

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 5, 2025 Twelfth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 5th day of August, 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  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 7/31 commission meeting.

In the matter of  
Flood plain addendum:

Commissioner Auxier advised he received correspondence that the county is over on our floodplain permit application amounts by \$27.00. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the payment, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:29 am.  
Sheriff Kirn and Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 10:00 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's Department discussion:

Commission asked Sheriff why they are paying out of pocket on an employee receiving services when our insurance provides and pays for these services. Kirn advised the employees do not want to go to a local person for these services and he did not reach out to Tonya at BPJ but he will be moving forward.

Discussions were had on the monthly expenses coming through from the Sheriff's Department. Commission advised Kirn that they can not provide him any more money to cover his expense as we are already below where we want to be on an ending balance for the next year. Discussions were had on what the new hire Corrections officers are costing the county. Rough estimate was about \$50,000 when you take salary, benefits and uniforms.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:20 am followed by Jamie Myers from Prevention Consultants at 10:22 am.

In the matter of  
Opioid Settlement Board request:

Myers advised commission he has a request from MS & T police for Narcan and Blood stop bandages in the amount of \$11,248.60. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the request, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Myers left at 10:26 am.

In the matter of  
Revisiting Sheriff's Department discussions:

Discussions were had on the Law enforcement sales tax that is coming in not able to pay a current payroll period due to growth on employee count. Discussions were had on the new Federal per diem rate taking effect in January of 2026 which will help a bit. Commission asked about food per diems, sheriff advised if it is just an ICE run there will not be any food reimbursements. He further advised if they are out doing multiple runs through out the state the employees may be eating breakfast, lunch and dinner and requesting reimbursements.

Further discussions were had on where the county ATV and UTV is parked at since commission could not find it to inspect for insurance. Kirn advised it is housed in the annex garage. Commission asked if there is any vehicles or trailers that the county could sell to build revenue and decrease our insurance policy. Kirn advised he will talk with maintenance and Lt. S. Jarrett to see if there is anything we are not utilizing.

Discussions were had on the positions that are open at the Sheriff's department still as they are having trouble getting people to apply for them. Lasher advised her recommendations of cutbacks would be from the overpayments that are being conducted on employees through ADP. Tipton advised she is digging into these numbers but she needs some more time to gather information. Lasher advised she has gathered documentation that proves they are paying employees correctly by following the 171 federal rule. Discussions were had on the 7k law and how they are accruing comp time. Lasher advised the counties that are getting in trouble are not accruing the time correctly. She further advised she has a lot of number figuring that she has to do with each employee. Further discussions were had on the codes imported to ADP and the need to have a list so we can see how we have set everything up correctly. Commission asked what the checks and balances are currently in place for payroll in order to prevent as many issues as we can. Johnson and Davis advised we have one employee running a benefits report to review before payroll is pushed through, and 2 other employees go through payroll to try and catch any errors prior to the payroll push through. Further discussions were had on the biggest problem on catching the overpayments to employees due to the sheriff's department following the 28-day cycle so it throws everything off. Stites asked if we all understand the 171 rule and further explained how she understands the process for law enforcement. Davis advised within the courthouse employees are paid out 1.5 comp and the sheriffs are just banking those hours, not paid. Davis advised Justin reversed all codes back to what it was upon implementation before he left us a month ago so the original codes are already in the system now. Davis advised everyone that she has already submitted tickets to have all these questions corrected and she is diligently working on it. Discussions were had on why a particular employee wasn't terminated on the day that the county support services received notification state they are no longer employed. Sheriff advised

they were paying out the time built up while the investigation was ongoing. Johnson advised but the county has now been paying that employees benefits and retirement when we shouldn't have. Stites advised that employee should have been paid out day of termination so that the county doesn't spend more on the benefits and retirement.

Discussions were had on what areas there are to potentially cut on the budget expenses at the sheriff's department. Sheriff advised he doesn't have a lot of fat to cut. Commission asked what the cost associated with the COPS program is. Sheriff advised there is only one person on payroll for that program and other than that he just has fuel expenses.

