

**Phillips County Commissioner  
Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>  
October 9, 2024**

The board held the annual county employee meeting at the Phillips County Event Center prior to the regular meeting.

**Call to order**

Chairman Terry Hofmeister called the meeting of the Phillips County Commissioners to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 10:00 a.m. at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner meeting room.

**County Attendees**

Chairman Terry Hofmeister, Commissioners Garold Roberts and Tom Timm, County Clerk Beth Zilla, Administrator/Planner Andrew Nygaard, Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott, and Emergency Manager Broc Pelle

**Additional Attendees**

Janelle Krueger, Tom Bennett, Dennis Herman, and Chris Kelley

**Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

Addition:

- 11) Security Grant Approval

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Timm 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 09.27.2024 meeting
- b) Approval of invoice list
- c) Approval of Public Trustee 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report
- d) Acknowledge receipt of CAPP reports
- e) Acknowledge receipt of Workers' Comp reports
- f) Acknowledge receipt of Road and Bridge quarterly report
- g) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log

**Public Comments**

County Clerk Beth Zilla presented a Dominion Voting extended contract quote. Zilla recommended using a 6-year contract with Dominion.

**Appointments**

Tom Bennett met with the board to give an update on the Holyoke Community Childcare Initiative project. Bennett confirmed with the board that the county will provide in-kind work for the Holyoke Community Childcare Initiative amounting to 100 semi-loads of fill dirt and the use of a county roll-off dumpster for trash removal during the construction process for a period of time not to exceed 18 months.

Dennis Herman met with the board to discuss the building of a shop on his property. The building will be located within the typical setback distance of a county road, but County Road 22.5 is not a road that the county maintains. Herman asked if there were any future plans for the county maintenance on County Road 22.5. Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott stated that there were no future plans for county maintenance on that half mile road since it is not on a mile line. It was the consensus of the board that the road would never be maintained by the county and that Herman could construct the building as presented.

The board met with Emergency Manager Broc Pelle for his quarterly update.

The meeting recessed at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:34 a.m. to discuss the requirements of the county Veterans' Service Officer position with interested candidate Chris Kelley.

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

## Unfinished Business

The board discussed the renewal of the liquor license for Ricos Dogs dba Blisties.

## Motions/New Business

Timm moved to authorize the chairman to sign the tavern license for Ricos Dogs LLC, dba Blisties. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott to hire Harley Hightower on a part-time basis at an hourly rate of \$22.00, effective October 7, 2024. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to approve the request from Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott to purchase one Caterpillar 01B Wheel Loader from Wagner Equipment for a total cost of \$309,785, using \$115,000 from ARPA funds and \$194,785 from the Road and Bridge fund. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to approve the collection letter for a landfill customer as amended. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-10-09-01 opposing Colorado Ballot Initiative 91. The Resolution reads:

**WHEREAS**, respectful and responsible hunting is a time-honored tradition in Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the state of Colorado that the state's wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado's wildlife is a resource owned by the people of this state; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado law provides that the state "shall utilize hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary methods of effecting necessary wildlife harvests"; and

**WHEREAS**, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation used by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is the most successful wildlife management model in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the populations of mountain lion, bobcat and lynx are thriving, healthy, and stable in Colorado under the current CPW management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the human population of Colorado continues to grow, and residential development continues to expand into traditional mountain lion and bobcat habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, an unmanaged population of large predators will inevitably lead to increased human conflict, on both agricultural and residential lands; and

**WHEREAS**, sapient citizens need look no further than the bloody and financially ruinous aftermath of gray wolf reintroduction on agricultural lands following the passage of Proposition 114 in 2020 to understand the folly of ballot-box biology; and

**WHEREAS**, Ballot Initiative 91 would upend decades of research by CPW, eviscerate the West Slope Mountain Lion Plan, and render irrelevant an ongoing decade-long study in the Upper Arkansas River drainage basin to establish the relationship between human-lion conflict and changes in hunter harvest levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Ballot Initiative 91 is another example of misguided ballot-box biology, funded largely by groups outside of Colorado, which contains language that is confusing at best, and intentionally deceptive at worst.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Phillips, State of Colorado:

**THAT**, the Phillips County Commissioners hereby convey their opposition to Ballot Initiative 91; and

**THAT**, the Phillips County Commissioners also commend Colorado Parks and Wildlife for its exemplary work to maintain healthy and thriving populations of mountain lion, bobcat and lynx, and for its national leadership in wildlife conservation.

Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Secure Transportation Vehicle Permits for Centennial Mental Health which will run from October 9, 2024, through October 9, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to authorize the chairman to sign the grant awarded from the Colorado Department of State for the 2024 Election Improvement Grant in the amount of \$48,652.40 and from the HAVA (Help American Vote Act) Election Security Grant in the amount of \$19,459.60. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve extending the contract with Dominion Voting System for a 6-year term. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Hofmeister adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

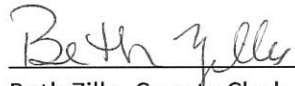
Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2024.

Phillips County Commissioners:

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Timm

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Zilla, County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Hofmeister

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Garold Roberts

