

Phelps County Commission Record
April 1, 2025 First Day of the January Term

Now at this 1st day of April, 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 several members of the community. All in attendance gathered in the Multipurpose room across the hall.

In the matter of
Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation:

Amber Stienbarger with CASA gave presentation on the issues in our community with child abuse cases. She stresses every action matters when it comes to eradicating this issue. Mayor Lou Magdits read the proclamation designating the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

All in attendance moved outside to the courthouse steps

Commission moved back to the chambers at 9:20 am.

Assessor Tim Kean and local residents James and Brenda Wagner entered at 9:20 am followed by Interim Health Department Director Jennifer Wiese at 9:25 am.

In the matter of
Vehicle purchase for Assessor office:

Kean presented commission with a purchase order for 3 bronco sports in the amounts of \$33,410.00. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the purchase, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Kean left at 9:31 am.

In the matter of
Road vacation in Jerome:

Ms. Wagner provided the petition for vacating the alley beginning at 5th street between lots 04893.00 and 04894.00 and ending at lot 04891.00. Commission finds petition sufficient and advises the Wagners they need to post the petition at 3 public locations within the township. The final vacation hearing is set for July 1, 2025 @ 9am.

The Wagners left at 9:45 am.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:46 am followed by local resident Chester Crider at 9:50 am.

Wiese left at 9:51 am.

Crider left at 9:54 am.

In the matter of
CART Fee and Sales tax Reports:

Tipton presents commission with Sales Tax reports and explains we are up across the board. Tipton presents commission with CART fees. Discussions were had on the motor vehicle fees being down nearly -30% for the month from this time last year, motor vehicle sales tax is up from this time last year and motor fuel tax is also up from this time last year.

Sheriff Kirn entered at 9:55 am followed by Anthony Sanchez entered at 10:15 am.

In the matter of
Citizen Input:

Mr. Sanchez advised he feels the commission needs to create better handicap accessibility outside and inside our courthouse. Discussions were had on all the handicap spaces and the 2 ramps that we provide along with handicap accessible entrance and exit doors on our property to be ADA compliant. Further discussions were had on the delivery trucks needing to be told not to park their trucks where they are blocking the handicap spots.

Sanchez left at 10:35 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff's department updates and funds:

Sheriff advised he is currently sitting at 165 Federal inmates and expects to be at 200 by next week. Discussions were had on the negotiations of increasing the daily rate for federal inmates when the contract is due for renewal. Clerk Johnson advised Kirn he has a MOPERM bill due in the amount of \$509,228 and there are not sufficient funds in his account. Further discussions were had on the potential of seeing about making our MOPERM bill be quarterly instead of annually. Commissioner Stites called our adjuster and requested our bill to be quarterly. Discussions were had on doing a deductible change to assist with the budget this year and we can re-evaluate it next year. Further discussions were had on refinancing the loans into 1 to create an easier work load moving forward and commission asked if the Sheriff would look into what expenses are allowed with the Drug forfeiture funds.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$19,158.67 for April Contract pay, \$7,102.95 for A - L and \$136,934.78 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Lakeside ARPA draw down:

Commission reviewed and approved the invoice for the Lakeside HOA project requesting some of their allotted ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,700.00.

Kirn and Tipton left at 12:02 pm.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 12:02 pm.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to 610.021(3), Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried. Moved to closed session at 12:03 pm.

In the matter of
Closed session:

HR Director Elizabeth Davis presented commission with the counter offer from Ms. Berry. Discussions were had on the counter salary of \$72,500 and a \$450 annual cell phone stipend with 3 weeks of vacation and no comp time. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the counter stipulations, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

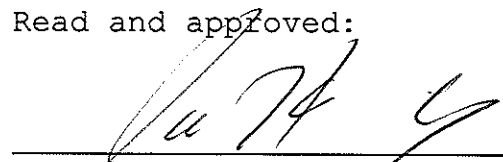
Commissioner Hicks moved to return to open session, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried. Returned to open session at 12:09 am.