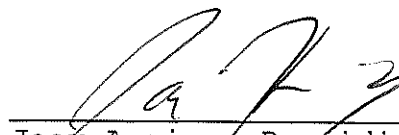
Commissioner Hicks advised the asset forfeiture account is down roughly 10 million from where we were a few years ago. Sheriff advised he has hired several part time transport people to cut cost on salary and benefits. He further advised he could benefit from the purchase of a bus to cut down on spending by not having to send out 6 transport people that are all salaried. Commission advised they would recommend suspending the COPS program to be able to build a bit of revenue. Further discussions were had on if they are able to lease a larger van/bus to cut cost and would they have the ability to sell one of their current vans to further build revenue. Sheriff advised as of July 31<sup>st</sup> he will not have any more overtime paid for employees that were filling in at the annex so that is a savings right there.

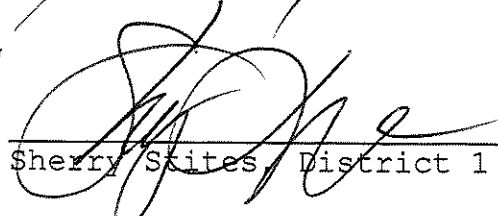
In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$3,901.29 for ADP Multi-Vendor and \$19,158.67 for August Contract Pay.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:58 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Skites, District 1 Commissioner

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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 7, 2025 Thirteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 7th day of August, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

In the matter of  
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 8/5 commission meeting.

In the matter of  
Document Destruction Form:

County Clerk provided commission with a Document Destruction form for Accounts payable and times sheets that have met retention per statute. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the destruction of records, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Commission and County Clerk left chambers at 9:40 am to attend the Ground breaking on the new VA Clinic.

In the matter of  
VA Clinic Ground Breaking:

Several members of the community, several active and retired military personnel and several employees of the VA programs in our country were in attendance. Discussions were had on the new clinic being able to provide services to 172,000 veterans in the surrounding areas. Further discussions were had on this facility providing veterans with the services that are already in place at the St James clinic along with several other new services that veterans have asked for.

Citizens on Patrol members Judy Jepsen and Russ Schmidt entered at 10:47 am.

In the matter of  
New service dog for the COPS program:

Jepson brought in the new therapy dog, Annie, for the COPS(Citizens On Patrol) program to meet commission and make her debut. Annie is officially certified and the program is thrilled to be able to take her to assist citizens through out the county.

Jepson and Schmidt left at 11:04 am.  
Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 11:08 am.

In the matter of  
Public admin updates:

Sooter advised commission that she has an employee that has been screwed out of time by former clerk employees. She further advised that our current HR director has been working with her and her employee to try and figure the last few years of vacation time to make it right for that employee. Discussions were had on how Sooter is very thankful that we have a true HR person that cares about the employees.


In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

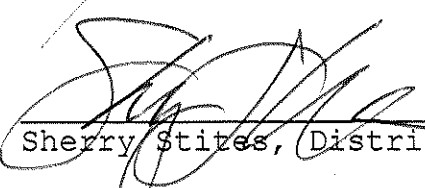
Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$166,890.03 for A - L, \$18,089.64 for M - Z and \$19,359.28 for fund 410 expenses.

Sooter left at 11:38 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:45 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 12, 2025 Fourteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 12th day of August, 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  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 8/4 closed session and 8/7 commission minutes.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:04 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$36,505.78 for UMB Bank 50%EATS Westside TIF, \$6,446.05 for Great West & Nationwide, \$5,144.54 for US Bank and \$137,914.00 for Self-Insured UMR & KC Life.

Jennifer Wiese from the Health Department entered at 9:30 am.  
Wiese left at 9:31 am.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:32 am.  
Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:45 am.

In the matter of  
Opioid Settlement funds:

Tipton advised commission with some follow up from what was approved for purchase in a previous meeting for Narcan and Bleed stop bandages. Tipton advised she will bring in the formal requests once the board finalizes the purchase and amounts.

In the matter of  
CD Bid opening:

As Scheduled Commission opened bids for a county CD as follows:

- 10:00 am - Jefferson Bank
- 10:02 am - The Bank of Missouri
- 10:04 am - Phelps County Bank
- 10:06 am - Legends Bank
- 10:07 am - Citizens Bank of Midwest
- 10:08 am - Maries County Bank
- 10:09 am - First State Community Bank
- 10:10 am - Southern Bank

Submitted interest rates are below:

Bid Opening  
 Tuesday, August 12, 2025 @ 10:00 am

| \$50,000 Unemployment Fund         |                          |                           |                            |                                |             |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                    | 6 Month CD Interest Rate | 12 Month CD Interest Rate | Money Market Interest Rate | Other Investment               | 6 Month APY | 12 Month APY |
| 10:07am Citizens Bank of Midwest   | 4.5                      | 4.25                      | .25                        | N/A                            | 4.59        | 4.33         |
| First Community National Bank      | NO BID SUBMITTED         |                           |                            |                                |             |              |
| 10:07am First State Community Bank | 2.25                     | 4.0                       | 1.05                       | 7 month CD 4.10                | 2.26        | 4.06         |
| 10:00am Jefferson Bank             | 3.687                    | 3.4935                    | 2.50                       | ∅                              | 3.75        | 3.55         |
| 10:00am Legends Bank               | 4%                       | 3.75                      | N/A                        | N/A                            | 4.04        | 4%           |
| 10:00am Maries County Bank         | 4.5                      | 4.25                      | .55                        | ∅                              | 4.58        | 4.32         |
| 10:04am Phelps County Bank         | 4%                       | ∅                         | See Sheet                  | 15 month CD 4.25 RATE 4.42 APY | 4.06        | ∅            |
| 10:10am Southern Bank              | 4.14                     | 3.91                      | 9 days mobil - 100 points  | N/A                            | 4.23        | 3.99         |
| 10:02am The Bank of Missouri       |                          |                           |                            | 3.79 APY                       | ∅           | ∅            |
| Town & Country Bank                | NO BID SUBMITTED         |                           |                            |                                |             |              |
| US Bank                            | NO BID SUBMITTED         |                           |                            |                                |             |              |

\*Interest rate for the general fund is based on the federal funds rate. The current interest rate is 3.6%.

Discussions were had on the bids and how the county wishes to proceed with the investment. Commissioner Hicks moved to invest the funds into Maries County Bank on a 6-month CD at 4.5%, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Kojro left at 10:18 am.  
 Tipton left at 10:21 am.

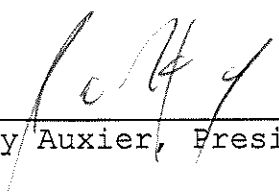
In the matter of  
 Health Department contracts:

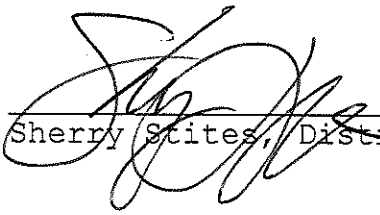
Wiese provided commission with 2 contracts for review and approval. Commissioner Stites moved to approve contracts for Public Health Emergency Preparedness in the amount of \$23,449.00 and Overdose Data to Action in the amount of \$256,913.32, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

The Focus Reporter entered at 11:00 am and left at 11:10 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:26 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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 Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



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Sherry Scites, District 1 Commissioner

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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 19, 2025 Fifteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 19th day of August, 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 Sgt Glenn Suschanke and Collector Faith Barnes.

In the matter of  
Deputy Supplemental Grant:

Suschanke provided commission with a grant for Deputy supplemental salary funds. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the grant in the amount of \$78,797.40, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Suschanke left at 9:03 am.

In the matter of  
Collector updates:

Barnes advised the County Tax sale is on Monday 8/25/2025 @ 10 am.

Barnes advised the next step in the Senior Tax Freeze process is to have the presiding commissioner sign all the applications.

Barnes left at 9:15 am.

In the matter of  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 8/12 commission meeting.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$113,158.87 for Sheriff's fund 410, \$101,363.58 for A - L and \$56,939.04 for M - Z.

Hicks left do to other scheduled obligations at 9:20 am.

In the matter of  
Family Caregiver Proclamation:

Rescheduled to Thursday at 11 am due to not having a quorum for a vote.

No longer having a quorum or any further scheduled business  
commission adjourned at 10:30 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 21, 2025 Sixteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 21st day of August, 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 Health Department Director Sonya Berry, The Focus Reporter and Deputy Assessor Paul Long.

In the matter of  
Health Department grants:

Berry presented commission with a FEP contract that would provide \$43,449.00 in funds during emergencies. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Berry presented commission with a Daycare contract that provides an increase in reimbursable expenses associated with daycare inspections. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Berry left at 9:11 am followed by Long at 9:13 am.

In the matter of  
Crisis Intervention request:

County Clerk presented commission with a request for funds from the Crisis Intervention funds in the amount of \$325.00 for pest control. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the funds, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Ken Bergman entered at 9:21 am followed by Collector Faith Barnes at 9:23 am and Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer at 9:26 am.

