

*Phillips County Commissioner  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2020*

**Call to order**

Chairman Hofmeister called to order the regular meeting of the Phillip County Commissioners at 9:00 A.M. on May 19, 2020 at Phillips County Courthouse in the Commissioner Meeting Room.

**Attendees**

Chairman Terry Hofmeister, Commissioners Don Lock and Harlan Stern, County Administrator Pam Jensen and County Clerk Beth Zilla, Road Manager Mike Salyards, Assistant Road Manager Kevin Scott, Emergency Manager Bob Heldenbrand, Phillips County Economic Development Executive Director Trisha Herman, Carol Haynes, Jerry Wagoner, Town of Holyoke Mayor Orville Tonsing, Road and Bridge worker Ed Glennemeier.

**Attendees via Zoom video conferencing:**

Holyoke Enterprise Reporter Jes-C Brandt, BST Racing President Joe Bellm

**Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda**

Lock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Stern seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Appointments**

The board met with Carol Haynes, Jerry Wagoner, Road and Bridge Manager Mike Salyards and Assistant Manager Kevin Scott to discuss the building of County Road 25. After hearing comments from Haynes, Wagoner and Road and Bridge Managers, decision was made to build County Road 25 in 2021.

The board met with Emergency Manager Bob Heldenbrand. Heldenbrand gave updates on COVID-19. Heldenbrand also discussed some grants that he is working on to purchase a generator for the Event Center.

The board met with BST Racing President Joe Bellm, City of Holyoke Mayor Orville Tonsing, and Road and Bridge equipment operator for BST Racing Ed Glennemeier. Bellm discussed his racing events scheduled for the county race track this summer. The board discussed the social distancing with Bellm and told Bellm that the County has applied for a waiver to add more than 10 people for group gatherings through the State and have not heard back from the State.

The board met with Economic Development Executive Director Trisha Herman. Herman gave the board an update on the COVID-19 funds and the distribution of the funds received. "Help Holyoke" donations are approximately \$68,000 and "Help Haxtun" donations are approximately \$18,000. Herman announced that there are three Ogallala Commons Internships. Victoria Hatten is the Holyoke Chamber, Phillips County Economic Development and City Recreation Intern. Traeli Hutches is Melissa Memorial Hospital Intern and Tanley Anderson is Haxtun Chamber of Commerce Intern.

The board met with Weed and Pest Manager Kerri Doleshall. Doleshall is not going to hire any extra help this summer. Doleshall requested that he contracts for weed spraying for Meadowlark Gas Wells pump station for approximately 40 acres. Board approved request.

Stern made a motion to become the Board of Human Services at 11:10. Lock seconded the motion and the motion carried. The minutes from this portion of the meeting will be maintained by the Department of Human Services. Board resumed as Board of County Commissioners at 12:55.

**Old Business**

No decision was made on the employee telecommuting policy. Board is having legal review and make some changes.

No decision was made on the proposal from the Tree King for stump grinding. Board will discuss stump grinding with Maintenance Supervisor Dan Waln before making decision.

Stern made a motion to approve all sealed bids received for purchase of advertised county property. Sheet with winning bidder and bid amounts are attached. Lock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#	Item	Bid	Awarded To
1	Welder and helmet	\$7.00	Jerry Cooper
2	Impact wrench and spotlight	\$17.00	Jerry Cooper
3	Saw blades and drill		
4	Cordless drill flat		
5	Socket flat	\$20.00	Terry Hofmeister
6	Toolbox flat		
7	Screwdriver flat	\$7.00	Jerry Cooper
8	Air compressor and tank	\$21.00	Jerry Cooper
9	Drill bit flat	\$3.00	Jerry Cooper
10	Hose flat		
11	Assorted tools flat	\$10.00	Scott Korte
12	Hammer flat		
13	Wrench flat	\$25.00	Terry Hofmeister
14	Sockets flat	\$30.00	Terry Hofmeister
15	Battery flat		
16	Four (4) plastic bins, three (3) tool duffle & four (4) computer bags	\$7.00	Steve Seuss
17	Two (2) wooden side table		
18	Three (3) metal bookshelves	\$16.00	Luke Goldenstein
19	Four (4) adding machines	\$4.00	Patrick Mitchell
20	HP Office Jet printer #8500 & four (4) Coolmax laptop coolers		
21	Portable HP Printer & HP Office Jet printer #4500		
22	Nine (9) computer keyboards		
23	Wood office desk, wood tabletop, black office chair & blue metal chair		
24	K+E Paragon Drafting Machine with drafting table and chair	\$60.00	Luke Goldenstein
25	TV, VCR & DVD players with metal stand	\$10.00	Steve Seuss
26	Small wood desk, wood typing table, shelf file unit & metal index card holder		
27	Metal step stool, metal table, clothes rack & box of power cords		
28	Display sign & eight (8) display easels	\$8.00	Jerry Cooper
29	Two (2) paper shredder & TV/VCR combo	\$5.50	Lonny Vernon
30	Large metal shelving unit	\$21.00	Luke Goldenstein
31	Two (2) 2-drawer filing cabinets & seven (7) sets of locks	\$5.00	Luke Goldenstein
	2003 Dodge Caravan, mileage 147,162 with title	\$1,050.00	Walter Juarez
	2005 Honda Ricon ATV 500cc	\$205.00	Lonny Vernon
	2012 Chev 2500 8 ft pickup box		
	2002 Dodge 3500 dually pickup box		
	2001 Chev 2500 8 ft pickup box		

The items that received no bids will be listed for sale on Facebook.

### New Business/Motions

Stern made a motion to adopt the following Resolution for retaining Senior and Veterans Real Property Tax Exemptions. Lock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05-19-05

RESOLUTION OF THE PHILLIPS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING THE STATE OF COLORADO JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' AND DISABLED VETERANS' REAL PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROVIDED

UNDER §39-3-203, C.R.S.

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Colorado State Joint Budget Committee ("JBC"). published a JBC Working Document containing staff recommendations for balancing the Colorado State Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §39-3-203 provides a "homestead" exemption to qualifying senior citizens and qualifying disabled veterans from real property taxes for fifty percent of the first two hundred thousand dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, the JBC working document recommends suspension of the tax exemption to senior citizens changing the exemption to fifty percent of zero dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, many senior citizens and disabled veterans in the Phillips County community live on minimal fixed incomes and are dependent on the homestead property tax exemption, which enables them to pay bills, stay in their homes and make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County Elected Officials recognize and respect the value of the senior citizens and disabled veterans in the community and believe they must be protected as some of the most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County veterans are the lifeblood of the entire country and have given the gift of freedom, thereby earning our utmost respect and financial protection; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County senior citizens enjoy a shared history and community knowledge, enabling them to share collective wisdom with the other members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens who qualify for the homestead exemption are 65 years old or above, have lived in their primary residence for at least ten years and are established members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and disabled veterans are population groups that is least able to withstand an increase in property taxes to help relieve an anticipated shortfall in state revenue; and

WHEREAS, the senior citizen and disabled veterans homestead exemption was approved by the voters of the State of Colorado through a statewide referendum ballot issue, demonstrating state-wide financial support for these homeowners; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County has approximately 355 property owners who are benefitting from the senior citizens and disabled veterans homestead exemption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Phillips County Colorado, hereby formally opposes the JBC staff oppose suspension of all or any part of the Real Property tax Homestead Exemption set forth in Article X, Section 3.5 of the Colorado Constitution and Section 39-3-203, C.R.S.

Stern made a motion to approve the request from Communications Center Director Kenny Gaskill to move Jill Anderson to GN40 Grade 18 Step 2 at an hourly rate of \$17.15, effective May 20, 2020. Lock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lock made a motion to approve two subdivision exemptions submitted by Hazen Schlachter and Schlachter Farms at the NE ¼, Section 26-T7N-R44W. The purpose of the exemptions was to change lot lines between two parcels that had been previously subdivided. One new parcel is 2.57 acres, the other is 2.53 acres. Stern seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

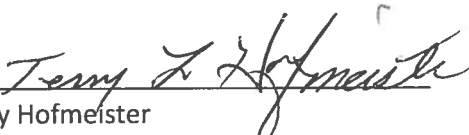
Chairman Hofmeister adjourned the meeting at 1:34 P.M.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

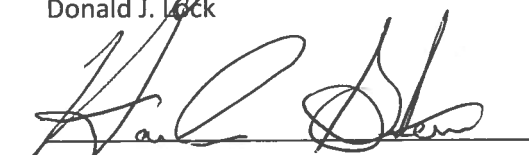
County Commissioners:

Attest:

  
Terry Hofmeister

  
Beth Zilla - County Clerk

  
Donald J. Lock

  
Harlan Stern