In the matter of
Terminating secondary insurance:

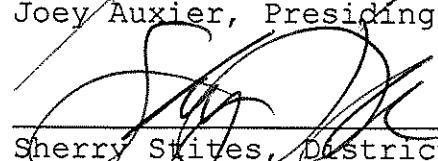
Davis advised commission we are having nothing but trouble with the billing department at Liberty National. She recommends we terminate business with Liberty National on 5/31/25. Commissioner Stites moved to terminate the contract with Liberty National starting May 31, 2025, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:15 am.

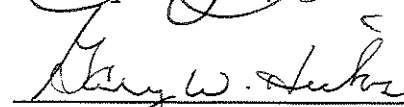
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
April 3, 2025 Second Day of the April Term

Now at this 3rd day of April, 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, Sheriff Mike Kirn and AP Clerk Erica Bargerstock.

In the matter of
Sheriff funds revisited:

Tipton presents statement of cash showing enough funds to cover the invoices in question last Tuesday and the current batch of invoices that need paid from the Sheriff's fund. Discussions were had on a scheduled zoom call with Gilmore and Bell on April 17th @ 9 am to look at refinancing into 1 loan to simplify all the payments coming up. Commission asked that we all reconvene at 9am next Thursday. Kirn advised he is up to 180 federal inmates as of this morning and he is still down by 2-3 jailers but has 10 per shift. He further advised he is staffed above what federal regulation require per his contract so they are sitting good at the moment.

Kirn and Bargerstock left at 9:38 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts \$22,467.96 for Summit Food Invoices, \$9,988.47 For A - L and \$4,535.05 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Opioid Litigation:

Discussions were had on Commission withdrawing from the non-pharmacy benefits managers lawsuits (PBM). Commissioner Hicks moved to withdraw, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Support Services Sissy Shults and Amy Asberry entered at 9:59 am.

Tipton left at 10:00 am.

In the matter of
Card Reader Bid opening:

As scheduled commission opened the singular bid received from Central Security at 10:05 am. Bid came in at \$37,275.00 for improvements to security with in the courthouse. Discussions were had on the bid and Korich advised she is happy with what was submitted. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the bid for modifications to our security system, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Korich and Asberry left at 10:15 am.

In the matter of
Letter of Support to Spencer Manner Winery:

Commission discussed providing a letter of support to Spencer Manner Winery supporting them hosting the MRPC annual awards banquet. Commissioner Stites composed the letter and commission signed it supporting Spencer Manor Winery.

In the matter of
Review of previous minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the April 1st commission meeting.

Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 11:20 am.

In the matter of
County Road 1360 Vacation request:

Commission called Mr. McCloskey about his request in looking at vacating some of a road around his property. Commission informed McCloskey that he already owns the road he is wanting to vacate.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:03 pm.

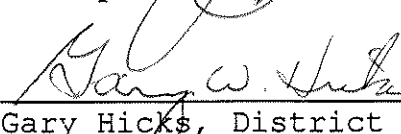
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
April 10, 2025 Third Day of the April Term

Now at this 10th day of April, 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 citizen Scott Schultz and Treasurer Cathy Tipton.

AP clerk Erica Bargerstock entered at 9:06 am.

In the matter of
Subdivision plat:

Schultz presented commission with a proposed subdivision plat for Whispering Oaks subdivision located off Hwy O. Discussions were had on the lots and the county specifications. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the final plat for the Whispering Oaks subdivision, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried. Commission advised Mr. Schultz to bring back 3 more copies so we can have original signatures as required by our specifications.

Sheriff Kirn entered at 9:13 am.
Schultz left at 9:22 am.

