held virtually on January 21. The State Land Board director will give a presentation that reviews the State Land Board's history, statewide operations, and recent impacts on Colorado schools.

Roberts updated the board that plumbing work at the Pleasant Valley road and bridge building will get started by the end of January. Roberts and Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott contacted Phillips Drilling & Pump, who will try to work with the plumber to see if the work can begin more quickly.

Roberts moved to approve the 2026 Board of County Commissioners meeting schedule as amended, moving the March 9 meeting to March 10. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Sheriff Michael Beard to move Abelardo Magaña to GN40 Grade 30 Step 3 effective December 1, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Sheriff Michael Beard to hire Cayden White as a temporary reserve deputy at the hourly rate of \$40 effective December 15, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Maintenance Supervisor Lonny Vernon to hire Brett Bieber as a part-time maintenance worker at the hourly rate of \$20.70 effective December 22, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott to hire James Bliss as a full-time road worker at RB Grade 16 Step 3 effective January 5, 2026, pending pre-employment screenings. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Certification of Levies and Revenue for tax year 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Timm adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Andrew Nygaard.

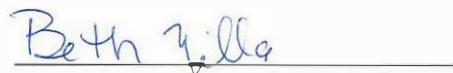
Next meeting is scheduled for December 31, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

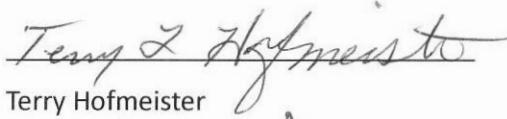
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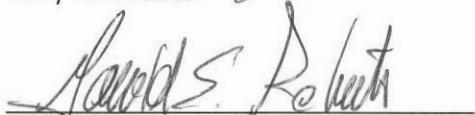
Tom Timm



Beth Zilla, County Clerk



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts