

**Phillips County Commissioner**  
**Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>**  
**February 28, 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 February 28, 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, Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott, Road Worker Ed Glennemeier, Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren, County Assessor Doug Kamery, Deputy Assessor Toby Thompson, Appraiser Nick Flaa, and Victims' Advocate Director Kelley Sullivan

**Additional Attendees**

Janelle Krueger, Marcia Walter, Jeanette Kingman, Steve Starkebaum, Jessie Ruiz Jr., Amanda Monk, Scott Bussell, Wes Newlin, and Joe Bellm (via phone)

**Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

Additions:

- 10:45 a.m. Appointment: DHS Director Lori Lundgren
- 13) Energy impact through DOLA
- 14) Contract with County Attorney
- 15) Positions with Federal Funding
- 16) Bieseemeier Pit Remediation

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 02.18.2025 meeting
- b) Approval of February payroll
- c) Approval of invoice list
- d) Acknowledge receipt of HUTF Summary
- e) Acknowledge receipt of Building Permits log
- f) Acknowledge receipt of Event Center/BOC Pavilion/Facilities rentals

**Public Comments**

None presented.

**Appointments**

The board met with Dragon's Wagon Preschool Director Marcia Walter and preschool board member Jeanette Kingman. Walter wanted to thank the board for their continued support. Walter mentioned that her building alarm went off early in the morning a few days prior, and the alarm system was discussed. Walter asked about the bridge work and the effect it will have on preschool traffic. There will still be access to the preschool, and the bypass will be flagged from sunrise to sunset.

The board met with Steve Starkebaum, who asked the board to waive fees for the small animal jackpot show at the BOC Pavilion on May 16-18, 2025. He also asked for permission to sell alcohol at the event.

The board met with Jessie Ruiz Jr. with the Bridge Foundation. He asked the board for an additional hour for their event at the Phillips County Event Center on May 23, 2025, from 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Ruiz said that the dance is from 7:00 p.m. until midnight, and some guests arrive at 9:00 p.m. or 9:30 p.m. He said they would stop serving alcohol at midnight and would like to just continue dancing until 1:00 a.m. He said the plan is to have 10 security guards from the Knights of Columbus, who would meet with

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

Holyoke Police before the event starts and wear reflective uniforms. The board discussed the possibilities of allowing exceptions if there is professional security at these events.

The board met with Amanda Monk, the Northeast Colorado Field Representative for Congresswoman Lauren Boebert. Monk asked the board for their concerns that she can take back to discuss with Boebert and gave the board updates from Boebert's office. Topics discussed included federal funding, oil and gas, agriculture, wind energy, transmission lines, and more.

The board met with Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott, Road and Bridge Worker Ed Glennemeier, Scott Bussell, and Wes Newlin. Glennemeier asked the board for permission to have Newlin help run the county equipment at the Phillips County Raceway. Newlin is a road worker for Chase County and is familiar with how to run the equipment. Road and Bridge Manager Kevin Scott said that he would be fine with that since he is familiar with the equipment.

The board met with Kelley Sullivan regarding the Holly Daze Craft Fair and requested the total fee to be reduced to \$300 at the Phillips County Event Center on October 24-25, 2025.

The board met with Assessor Doug Kamery, Deputy Assessor Toby Thompson, and Appraiser Nick Flaa to discuss the Omimex natural gas well equipment. They discussed sending out special notices of valuations based on the best information available, which would start the 15-day time frame to protest. The total 2023 and 2024 taxes owed amount to \$30,926.56, and part of the issue is that there are no recorded documents regarding a bill of sale in Phillips County. The ECMC has said that only licensed operators can remove the equipment.

The board met with Department of Human Services Director Lori Lundgren to discuss any potential changes in the state and federal funding for human services programs. She said TANF is the most concerning and that there are still many unknown factors.

The board spoke with Joe Bellm of BST Racing to discuss the 2025 racing schedule. Concern was expressed about advertising for the races occurring before a contract and schedule were approved. Specifically, the monster truck show on April 5, 2025, was not included in the original schedule and was then advertised on Facebook before approval. The board said that in the future, Bellm must contact the county no fewer than 45 days ahead of the day of a newly planned event and that it must get approved before being advertised.

#### **Unfinished Business**

The board discussed the Amherst Road and Bridge storage property and the wording of the advertisement to run in The Haxtun-Fleming Herald and The Holyoke Enterprise. The board will accept bids through 4:30 p.m. on March 28, 2025, and open bids at their March 31, 2025, meeting.

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

Roberts gave an update on the schedule for the bridge work in Phillips County. Work will be performed between sunrise and sunset. Work is scheduled to begin as follows: Fairgrounds Bridge, March 3, 2025; West Bridge, June to July 2025; North Bridge (Sedgwick County), August to September 2025; East Bridge (Scholl's) 2026; and the bridge 1.7 miles east of Holyoke in 2026.

Roberts discussed positions in Phillips County that are at least partially federally funded, including the Victims' Advocate Director and Emergency Manager. The Victims' Advocate Director receives 50% federal funding, 20% state funding and 30% county funding. The Emergency Manager receives 50% federal funding and 50% county funding. Veterans Service Officer Chris Kelley receives county and state funding. No federal funding is received for the Veterans Service Officer.

Roberts gave an update on the NEAHR Grant. He said the Sheriff's Office and Holyoke Police Department have made it to the next step in the process.

Timm updated the board on the Energy Impact Study through DOLA. An MOU came through from NECALG and the other COGs have committed funds to the study.

Roberts provided updates on the Biesemeier Pit. A remedy for getting rid of standing water has been sent to the State Water Resources Division, and Road and Bridge personnel are working on the project now.

Roberts reported that Nygaard looked through records at the Phillips County Museum for a drill log for the well on the property where the Pleasant Valley Road and Bridge storage building will be, but the log could not be found. The county will follow the steps required by the state to have the permit reinstated.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from the PC Junior Livestock Committee to waive the rental fees for their small animal show at the BOC Pavilion on May 16-18, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Steve Starkebaum to allow alcohol at the PC Junior Livestock Committee small animal show at the BOC Pavilion on May 16-18, 2025, with the condition that a special events permit is obtained from the City of Holyoke, the required liquor liability insurance is acquired, and the additional alcohol deposit is paid. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Jessie Ruiz Jr. to allow alcohol at their upcoming Bridge Foundation fundraiser event scheduled for May 23, 2025, with the condition that a special events permit is obtained 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 Jessie Ruiz Jr. for an extension of hours at their upcoming Bridge Foundation fundraiser event scheduled for May 23, 2025, at the Phillips County Event Center from midnight until 1:00 a.m. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Hofmeister moved to approve the B&B Investments 2025 Phillips County Raceway contract as amended. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The contract was amended to note that non-county employees assisting with raceway preparation are deemed volunteers and are not covered for injuries.

Roberts moved to approve the 2025 PCR race schedule as presented. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried by a 2-1 vote, with Timm voting no due to the April 5, 2025, monster truck event being advertised before the schedule and contract were approved.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Kelley Sullivan to reduce the rental fee to \$300 for the Jolly Dozen craft fair event at the Phillips County Event Center on October 24-26, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from the Bridge Foundation to sell alcohol at Phillips County Raceway on April 5, 2025, with the condition that a special events permit is obtained from the City of Holyoke. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from County Administrator Andrew Nygaard to move Carrie Waln to GN Grade 16 Step 5, effective March 9, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the request from Communications Center Director Sara Kumm to move Maryse Schafer to GN40 Grade 11 Step 3, effective March 12, 2025. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Hofmeister moved to approve the request from Communications Center Director Sara Kumm to move Olivia Olivas O'Dea to GN40 Grade 11 Step 3, effective April 6, 2025. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Roberts moved to approve the changes to county financial and purchasing policies as amended. Hofmeister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The change is that any purchase over \$10,000 for the Road and Bridge department must be approved by the board.

Hofmeister moved to discontinue renting out roll-off dumpsters to avoid competing with private businesses. Roberts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### Adjournment

Chairman Timm adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2025.

Phillips County Commissioners:

Attest:



Tom Timm



Terry Hofmeister



Garold Roberts



Beth Zilla, County Clerk

