

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 2, 2025 First Day of the January Term**

Now at this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were Local residents Mr. & Mrs. Boultes, Sherry Sieber, Mrs. White, Mr & Mrs. Boyles.

Mrs. White chose to record the meeting on her cellphone.

In the matter of  
Road Vacation of Pvt Dr 2305:

Public hearing was opened at 9:01 am and commission asked if there were any remonstrances against this road being vacated. Mrs. Sieber presented commission with a remonstrance and advised that other neighbors in the subdivision are against this road vacation. Further discussions were had on a boat ramp that is not visible on GIS mapping and the commission advised the 20-foot easement along this private drive is still going to remain. Commission asked Mrs. Boultes where she posted this vacation. She advised Copeland bus, dollar general, Kokomo joes, Country Bobs and she posted 3 within the subdivision and she advised Brendon Fox also posted in 3 areas as well.

Kent Bagnel from the morning mayor show entered at 9:20 am.

Boultes showed proof of the postings to Commission and then showed them to Mrs. Sieber. Commissioner Stites asked if all was in agreeance that there where 3 postings made, Commission agreed and Mrs. Sieber agreed. Commissioner Hicks advised the backstory to this process and further advised the county has no interest in owning and maintaining this road and easement. Commissioner Hicks moved to vacate Private Drive 2305 formerly known as Kenny Lane, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Mrs. Sieber and Mrs. White left at 9:31 am followed by the Boyles and Boultes at 9:33 am.

Ashley Campbell and Jennifer Wiese from the Health Department entered at 9:54 am.

In the matter of  
Health Department Director position:

Campbell presented commission with another resume that was given to her from an internal applicant.

In the matter of  
Health department funding:

Campbell and Wiese presented commission with a formal agreement MOU with Pulaski county, Crawford county and Laclede county health department for a Mutual Aid Agreement for Environmental health services. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the MOU, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Campbell and Wiese left at 10:07 am.

Support Services Sissy Shults entered at 10:08 am and left at 10:17 am.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:17 am.

In the matter of  
Collector Tax Payments:

The Collector advised she checked the tax payment box at 10 pm on 12/31/24 and again at 7am on 1/1/25 there were no payments in the external silver tax payment box located outside.

Barnes left at 10:29 am.

In the matter of  
Private Drive 2305:

Mrs. Boultes called into commission to ask what she needs to do to finalize the vacation documents and she was advised to contact a real estate attorney by the commission.

Ashley Campbell re-entered at 11:08 am.

In the matter of  
Indeed invoice for Director posting:

Campbell presented commission with the invoice from Indeed for the Health Department Director position announcement for coding.

Campbell left at 11:12 am.

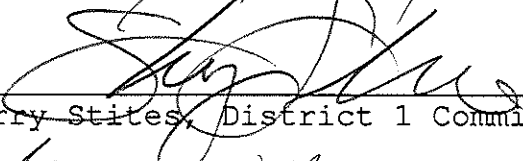
In the matter of  
Private Drive 2305 revisited:

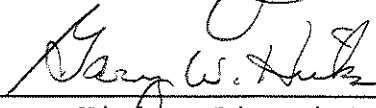
Due to concerns brought forth by the county surveyor the commission edited the road vacation document to read as the entirety of Private Drive 2305, removing tract f.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 8, 2025 Third Day of the January Term**

Now at this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were Sheriff Kirn and Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's Department Budgets:

Lasher presents commission with Sheriff's department proposed 2025 budgets.

Discussions were had on fund 400 Sheriff's Training fund.  
Discussions were had on fund 405 Sheriff's Drug Enforcement fund.  
Discussions were had on fund 407 Sheriff's Civil Fees fund.  
Discussions were had on fund 409 Sheriff's Revolving fund.  
County Clerk is going to contact State Auditors office to see how the transfer to 420 should be logged on the budget forms.  
Discussions were had on Fund 415 Sheriff's Inmate Prisoner Detention Security fund.  
Discussions were had on Fund 420 Sheriff's Debt Service fund.  
Commission asked sheriff to put the Phase 1 payments for next year and then we can amend at end of year once we have the Phase 2 totals so the fund is accurate. Also, was requested to have the \$53,299.61 transfer made to sheriff from 2024 budget be transferred out of this fund and back into General Revenue.  
Discussions were had on Fund 410 Sheriff's LEST fund.  
Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 10:00 am.