In the matter of  
Citizen Input about Coroner:

Mr. Bergman advised commission he has been asked by the Republican central committee to investigate what is going on with the litigation with the Coroner. Commission asked what is the committees specific concerns. Bergman advised he was not aware of the county having a coroner and he was asked to look into the matter of the conflicts among the GOP Leaders in Phelps County. He advised commission the October 2, 2025 meeting the committee will be addressing the issues and invites the commission to attend. Barnes advised she would not call the Coroner a Leader as in the county we are Elected Officials. Barnes further advised there is information in the minutes referencing the coroner and what is going on in the county. Mr. Bergman advised he was a civil servant while in the naval

academy and he learned a lot about investigating and further advised he will do some research by looking at the minutes that are public.

Banholzer left at 9:36 am followed by Barnes at 9:41 am.

Mr. Bergman asked if commission and the county clerk would like to be added to his email notifications for the conservative meetings they hold over lunch to discuss concerns happening in the community.

Local resident Chester Crider entered at 9:47 am.  
Bergman left at 9:48 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$6,580.76 for Great-West & Nationwide, \$22,334.50 for A - L and \$8,718.60 for M - Z.

In the matter of  
Citizen input:

Cochran Engineering called in to commission chambers to discuss being put on the agenda for September 2, 2025 @ 11 am.

Sheriff Kirn entered at 10:13 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's Department purchase:

Discussions were had on the invoices received for purchasing a 22 passenger van for the sheriff's department. Sheriff advised he \$207 dollars a day for one vehicle and if he ran 3 vans like he is now its over \$600 a day. He advised it would be a 150,000 savings by not running 3 vans. County Clerk Johnson attempted to fill everyone in on the basic costs associated with the Sheriff's department remaining expenses of \$3.3 million for the year but was talked over. Sheriff further advised he needs to have his current 3 vans in order to take care of the federal inmates and he needs this new van just for ICE inmates. Commissioner Stites advised when the jail expansion project was presented it was just for the federal inmates not the ICE inmates. Sheriff advised that is correct. Discussions were had on the potential of cutting the contract with ICE as it was not beneficial to the county. Kirn advised having the ICE inmates has incurred costs in food, medical, staffing and transport and there's not enough revenue coming in to offset it. Stites advised it would be in the county's best interest to terminate the ICE contract. Kirn reiterated that the termination would save money on transport and wear and tear on the vehicles. Stites further advised being a new program and the with unforeseen expense, the federal government should be looking to reimburse the counties. Kirn advised he can make a phone call to

the Feds and inquire about asking for a vehicle and he is going to advise them he will no longer be housing ICE inmates. Just on transportation of ICE inmates he is spending \$13,000 a month and that does not include food, medical and other costs associated.

Further discussions were had on the additional costs associated with state inmates that the county may not receive any funds for years. Kirn advised he will let ICE know he will not be taking or housing anymore ICE inmates starting September 1, 2025, Commission agreed to this.

All in attendance decided, due to the cut of ICE inmates, the 22 passenger van will not be purchased.

Kirn left at 10:36 am followed by the focus reporter at 10:39 am.

In the matter of  
Jail Expansion Loan Amendment:

Commission received the Jail Expansion Loan Amendment Lease for the \$2,400,000 Tax Exempt portion of the loan. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the lease at 20 years, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Mark Heflin entered at 10:59 am.

In the matter of  
Bridge at Martin Springs Drive:

Heflin advised commission that he spoke with MODOT and they are not going to do anything. Commission advised the bridge plans came from MODOT and were approved by MODOT so the county has done nothing wrong and will not be doing anything. Heflin advised he will be a big problem for this county and he is going to be reaching out to the tribes who own the land. He further advised Mr. Auxier better grow his hair long because the tribe will be coming after him now because the county has disturbed sacred land. Heflin further advised the county has disrupted the spirits on that land and there will be consequences.

Heflin left at 11:04 am.