In the matter of
Jail fund discussions:

Discussions were had on the amount of incoming revenues due to new contracts and current expenditures.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$6,534.96 for Nationwide & Great-west, \$55,820.89 for A - L, \$141,355.82 for M - Z, \$19,029.92 for Senior Companions and \$33,090.03 for Sheriff's Dept Invoices.

Kirn left at 10:54 am.

Phelps Health CEO Jason Shenefield entered at 11:00 am.

In the matter of
Phelps Health updates:

Shenefield presents commission with an annual impact report on what the hospital is doing for the community. Discussions were had on a potential bond being presented to commission in the future.

Shenefield left at 11:29 am.

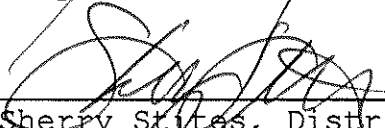
HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 11:29 am.

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

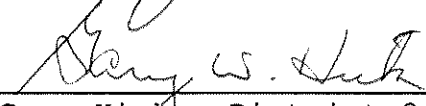
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
April 15, 2025 Fourth Day of the April Term

Now at this 15th day of April, 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 Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer and local resident Ray Schweikhardt.

In the matter of
PA Budget request:

Banholzer presents commission with budget request for an additional assistant prosecutor due to the large increase of cases needing prosecuted. Discussions were had on the position and the need to only request an additional \$5,000 of revenue as the remainder of the salary will be covered by PCLERF funds that are already allotted to the PA budget. Further discussions were had on the county growing and the crimes increasing due to the growth. Commissioner Hicks advised to go ahead and hire the additional assistant prosecutor and we will reevaluate the budget in June.

The Focus Reporter entered at 9:12 am.

Banholzer left at 9:17 am.

Tonya Greven and Mike Scott from BPJ entered at 9:24 am.

In the matter of
Floodplain permit application:

Commissioner Sites moved to approve the Floodplain permit for the ammonia pipeline, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in amounts of \$152,072.20 for MOPERM, \$26,505.49 for UMB bank EATS Rolla Westside TIF and \$4,075.69 for ADP Multi Vendors.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:35 am.

In the matter of
BPJ Quarterly report:

Mr. Scott presented commission with a quarterly report on where the county's plan currently sits. Discussions were had on the

claims, Prescription meds and office/ER visits. Discussions were had on potentially setting up a Wellness program.

Schweikhardt left at 9:46 am.

Coroner Ernie Coverdell and MCMEA representative Jim Akers entered at 9:53 am.

Greven and Scott left at 10:10 am.

Banholzer reentered at 10:40 am.

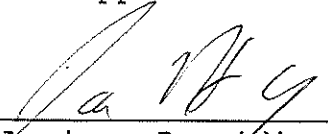
In the matter of
Coroner statutes discussions:

Coverdell introduced commission to MCMEA representative/Coroner of Butler county. Discussions were had on the coroner advising he has taken valuables from the residences of decedents, having law enforcement as witnesses, taking the items home or to his office and then turning it over to the family once located. Discussions were had on the statute advising per RSMO 58.451 that the only valuable items that are allowed to be taken are what is on the body. Banholzer advised there should be no rummaging of a house with out a warrant except for medication that is in the decedents name. Commissioner Hicks advised Coverdell he may have great intentions however the laws need to be followed in order to prevent lawsuits. Banholzer advised we must remain within the statutes period and not go outside of those. Banholzer advised the only person that should be obtaining weapons that could be utilized as the weapon of the crime is the law enforcement officer. Further discussions were had on the coroner and law enforcement have to work together to obtain all evidence and photograph/secure the scene and the investigation must be completed together. Further discussions were had on the coroner walking through what the process is on a death scene. Discussions were had on the new process the corner created by charging a fee to the funeral homes which in turn is likely being charged back to the families of the decedents in which he is not giving the option to the family. Banholzer advised you must be giving the families the option of the coroner charging to return or the funeral home returning the body moving forward. Banholzer asked Coverdell to advise what the most amount of bodies he has had at one time and he advised 3-4 bodies. Coverdell advised he has several cremated remains in his garage and Stites advised on a liability stance what happens when a fire, flood or tornado happens and those remains are no longer available. Discussions were had on the previous coroner claiming there was an agreement made with a local grave yard for storing unclaimed remains. Further discussions were had on those remains needing to go to a vault/tomb in a grave yard like outlined in RSMo 58.451 so there is no liability on the coroner or the county. Coverdell advised he would like to have a vault made for all of the unclaimed remains in the county. Further discussions were had on creating a "rose garden" to bury all the unclaimed cremains in a community area. Further discussions were had on what the Coroner is looking for in order to do his job. He advised he needs a cooler that could hold 4 bodies. Commissioner Stites advised she wants Coverdell to gather resources and provide numbers for his 2026 budget so commission can review and see if there is any possibility of providing tax

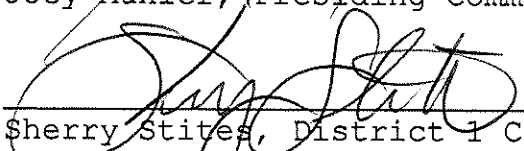
payer funds. Further discussions were had on the coroner currently having a temporary place to conduct his statutory duties at a local funeral home/crematory. Mr. Akers advised he recommends having an MOU with local law enforcement advising they will process evidence at death scenes. Mr. Akers advised that he is post certified and he has more training than a normal coroner like Coverdell who is not post certified. Banholzer advised her recommendation is to have their association be required to be post certified if they are pushing to have coroners take complete control of the death scenes and evidence. Coverdell advised he could take bodies to the accredited morgue in Crawford County and further advised he has already spoke with Coroner Dake in Crawford County who advised will only charge \$35 a day to store the bodies and he could have the autopsies completed there as well. Banholzer advised she wants the cremations out of Coverdells garage within 2 weeks. Banholzer further advised if he can not find a place to store them he can bring them into her office for temporary storage.

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
April 17, 2025 Fifth Day of the April Term

Now at this 17th day of April, 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 are Sheriff Mike Kirn, Treasurer Cathy Tipton and Ernie Kost with First State Community Bank.

Ryan Boatright, Mark Grimm, Ray Mowery and Erick Creach joined via Zoom.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion Loan:

Discussions were had on different types of refinancing options.

-Remedial action- is an option as a cost benefit analysis.

-Extending the debt out to 20 years from the current 10 years.

-Refinance to a singular 20 year half taxable half non-taxable loan.

Or

-Leave the first loan as is, if its rate is lower, and only refinance the second loan.

-Leave loan allocation at 50/50 and just refinance to a 20-year note.

Discussions were had on there now being 440 beds total 62 of those are in the annex. Further discussions were had if no proceeds have been used on the annex we can lease out all of the annex to the feds and an additional 50% of beds in the regular jail. Sheriff advised he would like to pay monthly instead of quarterly. Sheriff also advised all that is guaranteed with the contract is a price per federal inmate and a price for transportation.

Discussions were further had and all decided to revisit on April 29, 2025 @ 9am.

Grimm, Creach, Boatright and Mowery ended the zoom at 9:40 am. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:45 am and left at 9:50 am. Kirn, Kost and Tipton left at 9:57 am.

In the matter of
Assessors Quarterly Report:

Commission reviewed and approved the Assessors Quarterly report to state.

Jake Sbabo with Sbabo Construction, Caleb Homan with Archer Elgin and Jason Lortz with Lortz surveying entered at 10:00 am.

In the matter of
Emerald Springs subdivision plat:

Homan presents commission with a preliminary subdivision plat for the Emerald Springs Subdivision. Discussions were had on this subdivision being an HOA and the HOA potentially being responsible for passing on the county specs to home owners. Further discussions were had on the storm water drainage areas and the studies done in preparation of available home lots. Discussions were had on Archer Elgin being responsible for proof rolling and compaction testing of the road per county specs. Commissioner Stites further requested that Archer keep Sbabo, Road and Bridge supervisor Mark Case and herself during the whole process so there are no hiccups down the road. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the preliminary plat as it is drawn, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Lortz, Sbabo and Homan left at 11:13 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$4,595.16 for Liberty National, \$129,970.26 for A - L and \$85,272.93 for M - Z.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry and Office Manager Jennifer Wiese entered at 11:17 am.

In the matter of
Health Department updates:

Berry advised commission she has no documentation in the health department stating what the relationship is with Maries county. Commissioner Hicks provided several documents for them to make copies of and create a folder in the health department.

Berry and Wiese left at 11:32 am.
Road and Bridge supervisor Mark Case and Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 11:32 am.

In the matter of
Road and Bridge department updates:

Discussions were had on the Road department discovering an unmarked sewer line in Public Water district 2 area when digging to place a culvert. Case advised he reached out to district 2 and advised he needed the representative to come out on site and get the line notated to prevent issues moving further.

Discussions were had on Curtiss Manes now adding on charges to the contract to replace a fire pump. Further discussions were had on Case contacting Archer to address the issue of Curtiss Manes trying to present a change order adding additional charges.

Bock presented commission with a title for the new 2026 International dump truck to be signed by Commission.

Discussions were had on purchasing headsets for all road and bridge employees so that they can be compliant with the new hands-free laws.

In the matter of
Personal Property Court orders:

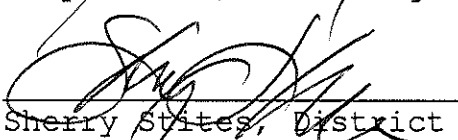
Commission reviewed and approved personal property court order #'s 2241, 2258, 2257, 2256, 2255 and 2254.

Hearing no other business Commission adjourned at 12:13 am.

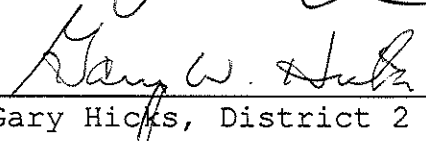
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
April 22, 2025 Sixth Day of the April Term

Now at this 22nd day of April, 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 Treasurer Cathy Tipton.

In the matter of
Closed Session:

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(14), Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried moved to closed session at 9:03 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go out of closed session, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried and moved to open session at 9:21 am.

In the matter of
CART Fees report:

Tipton presents commission with CART fees reports. Discussions were had on all being up across the board for the year.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:30 am.
Tipton left at 9:33 am.

In the matter of
Document destruction form:

Commission reviewed and approved the document destruction form for election, passport and various other materials that have met the retention period.

In the matter of
Personal Property Court Orders:

Commission reviewed and approved court order #'s 2267, 2266, 2265, 2264, 2263, 2262, 2261, 2260, 2259, 2270, 2269 and 2268.

Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer and HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 10:01 am.
Kojro left at 10:01 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried and moved to closed session at 10:02 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to return to open session, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried, returned to open session at 10:57 am.

Banholzer left at 10:58 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 4/15 and 4/17 commission minutes.

Health department Director Sonya Berry, employees Jeana Bahr and Jennifer Wiese entered at 11:04 am.

In the matter of
Business with Health code violations:

Berry advised commission of a local business that is refusing to make corrections in order to be compliant with state standards and provided a report packet for them to review.

Berry, Bahr and Wiese left at 11:23 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

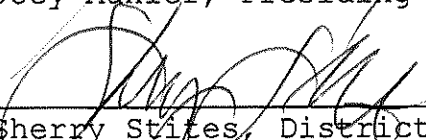
Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$11,290.00 for MAC Trust, \$20,469.46 for A - L and \$54,405.05 for M - Z.

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

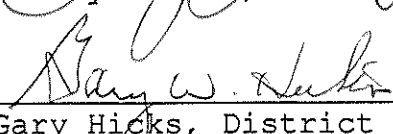
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
April 24, 2025 Seventh Day of the April Term

Now at this 24th day of April, 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

Allen Fay and Dawson Nimmo with Higginbotham and Local resident Ray Schweikhardt were also present.

In the matter of
Higginbotham Insurance:

Nimmo and Fay provided documents for Commission to review. Discussions were had on how competitive Higginbotham is compared to MOPERM. Nimmo advised they insure 1/3 of the state's counties. They are competitive with MOPERM, Travelers and ENJ. Advised they can do monthly billing and only charge roughly \$3 to mail the bill. Further discussions were had on the recommendation of staying with MOPERM until the end of the year so there are no penalties. Nimmo advised if commission is interested they will plan to have a proposal ready for the commission by 11/1/2025. Also recommends looking at CHUB for property, auto and equipment coverages. Nimmo also advised we have at least a dozen counties that split coverage with travelers and CHUB to still maintain fantastic coverage and save tax payers dollars.

Nimmo and Fay left at 9:40 am.
BPJ representative Kayce Smith entered at 9:41 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 4/22 commission meeting.

In the matter of
BPJ options for MOPERM:

Smith advised she has an option for financing the MOPERM bill. Discussions were on the total due right now is \$142,609.76. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve financing the MOPERM bill through BPJ finance options, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried. Monthly payments will be made in the amounts of \$62,701.32 due at the first of the month for 10 months. MOPERM will send an invoice 15-20 days in advance and as soon as we receive the invoice we will send out a check each month to make sure the payment reaches them in time.

Commissioner Auxier left at 10:20 for a prior scheduled event.

County Clerk appointed Commissioner Stites as Presiding Commissioner in the absence of Commissioner Auxier.

Prevention Consultant Jamie Myers entered at 10:38 am.
Schweikhardt left at 10:39 am.

In the matter of
Opioid committee request:

Myers presented commission with a proposal of implementing a Paramedicine program utilizing the opioid settlement funds. Discussions were had on utilizing this paramedicine person that will go out to citizens that need help with substance abuse issues without taking EMS from the emergent matters in our county. Further discussions were had on this being a more one on one situation to discuss all the available options and treatment plans with the individual without making them uncomfortable in a clinic or hospital setting. The current ask for implementing this program is for \$53,603.00 to purchase a vehicle for this program from the opioid funds. Further discussions were had on Phelps Health paying for the personnel that would be providing this service and them also paying for the insurance and maintenance of the vehicle.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:53 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to grant the requested funds to purchase a vehicle to implement the Paramedicine program, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.
Smith left at 11:00 am followed by Myers left at 11:09 am


In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$142,609.76 for MOPERM payment, \$62,752.19 for A - L, \$87,714.28 for M - Z, \$144,648.98 for KC Life and \$19,621.00 for April Election Judge stipends.

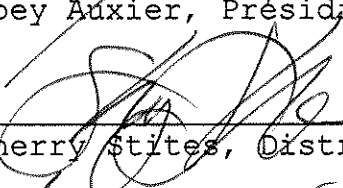
Tipton left at 11:30 am.

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

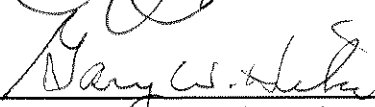
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
April 29, 2025 Eighth Day of the April Term

Now at this 29th day of April, 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, Sheriff Mike Kirn, Ernie Cost and Ray Mowery from First State Community Bank.

