

Phillips County Commissioner
Meeting Minutes¹
May 19, 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 May 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, and County Clerk Beth Zilla

Additional Attendees

Janelle Krueger, Julie Thayer, and Sophia Cortez-Holmes Longshore

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Appointment Removal:

- 4) The 8:45 a.m. appointment with Emergency Manager Broc Pelle was removed from the agenda.

Additions:

- 8) Colorado Department of Agriculture meeting
9) Amherst property
10) Event Center floor

Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. 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 05.09.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of Invoice List
- c) Acknowledge receipt of CAPP reports
- d) Acknowledge receipt of Workers' Comp reports
- e) Acknowledge receipt of Treasurer reports
- f) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log
- g) Acknowledge receipt of Event Center/BOC Pavilion/Facilities rentals

Public Comments

None presented.

Appointments

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

- The county's auditor, Ronny Farmer with rfarmer, llc was conducting field work for the county's audit from May 12-15. A single audit is required due to spending over \$750,000 in Federal funds, which included expenditures from the Emergency Management Grant, VOCA Grant, Department of Human Services, and ARPA. The cost of the single audit will be up to \$3,000.
- The law firm Sullivan, Green, Seavy, Jarvis, LLC was contacted regarding wind regulations for the Phillips County Land Use code. The current wind energy moratorium is in force through September 30, 2025, and the Commissioners have asked that current regulations be reviewed in terms of setbacks, decommissioning, cumulative impact assessments, alternative location analysis, and the transferring of permits to affiliated companies, unaffiliated companies, and nonprofits.
- Starting in early June for about two weeks, depending on weather, state survey activities for the streams being studied as part of the new floodplain FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning will begin. Surveyors will make every effort to stay on public lands and rights-of-way. It

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

may be necessary for the surveyors to cross through private property for short periods of time. The contractor employee or an employee of the state will seek permission from the landowner in these cases.

- Members of the Phillips County Recreation District Board will be attending the Fair Board meeting on May 19, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss the fairgrounds shelter proposal.
- The information requested from Apollo Solar Energy for the BOC Pavilion was sent as requested.

The board met with Julie Thayer and Sophia Cortez-Holmes Longshore to discuss Discover Magazine advertising. They offered a full back-page ad for half-price at the cost of \$649.

Motions/New Business

Hofmeister gave an update on a Colorado Department of Agriculture meeting he attended. They are working on the budget for disease traceability, and the noxious weed budget that was cut will be backfilled with cash reserves.

Hofmeister updated the board on the Colorado Wildlife & Biodiversity Protection Act, which is a state ballot proposal. The act would establish an independent Wildlife & Ecosystem Conservation Commission (WECC) to oversee species protection and ecological integrity. The WECC would have no agricultural representation, but would instead be made up of three independent ecologists appointed by accredited Colorado universities, two conservation biologists appointed by nonpartisan environmental organizations, one wildlife advocate selected by a citizen panel chosen by randomized lottery from eligible Colorado residents, one indigenous representative appointed by tribal governments with historical ties to Colorado lands, one environmental policy specialist appointed by a legal or policy institute with expertise in conservation law, and one wildlife management expert appointed by a federal or state wildlife agency.

Roberts discussed the county property that is for sale in Amherst. It was the consensus of the board to keep the property listed as it currently is.

Roberts reported on the floor of Heginbotham Hall has had at least one round of coating completed on it. The board said Heginbotham Hall should be done in 2-3 weeks, and then it may be best to pay a prorated amount for the work done and have them finish the Bieseimer Room and kitchen at another time. Roberts also reported that the meter on the water feature at Homesteaders' Park shows that 7,000 gallons of water were used on the feature last month, and a liner could be leaking.

Roberts moved to approve the request from County Clerk Beth Zilla to hire Jolene Anderson as Motor Vehicle Clerk at GN Grade 16 Step 2, effective June 2, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Maintenance Supervisor Lonny Vernon to move Randy Owens to GN40 Grade 21 Step 3, effective May 1, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott to move Walter Juarez to a monthly wage increase of \$102.16, effective June 1, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to purchase a full back-cover advertisement in the Discover Magazine for up to \$650. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Tom Timm adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

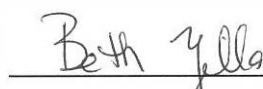
Next meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

Attest:




Tom Timm



Beth Zilla, County Clerk



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts