

**Phillips County Commissioner
Meeting Minutes¹
March 20, 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 March 20, 2025, at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner meeting room.

County Attendees

Chairman Tom Timm, Commissioners Terry Hofmeister and Garold Roberts, Administrator/Planner Andrew Nygaard, County Clerk Beth Zilla, County Assessor Doug Kamery, Deputy Assessor Toby Thompson, Appraiser Nick Flaa (via Teams), County Treasurer Steve Young, Sheriff Michael Beard, County Attorney Tammy Kelley, and Administrative Support Patrick Mitchell

Additional Attendees

Janelle Krueger, Vickie Sandlin, Michelle Sharp, Jayden Miracle, John Sullivan (via Teams), Holyoke Mayor Kevin Scott

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Additions:

- 12) Biesemeier Pit
- 13) Pleasant Valley Project
- 14) Event Center
- 15) Bridge Projects
- 16) Wind Towers
- 17) Phillips County Operating Plan Amendment

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 03.10.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of invoice list
- c) Acknowledge receipt of CAPP reports
- d) Acknowledge receipt of Workers' Comp reports
- e) Acknowledge receipt of HUTF summary
- f) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits Log
- g) Acknowledge receipt of Event Center/BOC pavilion/facilities rentals

Public Comments

County Clerk Zilla presented the board with a grant application for cyber security storage of recorded documents in the amount of \$48,000 annually. Zilla and the Board decided not to pursue this grant because of the unknowns of receiving the same grant in upcoming years. Zilla commented that she had talked with Platinum Technology and asked their opinion, and they said that the storage that Platinum provides Phillips County is sufficient for our needs.

Hofmeister reported that he contacted Jake Nemmers with Senator Hickenlooper's office regarding the Holyoke Community Child Care Initiative grant. Nemmers confirmed that the grant is 100% secured. Hofmeister also mentioned that he thanked Amanda Monk, the Northeast Colorado Field Representative for Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, for her help obtaining this information and that he appreciated her following through with the board's requests.

Appointments

The board met with Vickie Sandlin of the Julesburg Advocate to discuss the Explore magazine.

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

The board met with Michelle Sharp with the Early Childhood Council. Sharp shared a flyer with the board that promoted their Spring Fling Family Dance to celebrate the Week of the Young Child and promote Child Abuse Prevention Awareness. Sharp asked the board if they would waive the fee for their rental of the Biesemeier Room at the Event Center on April 19, 2025.

The board met with Jayden Miracle with Melissa Memorial Hospital. Miracle asked for a letter of support for a congressionally directed spending grant that the hospital is applying for to add an unattached pharmacy which includes a drive-up window.

The board met with John Sullivan, Attorney for Sullivan, Green, Seavy, Jarvis regarding the abandonment of gas wells and collecting taxes due, and the owner of such compressors located at well sites. Others present were Assessor Doug Kamery, Deputy Assessor Toby Thompson, County Appraiser Nick Flaa, County Treasurer Steve Young, and County Attorney Tammy Kelley. The back taxes owed are approximately \$30,000. The county will quantify the county's claim and put it in the notice of valuation and send to the appropriate parties who are not in bankruptcy and send a courtesy copy to the ECMC. Sullivan will contact the ECMC regarding the county's rights.

The board met with Sheriff Beard to discuss the purchase of a security cage to be installed in the newly purchased pickup. Nygaard also discussed a restraining order versus trespassing for individuals that damage county property. Beard commented that a restraining order protects people and each individual has to file. Trespassing is what would be used for property damage, and the decision has to come from the owner or manager of the property.

Steve Young said he would be requesting that the board consider allowing the GPRC board to extend their hours for the rental agreement for their event at the Phillips County Event Center on December 31, 2025, for their New Years Eve event.

Administrative Support Patrick Mitchell reported on the spikes in electricity costs at the BOC Pavilion due to the Showdown on the Plains events each year. The average electricity bill is \$900 monthly but spikes to around \$2,100 for the event. The county will draft a letter requesting that the City of Holyoke reimburses the county for these events in the future. Holyoke Mayor Kevin Scott was also present for the discussion.

Unfinished Business

Roberts reported that the situation with standing water in the Biesemeier Pit has been remedied.

Roberts reported that the well at Pleasant Valley for the satellite Road and Bridge building was inspected by Darrel Phillips of Phillips Drilling & Pump in Haxtun and that a request for the reinstatement of the permit has been submitted to the state. Roberts also said a request for electric service has been submitted to Highline Electric Association.

Roberts reported that County Roads 41 and 43 are no longer highlighted on CDOT's bridge construction map on CDOT's website.

Motions/New Business

Roberts moved to approve the request from Maintenance Supervisor Lonny Vernon to move Jason Redman to GN40 Grade 25 Step 4, effective April 1, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to change the date of the June 9, 2025, Board of County Commissioners meeting to June 10, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Nygaard discussed a request he had received from the Holyoke Lions Club regarding the construction of a shelter at the fairgrounds. The Lions Club would like to contribute \$4,500 - \$5,000 to the shelter, which the county would then own. The board would like to see the issue brought to a meeting of the Phillips County Recreation District Board before proceeding.

Roberts discussed with the board the work being done on the Phillips County Event Center floors. The board agreed that the contractor needs to focus on the bathrooms and hallway east of Heginbotham Hall and keep the floor of Heginbotham Hall serviceable for the upcoming events in March.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Michelle Sharp with Early Childhood Council to reduce fees to \$80 for their Spring Fling Dance event in the Biesemeier Room at the Event Center on April 19, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the half-page advertisement for Explore magazine for \$600. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to sign a letter of support for Melissa Memorial Hospital's facilities planning grant. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Sheriff Michael Beard to purchase security accessories for a Sheriff's Office vehicle from Prairie States Communications for an amount not to exceed \$3,060. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts shared a portion of the Sedgwick County Commissioners' meeting concerning the wind project that was approved in that county. The board discussed the fact that they appeared to be still working out the road use agreements and some of the other aspects of permitting. The board agreed that in the event any wind energy applications are ever submitted in Phillips County, these items would need to be in place before the application proceeds to the Planning Commission.

Hofmeister moved to sign the amended Phillips County's Operations Plan for the Emergency Management Office. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Timm adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

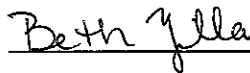
Next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 31, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

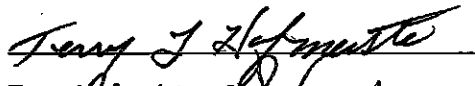
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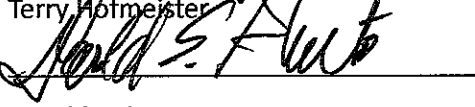
Tom Timm



Beth Zilla, County Clerk



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts

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