In the matter of
Gilmore & Bell meeting:

Discussions were had on the options of refinancing that Gilmore & Bell presented to all in attendance. Further discussions were had on the number of federal inmates depending on who we have in administration. Discussions were had on the bill circulating in the house to increase the state inmate daily housing fee and the sheriff requesting to increase the daily housing fee for federal inmates. These 2 increases alone will drastically help the sheriff's department to build revenue in the fund. Further discussions were had on the interest that will have to be paid up to date when these changes are made. Discussions were had on these options that will assist the county by dropping from 4 loans down to 2 and at a manageable payment schedule. Sheriff advised he would like to go with option 1. Commission advised they will take these options under advisement and get back with Mark Grimm once a decision has been made.

Commissioner Stites moved to approve Scenario 1 with the option to modify existing debt with no new money borrowed extending the maturity of the loan and allowing the modification clause of inmate counts as stated, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Kirn, Cost and Mowery left at 9:42 am.

In the matter of
KVC Foundation request:

Commission reviewed the KVC Foundation form of Local Government Certification. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the certification form, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$103,120.00 for Jail expansion interest payment and \$6,014.70 for Nationwide & Great-West.

HR Director Faith Barnes and Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 10:50 am followed by Assessor Tim Kean at 10:52 am. Support Services Sissy Shults and Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 10:58 am followed by Collector Faith Barnes at 10:59 am. Treasurer Cathy Tipton reentered at 11:01 am followed by Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace and Public Administrator Dana Sooter at 11:03 am.

In the matter of
Quarterly Department Head meeting:

Recorder asked if the county offices are still required to hold insurance on their copiers. Discussions were had on no other office holding insurance. She further advised she has purchased a new copier for her office. Discussions were had on the employee interaction months for the parking spot. Discussions were had on the potential of holding an employee BBQ in September.

Stites advised the employee Christmas party will be on December 5th at the Lions Den this year. She further advised she would like to see the county do a food drive to assist the back-pack program since school will be out soon. Further discussions were had on potentially hosting a coat drive in the colder months. Tipton advised she will reach out and get the county involved in the Take a Stand lemonade stand again for this year.

Kean advised his office is wrapping up the reassessment process for the year.

Discussions were had on the parking lots located across the street from the Health department and that all county employees should have access to any of it.

Sooter advised the only changes she has made is she has moved her office to be by appointment only. She had to do this to keep her client's information secure and prevent others from coming in during meetings to prevent sensitive information from being overheard.

Shults advised she has been working with a contractor to run wiring for all of our new key card access points. She advised when we get to a drier season she will have a company come out and reseal the windows. She further advised the .gov website is in process but will take a while to implement. New World cloud will be going live on May 14th, 2025.

Barnes advised the Senior Tax freeze is going well. She further advised she would like to see another office holder take over the school tours. Further discussions were had on the potential of creating a committee to take charge of the community involvement events. Stites advised she will send out an email to try and get volunteers gathered to create the committee.

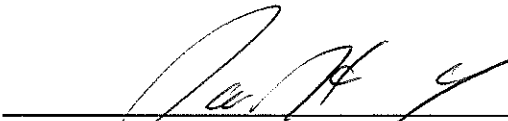
Berry introduced herself and advised of the staffing shortage she is dealing with at the moment. She also advised she has moved her clinical visits to appointment only. She further advised she will likely be coming to commission with starting rate pay increases since ours are significantly low compared to hospitals and doctors' offices.

Davis advised she has gone to every office to provide training and she is currently working to get ADP fully functioning. She is working to get all onboarding done in ADP which will cut down on delay in onboarding. She is working on getting the employee handbook together so it can be adopted and implemented. Further

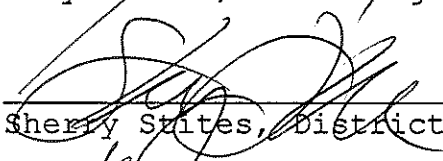
discussions were had on an upcoming email that will be going out advising of who would qualify for salary vs. hourly positions. Commission advised all in attendance to please help out and be respectful toward HR as they are here to do a job for the county.

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

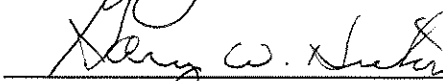
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

