

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

The board held a work session with Phillips County Veterans Service Officer Chris Kelley, Regional VSO Glen Marciniak, and the Logan County Commissioners following the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**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 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, and Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren

**Additional Attendees**

Janelle Krueger, Verdis Vieselmeyer, Allen Rafert, and Pastor Kurt Hatteberg

**Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

Additions:

- 8) Updates from Commissioner Roberts

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 04.30.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of Invoice List
- c) Acknowledge receipt of letter from Central Yuma Groundwater District
- d) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits

**Public Comments**

Verdis Vieselmeyer, Allen Rafert, and Kurt Hatteberg, representing St. Paul Lutheran Church in Amherst, presented the board with a letter concerning the county property for sale in Amherst. The letter expressed concern about the county possibly selling the ballfield in Amherst with the community building and said the field was started by the Amherst Ag 4-H Club and others in the late 1970s, with the 4-H club planting the trees on the north and west side of the field as part of a community project. The trees provide some wind and storm protection for Amherst, and the church property has become surrounded by some junk and vehicles. The letter said that giving up county control of the field could cause this to become a bigger problem and urged the Commissioners to consider not selling the ballfield. The church members offered to do the mowing and maintenance of the ballfield area if it would remain county property and they hoped that the playground would continue to be owned and maintained by the county.

Roberts said the Commissioners have not made a decision to sell the ballfield, and that part of the initial thought process was to sell the Amherst building and use the funds to help with the Pleasant Valley Road and Bridge Building. No bids were received for the Amherst property, so the listing was given to Thompson Real Estate Company. The Commissioners were informed that there is a possible buyer, but the buyer also wants the ballfield. The original listing was just for the two buildings. Hofmeister said he felt it wasn't fair to put taxpayer money into two buildings that the county is not using, and that the Commissioners do not know who the prospective buyer is.

Pastor Kurt Hatteberg said that the streets in Amherst are getting bad and the large trucks are hard on them. Allen Rafert said there are some large potholes in the streets that could be filled with gravel if nothing else. The cost of maintaining roads was discussed, and Nygaard mentioned the \$63,628 cost of chip sealing two miles of County Road 21 south of Paoli from Highway 6 that was approved in March.

**Appointments**

The board met with Administrator Nygaard, who provided a report that covered the following topics:

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

- There was an event at the Phillips County Event Center on Saturday, May 3, that left parts of the Biese-meier Room, Ortner Room, bathroom, kitchen, Heginbotham Hall in disarray. The renters were out of the facility on time but did not clean up. The stains came out of the floor for the most part. Procedures will be followed regarding the cost of cleaning and charges for damage.
- Commissioner Timm and Administrator Nygaard attended the Haxtun Town Council Meeting on May 5 to discuss the county's annual request for a contribution to help fund the Phillips County Communications Center.
- The landfill state inspection on May 6 was discussed. Nygaard attended and informed the Commissioners that Landfill Manager Bill Andrews and Assistant Landfill Manager Heather Kellan did a great job in having documentation ready for the state inspectors and answered all their questions very well. There were no compliance orders issued, just compliance assistance and guidance.
- An application for a well location amendment was submitted to the state for the well that serves the county property in Amherst that is for sale.
- Commissioner Tom Timm contacted Communications Center personnel regarding two free consoles that have been made available due to renovations at the Weld County Communications Center. Road and Bridge and Maintenance personnel will be picking up the consoles the week of May 12.
- Roberts, Nygaard, Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott, and Darrel Phillips of Phillips Drilling & Pump went to the Pleasant Valley building site to discuss the septic system. An application for a permit to install or repair an onsite wastewater treatment system will be submitted to the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

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 9:24 a.m.

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

Hofmeister discussed an initiative that will be presented on the November 2025 ballot. This measure proposes allowing the state to keep 10% of any TABOR surplus and earmarking it for rural hospitals and transportation projects. Sponsors of the initiative described it at a recent Pro 15 meeting that Hofmeister attended. Half of the funds would pass through HUTF for transportation projects and the other through HCPF for hospitals. If it is not passed as a ballot measure, it will be run as a bill in the General Assembly.

Roberts reviewed the information from a solar power meeting with Nygaard and Apollo Solar Energy held on May 7. The proposal assumed a 4.5% year-over-year utility rate increase starting at \$0.0815/kWh, with a total system cost estimate of \$215,000 and a net cost of \$129,000 after credits were taken into account. The solar company recommended that a generator be installed at the Phillips County Event Center with or without solar energy, and this information was forwarded to DOLA regarding the grant application for the generator.

Hofmeister moved to approve the roadway occupancy agreement submitted by PC Telcom for underground construction of a fiber optic line that will be 350 feet long in County Road 41, between County Road 18 and County Road 20, on the east side of Section 20, and will be buried 48" deep and will not be in a conduit, culvert, or steel pipe. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

Chairman Tom Timm adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

Attest:



Tom Timm



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts



Beth Zilla, County Clerk