Kirn and Lasher left at 10:05 am.

In the matter of  
Recorder's Office Budgets:

Kordes provided commission with her proposed 2025 budgets to review.  
Discussions were had on Fund 200-2010.  
Discussions were had on Fund 510 Recorder User fees fund.  
Kordes left at 11:02 am.

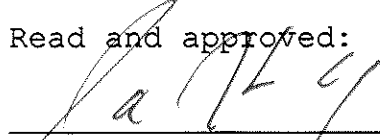
In the matter of  
RREC invoice:

Commission reviewed invoice for Rolla Regional Economic Commission in the amount of \$4,100.00. Commissioner Hicks moved

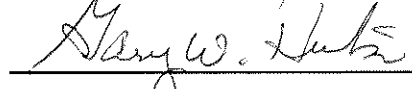
to approve the invoice, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:50 am.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 9, 2025 Fourth Day of the January Term**

Now at this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 2 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Commissioner Stites joined via facetime.

Also present were Extension members Brandi Richardson, Karissa Blake, Julie Thrasher and Sarah Higgins.

In the matter of  
Extension Budget hearing:

Ms. Richardson presented commission with her 2025 proposed budget forms and pamphlets. Discussions were had on the programs that the extension provide for the community.

Congressman Smiths field representative Grant Wilson entered at 9:15 am followed by Public Administrator Dana Sooter at 9:19 am and local resident Chester Kojro at 9:23 am.

Further discussions were had on the budget set forth and the ability to make it on a one line in and out bases. Discussions were had on only paying the salary and benefits lines for one employee and seeing if there is any possibility of the extension office moving to Missouri S&T property since they are an extension of the university. Richardson advised she will work on this today and see if that is a possibility.

Richardson, Blake, Thrasher and Higgins left at 9:43 am.

In the matter of  
Public Admin Budget hearing:

Sooter presented commission with her proposed 2025 budget forms for review. Discussions were had on fund 200-2028.

Local resident Ray Schweikhardt entered at 9:50 am followed by Assessor Tim Kean at 9:51 am and Recorder Robin Kordes at 9:56 am.

Sooter and Kordes left at 10:02 am.

In the matter of  
Assessor's office budget hearing:

Kean presents commission with his proposed 2025 budget forms for review. Discussions were had on fund 800.

Kojro left at 10:09 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to accept the memorandum of understanding to not provide annual contribution from the General Fund to the Assessors Fund of \$75,000 (this MOU allows the Assessor to request the \$75,000 transfer next year), Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Wilson left at 10:32 am followed by Kean at 10:39 am.

Interim Health department director Jennifer Wiese entered at 10:50 am followed by local resident David Dukes.

In the matter of  
Men's help program:

Dukes advised commission that he has started a men's help group and has 7 slots available if commission knows of anyone needing some help. He further advised his residents will be drug tested and required to do community service.

Local residents Dwayne Riggs and Chester Crider entered at 10:53 am followed by local resident Mr. Furse at 10:58 am.  
Mr. Riggs, Mr. Furse and Crider left at 10:58 am

In the matter of  
Tax penalty:

Mr. Riggs advised commission that he received a penalty on his tax statement for not turning it in on time according to the Collectors office. Discussions were had on the matter and Commission asked for Mr. Riggs contact information so they could look into the matter further.

In the matter of  
Health Department budget hearing:

Wiese provided commission with her proposed 2025 budgets for review. Discussions were had fund 220.

Ernie Kost from First State Community Bank entered at 11:20 am and left at 11:26 am.  
Wiese left at 11:32 am.

In the matter of  
County Clerk budget hearing:

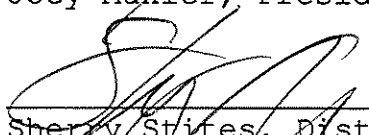
Johnson provided commission with her proposed 2025 budgets for review.  
Discussions were had on fund 200-2001.  
Discussions were had on fund 200-2002.  
Discussions were had on fund 300.  
Discussions were had on fund 325.

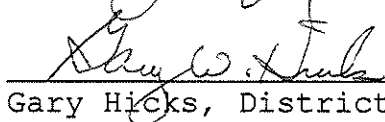
Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:56 am.



Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

( )

( )

( )

( )

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 13, 2025 Fifth Day of the January Term**

Now at this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were Treasurer Cathy Tipton and Senior Companions Director Yvonne Leuthauser.

In the matter of  
Treasurer Budget hearing:

Tipton presented commission with proposed 2025 budget forms. Discussions were had on fund 200-2005.

Tipton left at 9:14 am.

Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 9:14 am.

In the matter of  
Senior Companions budget hearing:

Yvonne presented commission with proposed 2025 budget forms. Discussions were had on fund 550.

Leuthauser left at 9:18 am.

In the matter of  
Coroners budget hearing:

Coverdell presented commission with proposed 2025 budget forms. Discussions were had on Fund 200-2017.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:33 am.

Coverdell left at 10:00 am.

In the matter of  
Collector Budget hearing:

Barnes presented commission with her 2025 proposed budget forms. Discussions were had on fund 200-2006 and Fund 850.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Mark Case and Admin Assistant

Michelle Bock entered at 10:28 am.

Barnes left at 10:35 am.

In the matter of  
Road & Bridge Budget Hearing:

Bock presents commission with proposed budget forms. Discussions were had on fund 100 and fund 102.

Donna Adams entered from the SB40 Board at 10:48 am followed by Brenda Rocoberto and Gary Young at 10:52 am and Gina at 10:58 am.

Case and Bock left at 11:00 am.

In the matter of  
SB40 Board Budget Hearing:

Discussions were had on the proposed expenses for the Sb 40 boards fund 970. This fund is merely an in and out and not budgeted as the commission turned all rights over to the board for expenses.

Adams, Rocoberto, Young and Gina left at 11:14 am.

Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace entered at 11:15 am.

In the matter of  
Circuit Clerk budget hearing:

Wallace presented commission with 2025 proposed budget forms. Discussions were had on fund 200-2008 and fund 200-2007.

Wallace left at 11:24 am.

In the matter of  
PCLERF Budget hearing:

Clerk Johnson presents commission with the PCLERF boards proposed 2025 budget for review. Discussions were had on fund 430.

In the matter of  
Shelter Fund budget hearing:

Clerk Johnson presents commission with the shelter boards proposed 2025 budget for review. Discussions were had on fund 500.

In the matter of  
Crisis Intervention budget hearing:

Clerk Johnson presents commission with the proposed 2025 budget for review. Discussions were had on fund 261.

Support Services Sissy Shults entered at 11:55 am.

In the matter of  
Public Facilities budget hearing:

Shults presents commission with proposed 2025 budget forms.  
Discussion was had on fund 900 and fund 200-2003.

Shults left at 12:20 am.

Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer entered at 12:26 am.

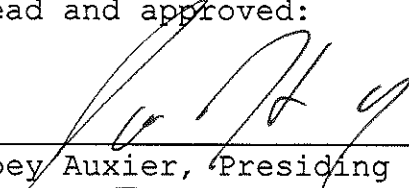
In the matter of  
Prosecutors budget hearing:

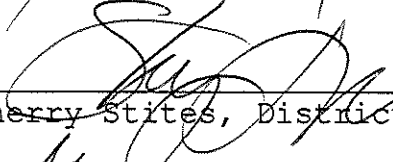
Banholzer presents commission with proposed 2025 budget forms.  
Discussions were had on fund 200-2014, fund 440, fund 450, fund  
460 and fund 480.

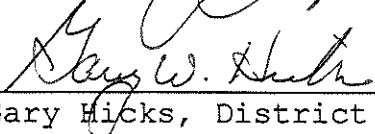
Banholzer left at 1:01 pm.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 14, 2025 Sixth Day of the January Term**

Now at this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were Treasurer Cathy Tipton and Ernie Kost from First State Community Bank.

Clerk Johnson moved to appoint Commissioner Hicks as acting Presiding Commissioner in the absence of Presiding Commissioner Auxier, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Sheriff Kirn and Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 9:02 am.

In the matter of  
CD Bid opening:

As scheduled commission opened CD Bids as follows:

First State Community Bank at 9:03 am.

Maries County Bank at 9:05 am.

Town & Country Bank at 9:06 am.

Southern Bank at 9:08 am.

Discussions were had and Commissioner Stites moved to accept the Maries County Bank in the amount of 4.40% for 6 months, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of  
Amortization on Phase II of Jail Expansion:

Kost presented commission with the reamortization of Phase II payments on the Jail Expansion project. Discussions were had on the amortization dates and amounts due this year. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the amortization as presented below, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:35 am.

Tipton left at 9:38 am.

Presiding Commissioner Auxier entered the meeting at 9:38 am.

Local resident David Dukes entered at 9:52 am.

Lasher, Kirn and Kost left at 9:54 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's 5% contribution verification:

Commission reviewed and signed the sheriff's 5% contribution verification form increasing the salary to \$95,647.56 per statute.

Dukes left at 10:00 am.

In the matter of  
Audit Bid opening:

As scheduled audit bids were opened as follows:

KPM opened at 10:02 am.

Mueller, Oberkfell & Jones at 10:06 am.

Discussions were had on the bids that were submitted. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the bid from Mueller, Oberkfell & Jones in the amount of \$49,555.00 for 2023 & 2024 financial and single audits, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Jeff Banderet from Great Rivers entered at 10:17 am followed by a representative from Viebrock at 10:30 am.

In the matter of  
TEAP Contract:

Banderet presents commission with the TEAP contract and discussions were had. Commission advised the Road department has put counters out on a few roads to help with this study. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the Transportation Engineering Assistance Program contract, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Banderet left at 11:07 am.

Viebrock left at 11:26 am.

In the matter of  
Refund of tax penalty:

Commission spoke with Collector Barnes about Mr. Riggs penalty fee after he advised commission that he felt he had paid his taxes in a timely manner. Discussions were had on Mr. Riggs never being late on his payments for the last 20 years. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the refund of the penalty in the amount of \$92.97, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Cahn Powell entered at 11:36 am.

In the matter of  
Bridge repair on CR 7050:





Mr. Powell asked commission where we are at on fixing the bridge on CR 7050 that was damaged. Commission advised they received a settlement from the trucking company's insurance and fixing the bridge is on the list of repairs however there have been other projects in the county that have taken priority.

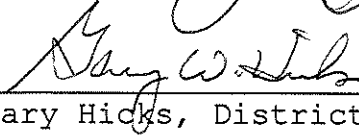
Powell left at 11:51 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Records**  
**January 16, 2025 Seventh Day of the January Term**

Now at this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
County Clerk, Laura Johnson

Also present were Road and Bridge Supervisor Mark Case and Admin Assistant Michelle Bock.

In the matter of  
FEMA Contract:

Bock presents commission with the contract from FEMA for reimbursement of improvements made to damaged areas from the 2024 floods.

Kent Bagnol from the Morning Mayor radio show entered at 9:15 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to accept the FEMA contract for repairs and improvements from the November 3-9 flood damages, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Local residents David Dukes and Dayton Dukes entered at 9:43 am.

Case and Bock left at 9:46 am.

Bagnol left at 9:50 am.

Dukes and Dukes left at 10:06 am.

In the matter of  
Review of previous minutes:

Commission reviewed and edited minutes from the 1/03,1/08,1/09 and 1/13 commission meetings.

In the matter of  
Communications received from County Coroner:

Discussions were had on the document from the Phelps County Coroner that was served to the County Clerk by a private prosecutor. Documentation was forwarded to MAC attorney for review and to be visited at a later date.

In the matter of  
Use tax ballot language:

Commission discussed adding a use tax to be used for Road and Bridge improvements to our county. Commissioner Stites created ballot language for a use tax to be placed on the April ballot

and Commissioners Auxier and Hicks reviewed the proposed language. Commissioner Hicks moved to place the use tax language created filed as Proposition A on the April ballot, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI**  
April 8, 2025

**PROPOSITION A, Use Tax,**  
Shall Phelps County impose a local use tax at the same rate as the county sales tax rate, currently 1.125 %.

If approved, this measure would impose a use tax for out-of-state purchases of tangible personal property delivered to Phelps County for use, storage, or consumption, where the same items would be subject to sales tax if purchased locally.

Pursuant to Section 144.757 RSMo, and the voter-approved ballot of April 7, 1981, the use tax shall be subject to the same reduction of real property tax as the local sales tax to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Revenue generated from the use tax will be dedicated to the improvement and repair of Phelps County roads and infrastructure, this additional Revenue will not subrogate the general fund contribution to the Road and Bridge Department.

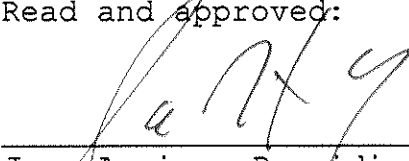
The use tax is not an additional tax but ensures that out-of-state purchases are taxed at the same rate as local purchases, preventing the loss of local tax revenue.

Yes   
No


**Explanation:**  
A "Yes" vote will approve the use tax, ensuring revenue is available to improve and repair roads and infrastructure in Phelps County while adhering to rollback provisions. A "No" vote will not approve the use tax, leaving current funding unchanged.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 21, 2025 Eighth Day of the January Term**

Now at this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

County Clerk moved to appoint Commissioner Hicks as acting presiding commissioner in the absence of Presiding Commissioner Auxier, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of  
Personal Property Court Orders:

Commission reviewed and approved Personal Property court order #'s 2225, 2226 and 2227.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:37 am followed by Prosecuting Attorney Taylor Banholzer and Extension Council member Brandi Richardson at 9:57 am and Don Diehl from Bartlett West at 10:02 am.

In the matter of  
Extension Council budget:

Discussions were had on how we can change this fund to read as a out and in fund. Further discussions were had on the county cutting a check upfront for the entire year expenses of the salary/benefits line and then the extension council reimburses for the expenses for a paper trail. Creating an in and out line to simplify the books.

Kojro left at 10:15 am followed by Richardson at 10:19 am.

Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 10:23 am.

In the matter of  
Closed Session:

Commissioner Stites moved to go into Closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried and moved to closed session at 10:24 am.

Presiding Commissioner Auxier entered at 10:43 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to return to open session, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried and returned to open session at 10:55 am.

In the matter of  
Kenny Lane Road Vacation Amendment:

Discussions were had on the need to Amend the right of way road vacation to read as Kenny Lane as drawn in the original surveyed unrecorded subdivision Phelps County Survey Book E, page S-1429B, will be transferred to the 3 affected properties within the Watkins Lakewood Estates subdivision. Further discussions were had on Mr. Whites property actually being associated with a separate unrecorded subdivision located in Phelps County Survey Book F, page S-3143.


Banholzer left at 11:00 am followed by Kordes and Diehl at 11:18 am.

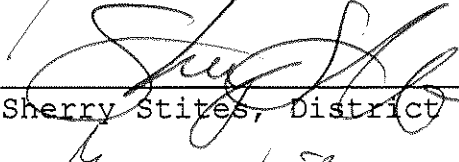
In the matter of  
Assessors Quarterly Report:

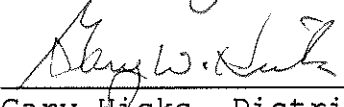
Commission reviewed and approved the Assessor Quarterly report for October - December.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 23, 2025 Ninth Day of the January Term**

Now at this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present was local resident Linda Cunningham.  
Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 9:01 am.  
Cunningham left at 9:03 am.

In the matter of  
2025 Budget Hearing:

County Clerk pulled up the 2025 project budget so all in attendance could follow along and review. County Clerk read budget message to all in attendance and then reviewed the budget. Discussions were had on the budgets.

Kordes left at 9:20am

Lambert entered at 10:20am to provide the necessary SEFA expenses for reporting.

Lambert left at 10:33 am.

BPJ representatives Tonya Greven and Mike Scott entered at 10:34am followed by Collector Faith Barnes at 10:35 am.

Barnes left at 10:40 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the 2025 budget,  
Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried and budget adopted.

In the matter of  
BPJ quarterly update:


Greven and Scott presented commission with documents of our Insurance expenses. Discussions were had on the expense reports.

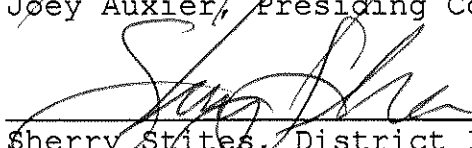
In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

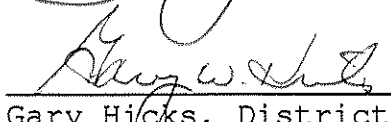
Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$131,962.65 for Phelps Co Self Insured PR, \$71,758.81 for A - L, \$110,624.82 for M - Z, \$29,396.99 for December EATS Rolla Westside TIF, \$5,960.64 for Great West & Nationwide PR and \$100,313.99 for Sheriff's Dept Invoices.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 28, 2025 Tenth Day of the January Term**

Now at this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

In the matter of  
Closed session:

Commissioner Stites moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried, moved to closed session at 9:04 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to come out of closed session, Commissioner Hicks seconded, moved back into open session on 9:55 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amount of \$191,429.27 for Phase 1 Jail expansion Interest and \$50,000 for Maries County Bank.

Local resident Bethany Boultes entered at 10:14 am.  
Boultes left at 10:17 am.  
Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:43 am.

In the matter of  
Sales tax and Cart Fund reports:

Tipton presents commission with sales tax reports. Discussions were had on the increase of 2.45% up from the total last year. Discussions were had on how we would do the reporting if the Use tax is passed. Tipton presents commission with CART fee reports. Discussions were had on the Motor Vehicle Sales, Motor Vehicle Fees and Motor Fuel all being up across the board.

Yvonne Leuthauser from Senior Companions entered at 10:50 am followed by Health Department Interim Director Jennifer Wiese at 10:53 am, Assessor Tim Kean at 10:56 am, Support Services Sissy Shults at 10:58 am, Robin Kordes at 10:58 am, Collector Faith Barnes at 10:59 am, Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace and Dana Sooter at 11:00 am and Prosecuting attorney Taylor Banholzer at 11:02 am.

In the matter of  
Quarterly Department Head meeting:

Kordes advised she is looking for more recommendations on food truck vendors. She further advised Arnolds grill would love to come once every month.

County Clerk advised we have hired an HR person that will be starting on Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This person comes to us from Texas and has years of experience and certifications in HR along with ADP experience.

Commissioner Stites advised we are putting a Use tax on the April ballot. She also advised Joey and her met the new City Clerk in St. James and feel that she is going to bring forth great progress and do great things for the St. James Community. County Clerk advised moving forward with the budget this year I would like to schedule a 30-minute slot for each office holder to sit down and fill the forms out together so that I am not reentering information 3 different times. This would allow us to have the budget process done faster and correctly. No one objected to this new process.

Collector advised she has the month of March for the employee activity and she is moving forward with the Senior tax freeze starting mid March. She further advised she is going to have flyers to hand out to the senior citizens so they know what the requirements are and how they need to apply.

See if our website can place a banner on it advising to contact the Collectors office with tax relief/tax freeze.

Wiese introduced herself to all in attendance as she was appointed as the interim health department director after Ashley Campbell resigned.


Sooter advised her office is doing great, they are moving right along and she has done the classes to become a certified grant writer. She further advised she is only going to do grant writing for her office duties as it's a huge task. Sooter touched base on the need to have something like Eden Village which would help protect the vulnerable homeless and force the criminals out of the county.


Discussions were had on the next days we need to hold a quarterly meeting.

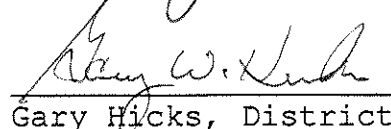
Discussions were had on creating a new website for the county utilizing a .gov domain and each office holder having access to upload and change necessary items on their pages.

Hearing no other business meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**January 30, 2025 Eleventh Day of the January Term**

Now at this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner  
Laura Johnson, County Clerk

Also present were The Focus Reporter.

In the matter of  
BEAD grant with Brightspeed:

Mr. Hellmann called in to commission at 8:59 am to discuss Phelps County signing a letter of coordination to partner with Brightspeed utilizing the BEAD grant. This Broadband Equity Access and Deployment grant and allows counties to partner with Internet companies to gain access to the rural areas with no cost to the county. Discussions were had on if the county moved forward with this the companies need to make sure they are running these lines and boxes properly to not have any damages in the future during road maintenance. Further discussions were had on Brightspeed buying up centurylink lines and they are trying to upgrade and correct the improperly laid lines. Discussions were had on what the amount could be for the grant in our county. Mr. Hellmann advised there is 360 million available in this grant. There is no reporting necessary on the counties part as it would all be through Brightspeed per Mr. Hellmann. Commissioner Hicks moved to provide the letter of coordination for the BEAD grant with Brightspeed, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

The Focus reporter left at 9:55 am.

In the matter of  
Review of previous Commission minutes:

Commission reviewed and edited minutes from the 1/14, 1/16, 1/21, 1/23 and 1/28 commission meetings.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:27 am followed by local resident Rick Barnes at 10:29 am.

In the matter of  
Surplus tax money:

Barnes advised Mr. Bryn Linderman has done all the required tasks asked of him in order to receive the Surplus Tax. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve releasing the \$3,145.92 to Mr. Linderman, Commissioner Auxier seconded, Motion carried.

Barnes and Barnes left at 10:40 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$4,350.57 for Sheriff's Dept Invoices, \$16,808.19 for A - L and \$23,000.35 for M - Z.

Shawn Pearson and Michelle Bock from Road and Bridge entered at 10:53 am.

In the matter of  
Ameren Bland Franks meeting:

### **Scope**

The work will include all the following:

- Rebuild 44.2 miles of 345 kV Bland Franks 3 transmission line. 249 new steel structures
- The following is a milestone schedule for the construction project:
  - Onsite: January 15, 2025
  - Construction Start: March 1, 2025
  - In Service: June 1, 2026
- Starting at Structure 278 (north end) and working towards 382 (south end)
- Electrical contractor hauling materials to site, civil to mobilize 2/3 for foundation
- Ameren will keep the roads in a condition that is safe for local traffic during construction and will do temporary improvements if needed.
- Typical loads will be less than 80,000 lbs for electrical contractor. Civil contractor is TBD.

### **Items to Discuss**

1. Confirm that all jurisdictions have reviewed the proposed haul routes.
  - Maries and Phelps Counties has the haul route maps.
  - Woolpert will send the updated maps with the laydown yards and the road lists to the jurisdictions.
  - Ron Hardecke (Gasconade) has not seen the maps from the retired Commissioner. We will send him the maps and road list.
2. Feedback/concerns on the proposed haul routes
  - Phelps County - Bacon Road (near laydown) is very narrow road with significant changes in topography. There is an 8' box culvert at the bottom of the hill. It is not rated but it should be avoided with heavy loads. Ameren will review the roads to select their haul route for heavy loads. The county mentioned that it would like a Surety Bond or a Letter of Assurance from Ameren.
  - Maries County - They are concerned that the gravel roads will deteriorate in wet conditions. Maries County wants repairs to be made with like materials that are currently on the road. They will accept payment and repair of the roads at the end of the project. If temporary repairs need to be made during construction, they will reach out to Woolpert, make the repairs and keep a running total for reimbursement after the project.
  - Maries and Gasconade County would like to meet before they start working in their County. Woolpert will set up a meeting next week. Sean, Mitch, Contractor representative, and Woolpert will meet the County at the laydown.
  - Gasconade has a RUA in place. Woolpert will send RUA to Ron with Gasconade County.
3. Any recommended changes to the haul route?  
Phelps County recommended to avoid the culvert on Bacon Road.

4. Are there any roads that have a preference for the heavy loads? There were no preferences discussed.
5. Verify load restrictions (roads, bridges, and seasonal)
  - Phelps County – There is a bridge on 8010 to the south of the laydown yard with a weight limit.
  - Maries County – There are no limits on the roads. They will review the bridges.
  - Gasconade County – Ron Hardecke will review the maps once received.
  - Woolpert will add any bridges on the haul road and nearby on adjacent roads that have weight limits.
6. Are there any road improvement projects scheduled on the haul routes?
  - Maries County have none planned.
  - Phelps County have none planned.
  - Gasconade County have none planned.
7. Are there permits required for temporary/permanent access to structures?
  - There are no permits required for temporary access in Maries, Phelps, or Gasconade County.
  - Phelps County has a required form on their website for permanent culvert installation.
8. Are there any requirements for temporary culverts/access?
  - Any culvert that installed in Maries, Phelps, and Gasconade County's ROW shall be a minimum of 15" diameter.
  - There may be locations where a culvert may need to be larger than 15", the Counties shall be contacted before the culvert is installed. For Phelps County contact Michelle with the Road and Bridge Department.
  - Sean Courtois will contact the jurisdiction before any culvert is installed. If a property owner wants to keep an entrance/culvert, they must get the permit/agreement with the County, so Ameren does not have to maintain the entrance after the project is complete.

## **CONTACT LIST**

### **Woolpert**

- Kelly Stedman, Woolpert 618-779-6922 ([Kelly.stedman@woolpert.com](mailto:Kelly.stedman@woolpert.com))
- Zach Brammeier, Woolpert 618-632-2839 ([zach.brammeier@woolpert.com](mailto:zach.brammeier@woolpert.com))

### **Ameren**

- Sean Courtois, Ameren 636-208-2709 ([Scourtois@ameren](mailto:Scourtois@ameren))
- Ryan Weaver, Ameren 952-920-8956 ([rweaver2@ameren.com](mailto:rweaver2@ameren.com))
- Doug Lindsey, Ameren 406-702-9057 ([dlindsey@ameren.com](mailto:dlindsey@ameren.com))
- 

### **JF Electric**

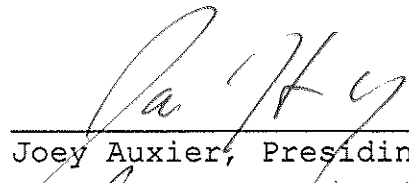
- Russ Politte, JF Electric Superintendent 573-256-6886 ([russp@jfelectric.com](mailto:russp@jfelectric.com))
- Joey Williams, JF Electric General Foreman, 573-248-4035 ([joeyw@jfelectric.com](mailto:joeyw@jfelectric.com))

### **Keeley Construction (Civil contractor)**

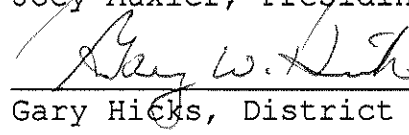
- Jake Cecil, Keeley Assistant PM, 636-544-8811 ([jcecil@keeleyconstruction.com](mailto:jcecil@keeleyconstruction.com))

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Read and approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner