

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

Now at this 2nd day of October, 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 Mac Trust Representative Sean McGogile and Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt.

In the matter of
MAC Trust Workman's Comp:

County Clerk asked Mr. McGogile if we had an employee die while at work with in a few days would workcomp pay out any kind of life policy? McGogile advised if say an employee was killed while on duty that MAC trust would pay the spouse/children \$10,000. He further explained if the employee had been employed for a while they would then take an average of that and provide the family a lumpsum based on those hours and pay. County Clerk thanked Mr. McGogile and advised there were discussions about changing the date of when the county's Life insurance policy would go into effect but this will create an issue with the billing side so she just wanted to make sure the employees will be taken care of if we do not make changes. She further advised other counties life insurance policies do not take effect until 60-90 days after date of hire.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 9:13 am.
Commissioner Stites left for an appointment at 9:15 am

Mr. McGogile advised his visit today was to introduce himself to the new faces in the county and to sit with Davis to go over what MAC Trust covers for the employees.

Davis and McGogile left at 9:37 am.

In the matter of
Road Vacation Petition in Jerome:

Commission reviewed the petition that was brought forth for the 28th blk off 5th Street in Arlington Township- Sec 13, Township 37, Range 10. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the petition, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Commissioner Stites reentered at 10:15 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$107,928.73 for A - L and \$73,869.91 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 9/30
commission meeting.

In the matter of
ARPA Drawn down requests:

Commission reviewed and approved Draw down #12 for Duke fire in
the amount of \$3,843.71 and #8 for Lakeside HOA in the amount of
\$21,745.00.

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

In the matter of
Phelps Health updates:

Discussions were had on the construction project that is
starting this month for the ER expansion. Shenefield advised
commission they do have a letter of intent with the Centre.
Discussions were had on the conversations determining who would
oversee the operations and what other potential programs the
hospital could move to the Centre. Further discussions were had
on the need to look at Medicare reimbursements to make sure
patients are not reimbursed at a lower rate by moving it over to
the Centre instead of being held at the Hospital.

Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 11:13 am.

Commissioner Stites asked how employee retention is at Phelps
Health. Shenefield advised they are good but still under the
national average. Discussions were had on the possible affects
of the new Veterans clinic that is being built and the potential
for Phelps Health to lose employees due to pay rates associated
with a federal building vs county.
Further discussions were had on the press release of the new
medical plans they have put in place to assist the patients and
the doctors in the hospital through the Medicare advantage plan.

Sooter advised she has been contacted by Dr. Voight that she has
to be present at all patient surgeries if they are her wards.
She further advised all of her staff are deputized and have the
same permissions she has as the public administrator. Shenefield
advised that must be miscommunication as that is not what they
have been discussing so he will try to get it clarified. He
further advised he will get with the hospital attorney and the
Public Admin attorney so they can make sure everyone is
operating by the laws.

Shenefield left at 11:29 am.

In the matter of
Death in the county:

Sooter advised the coroner has recently gone to a death at a place off of Lynnwood. She advised the roommate advised him she is going to be a county decedent as she has no family. Further conversation was had on the money that was removed from the body being given to a Rolla PD officer. The RPD officer reached out to Sooter to ask where they are supposed to keep the money and she advised it was her understanding that money needs to be logged and held at the sheriff's department. Sooter advised on top of this she is now being called by the funeral home because they have been holding this body on ice for over a week and need to do something with it. Dana further advised she has no authority over this deceased subject until she is ordered by court and no one seems to know who is supposed to start the process for that court order.

Commission called Coroner Ernie Coverdell at 11:42 am and asked about this subject to find out why she is still sitting on ice and hasn't been cremated. Coverdell advised he has been trying to find a next of kin. Commission asked how long are we going to do this and Coverdell advised he is following the 10 day statute but he has not had any luck finding next of kin so this person has been scheduled for cremation on Monday. Coverdell further advised he has been in contact with the funeral home so they are aware of what is going on.

Sooter left at 11:54 am.

In the matter of
MOPERM renewal:

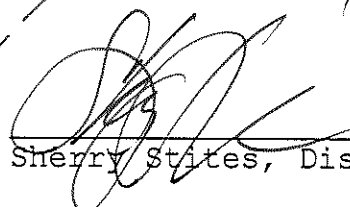
Commission received the insurance quote from MOPERM that came in at \$810,202. That is a \$103,948 dollar increase from last year. Discussions were had on waiting to see what the quotes from Travelers and Chubb come in at before any decisions are made.

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

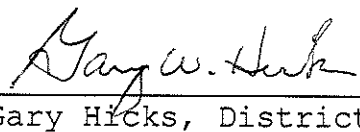
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 7, 2025 Second Day of the October Term

Now at this 7th day of October, 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

Deputy Clerk Lisa Dowdy took minutes.

Caleb Honigan with Archer Elgin entered at 9:02 am.

In the matter of
Emerald Springs Subdivision:

Honigan advised commission about the elevation change of the roads, creating no need for storm water conveyance. Discussions were had on the need of the county to approve the base of Phase 1 build.

Sheriff Mike Kirn and Detective Shawn Hedge entered at 9:30 am

In the matter of
SCCG Grant:

Hedge presented commission with a grant for South Central Computer Crimes in the amount of \$164,225.00 for 6/1/25 through 5/31/26. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the grant, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Hedge left at 9:40 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff's Department updates:

Kirn advised commission he has come up with some ways to save money. He further advised the new Jail Admin has put out a bid for medical services that could save the county \$200,000 a year and they are looking at providing their own food service that would provide a savings of \$4,500 a week.

Kirn further advised he still has 13 ICE inmates and has been in contact with the Assistant Director over ICE. Discussions were had on the possibility of the jail being a drop off point only for ICE inmates, no transporting and only housing those ICE inmates that are here for a long term stay to cut down on demand of his jail staff. Kirn further advised that the government shut down should not affect ICE payments but he is still waiting on back payments to come in.

Kirn advised he needs assistance in getting the WEXbank bill paid in the amount of \$10,000 as all his gas cards have now been shut off. Kirn advised in the mean time he will have his staff use the Casey's gas cards.

Local Resident David Shaw entered at 11:20 am.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Shaw advised commission he wants an apology from the sheriff's department. He further advised he had squatters on his property and when he went to remove them, he ended up firing 3 shots into the ground which resulted in his arrest. Discussion was had back and forth with Commission, the Sheriff and Mr. Shaw.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

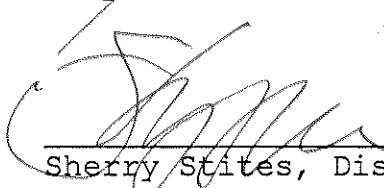
Commission reviewed and edited minutes from the 10/02 commission meeting.

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

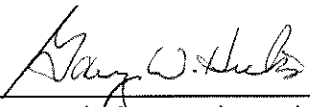
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 9th, 2025 Third Day of the October Term

Now at this 9th day of October, 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

Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt took minutes.

Also present was Treasurer Cathy Tipton.
Local resident Bethany Boultes entered at 9:06 am.

In the Matter of
Treasurer Updates:

Tipton provided Commission with Cart Fee reports. Motor Vehicle sales tax is up from last month and last year. Motor Vehicle fees are up from last month but down from last year. Motor fuel tax is up from last month and last year.

Tipton also provided a budget performance report in regard to overtime/vacation/holiday pay. Discussed that several offices are tracking over budget at this time.

Tipton discussed how interest from Funds 400 and 450 goes into general revenue and recommends that if changes are made to that it should be done in 2026.

Discussed the Opioid Committee in regard to meeting supplies. Wanted to know if a request needed to be put in each month to provide for supplies such as lunch because it was being provided by committee members out of pocket. Commission suggested requesting \$3,000.00 a year for meeting supplies and putting into their bylaws as well. Tipton will approach the committee with this.

Also discussed Judge Clayton in regard to drug court. Last years approval was \$6,000.00 for drug court tracker and \$20,000.00 for transportation. Would like to see a different allocation since there is a bigger need for housing than transportation. Suggested \$17,000.00 for drug court tracker (\$8,500.00 for men and \$8,500.00 for women), \$5,000.00 for transportation and \$10,000.00 for 1st month's rent/utilities/housing deposit. It would raise from \$26,000.00 to \$32,000.00.

Discussed setting up a meeting to discuss AMJ Marijuana tax money. No meeting scheduled yet.

Tipton mentioned that it would be a good idea to meet up to discuss what they would like to do prior to talking to First State Community Bank about the refinancing.

Commissioner Stites left at 9:15 am for an appointment.
Boultes left at 9:24 am.
Health Department Admin Jennifer Wiese entered at 9:46 am followed by local Attorney Bryce Crowley at 9:48 am.
Tipton left at 9:52 am.

In the Matter of
Program Services Contract:

Wiese presented a Safe Cribs for Missouri Program contract in the amount of \$5,000.00. Commissioner Hicks motioned to accept. Commissioner Auxier seconded. Motion passed.

Wiese left at 9:55 am followed by Crowley at 10:02 am. Commissioner Stites re-entered at 10:15 am.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:19 am to hand over applications for the senior tax freeze to be signed by Presiding Commissioner Auxier. Barnes left at 10:19 am.

In the Matter of
CERF Annual Contribution Election:

Commission Stites motioned to accept the current annual contribution election to remain the same in 2026. Commissioner Hicks seconded. Motion passed.

In the matter of
Semis blocking CR 2220:

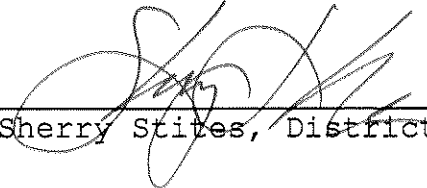
Discussion was had in regard to a citizen's email concerning two semi-trailer trucks parked side by side on CR 2220 blocking traffic from getting through. Commissioners called Road & Bridge admin Michelle Bock about getting a couple of signs stating no semi parking.

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

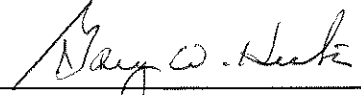
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 14, 2025 Fourth Day of the October Term

Now at this 14th day of October, 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 Representative Don Mayhew and Assessor Tim Kean.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/07 and 10/09 commission meeting.

Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 9:08 am.

In the matter of
House Representative updates:

Mayhew advised commission that when he entered the state house as a representative he discovered the state was millions in arrears to the county's jails for housing inmates. He further advised when he started asking questions about it he ended up being placed on the corrections board and this year he is Chairman. He further advised after doing some research he discovered there were several inmates that were in jail for more than a year awaiting trial. Further discussions were had on most of the inmates in jail for more than a year usually never receive a sentence in the amount of time that they have spent in jail. Discussions were had on the state only paying the county's housing these inmates if they are sentenced to a Missouri DOC which leads to several counties losing money. Mayhew provided a form to the Sheriff to fill out the requested several areas of information related to the jail so they can gather proper information to see how they can assist. Further discussions were had on the potential of creating a blocked off section in the new prison at Cameron, MO so that the rural counties can transfer the several inmates needing mental health evaluations to remove some of the burden off of the counties. Mayhew further advised this would help the inmates that need the proper services for their mental health conditions and cuts down on law suits creating a savings for the entire state at every level. Discussions were had on this creating the statutory maximum pay out to the counties of \$39.00 instead of the \$22.50 they are currently paying out.

Commissioner Stites advised when the inmates come in that are on Social security and Medicare benefits those benefits stop while they are incarcerated. She further advised why can the state not utilize those ceased funds to pay for their time in the jails. Mayhew advised they are actually working on expanding the Medicare program by allowing a form 1115 to be implemented to assist with the expenses racked up with these inmates.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:31 am.

Discussions were had on the states budget and the house attempting again this year to cut costs with the hopes that the senate won't put it back in like they did during last years budget. Further discussions were had on the need for I-44 to be redone not I-70. Discussions were on the artificial inflation that ARPA funds created across the state making it harder to get the workers to do a job because of the inflation. Mayhew advised he proposed an amendment last year to remove I-70 and have it read "road infrastructure". This would have created the option for any road in the state that would need infrastructure, not just I-70, to have access to the funds allocated in the budget. Further discussions were had on how to get this mindset changed and it will start with the constituents getting involved and testifying against these ridiculous allocations. Discussions were had on the need to get back to running on common sense. Discussions were had on the newly implemented process that places submitting the reimbursement for inmates on to the Sheriff's instead of the Circuit Clerk. Kirn advised the problem with this is that the Circuit Court thinks they do not have to send any information but all the paperwork is still needed in order for the sheriffs to fill out the proper paperwork to submit to state. Mayhew advised he will speak to the Circuit members and make sure that they understand they will still need to provide the needed paperwork to the sheriff's so that they will be able to get the reimbursement submitted accurately and quickly.

Further discussions were had on the large carry over that Missouri Conservation has each year and the need for that money to be put back into the state to be utilized elsewhere. Discussions were had on Mayhew's conservation bill that he has tried to get passed the last few years reallocating these funds back to the tax paying citizens in the state in other areas. Mayhew advised there are several committees/associations that come in and vote against the bill so it is not passing. He further advised he feels the constitution should be followed and matters like these need to go to a vote of the people every 6 years.

BPJ Representative Tonya Greven entered at 10:12 am.

Kirn left at 10:18 am followed by Mayhew and Kean at 10:23 am.

In the matter of
BPJ updates:

Greven advised commission she has been talking with our stop loss agent and they are working to get our rates lowered. She further advised they have been working on getting updated rates for the county to review and asked if there was a date next week that worked. County Clerk advised Tuesday October 21st at 9am will work.

Greven left at 10:42 am.

Bargerstock entered at 10:43 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Bargerstock provided commission with the bill to be paid to WEXbank for the sheriff's department gas cards and the MOPERM bill totaling up to \$72,950.70. Commission reviewed and approved the invoices.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:50 am.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion Loan updates:

Discussions were had on the numbers that Tipton provided that will be due in February. Further discussions were had setting up a meeting to review the refinance options prior to meeting with the bank to finalize. County Clerk will reach out to the sheriff to see if he's available to meet with the treasurer and commission on 10/28 @ 9am.

In the matter of
Corner Remonumentation Contract:

Commission reviewed the proposed corner Remonumentation program in Phelps County with Bartlett West and the County Surveyor. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the contract, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Mike Woessner entered at 11:29 am.

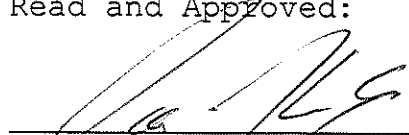
In the matter of
Road vacation discussion:

Woessner provided commission with a petition to vacate a road on his property. Commission reviewed the process with Woessner and advised he has to post the hearing in 3 public locations within the township that the road resides. Further discussions were had on the first hearing being held January 6, 2026 @ 9:15 am and the second hearing being set for April 2, 2026 @ 9:00 am.


Woessner left at 11:47 am.

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

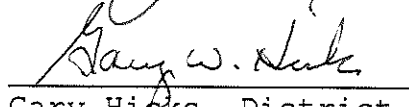
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 16, 2025 Fifth Day of the October Term

Now at this 16th day of October, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

Also present were local residents Nicole Gunter, Remington Gunter and Jean Richardson.

County Clerk appointed Commissioner Hicks as acting Presiding commissioner in the absence of Presiding Commissioner Auxier due to illness.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 9:07 am.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Ms. Gunter advised commission that she has heard of a rumor that a concrete plant is possibly being built on a property behind her farm. Commission advised they have not heard of anything in that area but there are no planning and zoning ordinances in the county. Gunter advised she is concerned for her cattle and hay crop if this happens due to the concrete dust that will be associated with the plant. Further discussion was had on the home owners in that area contacting department of agriculture to see if there are any laws preventing this plant from happening to protect the farm land surrounding the potential plant site.

Gunter and Richardson left at 9:24 am.

In the matter of
WIC funds update:

Berry advised commission she has been in contact with the WIC department about the potential of huge loss of grant funds for the WIC programs across the state. Berry advised she has been informed to continue the program as is until she is advised there are no funds being released.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/14/25 Commission meeting.

Matt Shults with Advanced medical entered at 9:29 am.
Berry left at 9:33 am.

Daniel Finke with Cardinal correctional entered at 9:55 am.
Sheriff Mike Kirn and Jail Admin Sonya White entered at 10:00am.

In the matter of
Inmate Medical Services Bid opening:

As scheduled inmate medical services bids were opened as follows:

Advanced Correctional- opened at 10:01 am in the amount of annually **RN Pricing-**

Option1: \$1,044,175.00

Option2: \$1,413,000.00

TK Health- opened at 10:03 am in the amount of **RN Pricing-**

Year1: \$808,447.56

Year2: \$836,743.22

Year3: \$866,029.24

Year4: \$896,340.26

LPN Pricing-

Year1: \$780,887.56

Year2: \$809,183.22

Year3: \$838,469.24

Year4: \$868,780.26

Physician Correctional- opened at 10:07 am in the amount of

Year1: \$988,772.56

Year2: \$1,023,379.60

Year3: \$1,059,197.89

Year4: \$1,096,269.81

Cardinal Correctional Care- opened at 10:11 am in the amount of annually **LPN Pricing-**\$670,993.68.

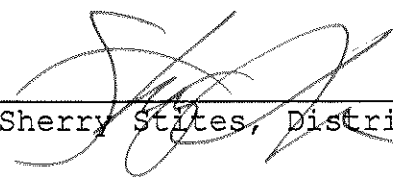
Finke, Kirn and White left at 10:20 am followed by Shults at 10:44 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

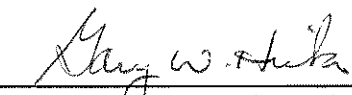
Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$31,057.05 for UMBbank September EATS & Westside TIF, \$158,534.32 for A - L and \$29,243.76 for M - Z.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:48 am.

Read and Approved:



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 21, 2025 Sixth Day of the October Term

Now at this 21st day of October, 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 Tonya Greven and Mike Scott from BPJ and David Fields and Alex Seda (via phone) with MODOT.

In the matter of
Rosati Railroad crossing:

Discussions were had on the process involved to close a railroad crossing. Further discussions were had on the county being paid \$400,000 from MODOT general revenue for closing this unsafe crossing. Discussions were had on there being no strings attached or stipulations on how the county utilizes this money. Discussions were had on BNSF being on board with closing this crossing and having the contract/money complete by the middle of December. Commission asked MODOT to confirm what the counties cost would be associated to maintenance on the county side if they placed lights and arms at this crossing. Seda advised it will be between \$50,000-\$60,000 annually and roughly \$10,000 a month each year out of the counties budget.

Seda and Fields left at 9:15 am.

In the matter of
BPJ Insurance updates:

Scott presented commission with re insurance rates and documentation. Discussions were had on increasing the deductible slightly to offset inflation costs. Further discussions were had on keeping the buyup plan at a \$500 deductible and increasing the out of pocket cost from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to further assist with inflation but still helping the employees in the long run. Discussions were had on the 3 insurance options BPJ has gathered for the county utilizing UMR, D2E or Anthem. After reviewing all the options commission decided to stay with UMR and their suggestions to offset the costs of inflation.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:37 am followed by Anne Freand with MRPC at 9:45am and Dawn Bell with City of Rolla at 9:53 am.

Greven and Scott left at 9:57 am.

Darin Pryor, Keith Riesberg and John Butz with City of Rolla entered at 9:57 am followed by Bonnie Prigge with MRPC and Preston Kramer with MODOT at 9:58 am.

Grant Wilson with Representative Jason Smiths office and Michael Gruenberg with Phelps Health Ambulance entered at 9:59 am followed by local residents Mary and Rick Zika and Matt Kreyling with City of Rolla at 10:00 am.

Representative Tara Peters and Jaime Meyers with prevention consultants entered at 10:04 am.

In the matter of
Transportation Meeting:

Bonne Prigge opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves. Prigge gave brief description of how to read the spreadsheet they provided to all in attendance and turned the meeting over to Preston Kramer with MODOT. Kramer advised this spreadsheet is a living working document so it changes each year. Discussions were had on the regional priority items on the list along Hwy 63. Kramer advised there is an interactive map on line so anyone can look and dive deeper into the projects and timelines. Kramer further advised he has some additions he wants to add based on recent bridge inspections in the county. Kramer read all of the current projects aloud and expressed leaving all of them on the list. Kramer further advised the vast majority of transportation funding is from the sale of gasoline but occasionally the governor will allot funds to help with these projects. Kramer further advised MODOT has just completed the survey of I-44 and explained there are several areas of 44 that need to be redone due to sheer growth, traffic increases and bad accident areas. Discussions were also had on the areas of concern due to flooding in Jerome. Further discussions were had on the I-44 bridge at Jerome needing to be redone already and that the terrain could be the reason on the quick deterioration of the bridge. Discussions were had on I-44 being 254 miles of road across the state and if MODOT did all of the necessary projects for improving which would include making it 6 lanes from state line to state line would cost 7.4 billion dollars. Kramer advised due to recent bridge inspections he recommends adding the Route T bridge over Little Piney, Route P over Mill Creek, Route C Bridge over I-44 and I-44 bridge westbound over Little Piney Arlington outer road. Discussions were had on some multimodal projects and prioritizing sidewalks along the westside shopping plaza with the increases in shops/hotels/restaurants and the under-construction Veterans Clinic along with adding sidewalks out Hwy 0 with the new subdivision that is currently under construction as well.

All in attendance of the transportation meeting left at 11:48 am.

Erica Bargerstock entered at 11:58 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

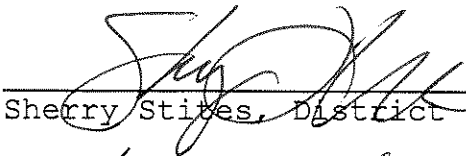
Commission reviewed invoices in the amounts of \$168,376.55 for A -L and \$51,168.60 for M - Z. Discussions were had on the sheriff's lack of funds to cover the current bills along with payroll that is coming up. Commissioner Auxier advised to only pay the Summit bills for April and August in this current batch. Auxier further advised he wanted to have hard numbers provided to him on Thursday so he can make a decision on what gets paid moving forward.

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

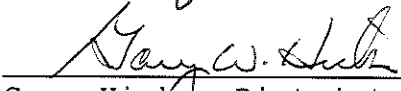
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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Phelps County Commission Record
October 23, 2025 Seventh Day of the October Term

Now at this 23rd day of October, 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

Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 9:24 am.

In the matter of
Inmate Medical Services Bid awarding:

Sheriff advised he wants to move forward with Cardinal ?? as they were the lowest bid. Commission asked if they have a Civil Liability endorsement on their bond. Further discussions were had about this needing to be added to the endorsement and a revised cost sheet if there are any changes to the total amount. Sheriff advised he will contact the company and have them add it and then he will provide the updated bond and contract to the commission. Commission advised they would not approve this contract until we have the updated documents.

Kirn left at 9:42 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$71,496.05 for A - L, \$7,511.80 for M - Z and \$6,162.89 for Great-West & Nationwide.

In the matter of
2026 Funding letter to Extension Council:

Commission composed and signed the below letter notifying the Extension Council of the funding cuts to their department moving forward.

JOEY AUXIER
Presiding Commissioner
573-458-8121

SHERRY STITES
Commissioner District I
573-458-8120

GARY W. HICKS
Commissioner District II
573-458-8122

Phelps County Commission

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

Phone: 573-458-8000
Fax: 573-458-8110

LAURA JOHNSON
County Clerk
573-458-8101

October 23, 2025

To Phelps County Extension Council,

We write to inform you of a change in budget allowance to the Extension Council that will take place in the 2026 budget year and every year after. Due to inflation and unexpected expenses the County of Phelps will only be providing \$10,000.00 once a year to the Phelps County Extension Council. This number has been figured by the the statutory obligation as outlined in RSMo 262.597(1). In addition, the Commission will no longer fund the salary and benefits for any positions in the extension council.

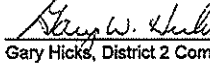
Respectfully,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/16
commission meeting.

Local resident Chester Crider entered at 9:58 am and left
at 10:04 am.

In the matter of
Code 3 Security contract cancelation letter:

Commission composed and signed the below letter notifying Code 3
Security the county will not be renewing the contract and our
current contract will cease on 12/01/25.

JOEY AUXIER
Presiding Commissioner
573-458-6121

SHERRY STITES
Commissioner District 1
573-458-6120

GARY W. HICKS
Commissioner District 2
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
573-458-8101

October 23, 2025

To Code 3 Security,

We write to inform you the County of Phelps will not be renewing the contract with Code 3 Security. Our current contract will cease on 12/01/2025.

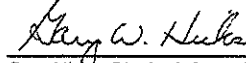
Respectfully,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

The Focus reporter entered at 10:15 am.

In the matter of
COPS program:

The Focus reporter advised he wrote a beautiful article about the support dog with the COPS program a month ago and then discovered 2 weeks ago that the COPS program was disbanded. Commission advised the program was cut due to budget constraints. Further discussions were had on the projected revenues being lower than expected and the payments due on the Jail expansion project have caused budget constraints leading to cuts.

Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 10:23 am.

In the matter of
Public Admin office space:

Dana Sooter asked commission if there is any word on her getting a bigger office space. She further advised if the extension council would move she presented the idea of moving the

elections down stairs so there is exterior access and it wouldn't disrupt other county business during absentee voting. If this was an option then she could just have a doorway cut through the adjoining wall from her office and where the current election storage room is. All agreed that is a great option all the way around. Further discussions were had on this move depending on how fast MS&T can provide Extension an office space.

Sooter left at 10:40 am.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:46 am and left at 10:56 am.


In the matter of
Cardinal inmate medical request:

Commission called Cardinal medical to request the Civil Liability Endorsement be listed on the insurance certificate. Katie Shook with Higginbotham advised that is included in the general liability certificate. Commission advised we want it specifically listed on the certificate before they are willing to accept the contract. Shook advised she will get her legal team involved to see if this is an option.

The Focus reporter left at 11:17 am.

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


Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stifes, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 28, 2025 Eighth Day of the October Term

Now at this 28th day of October, 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 Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher, AP clerk Erica Bargerstock, Deputy Assessor Paul Long and Treasurer Cathy Tipton.

In the matter of
Jail Expansion Loan Refi discussions/sheriff updates:

Discussions were had on what the current number of inmates is at, Sheriff advised 140 (38 are ICE) Federal, 120 state and 30ish for other counties. Sheriff advised he is working on a new Ice Contract setting the daily rate at \$110 per inmate (could be negotiated to \$106) but he also advised due to the shutdown it could take up to \$110 days to complete the contract and we would not be able to get reimbursements till roughly February 1, 2026.

Sheriff advised of the 290 inmates he is being paid for 192 of those inmates. Further Discussions were had on the new jail capacity being 338 beds and 62 beds at the annex. Commission advised that they were under the understanding that the new facility would house 400 beds, sheriff advised due to having to move plans around during construction they ended up losing 62 beds that were originally planned. Discussions were also had on the 4 tier levels of federal inmates which decides where each inmate is allowed to be housed.

Sheriff also advised they will be moving forward with the new inmate medical services contract that starts next week. Sheriff further advised he is working on providing their own food services starting January 1, 2026. He advised these 2 changes would create roughly \$500,000 savings a year.

Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 9:21 am followed by the Focus Reporter at 9:26 am.

Further discussions were had on the interest payments that will be due in December and then if we do not refinance we will owe roughly \$1.2 million February 1, 2026.

Commission asked what the sheriff's plan is moving forward with the Courthouse security since the contract will end December 1, 2025. Kirn advised the 2 main security guards we have through the Code 3 company will work part time and he advised if they get busy working by themselves then they will just call for a bailiff to assist. Discussions were had on the need to figure out if we can make the current courthouse funds stretch for 2-3 years.

Local Resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:32 am.

Commissioner Stites asked what happens when all these agencies that are funded by federal grants and not receiving funds do. County Clerk advised collectors and banks don't care as they are a business and need their money as well. Sheriff and Lasher advised they have made phone calls to several of the companies they have contracts with to advise due to the government shutdown they will not be able to make their payments. Commission advised Lasher and Kirn to get a list compiled of the essential invoices that need to be paid every month so that we can insure the pertinent companies are being paid. Commissioner Stites further advised examples of gas card, utilities, inmate services, etc. are what is essential. Commissioner Hicks advised the commission has seen several exurbanite meal reimbursements. He further advised the transport teams office is their van so they can bring their lunch as every other person that comes to the office has to leave to get lunch or bring it in and not get reimbursed for it. Sheriff advised he would have to compensate elsewhere then for transport as they were hired on with meal reimbursements being a perk and he can't just take that away. He further advised transport officers are hired in at a lower rate than a road deputy and transport only receive \$500 uniform allowance where a road deputy gets \$1,200. Bargerstock advised on the receipts they need to be itemized and showing paid per Auditing requirements. Long advised in the assessor's office they have a form that auto calculates the total due for meal reimbursements and he is willing to share that with any office that would like to utilize it. Discussions were had on by this having the per diem already entered in the calculations the employee only needs to enter the total meal cost for each meal they are requesting and the form will auto calculate what they are allowed to be reimbursed taking out a lot of extra work calculating.

Commission asked what the sheriff's plan is moving forward with the Courthouse security since the contract is will end December 1, 2025. Kirn advised the 2 main security guards we have through the Code 3 company will work part time and he advised if they get busy working by themselves then they will just call for a bailiff to assist. Discussions were had on the need to figure out if we can make the current courthouse funds stretch for 2-3 years.

Further discussions were had on the sheriff thinking of purchasing bunk beds to create another pod in the recreation pod to eliminate utilizing the annex and having to pay out overtime to Corrections officers. Further discussions were had on the potential of leasing out the annex to RPD for their inmates. Sheriff advised RPD will not do that as they do not like to pay the \$30 daily fee for their inmates now. Commissioner Hicks advised it sounds like that rate needs to be increased and sheriff agreed.

Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer entered at 9:58 am.

Kirn, Lasher and Tipton left at 10:04 am.

In the matter of
Child Support Contract:

Banholzer provided commission with a contract from state to pay the prosecutors office for enforcing child support payments to be paid and not left in arrears. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the contract in the amount of \$64,334.85, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Bargerstock, Long, Banholzer and Kordes left at 10:07 am.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 10:10 am.

In the matter of
Health Department standing due to Government Shutdown:

Berry advised she has been told by WIC program that services will be shut off starting Friday October 31, 2025. She advised commission that during a conference call with other health departments and WIC program officials where WIC advised when the program is shutdown the expenses associated to the program will be the responsibility of the counties. Berry further advised she has discussed with other health departments to get a game plan together in order to assist the employees and to try not to furlough any employees that are funded solely by these grants. Further discussions were had on the County Clerk and Berry working together to dive deeper into the Health department budget to figure out how much of their available cash is grants and how much is general revenue that could be utilized to assist during this time. Commission asked if the program does shut down is there work for these employees to stay busy. Berry advised she has a program that is not working to its full capacity so she is going to have these employees work with the programmers to get the system fully running.

Kojro and Berry left at 10:28 am followed by the Focus Reporter at 10:39 am.

Local resident David Shaw entered at 10:44 am.

In the matter of
Public Defenders Office Lease Contract:

Commission reviewed the new contract for rented office space and utilities through Russel Land Developers. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the contract, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Citizen request:

Shaw advised Commissioner Stites if she would please remove his second driveway access as he has asked for years and now there are several stealing issues in the area. Commission asked are you just wanting the culvert dug out and Mr. Shaw advised yes please. Stites called Road Superintendent Mark Case to see if he could send out a crew to remove the culvert and create a new ditch line in the 10000 blk of CR 3450.

Shaw left at 11:03 am.

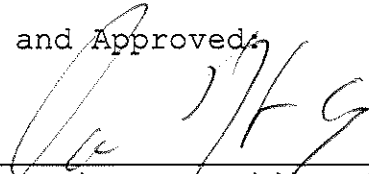
In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/23
commission meeting.

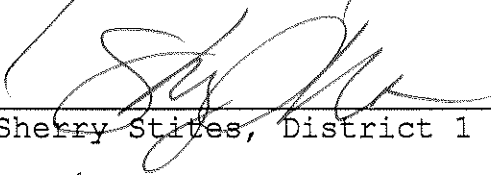
Commissioner Stites left at 11:12 am for a prior arranged
meeting.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:37 am.

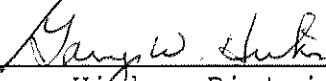
Read and Approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
October 30, 2025 Nineth Day of the October Term

Now at this 30th day of October, 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

Commissioner Stites was absent due to attending the Lagers Conference.

Also present was Treasurer Cathy Tipton.

In the matter of
Sheriff's Department funds:

County Clerk provided commission with a projected revenue and expense report for the sheriff's department that was compiled by AP Clerk and Treasurer. Discussions were had on the county not being able to pay the sheriff's portion of the loan interest that will potentially be due in December. Further discussions were had on the Government Shutdown further hindering the sheriff's budget due to not receiving federal inmate reimbursements. Further discussions were had on what would happen if the expansion loan would not be repaid in a timely manner. Commission and Treasurer advised they will need to ask questions during the Refinance meeting on Tuesday with the bank and Gilmore & Bell.

Tipton left at 9:34 am.
Barnes entered at 10:08 am.

In the matter of
2025 Tax Collection report:

Barnes advised the tax books have been pushed out and the county will be collecting \$40,211,385.68 for the 2025 tax year.

Barnes left at 10:18 am.
Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 10:20 am.

In the matter of
Health Department Updates:

Berry advised as of this moment the WIC program is still in place and no cuts have been made which is fantastic news. She further advised she will keep commission inform of any changes. Berry advised the county currently utilizes Indeed for job postings and hiring but she feels like we are not getting exemplary employees and it creates a lot of turn over. She further advised that she has met with Express Services to see if they will work with the county. She further explained that Express Services contracts the employee for the first 13 weeks to make sure the employee is a good fit and working out with the company. Berry further explained if at any time, during the 13 weeks, performance is not there then a call is placed to Express

who would remove the employee and then place a new one in. This will save a lot of time and money for the county as they will not be a county employee until after the 13 weeks is up and then they would be onboarded with county pay and benefits. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the contract with the County and Express Services, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Berry left at 10:35 am.

In the matter of
New World updates/migration:

County Clerk advised commission that her office has been working with New World to get us moved 100% back into their system so that we are no longer dealing with the headache of ADP every pay cycle. She advised there will be a cost due next year roughly around \$44,000 for the migration of records and the training that will be necessary to fully run out of New World. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the amendment with New World, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoice in the amounts of \$3886.65 for ADP Multivendor, \$75,256.68 for A - L and \$137,265.57 for M - Z.

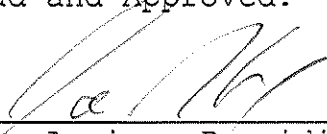
Jail Administrator Sonya White entered at 11:48 am.

In the matter of
Jail Contracts:

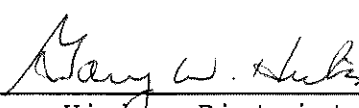
White provided commission with 2 Contracts for medical services software. Commission advised they would take them under advisement and revisit Tuesday after legal counsel reviews them. White left at 11:54 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:55 am.

Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner