

**Phillips County Commissioner  
Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>  
December 9, 2025**

**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 9, 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, County Clerk Beth Zilla, County Assessor Doug Kamery, and Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren

**Additional Attendees**

Janelle Krueger and Jessie Salyards

**Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

Addition:

7b) Sheriff's Office Temporary Reserve Deputies

**Approval of Agenda**

Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. Hofmeister 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 11.26.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of invoice list
- c) Approval of Veterans Service Officer monthly 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 rental

**Public Comments**

On behalf of the Holyoke High School students, Claire Hubbard and Brodie Garrett presented the Commissioners with a box of Christmas cookies as a thank you for all that the Commissioners do for the Holyoke High School students.

**Public Hearing**

Chairman Timm opened the 2026 Budget Hearing 10:03 a.m. Nygaard said he would let department heads know about the approval of their general budget requests ahead of time rather than only informing them about approvals and denials of their larger requests. Seeing no further comments, Chairman Timm closed the hearing at 10:04 a.m.

**Appointments**

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

- Maintenance personnel have been working on the pavilion arena. They are continuing to work with Kari Fecht to restore the signage and verbiage that had been on the walls of the Ortner Room at the Event Center. They have also started servicing all the mowers and will work on servicing the tractors
- Interviews for the part-time maintenance position are scheduled for December 12.
- Sheriff Beard has a temporary reserve deputy ready to start on December 11. He is Ty Hardesty with the Wray Police Department.
- Phillips County was awarded the Underfunded Courthouse Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the partition wall in the clerk of the court's office. Further information will be coming toward the end of the year.

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

- The third reimbursement was received from DOLA for the Pleasant Valley Road and Bridge building in the amount of \$27,188.47. The prior two reimbursement amounts were \$36,660.50 and \$35,131.27.

The board met with CSU Extension Agent Jessie Salyards for updates from her office. She requested that the Commissioners waive the rental fees for the event scheduled for March 24, 2026, at the Phillips County Event Center.

The board convened as the Board of Human Services at 9:06 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 9:48 a.m.

#### **Unfinished Business**

None presented

#### **Motions/New Business**

The board discussed time off for Christmas Eve and decided that they would keep the Christmas Eve policy as stated in the County's Personnel policy, which is a 4-hour workday in the morning of Christmas Eve except when Christmas falls on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday.

The board discussed the request from Holyoke High School Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Shauna Strecker for a discounted rental rate or fee waiver for Holyoke High School's 2026 prom at the Phillips County Event Center. The board declined to waive the fees since the same could not be done for Haxtun High School's prom, and they would like to contribute to each equally.

Hofmeister moved to contribute \$300 to both Holyoke High School and Haxtun High School for their 2026 post-prom parties. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to waive the fees for the Legacy Film and Panel Discussion event put on by CSU Extension, Holyoke FFA, and Centennial Mental Health on March 24, 2026, at the Phillips County Event Center. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The board discussed the Colorado Public Utilities Commission's clean-heat and electrification mandate. Roberts moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12-09-01 to oppose Colorado PUC's clean-heat and electrification mandate. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Resolution reads:

**WHEREAS**, on December 3, 2025, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) adopted new rules under the state's "clean heat plan" that require natural-gas utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 41% by 2035 relative to 2015, with a de facto target of full de-carbonization (i.e. elimination of fossil gas use for home heating and cooking) by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, compliance with the PUC's mandate will impose significant costs on homeowners and businesses and the utilities' own filings estimate that retrofitting an existing home for all-electric heating and appliances can exceed \$20,000 per home (before incentives); and

**WHEREAS**, statewide data shows that, on average, electricity remains significantly more expensive per unit of delivered energy than natural gas; under these conditions, forcing full electrification will raise monthly heating and energy bills — especially in rural and mountain communities; and

**WHEREAS**, rural counties such often depend on a patchwork or "private electric grid" (or small distribution systems and cooperatives) that historically have had challenges delivering reliable, affordable electricity — particularly in inclement weather, winter conditions, or during wildfire-related outages; and

**WHEREAS**, many Phillips County residents and businesses — including small businesses, farms, and older homes — rely on energy sources other than electricity (e.g. propane, natural gas, wood, propane/natural-gas boilers, etc.) for heating and cooking, and must have the freedom to choose the energy source best suited to their housing, lifestyle, financial means, and risk tolerance; forcibly eliminating that choice would violate their property-rights and economic freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, a forced transition to electricity as the sole source of heat and cooking would impose disproportionate burdens on lower-income residents, retirees on fixed incomes, small businesses, and rural property owners who may lack the resources to retrofit their homes, install ductwork or 220-volt service, or bear the increased monthly costs when electricity prices rise due to the infrastructure buildout the PUC and utilities plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the PUC's decision — by prioritizing statewide decarbonization mandates over affordability,

reliability, and local control — threatens the economic well-being, energy security, and personal freedom of Phillips County residents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF PHILLIPS, COLORADO:**

1. **Opposition to Mandate.** Phillips County strongly opposes the PUC's "Clean Heat" mandate, which seeks to eliminate natural gas (and other non-electric energy sources) for home heating and cooking by 2050 as a condition of state-mandated decarbonization.
2. **Affirmation of Local Choice.** The County affirms and defends the right of its residents and businesses to choose how they power their homes and operations, including but not limited to natural gas, propane, wood, renewable offgrid electricity, or any other lawful energy source.
3. **Recognition of Rural Challenges.** Phillips County recognizes that rural and mountain communities face unique challenges — including unreliable grid connectivity, harsh winters, wildfire risk, and limited economic resources — which make a one-size-fits-all electrification mandate inappropriate, unfair, and harmful.
4. **Call for Flexibility and Equity.** The County calls on the PUC, State Legislature, and utilities to revise or suspend the mandate and instead adopt a flexible, equitable energy policy that:
  - a. Allows for a mix of energy sources (gas, propane, wood, electricity, offgrid renewables) for heating and cooking.
  - b. Protects residents from excessive cost burdens and utility bill increases.
  - c. Considers reliability, resilience, and local conditions in rural and mountain counties.
  - d. Respects local control and individual choice over energy systems.
5. **Request for State and Utility Accountability.** The County requests that the PUC and utilities provide transparent reporting of cost and reliability impacts of electrification mandates — especially as applied to rural communities — before proceeding further.
6. **Support for Alternative Solutions.** The County supports and encourages voluntary adoption of clean energy and efficiency measures (weatherization, solar, wood-heat, hybrid systems, etc.) — but rejects mandatory retrofit requirements that impose heavy costs and eliminate choice.
7. **Transmission to State Authorities.** A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Colorado PUC, the Governor, the Colorado General Assembly, and relevant utility providers, to ensure local voices from Phillips County are heard and considered in statewide energy policymaking.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Board stands ready to collaborate on policies that respect economic reality, rural energy needs, reliability concerns, and individual liberty — instead of one-size-fits-all mandates from distant regulators.

Roberts moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12-09-02 which summarizes expenditures and revenues for each fund, and adopting a budget for the County of Phillips, Colorado, for the calendar year beginning on the first day of January 2026 and ending on the last day of December 2026. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Resolution reads:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Phillips County has appointed Andrew Nygaard, County Administrator, to prepare and submit a proposed budget to said governing body on December 9, 2025 for its consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrew Nygaard, Budget Officer, has submitted a proposed budget to this governing body on December 9, 2025, for its consideration, and;

**WHEREAS**, upon due and proper notice, published or posted in accordance with the law, said proposed budget was open for inspection by the public at a designated place, a public hearing was held on December 9, 2025, and interested taxpayers were given the opportunity to file or register any objections to said proposed budget, and

**WHEREAS**, whatever increases may have been made in the expenditures, like increases were added to the revenues or planned to be expended from reserves/fund balances so that the budget remains in balance, as required by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF PHILLIPS, COLORADO:**

Section 1. That estimated expenditures for each fund are as follows:

GENERAL FUND	\$4,544,310
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$2,737,426
HUMAN SERVICES FUND	\$ 560,165
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUND	\$ 445,000
CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	\$ 82,635
AMBULANCE FUND – NOT COUNTY FUNDS	\$ 157,194
UNEMPLOYMENT FUND – TRUST FUND	\$ 30,977
E911 FUND – NOT A COUNTY FUND	\$ 210,247

Section 2. That estimated revenues for each fund are as follows:

GENERAL FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$3,657,470
From sources other than general property tax	\$1,715,584
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$2,389,682</u>
Total General Fund	\$7,762,736

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$1,534,485
From sources other than general property tax	\$1,882,336
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 397,039</u>
Total Road and Bridge Fund	\$3,813,860

HUMAN SERVICES FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$ 575,774
From sources other than general property tax	\$ 418,040
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 170,311</u>
Total Human Services Fund	\$1,164,125

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$ 938,044
From sources other than general property tax	\$ 299,234
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 53,222</u>
Total Capital Expenditure Fund	\$1,290,500

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$ 70,335
From sources other than general property tax	\$ 12,300
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Conservation Trust Fund	\$82,635

AMBULANCE FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$ 101,094
From sources other than general property tax	\$ 56,100
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Ambulance Fund	\$157,194

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$ 30,977
From sources other than general property tax	\$ 0
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Unemployment Fund	\$30,977

E911 FUND

From unappropriated surpluses	\$ 537,359
From sources other than general property tax	\$ 247,500
From the general property tax levy	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total E911 Fund	\$784,859

Section 3. That the budget submitted, and hereinabove summarized by fund, be, and the same hereby is approved and adopted as the budget of Phillips County, Colorado for the year stated above.

Section 4. That the budget hereby approved and adopted shall be signed by Board of County Commissioners of Phillips County and certified by the County Clerk and made a part of the public records of Phillips County.

Roberts moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12-09-03 which appropriates sums of money to the various Phillips County funds and spending agencies for the 2026 budget year. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Resolution reads:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Law, on December 9, 2025, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has made provision therein for revenues in an amount equal to or greater than the total proposed expenditures as set forth in said budget, and;

**WHEREAS**, it is not only required by law, but also necessary to appropriate the revenues provided in the budget to and for the purposes described below, so as not to impair the operations of the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF PHILLIPS, COLORADO:**

Section 1. That the following sums are hereby appropriated from the revenue of each fund, to each fund, for purposes stated:

GENERAL FUND	\$4,544,310
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$2,737,426
HUMAN SERVICES FUND	\$ 560,165
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUND	\$ 445,000
CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	\$ 82,635
AMBULANCE FUND	\$ 157,194
UNEMPLOYMENT FUND	\$ 30,977
E911 FUND	\$ 210,247
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$8,767,954</b>

Roberts moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12-09-04 levying general property taxes for the 2025 assessment year payable in 2026 to help defray the costs of government for Phillips County, Colorado, for the 2026 budget year. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Resolution reads:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Phillips has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Law, on December 9, 2025, and;

**WHEREAS**, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for general operating purposes (General Fund) is \$2,389,682, and;

**WHEREAS**, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for Road & Bridge Fund is \$397,039 and;

**WHEREAS**, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for Human Services Fund is \$170,311, and;

**WHEREAS**, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for Capital Expenditure Fund is \$53,222 and;

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 valuation for assessment for the County of Phillips as certified by the County Assessor is \$106,444,640.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF PHILLIPS, COLORADO:**

Section 1. That for the purpose of meeting all operating expenses of County of Phillips during the 2026 budget year, there is hereby levied a tax of 28.28 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the County in 2025.

The details of the above tax levies are as follows:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>MILL LEVY</u>
General	22.45
Road and Bridge	3.73
Human Services	1.60
Capital Expenditure	<u>0.50</u>
Total levy	28.28

Section 2. That the Budget Officer is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify to the County Commissioners of Phillips County, Colorado, the mill levies for the COUNTY OF PHILLIPS as herein above determined and set.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from County Clerk Beth Zilla to move Kaitlyn McCallum to GN Grade 17 Step 3 effective December 2, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Communications Center Director Sara Gordon to move Brittany Donnadio to GN40 Grade 11 Step 2 effective December 27, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Sheriff Michael Beard to hire Ty Hardesty as a temporary reserve deputy at the hourly rate of \$40.00. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from DHS Director Lori Lundgren to pay out 130 hours of unused PTO for herself at a cost of \$5,609.41. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to authorize the chairman to sign the VALE statement of grant award for 2025-2026. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the 2026 Board of County Commissioners meeting scheduled as amended, moving the June 9 meeting to June 11. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Timm adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

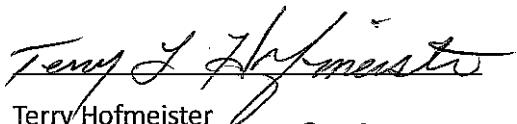
Attest:



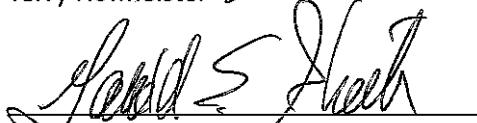
Tom Timm

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Beth Zilla, County Clerk



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts