

**Phillips County Commissioner  
Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>  
October 31, 2024**

The board held a 2025 budget work session after the 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 8:00 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, Sheriff Michael Beard, Undersheriff Jack Wieland, Victims' Advocate Director Kelley Sullivan, Assessor Doug Kamery, and Treasurer Steve Young

**Additional Attendees**

Janelle Krueger, Julie Thayer, Sophia Longshore, Cari-Jo Oestman, Senator Byron Pelton, Tom Andersen

**Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

None presented

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Roberts moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

- a) Approval of the minutes of the BOCC 10.16.2024 meeting
- b) Approval of October payroll
- c) Approval of invoice list
- d) Acknowledge receipt of Seaboard Foods 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr monitoring report
- e) Acknowledge receipt of approval of Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Plan
- f) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log
- g) Acknowledge receipt of Event Center/BOC Pavilion/Facilities rentals, surveys

**Public Comments**

Janelle Krueger discussed the Homegrown Talent Initiative in Holyoke and whether it could be a possibility for the county to provide internships with local high schoolers. Summer Maloney with Holyoke High School will be contacted to see if she can attend a future meeting and provide more details on the program.

**Appointments**

The board met with Cari-Jo Oestman, representing the Caring Pregnancy Resource Center. Oestman gave an update on the clients served in 2024 and asked for a reduced rental rate for their event on January 25, 2025.

The board met with Sheriff Michael Beard, who discussed extending a contingent offer of employment to Christian Avalos, who starts the academy in January 2025 and will graduate in May 2025. Beard requested a stipend of \$1,500 per month while he is at the academy, to be paid from January – April 2025.

The board met with Kelley Sullivan regarding the VOCA grant and the decrease in funding from it expected in 2025.

The board met with Senator Byron Pelton, who provided legislative updates and three agricultural bills he will be pursuing in 2025.

The board met with Phillips County Fair Board President Tom Andersen, who assumed the position after the resignation of Brandon Markert, who is moving away from the area. He provided the board updates on the Fair Board's plans for the 2025 Phillips County Fair.

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

### Unfinished Business

The board discussed the Veterans Service Officer vacancy and the two interested applicants. Per statute, the advice and counsel of the chief officer of each post of the regularly established and existing veterans organizations in Phillips County were consulted. Timm moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-10-31-01 appointing Christopher S. Kelley as Phillips County Veterans Service Officer. The Resolution reads:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-5-801, the Phillips County Board of County Commissioners is required to establish a County Veterans Service Office, appoint a County Veterans Service Officer, and to compensate such person with moneys from the general fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) is responsible for assisting veterans and eligible family members in the filing and processing of compensation, pension, education, burial, and other claims with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), performs outreach to veterans at senior centers, nursing homes, assisted living and resource fairs, and coordinates activities with the VA Regional Office, Colorado Division of Military Affairs, as well as other State and local agencies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Phillips, State of Colorado, that Christopher S. Kelley is hereby appointed as Phillips County Veterans Service Officer, effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2024.

Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried 2-1 on a roll call vote, with Roberts voting "no." Roberts noted that he would have liked to have the Commissioners interview the other applicant as well.

### Motions/New Business

The board discussed the purchase of new tires for damaged tires on a rental tractor. The board decided to leave the purchase to Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott's discretion.

The board discussed the Dryland Ag and Water event with Senator John Hickenlooper in Akron on November 7, 2024. There is one open seat available for a Phillips County Commissioner to attend. Hofmeister will plan to go, and Timm will attend if Hofmeister is unable to do so.

Timm moved to accept the request from Cari-Jo Oestman with A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center for a discounted rental rate of \$200 for their event at the Phillips County Event Center on January 25, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Sheriff Michael Beard to extend a contingent offer of employment to Christian Avalos for 2025 and place him on GN40 Grade 26 Step 1 and to pay a stipend of \$1,500 per month while he is at the academy. Employment is contingent on his completion and passing of the pre-employment psychological screening, his enrollment and completion of a POST certified academy with a passing grade, and his completion of the POST examination with a passing grade. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to authorize the chairman to sign the VOCA grant as presented. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to appoint Kelsey Garretson to replace McKenzie Fleharty on the EMS Board. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to appoint Kelsey Garretson to complete McKenzie Fleharty's unexpired term on the E911 Board, expiring on June 30, 2028. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to appoint Kelsey Garretson to complete McKenzie Fleharty's unexpired term on the Communications Board, expiring on December 31, 2026. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to appoint Kaitlyn McCallum to a term on the Phillips County Fair Board, expiring on August 31, 2027. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to appoint Austin Vieselmeyer to a term on the Phillips County Fair Board, expiring on August 31, 2027. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to appoint Darin Foss to a term on the Phillips County Fair Board, expiring on August 31, 2027. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to approve the request from Maintenance Supervisor Lonny Vernon to hire Yessica Olivas Trevizo as a part-time employee for the maintenance department, specifically as a custodian, effective November 4, 2024. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from the Peerless Theater to allow alcohol at their CineMagic event at the Phillips County Event Center on Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. until 11:59 p.m., as long as they receive a special events permit from the City of Holyoke, the required liquor liability

insurance is acquired, and the additional alcohol deposit is paid. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to approve the request from Melissa Memorial Hospital to sell alcohol at their Christmas Party at the Phillips County Event Center on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. until 11:59 p.m., as long as they receive a special events permit from the City of Holyoke, the required liquor liability insurance is acquired, and the additional alcohol deposit is paid. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Pheasants Forever to sell alcohol at the High Plains Radio Farm and Home Show scheduled for February 1, 2025, as long as they receive a special events permit from the City of Holyoke, the required liquor liability insurance is acquired, and the additional alcohol deposit is paid. Timm seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Timm moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Floodplain Study Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**


Chairman Hofmeister adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Andrew Nygaard.

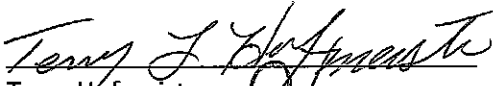
Next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2024.

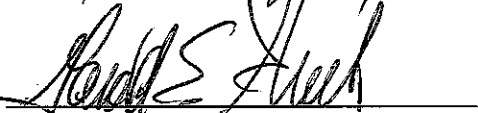
Phillips County Commissioners:

Attest:

  
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Tom Timm

  
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Beth Zilla, County Clerk

  
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Terry Hofmeister

  
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Garold Roberts