In the matter of  
Family Caregiver Proclamation:

Commission received a request for support of making the month of November "Family Caregivers Month". Commissioner Stites moved to approve the proclamation assigning November as Family Caregivers Month, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

JOEY AUXIER  
Presiding Commissioner  
573-458-6121

SHERRY STITES  
Commissioner District I  
573-458-6120

GARY W. HICKS  
Commissioner District II  
573-458-6122

## Phelps County Commission

PHELPS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
200 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 105  
ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401

Phone: 573-458-6000  
Fax: 573-458-6119

LAURA JOHNSON  
County Clerk  
573-458-6101

### A Proclamation on Family Caregivers Month

In Phelps County, Missouri

THIS NOVEMBER, In Phelps County we recognize the 800,000 family caregivers across the State of Missouri who are helping their older parents, spouses and other loved ones live independently in their homes – where they want to be.

Whereas Phelps County family caregivers are among 48 million Americans nationwide who are being recognized in November, National Family Caregivers Month. These individuals hold up a broken long-term care system. The physical, financial and emotional toll on them is great. They help their loved ones with everything from managing medications and medical care, meal preparation and feeding, bathing and dressing, chores, finances, grocery shopping, transportation and more. Many family caregivers work full or part-time at paying jobs, and many cut back their hours or quit their jobs entirely to make sure their loved one gets the care they need.

Whereas Missouri's dedicated family caregivers provide 750 million hours of care every year, adding up to \$11.6 billion in unpaid labor annually.

Whereas family caregivers deserve our gratitude, but they also need commonsense solutions that save them time and money and provide support.

Whereas Everyday heroes, family caregivers in Phelps County help their older parents, spouses, siblings, or grandparents live independently with dignity.

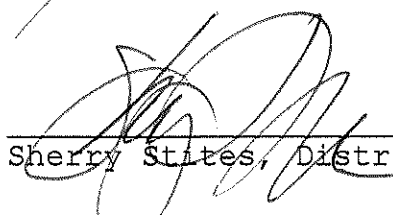
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joey Auxier, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter of the County of Phelps, Missouri, do hereby proclaim November 2025 as Family Caregivers Month in Phelps County. Chances are if you are not a family caregiver right now, you may be at some point, or you know someone who is, or you will someday need a family caregiver yourself to help you live independently at home. I encourage all residents of Phelps County to reach out to the family caregivers in their lives, thank them for the incredibly important work they do and support them if you can.

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:16 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 26, 2025 Seventeenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 26th day of August, 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.

In the matter of  
CART Fees report:

Fuel tax is up over all and doing great.  
Sales tax and vehicle fees are down from last month but pretty flat compared to last year's rates.

In the matter of  
Opioid Fund discussions:

Tipton advised we have obligated a little less than half of the funds received to date. She further asked commission if they are ok with utilizing some of the funds to pay for the costs associated with the meetings held and commission agreed that would be acceptable. Tipton further advised the committee has provided a request following up from their proposal. Stites advised the verbiage on the request does not match the proposal so it needs to be corrected. Further discussions were had on this needing to be a reimbursable expense so the county is not out that money if this student does not put in the required 20 hours of training/research for this program.

In the matter of  
Drug Court discussion:

Stites advised she spoke with Judge Clayton about the drug court options now that the funds have been cut by state. She further advised that drug court will reach out to contracting local taxi services for transportation for the drug court participants and is looking into tracking options for those that are required per their court orders.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 9:18 am.

In the matter of  
ISOLVED requests:

Tipton presents commission with questions related to the banking info request for ISOLVED. She asked commission and HR if there is a monthly fee associated plus additional funds? Davis advised she understood it to be a fee based as you utilize it not monthly. Further discussions were had that the Health department

utilizes this program and we need to see about just joining their system and then having invoices sent to the departments utilizing it. Further discussions were had on not providing banking info and instead requesting be invoiced so that the county has a working paper trail for auditing reasons. Further discussions were had on the need for creating a COBRA line for the expense associated to a former employee utilizing it.

Staff Sgt. Glenn Suschanke entered at 9:29 am.

In the matter of  
Emergency management grant:

Suschanke provided commission with a grant stipulating the Memorandum of agreement with emergency management salary at \$15,600 a year to be paid at \$1,300 a month for the 12-month contract timeframe. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the grant, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Suschanke left at 9:31 am.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:32 am.

Davis left at 9:40 am followed by Tipton at 9:49 am.

In the matter of  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 8/19 and 8/21 commission meetings.

Jeff Banderett from Great Rivers Engineering entered at 10:01 am.

In the matter of  
RTA Pilot program:

Banderett provided commission with Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program application. Discussions were had on the 7 low water crossings (3 on CR 8050, 1 on CR 6100, 1 on CR 6190, 1 on CR 6220 and 1 on CR 6080) that commission feels need to have improvements made. The requested funds from this program are in the amount of \$350,000. Commissioner

Commission further discussed the need for the bridge on CR 2110 and 3620 to be submitted for BRO funds at an 80/20 match for replacement.

Kojro left at 10:30 am followed by Banderett at 10:40 am.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 10:44 am followed by deputy assessor Paul Long at 10:45 am.

In the matter of  
WIC Grants for Health Department:

Berry provided commission with grants for WIC funds in the amount of \$248,620.00. Commissioner Stites moved to accept the WIC grant, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Assessor Tim Kean entered at 10:55 am followed by Treasurer Cathy Tipton, Senior Companions Director Yvonne Leuthauser, Circuit Clerk Marlaina Wallace, Recorder Robin Kordes, Support Services Sissy Shults and Collector Faith Barnes at 11:00 am.

In the matter of  
Quarterly department Head meeting:

Kordes advised as of August 28, 2025 no one under the age of 18 years can get married due to new laws. She further advised commission that they are responsible for the October parking spot so they need to work on an activity for September. Further discussions were had on if we wanted to set up a booth again out front for Halloween. It was decided with the low turnout last year we will not be doing it this year. Kordes also advised we need to start thinking about a family to adopt for Christmas. The employee Christmas party is set for December 5<sup>th</sup>. Discussions were had on the Menu, DJ and door prizes. Further discussions were had on including the sheriff's department in this event again this year. Kordes advised this costs a lot of money and she felt like lots of sheriff employees arrived and not enough monetary donations were made to cover the costs of the event. Davis advised we are a county of 1 and we need to start acting like it and not segregating anyone outdo to personal feelings.

Stites left at 11:20 am for a prior arrangement meeting.

Kean advised he has an employee that is thinking about performing wedding services and potentially willing to donate the fees from this service to the County Christmas party for the employees. Kean further advised he will talk to that employee again and get a definitive answer.

Berry advised due to the big beautiful bill her department is dealing with significant grant funding cuts. She further advised she is working on finding ways to offset these cuts but nothing set in stone at this time. She advised that she has implemented an updated policy manual for her office and all of her employees have been informed of the changes.

Barnes advised she is thrilled with the monthly parking space and she feels pampered. She further advised the yearly tax sale was held on Monday that the County Clerk had to attend as well do to statutory requirements. She advised the sale was good and we did have some no sales again this year.

Tipton advised she has been working with the auditor along with the County Clerk and we are almost finished with that. She further advised she feels like not everyone is utilizing ADP properly and feels like we need to have some training to get everyone on board. Davis advised she does have some department heads that are still utilizing paper timesheets and not utilizing the time keeping in the ADP system. Barnes advised she does not like ADP, she feels like it is not user friendly and there are too many mistakes that she feels can't be corrected. Commission asked if anyone likes ADP besides Davis, no one advised yes.

Shults advised we are changing our plan with AT&T to FirstNet which is priority for our lines and is cheaper to the county budget. She further advised anyone with an ipad or county phone can join the network and will have priority bandwidth. Kean advised he is thinking of adding a hotspot to the new assessor fleet vehicles and if he needs to go through Shults or AT&T. Shults advised he needs to go to her to set it up.

Leuthauser advised she is still waiting on the Senior Companions grant that funds her department. Commissioner Auxier advised he has reached out to Senator Smith and that the public has praised how Phelps County Senior Companions is the best but there are other counties that did not use the funds properly and this is why that program funding is looking at being cut.

Kean advised some members of the public did not receive a notice of the increase in valuation. He further advised he is looking at getting ready for 2027 and the states mandatory increases.

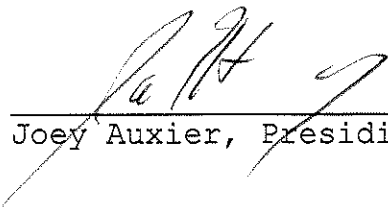
Johnson advised we now have a GOVDeals account that any county office holders are welcome to use to sell items that they have been waiting on placing in the county Surplus sale. Johnson asked if any office holder is willing to take on the Passports as her office has been inundated with them and it's causing them to place their daily work aside. Kordes advised she would love to take them off of our hands. Discussions were had on passports being processed in the recorder's office in Pulaski, Miller, Laclede and Dent County. Commissioner Auxier advised to put it on the agenda for further discussion. Johnson further asked if any office holder is utilizing Everbridge for county notifications as it is costing the county \$15,000 annually. No one in attendance is utilizing for notifications to the public however some are signed up for receiving notifications of weather. Commissioner Auxier further advised to place this matter on the agenda as well for more discussion.

Shults advised she would like to place the funds from the dead battery sales into the vending machine fund, commission advised absolutely. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the funds from these sales into the vending machine fund to help with costs associated to county employee events, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Auxier advised we have lost our Marijuana tax funding thanks to a supreme court ruling. Kean asked how stacking the marijuana tax is any different from the alcohol and tobacco tax that is also stacked. Auxier further advised the only supreme court official that voted in favor of counties keeping the tax was a Zel M. Fischer.

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

Read and Approved:

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





**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**August 28, 2025 Eighteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 28th day of August, 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 Jill Johnson.

In the matter of  
The Centre pool:

Johnson advised she is a swimmer and she utilizes the indoor pool and wants to know if the county would be willing to chip in or take over the Centre. Commission advised they can not as that is in the city limits.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:04 am followed by Assessor Tim Kean at 9:05 am.

In the matter of  
Delinquent property:

Barnes advised she has a parcel that has been a no sale for 3 consecutive years and she now has to implement a sealed bid process. She further provided the below information to inform commission of what the process is.

**POST 3<sup>RD</sup> TAX SALE OFFERING**

**2025**

Officially posted August 28, 2025

Accepting sealed bids: August 28, 2025 – September 23, 2025

**LAST ABSOLUTE MOMENT TO TURN IN SEALED BIDS FOR THIS FIRST ROUND IS:**

**10AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

**SEALED BIDS WILL BE REVIEWED BEGINNING AT  
8:15AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025.**

WINNING BIDDER WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY AFTER AND WILL HAVE 24 HOURS TO PAY.

ANY PROPERTIES NOT RECEIVING A MINIMUM BID WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE TO BE PURCHASED OVER THE COUNTER IN PERPETUITY AFTER SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, EVERY 30 DAYS

Current properties available for post-3<sup>rd</sup> bids:

| Account Number | Owner of Record   | Property Legal/Descr.                   |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| 5767           | Barker, Heather R | Lot 5 Block 8 Powell S23 T37 R9; .46 AC |

In the matter of  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 8/26  
commission meeting.

In the matter of  
Public Tax hearing:

County Clerk provided commission with the calculated tax levy  
for Road and Bridge and General Revenue. There is a slight  
increase from last year into this year as the valuations  
increased. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the Road and  
Bridge levy at 0.0934, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion  
carried. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the General  
Revenue levy at 0.0883, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion  
carried.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 9:15 a.m. Thursday, August 28, 2025 in the Phelps County Commission Office in the  
Courthouse, 200 N. Main St., Rolla, Missouri, at which time citizens may be heard on the proposed 2025 tax rates to be set by  
Phelps County. The tax rate is determined by dividing the amount of revenue to be raised by the current assessed valuation. The  
result is multiplied by 100 so the tax rate will be expressed in cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

| ASSESSED VALUATION<br>(By Category) | CURRENT TAX YEAR<br>2025 | PRIOR TAX YEAR<br>2024 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Real Estate                         | \$ 597,894,080           | \$ 542,379,520         |
| Personal Property                   | 164,494,849              | 159,896,009            |
| Railroad & Utility – State          | 32,703,811               | 34,592,825             |
| Railroad & Utility – Local          | 1,397,387                | 2,306,541              |
| Less Tax Increment Financing        | -7,243,010               | -7,243,010             |
| TOTAL                               | \$ 789,247,117           | \$ 731,931,885         |

| FUND            | AMOUNT OF PROPERTY<br>TAX | TAX RATE<br>CEILING | PROPOSED TAX<br>FOR 2025 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| General Revenue | \$ 696,972                | \$0.2610            | \$0.0883                 |
| Road & Bridge   | \$ 737,230                | \$0.1864            | \$0.0934                 |

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Laura Johnson, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus – Thursday, August 21, 2025

Barnes left at 9:31 am.

In the matter of  
CART Program participation letter:

County Clerk provided commission with a letter of participation  
for FY 2026. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the letter  
notifying conservation of Phelps County participating,  
Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Kean left at 9:54 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$31,919.11 for A -L and \$68,420.83 for M - Z.

Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 10:09 am.

In the matter of  
Document Destruction form:

County Clerk provided commission with destruction form for records that have met retention per retention laws. Commissioner Stites moved to approve, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Document Destruction

August 27, 2025

Commission approved on 8/29, 2025

Shredded on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Payroll reports retention met records from: | January 2004 – December 2004 |
|   | January 2005 – December 2005 |
|   | January 2006 – December 2006 |
|   | January 2007 – December 2007 |
|   | January 2008 – December 2008 |
|   | January 2009 – December 2009 |
|   | January 2010 – December 2010 |
|   | January 2011 – December 2011 |
|   | January 2012 – December 2012 |
|   | January 2013 – December 2013 |
|   | January 2014 – December 2014 |
|   | January 2015 – December 2015 |
|   | January 2016 – December 2016 |
|   | January 2017 – December 2017 |
|   | January 2018 – December 2018 |
|   | January 2019 – December 2019 |

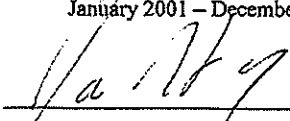
|                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Time Sheets retention met from: | January 2020 – December 2020 |
|                                 | January 2021 – December 2021 |

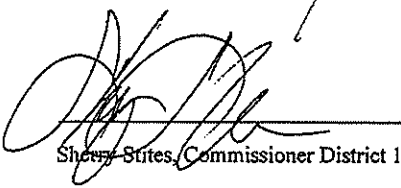
|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 941 forms retention met from: | January 2007 – December 2007 |
|                               | January 2004 – December 2004 |
|                               | January 2002 – December 2002 |
|                               | January 1999 – December 1999 |

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Receipts retention met from: | January 2013 – December 2013 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Journals retention met from: | January 2015 – December 2015 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| W-2's retention met from: | January 2001 – December 2007 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|

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

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

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

Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 10:09 am.

In the matter of  
Conflict of Interest Ordinance:

Commission reviewed the Conflict of Interest Ordinance for the county. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Lorraine McFarland entered at 10:18 am.

In the matter of  
The Centre pool revisited:

McFarland advised she uses the pool at the Centre and when she came in there was a survey asking how people would feel if the pool is closed October 1. She advised she utilizes the pool to assist with health issues and she is concerned that members living outside the city limits do not have any option to vote on implementing a tax. She asked commission if they would put a measure on the ballot allowing the county residents to have a vote on the Centre. Commission advised it would cost a lot of money to do so as when the commission placed the use tax on the ballot in April just the commission portion was \$14,000. Commission further advised they do not have the revenue to support the costs associated with the Centre and they do not feel like it would be good use of tax payer funds with all the ongoing issues. Stites advised she would suggest forming a committee and seeing if there would be a chance at partnering with MS&T to utilize their facility. She further advised to reach out to Ted and Kim Day foundation to see if they will help. Commission further advised they wished they could help in the matter but they just can not take on that expense.

Stites left at 10:30 am.

In the matter of  
Passports being transferred to another office:

Commission, County Clerk and Kordes discussed the potential of the Recorder's office taking over as the Passport Agency for the county. Commissioner Stites moved to approve moving the passport agency to the Recorder's office once she has the training completed and her office rearranged to accommodate the public, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

The Focus Reporter entered at 10:51 am followed by Tony Floyd and Kristin Sullins from IECA at 11:00 am.  
Kordes left at 11:04 am followed by McFarland left 11:06 am.

In the matter of  
Bahr Property:

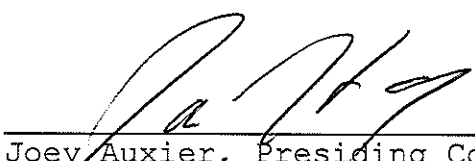
Discussions were had on another interested party on the Bahr property. Further discussions were had on the potential of creating specification guidelines for an industrial subdivision similar to residential.

Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 11:12 am.

Johnson, Floyd and Sullins left at 11:45 am.

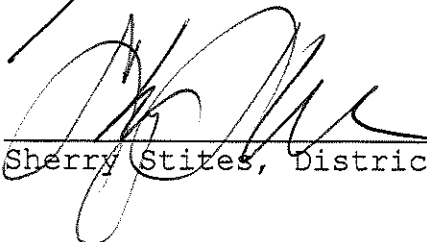
Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:50 am.

Read and Approved:



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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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