

Phelps County Commission Record

May 1, 2025 Nineth Day of the April Term

Now at this 1st day of May, 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 Sheriff Kirn.

In the matter of
Sheriff department updates:

Kirn advised they had their first ICE walk thru and it went very well. Discussions were had on the recommendation by ICE of having a quarterly CPR/First aid training instead of once a year. Further discussions were had on the potential of utilizing the courthouse security funds to be able to supplement the sheriff's department when the corrections officers are present for the numerous court hearings being held. Commission advised they would reach out to the Prosecuting Attorney to see if this would be allowed.

Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 9:34 am.

Lasher advised commission of a potential holiday pay issue. She explained she is having an issue advising employees that they were paid over time if they worked the holiday instead of banking it and if they didn't work the holiday then they would just have a normal paycheck since the county offers the paid holidays. She further advised she and Elizabeth spoke to ADP about fixing the time in the system and it is being worked on. Commissioner Stites advised we have an issue here with employees being labeled as salaried but they are earning hourly benefits and she sees this as a big issue. She asked the Sheriff if his CPL's and SGT's are salaried, he advised no salaried time starts until you reach a LT's position and those individuals don't gain comp time. Further discussions were had on the need to reach out to an attorney to figure out how we need to move forward. Commissioner Hicks advised there is a sheriff's department patrol vehicle parked in a designated patient parking spot in front of the health department that they would like moved. Further discussions were had on allowing all county employees to utilize the gravel parking lot without being told they can't park there. Sheriff advised he would like to see the county recognize employees who go above and beyond the call of service like the City of Rolla does.

In the matter of
Review of previous minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 04/24 and 04/29 commission meetings.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$19,158.67 for May Contract pay, \$90,182.98 for A - L and \$26,360.04 M - Z.

Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 11:00 am.

In the matter of
ICE inmate remains:

Coverdell advised he is having an issue with getting the family to advise what they want done with the remains of the ICE inmate that died. Discussions were had on the matter and the fact that the coroner and sheriff were advised the county had a plot in a cemetery to bury indigent remains but no one has been able to locate records. Further discussions were had on the sheriff advising we should reach out to the Columbian Embassy to see how we should move forward with the cremation and what to do with the ashes. Sheriff advised he will find out where the plot is located so we know what to do moving forward.

Coverdell left at 11:16 am.

In the matter of
Document Destruction Form:

Commission reviewed the document destruction form listing documents from elections in 2016, 2022 and 2023 that have met retention deadlines. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the destruction form, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Lakeside HOA ARPA fund draw down:

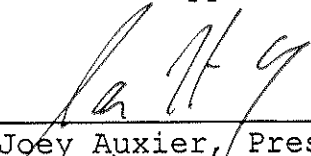
Commission reviewed and approved the invoice for ARPA funds draw down to Lakeside HOA in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Kirn and Lasher left at 11:36 am.


Commissioner Stites left for a prior scheduled engagement at 11:42 am.

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

Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Gary W Hicks

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

May 6, 2025 Tenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 6th day of May, 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 Ernie Kost and Ray Mowery from First State Community Bank.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion refinance:

Kost advised commission that he is concerned with the upcoming Phelps Health bond that could mess up our tax-exempt options for this year. Further discussions were had on the county only being able to have a bond in the amount of 10 million per year.

Local resident Chester Korjo entered at 9:36 am.

Commission called Mark Grimm with Gilmore and Bell at 9:47 am.

Discussions were had with Grimm on Phelps Health's intentions of a multimillion-dollar bond proposal to the county for hospital improvements. Further discussions were had on the bond processes so all in attendance understands.

Discussions were had on deferring payments on phase 1 & 2 until next year. The only payments that would be made at this time would be any interest owed.

Kost, Mowery and Tipton left at 10:13 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/1 commission meeting.

In the matter of
SCMCCTF grant application:

Commission reviewed and approved a grant application for the South Central Missouri Computer Crimes Task Force in the amount of \$181,102.22.

In the matter of
Lakeside HOA ARPA fund draw down:

Commission reviewed and approved the Lakeside HOA invoice for ARPA fund draw down in the amount of \$5,200.

Kojro left at 10:24 am.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 10:24 am.

In the matter of
ADP additions:

Davis presents commission with the onboarding module proposed by ADP in the amount of \$6,825.00.

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the amendment to the ADP contract, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
FMLA moving to out of house:

Davis presented commission with documents on a company that works with BPJ to handle all FMLA claims. This would help the county to be more compliant with HIPPA and provide the employees a more comfortable environment without judgement when needing to go on FMLA. Commissioner Stites advised she wants employees to go straight to HR if they feel they need to go on FMLA. Commission advised they like this idea and just want to get a definitive cost of this system.

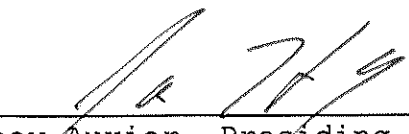
In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$22,038.69 for M - Z, \$65,810.69 for A - L and \$4,024.03 for Multi-Vendor Invoices.

Davis left at 10:46 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:57 am.

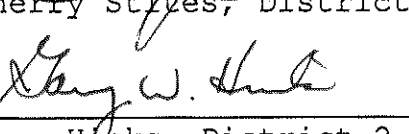
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
May 13, 2025 Eleventh Day of the April Term

Now at this 13th day of May, 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 Sheriff Mike Kirn and local resident Gary Gregory.

In the matter of
Citizen Input:

Discussions were had on nuisance neighbors off of Tony Burg road.

Gregory left at 9:08 am.

In the matter of
County indigent grave:

Sheriff advised he located the county's indigent grave site that is in the Ozark Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Discussions were had on the county potentially needing to purchase another child size box to be able to bury the remains that are in the coroner's office. Further discussions were had on the AG's office advising the sheriff that we do not have to list the names of the indigent cremains on a mass grave.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:08 am.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion loan:

Discussions were had on the options provided to the county on the 05/06 meeting with refinancing the jail expansion loans. Further discussions were had on the county needing to pay the current interest due for August and November. Sheriff advised he wants to move forward with the refinance option starting the paperwork in December. Commissioner Hicks advised he wants the sheriff to make sure he does not expand expenses on current or new programs and to only spend funds on critical areas so that he can build up his reserves in fund 410.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:25 am followed by local resident Chester Kojro at 9:31 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed invoices and questioned an invoice for autopsy on a suicide. Commission questioned the Financial malfeasance on several autopsy's being done when there is no foul play indicated. Commission approved the invoices in the amounts of \$4,550.16 for March Liberty National, \$20,404.28 for UMB bank April EATS Rolla Westside TIF, \$26,234.82 for April Senior Companions Stipends, \$24,850.87 for A - L and \$18,811.06 for M - Z.

Sheriff Kirn left 9:53 am.

In the matter of
ADP Payroll process:

Tipton asked commission if we need to have a revamped process to make it a better process. Commission advised they do not need to sign to make the transfer 72 hours ahead of time just the actual signed payroll sheet with the amount. Commission advised they are fine with keeping the process simplified and advised moving forward we will message commission ahead of time asking for approval to move forward with Payroll. County Clerk advised she will send out the group text to commission and then print out the responses so there is a paper trail for auditing purposes when pay dates fall on days that commission is not in office.

Tipton left at 10:05 am.

In the matter of
Collector updates:

Barnes advised she will be at the capital Thursday and Friday because her association is attempting to get some bad bills modified. She further advised NACO has a Federal Priorities Policy magazine that she picked up and informed commission of some of the articles on items that will affect citizens. She advised the PILT from forestry in Phelps County is only \$1,800.00 and NACO feels this is not equitable to the counties so they are working on increasing this. She further brought to commissions attention a Get TO Know Us magazine. She advised currently only the collector and assessor are participating in it and asked if the commission would like to be involved.

Barnes left at 10:23 am followed by Kojro at 10:24 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/6 commission meeting.

In the matter of
FMLA contract:

Discussions were had on the option to go to a company called Basic for all of our FMLA needs. This contract would have a setup fee of \$465.75 with a monthly fee of \$195.62. Commissioner

Stites moved to approve the contract, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

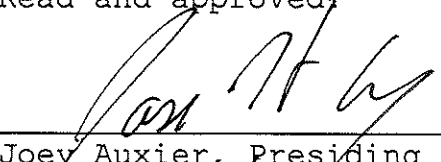
In the matter of
Record retention policy:

Commission reviewed and approved the retention policy for documents pertaining to employee records. This policy was created by following SHERM and Mineral updated policies.

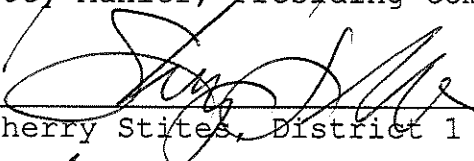
Local resident Lowel Blackwell entered at 11:37 am.

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

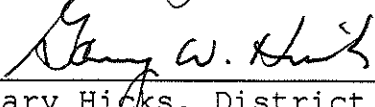
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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

Now at this 15th day of May, 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 Great Rivers Engineering employees Jeff Banderet and Krista Schwarts.

In the matter of
TAP program:

Discussions were had on the area that needs a sidewalk for the safety of the citizens on Old Wire Outer Rd. Further discussions were had on the need to obtain an agreement with MODOT since this sidewalk would be on their right of way. Discussions were had on meeting with the City of Rolla as this area is in city limits.

In the matter of
TEAP Study review:

Banderet, Schwarts and Commission reviewed the TEAP study documents. Discussions were had on the current study verses the last study done in 2007.

The Focus Reporter entered at 9:43 am.

Discussions were had on several grant opportunities available to counties to fix the high priority roads from the TEAP study. Further discussions were had on the timeline and the fact that if approved likely will not be able to start the project until Spring of 2026. Banderet advised he would suggest funding in the amount of \$266,000 which would then only cost the county roughly \$50,000.

Road and Bridge Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 10:03 am.

Banderet and Schwarts left at 10:14 am.
Local resident Dale Wands entered at 10:24 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes form the 5/13 commission meeting.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Wands advised he is struggling with the courts not doing what is right vs. what is wrong. He further advised when he files a claim on tenants that it is taking 3 months to even get a court date scheduled. He feels that landlords are penalized do to the way our court system works and it is affecting them financially. He further explained that he ends up in court with tenants that have a long history in casenet of renting and not paying. Commission asked Mr. Wands if he does a credit report check and background check on each tenant prior to leasing to them. Wands advised he doesn't do that because he wants to give people a second chance.

Sheriff's Department Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 10:38 am.

Commissioner Stites advised Wands of a program called "Emergency Rental Assistance Program" through the US Treasury department.

Wands left at 10:52 am.

Local resident Bob Tyler entered at 10:52 am.

In the matter of
Citizen Input:

Mr. Tyler advised he went to get a transfer on death document for his tax freeze and the Recorders office charged him \$30 for it when he advised it is already on file with the Recorder's Office. He further advised that he spoke to Kordes today and explained what happened but Kordes told him your mistake was advising you wanted to file this that's why you were charged. He wanted to express his unhappiness about the matter to the commission.

Tyler left at 11:01 am.

Doolittle Police Chief Chris Finch entered at 11:02 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$45,549.31 A -L and \$29,156.76 for M - Z.

The focus and Finch left at 11:27 am.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 11:28 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff department invoices:

Lasher advised she is getting pressure from River City Construction to make at least a \$57,000 payment on the last 2 remaining invoices for the construction project. Commission asked if the expansion project has been signed off on with a closeout date yet?

Lasher left at 11:46 am.

In the matter of
Health Department budget review:

Berry presented commission with some trajectory budget numbers. Discussions were had on the proposed market salary increases and amount of staff. Further discussions were had on the proposed budget numbers vs. the former directors' budget numbers. Commission advised they like the proposed salary increases for the staff that meets the market rate.

In the matter of
Floodplain application:

Commission reviewed a floodplain application for Bryan Wilson. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the application, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

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

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Phelps County Commission Record
May 20, 2025 Thirteenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 20th day of May, 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 Sheriff Kirn and Ernie Kost with FSCB.

In the matter of
Higginbotham Zoom:

Commission joined a zoom meeting with William Page and Dawson Nimmo from Higginbotham insurance to discuss the upcoming review of our property and buildings.

Discussions were had on the following areas:

- 1- Hot work
- 2- Formal written smoking controls
- 3- House Keeping controls
- 4- Roof maintenance program
- 5- Water mitigation program
- 6- Business Continuity program
- 7- Fire suppression maintenance
- 8- Electrical preventative maintenance

Further discussions were had on the needs to be implemented in order to have a good coverage plan with Travelers insurance through Higginbotham.

Kirn left at 9:15 am.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:20 am followed by Local resident Chester Kojro at 9:33 am.

Nimmo and page left the meeting at 9:49 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$101,242.81 for A - L and \$83,542.41 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion loan Refinance:

Kost advised commission he has an updated and restructured finance loan document for the Jail expansion loan. He presented the documents to commission. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the restructuring of the loan, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Kost and Tipton left at 9:56 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the 5/15 commission meeting.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 10:10 am.
Kojro left at 10:11 am.

In the matter of
Comp time pay out:

Davis advised commission she believes there was some miscommunication and is looking for the clarification on whether we pay out comp time or not. Hicks advised the actual hours worked with what ever leave is used should get them evened out to the regular hours needed for that pay period. Further discussions were had on the 1.0 comp earned being paid out as straight and then the 1.5 comp earned is being paid out as overtime, commission agreed.

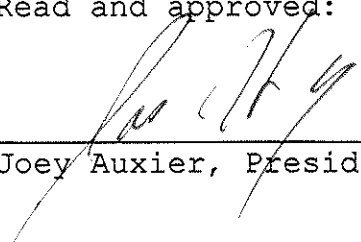
Support Services Sissy Shults entered at 10:20 am followed by local resident Chester Crider at 10:30 am.
Crider left at 10:31 am.

In the matter of
Phelps Health bonds:

Commission reviewed the documents that were sent from Gilmore and Bell for the new bond for Phelps Health. Commission called Scott Waller with Gilmore and Bell to discuss the matter. Discussions were had on the verbiage of the document pertaining to the 2014 and 2015 outstanding bonds. Further discussions were had on the document advising the 2014 and 2015 bonds are being studied along with current market to see if they have the funding to pay those 2 off or if they leave them as is and continue to make yearly payments. Discussions were had on just waiting for the board to bring the county the final document before taking any action.

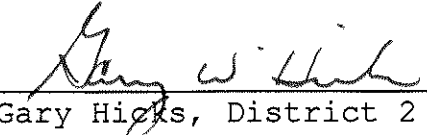
Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:57 am.

Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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

Now at this 22nd day of May, 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 AP Clerk Erica Bargerstock.

In the matter of
CART fee's report:

Tipton provided commission with Cart Fee reports. Discussions were had on the Motor Vehicle sales tax being up from last month and last year, Motor Vehicle fees being up from last month but down from last year and Motor Fuel tax being up from last month and last year.

Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer entered at 9:30 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff's department fund:

Discussions were had on the standing of the sheriff's funds.

In the matter of
Letter to Coroner:

Discussions were had on a letter composed by the Prosecuting Attorney and approved by Commission to the Coroner.

JOEY AUXIER
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER
573-458-6121

Phelps County Commission

SHERRY STITES
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT I
573-458-6120

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

LAURA JOHNSON
COUNTY CLERK
573-458-6101

GARY W. HICKS
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT II
573-458-6122

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

05/22/2025

Dear Elected Coroner Ernie Coverdell,

In the April 15, 2025, Phelps County Commission meeting, you asked to be heard on Missouri Statutes regarding elected coroners and their roles, duties, and responsibilities. During this meeting several concerns were raised by yourself, as well as the Commissioners. We are writing this letter as a follow-up to what was discussed during that meeting.

Pursuant to RSMo 58.451, "the coroner shall take possession of all property of value found on the body, making exact inventory of such property...". At the April 15th Commission Meeting, as well as in the letter penned by yourself and published in the Phelps County Focus on February 4, 2025, you have admitted to taking items of value well beyond what is allowed by Missouri Statute. No items are to be taken from any death scene beyond what is found "on the body" or "may be useful in establishing the cause of death, and deliver it to the prosecuting attorney of the county." RSMo 58.451(1) (emphasis added). This is dictated by Missouri Statute. Further, you have been removing items without consent of the proper party or a warrant. This cannot continue as it exposes yourself and the county to liability. RSMo 570.030; RSMo 537.010. As you are an elected government official, you do need a warrant to remove private items from the homes of decedents. US Constitution, 4th Amendment. As of April 15, 2025, you should no longer be removing any items from the homes or surroundings of any decedent, unless as directly outlined by Missouri Statute.

Secondly, you brought up that you have been charging \$100 to funeral homes to bring the deceased remains back from autopsies, all of which take place out of Phelps County. While the county and taxpayers appreciate that you have made an effort to bring in revenue for the county, this was not authorized or approved by the commission prior to your beginning this practice. RSMo 58.600. It is worth noting that the use of public funds for a

private purpose is unconstitutional. Missouri Constitution, Article VI, Section 25. All revenue and invoices should be deposited with the Phelps County Treasurer. The Commission has several concerns about this practice, with exposure to liability being the primary concern. If you are receiving payment from a business after performing an agreed upon duty for that business, a contract has formed, and you are acting outside of the scope of your elected duties. This is problematic in that your vehicle is a county-owned vehicle, using gas paid for by the taxpayers, and insured by the county. The family of the decedent is then paying twice - first through their tax dollars, then through the payment of your fee to bring the decedent back to Phelps County. Further, if you were to get into an accident, insurance would likely dispute that you were acting within the course and scope of your elected duties, as you have contracted with a private business to transport a decedent. This leaves the county exposed to any damages awarded from any accident you would get into, as the county insurance would likely deny coverage, as you had contracted outside of your duties. The liability risk outweighs the revenue that you would bring in from this practice. As a Commission, we are directing you to perform your duties as coroner, and leave all decedents to be dealt with as their families deem appropriate. This does not apply to the unclaimed decedents, who remain in your custody.

The unclaimed human cremains must be returned to a county-insured, and secure building. This is of the utmost importance and prevalence, as these are currently not being handled properly according to RSMo 58.460. Until these cremains can be properly buried and/or deposited in a marked grave, they must remain secure and unharmed. The current status of the cremains in your personal garage is unacceptable. We feel it is prudent to find an appropriate outcome for these cremains quickly and respectfully. If there is not space in your office, space will be provided for the cremains.

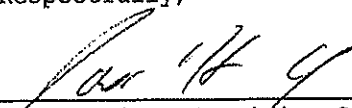
Any and all items found on the bodies of decedents should be inventoried, reported, and returned to the person entitled to its possession. RSMo 58.451(1). All items removed from the decedents of Phelps County should be kept in a County operated, secured and insured facility for liability purposes. If this is not the current situation, it needs to be remedied immediately. The personal effects of decedents found on their person, must be kept safe. If there is not space in your office, space will be provided for the items found on the bodies. There should be no

other items in your possession. Pursuant to Missouri Statute, unclaimed money or property found on a decedent, should be turned over to the Public Administrator within thirty (30) days. RSMo 58.490. Again, this must be done to protect yourself and the county from liability.

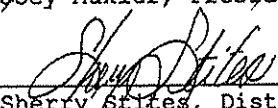
Lastly, there have been multiple citizen complaints about the operation of your county vehicle running code and creating hazardous conditions on our roads. This cannot continue. First, it is dangerous to the community. Our citizens expect their elected officials to obey the rules of the road. They expect us to conduct ourselves in such a manner to not cause them harm. Second, it is a liability concern: operating a motor vehicle negligently is an instance which expressly waives sovereign immunity. RSMo 537.600(1). This exposes yourself and the county to substantial liability if you were to get in an accident. Therefore, unless directed by dispatch, per policy, do not operate your vehicle with the lights activated.

Please understand that this is not a personal attack on you as the elected official. This is to protect the county and its tax payers from risk of liability.

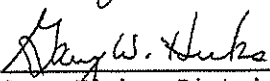
Respectfully,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$60,797.37 for Sheriff 410 invoices, \$4,209.58 for Liberty National, \$14,213.37 to Great Rivers Engineering, \$6,447.19 for A - L and \$8,251.42 for M - Z.

Tipton, Bargerstock and Banholzer left at 10:32 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/20 minutes.

The focus reporter entered at 11:00 am.

The focus reporter left at 11:30 am.

In the matter of
Speed limit signs in College Hills Subdivision:

Discussions were had on implementation of 35 MPH speed limit signs for the college hills subdivision. Further discussion was had on communicating with the road department for their advice on assessing the need in this area.


Deputy Roger Jarrett entered at 11:55 am.

In the matter of
Return of service:

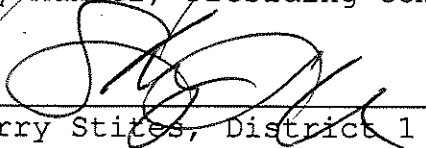
Deputy Jarrett provided commission with proof of service of the composed letter to Coroner Ernie Coverdell.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:59 am.

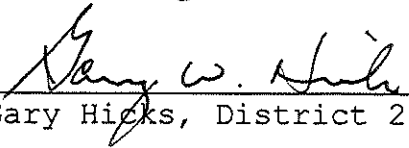
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
May 27, 2025 Fifteenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 27th day of May, 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
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$6,026.19 for 4/30 Great West & Nationwide and \$6,222.02 for 5/15 Great West & Nationwide.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Frank Meyer called commission to advise of a road wash out due to a culvert being backed up. Discussions were had on whether the culvert is county property or privately owned.

Senator Smiths field representative Grant Wilson entered at 9:18 am.

Wilson left at 10:50 am.

Local resident Richard Smith entered at 11:15 am.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Mr. Smith advised commission that he would like to see about the county abandoning County Road 5130 that dead ends at his property. Smith further explains that people come down that road and realize it dead ends then utilizes his personal driveway to get back out to the road. Discussions were had on the road vacation process.

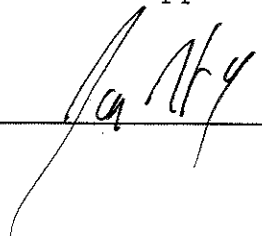
Smith left at 11:30 am.

In the matter of
Flood plain admin invoice:


Commission reviewed and approved the invoice received from MRPC for Floodplain administration in the amount of \$4,591.50.

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

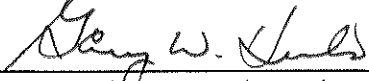
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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

Now at this 29th day of May, 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 Road and Bridge Admin Assistant Michelle Bock.

In the matter of
Road Facility Change Order:

Commission reviewed a change order from Curtiss Manes Schulte for replacement of a damaged fire pump. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the change order in the amount of \$23,841.00, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Bock left at 9:33 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$9,587.07 for A - L, \$4,919.16 for M - Z and \$135,572.35 for April UMR & KC Life.

Assessor Tim Kean entered at 9:44 am.

In the matter of
Floodplain application:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the floodplain application for Tina Reagan, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Assessment news:

Kean advised commission the valuation notices went out Tuesday and he is fielding some calls related to why we had an increase in assessment. Discussions were had on the State tax commission requiring the counties to be within 90 to 110% of the market value. He advised we are now close to 70 - 75% of the current market value after these notices went out.

Kean left at 10:12 am.

In the matter of
Stop sign at CR 4010/4030:

Discussions were had on a citizen concern that was brought to the road departments attention on the need for a stop sign. Further discussions were had that a stop sign needs to be placed at this intersection. Commissioner Stites moved to place a stop sign at the intersection of CR 4010 and 4030, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 10:33 am followed by Sheriff's Department Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 10:34 am.

In the matter of
Public Admin news:

Sooter advised commission that she just received 5 new wards today. Further discussions were had on the nursing homes now turning over wards to the public admin that do not have any family. Sooter advised with this continued increase of wards she advised she needs another full-time employee to help. Discussions were had on the position being estimated at \$50,000 which includes the benefit package so she would need roughly a \$30,000 budget increase for the year.

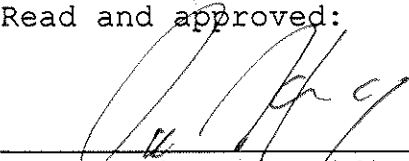
Sooter left at 10:59 am followed by Lasher left at 11:08 am.

In the matter of
Review of Previous minutes:


Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/22 and 5/27 commission meeting.
Collector Faith Barnes entered at 11:42 am followed by Dana Sooter reentering at 11:45 am.

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

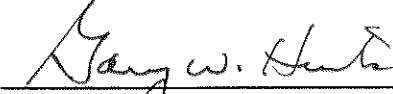
Read and approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner