

Phelps County Commission Record

July 2, 2026 First Day of the July Term

Now at this 2nd day of July, 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

The Focus Reporter and Trent Snodgrass with Ameren Gas were also present.

In the matter of
Subdivision specs:

Snodgrass advised he is looking to implement gas lines in the new Emerald Springs subdivision and has some concerns with our county specs. He advised in the county specs we have it stated that there needs to be metal casing around any lines installed in the ground. Snodgrass further advised by our specs being this way that is going to drastically increase the cost of the lines being put in and that additional cost is going to fall on to the developer. Discussions were had on how many times Ameren would have to bore within the 41 lots at the subdivision. Further discussions were had on commission reaching out to the engineer that composed the specs to see why this was a requirement as Snodgrass advised no one but MODOT has this stipulation. Discussions were also had on what the subdivision specs outlined to see if each home is required to have natural gas.

Snodgrass left at 9:19 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the 6/30 Commission meeting.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 9:35 am.

In the matter of
340B program agreement:

Berry presented commission with a 340B health care agreement that will assist underprivileged citizens by unifying a partnership with the county health department and Mercy Lebanon. This program will assist with lower cost medical supplies and prescriptions. Discussions were had Banholzer reviewing the agreement and advising there is no liability and no monetary commitment in the agreement.

Berry left at 9:56 am.

In the matter of
Authorization letter for Treasurer:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve authorizing the Phelps
County Treasurer to claim the unclaimed property funds at the
state of Missouri, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Commissioner Stites left at 10:28 am to go volunteer at the
carnival.

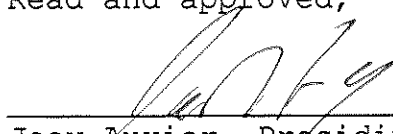
In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of
\$92,073.07 for A - L and \$42,607.15 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Asphalt Spreader Box:

Commissioner Hicks called Drag-a-box J Pyott & Associates to
inquire about a material spreader box attachment that would
assist with better laying and efficiency of asphalt on our
county roads.

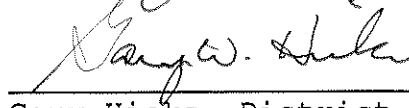
Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:00 pm.
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

July 7, 2026 Second Day of the July Term

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

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

Also present were local residents the Mace Family and HR/Payroll specialist Amy Asberry.

In the matter of
Family Cemetery discussions:

The Mace family advised they lost a loved one unexpectedly on July 4th and want to honor their loved ones request to be buried on their land. Commission advised of the section of Statutes that regulates family cemetery guidelines. County Clerk provided copy of section 208.010-214.283 of the Missouri Revised statutes to the family. Commission advised them to read the statutes and follow what those guidelines are to implement a family cemetery.

The Maces left at 9:10 am.

In the matter of
Health insurance and Broker services bid solicitation:

Commission reviewed some example bids and discussions were had. Commission decided they want the broker services to be per employee per month.

In the matter of
Planning and Zoning discussions:

Discussions were had on how to create the language and increase the funding to pay for implementing P & Z in our county if the voters pass it.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:35 am.

In the matter of
Health Department Director position:

Asberry advised commission Alex Jones references all came back great. Commissioner Hicks moved to hire Alex Jones as the new Health Department Director starting at \$70,000 plus benefits, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Kojro left at 9:37 am.

In the matter of
Closed session:

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried, moved to closed session at 9:37 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to go out of closed session, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried, moved to open session at 9:50 am.

Asberry left at 9:50 am.
Kojro reentered at 9:54 am.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 7/2 commission meeting.

Asberry reentered at 10:30 am.
Kojro left at 10:30 am.

In the matter of
Employee Donated Sick Leave Request:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve 80 hrs of sick leave from the donated bank to a health department employee, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Health Department Director Revisited:

Asberry advised Mr. Jones accepted the position and his start date will be 7/27/2026.

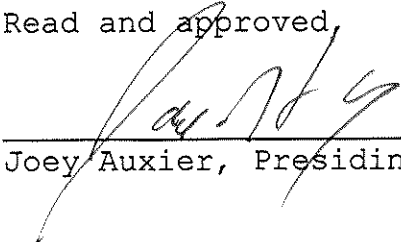
Asberry left at 10:34 am.

In the matter of
2027 Holiday and Pay Dates:

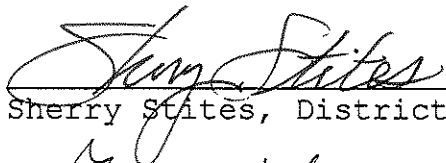
Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the 2027 holiday and pay dates as presented, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

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

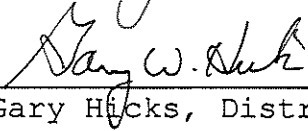
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

July 9, 2026 Third Day of the July Term

Now at this 9th day of July, 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 Senator Jason Smiths field representative Grant Wilson and local residents Pam Grow and Trina Arikian.

In the matter of
Citizen Inquest:

Arikian asked commission where we are at with implementing a moratorium. Commissioner Auxier advised we are not implementing one yet as no one looking to buy property to build a data center and the moratorium is only good for 180 days. Hicks advised chapter 64 covers the planning and zoning for a third-class county and suggested she look at those law outlines.

HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry entered at 9:15 am.

Grow advised she is against planning and zoning in this county. She further advised that the property owner should be the only one that oversees and maintains their own property without government regulations.

Grow advised she wants to know what the monetary contributions by the sheriff's department are related to the flock cameras and wants to know who has access to that data. Further discussions were had on the cameras being a 4th amendment violation. Discussions were had on the internet hysteria imploding in today's society and government overreach and what can be done. Further discussions were had on why are we not looking at implementing a law that would require a search warrant to access flock data. Grow further advised this country is moving towards programable money and cash will be irrelevant soon. Arikian asked Stites what she needed to ask in reference to the data gathered. Stites advised what you need to ask is what are the safety mechanisms in place for housing the data. Commission gave examples of the benefits of the burglaries and a murder that happened in our town. Those 2 instances the criminals were caught by using the flock cameras.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:36 am and left at 9:54 am.

Support Services Sissy Shults entered at 10:00 am.

Grow and Arikian left at 10:02 am.

The Focus Reporter entered at 10:02 am.

In the matter of
Contract for FLARE communications:

Shults presents commission with a contract from FLARE Communications that would increase security on our Networking

system. Commission approved the contract in the amount of \$12,496.73.

In the matter of
City History signs on courthouse property:

Shults advised commission she has reviewed the proposed placement of the signs that the city of Rolla presented and only has slight changes. Commission advised Shults to contact City of Rolla to let them know.

Shults and Asberry left at 10:28 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 7/07 commission meeting.

Wilson left at 11:00 am followed by The Focus reporter at 11:04 am.

Kevin and Janice Reiley entered at 11:19 am.

In the matter of
Electric lines under county road:

Reiley advised commission he is in the works of building a home and was inquiring on how to bore under county road for electric lines. Commission advised the county has road specifications they suggested they read those and get with the electric company to discuss the plan with our road department.

The Reiley's left at 11:27 am.

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

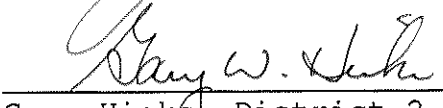
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

July 14, 2026 Fourth Day of the July Term

Now at this 14th day of July, 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 7/09 commission meeting.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:11 am.

In the matter of
Sales, Use, CART & Opioid fund reports:

Tipton presented commission with reports on Opioid funds and discussion was had on the amount received to date and the incoming payments for this month from the new companies involved in the opioid lawsuit. Tipton presents commission with CART fees reports and discussions were had on the current standing. Tipton also presented commission with a 5 year comparison report for their review.

Todd Dablemont with Benton engineering entered at 9:26 am.

Tipton left at 9:32 am.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:33 am.

In the matter of
Road specs discussion:

Commission advised Dablemont that there was a utility company that questioned the metal casing of utility lines and the cost associated to it. Dablemont advised the metal casing was put in the specs to prevent a road from being torn up to change lines. Dablemont further advised the yellow casing is acceptable and safe as long as it is bored far enough under the road surface, he states that is typically 3 feet. Commissioner Stites asked what Dablemont would say is an appropriate amount of vehicle traffic that would need to have this metal casing. Dablemont advised he would have to get that information from a team that studies this. Commissioner Stites moved to grant a waiver to Ameren UE to install gas lines without casings underneath the roads in the developing Emerald Springs subdivision, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Dablemont left at 9:42 am.

In the matter of
RE Property Court Orders:

Commission reviewed and approved Real Property Court Orders on Parcel Numbers: 2023-12164, 2024-12164 and 2025-12164.

Prosecuting attorney Taylor Banholzer entered at 10:20 am followed by Tipton reentering at 10:22 am.

In the matter of
Quarterly review of Budgets:

Banholzer advised she knows she needs to request a budget amendment due to unbudgeted reimbursements to the court from last year. Johnson advised she sees there has been \$7,217.66 reimbursed to grand jury so far and she will make the amendment. Commission continued to review the remaining funds for the county.

Banholzer left at 10:41 am.

Discussions were had on the remaining funds from LACTF that are in the ARPA fund. Tipton and Johnson would like to see those funds moved to Courthouse security to supplement the funding that was taken away so the ARPA fund can be closed out. Tipton advised she will research the expense and reporting to make sure we are following the guidelines.

In the matter of
Sales & Use Tax reports:

Tipton presents commission with Sales and Use tax reports. Discussions were had on the decrease of collected sales tax which is likely due to the construction on the bridge that is detouring everyone to a longer route.

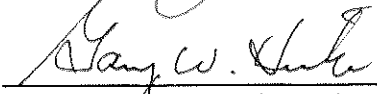
Tipton left at 11:18 am.

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

July 16, 2026 Fifth Day of the July Term

Now at this 16th day of July, 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

Commissioner Hicks was absent due to being out of town.

Also present were The Focus reporter.

Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer entered at 9:26 am.

The Focus Reporter left at 9:26 am.

In the matter of

Closed Session:

Commissioner Stites moved to go into Closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried and moved to closed session at 9:27 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to return to open session, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried and returned to open session at 9:43 am.

The Focus Reporter re-entered at 9:50 am.

Banholzer left at 9:51 am.

Local resident Don Green entered at 10:06 am.

In the matter of

Citizen Input:

Green came in to advise commission the road department is doing a great job with road and ditch maintenance. He further advised this is the best work he has ever seen so he wanted to say thank you and keep up the good work.

Green left at 10:11 am.

Sheriff's Department Administrative Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 10:44 am.

In the matter of

MO department of Public Safety Grant:

Lasher provided commission with a grant funded by MoSMART Board in the amount of \$133,323.00 for Deputy Sheriff Salary Supplemental Fund (DSSSF). Commissioner Stites moved to approve the contract, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

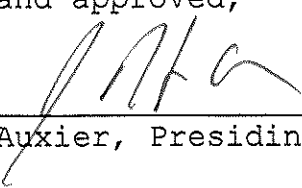
Lasher left at 10:55 am followed by The Focus Reporter at 11:30 am.

In the matter of
Accounts payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of
\$24,665.52 for Senior Companions, \$7,106.31 for July PR Great-
West & Nationwide, \$30,092.60 for UMB Bank July26 50% EATS Rolla
Westside TIF, \$179,215.15 for A - L and \$70,261.74 for M - Z.

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

Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
July 21st, 2026 Seventh Day of the July Term

Now at this 21st day of July, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

County Clerk was absent due to a prior scheduled appointment and Commissioner Stites was absent due to a CASA meeting.

Also present was local resident Andy Davis.

In the Matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$3,243.05 for June Postage Reserve Account/Pitney Bowes and \$10,689.86 for US Bank.

Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 9:07 am followed by Focus Reporter at 9:09 am and Prosecuting Attorney Taylor Banholzer at 9:11 am.

In the matter of
Road and bridge invoice:

Discussions were had in regard to another letter and email received from Brightspeed. Commissioners asked Banholzer if she could be the contact on any future communication with Brightspeed. Banholzer agreed.

Local Resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:32 am.
Kirn left at 9:33 am.

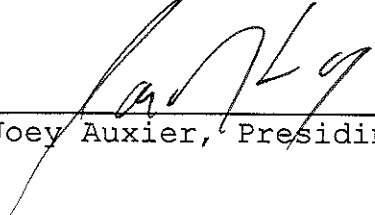
In the matter of
Citizen protest request:

Discussions were had in regard to an email sent to the commissioners in regard to a local resident inquiring about having a rally/peaceful protest at the courthouse. Commissioners responded and let the resident know that no one is allowed on the grass but can be on the sidewalks and street as long as they are not impeding traffic. Will also need to check with the City of Rolla in regard to any ordinances they may have.

Kojro left at 10:30 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 10:30 am.

Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Gary W. Hicks

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

July 23, 2026 Eighth Day of the July Term

Now at this 23rd day of July, 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 Dilek Acar, Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer and Sheriff Mike Kirn.

In the matter of
Emerald Springs Subdivision plat for final approval:

Commissioner Hicks asked if the bare spots located within the county right of way will be seeded in the fall. Dilek advised yes it will be. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the final plat of Emerald Springs subdivision and the maintenance of the roads by the county, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Dilek left at 9:16 am.

In the matter of
Closed Session:

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried moved to closed session at 9:17 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go back into open session, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried and moved to open session at 9:29 am.

Banholzer left at 9:29 am.

Road and Bridge admin assistant Michelle Bock entered at 9:36 am.

Kirn left at 9:36 am.

In the matter of
Stop signs at CR 1000 & CR 1190:

Discussions were had on the need to put up stop sections and the intersection of CR 1000 & CR 1190. Further discussions were had on Auxier reaching out to the Crawford County Presiding commissioner to make sure it is ok with him for the stop signs to go up since the intersection is partially in his county. Crawford county Commissioner advised he has no issues with the stop signs so the county is going to proceed with erecting stop signs on each side of CR 1000 and 1190.

Bock left at 10:05 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the 7/21
commission meeting.

In the matter of
Citizen call:

St. James Superintendent Tim Webster called in to commission to
inquire about CGI Digital that reached out to him. Commission
advised CGI is the company partnering with NACO to compile a
Highlight video for our county. Webster advised he was given a
quote of \$13,000 and then annually it would be \$2,500 to keep
the video up. Discussions were had on looking into the option of
all the schools to splitting the cost to have one video of all
the schools making more feasible.

Doolittle Chief of police Chris Finch entered at 10:20 am
followed by Treasurer Cathy Tipton at 10:22 am.
Tipton left at 10:38 am.

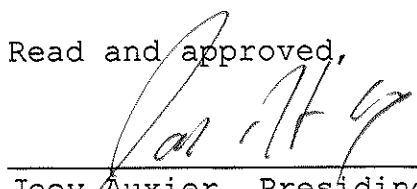
In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of
\$159,187.38 for A - L and \$30,000.64 for M - Z.

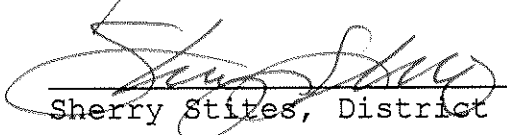
Finch left at 11:05 am.

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

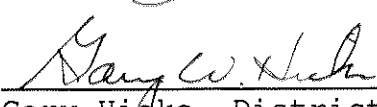
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

July 28, 2026 Nineth Day of the July Term

Now at this 28th day of July, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

County Clerk was absent due to a training seminar out of town. Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt took minutes.

Also present was local citizen Andy Davis.

Health Department Director Alex Jones and Office Manager Jennifer Wiese entered at 9:00 am followed by Carol Green at 9:03 am.

In the Matter of
New Health Department Director:

Jennifer Wiese introduced the new Health Department Director Alex Jones to the Commission.

In the Matter of
Program Services Contract:

Wiese presented to the Commission a Program Services Contract in the amount of \$289,735.00 that will run from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027 for WIC Local Agency Nutrition Services and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants and children. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Green left at 9:10 am followed by Wiese and Jones at 9:15 am.

In the Matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$3,837.63 for July Multi-Vendor Invoices, \$7,239.48 for July 24 PR Great-West and Nationwide and \$130,966.57 for July for Aug - PC Self Insured UMR/KCL.

Local Resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:33 am. Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:49 am and left at 9:54 am. HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry entered at 10:18 am.

In the Matter of
Human Resources:

Asberry asked the Commission if she could purchase a camera for her computer for zoom meetings. Asberry also asked about getting a new printer with an extra tray that would be able to print the paystubs for employees instead of having to use the County Clerk's printer. Commissioners agreed to both as long as the funds are available.

Asberry also asked if the commissioners would like for her to get a quote for W2 training for her and Lisa Dowdy from New World. Commissioners said yes to getting the quote.

Kojro left at 10:24 am followed by HR/Payroll Administrator Amy Asberry at 10:58 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:00 am.

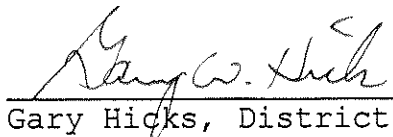
Read and Approved:



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

July 30, 2026 Tenth Day of the July Term

Now at this 30th day of July, 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 Andy Davis.

In the matter of
Appointment to workforce development board:

Commission signed the appointment letter appointing Amy Skyles as a business representative to the Central Workforce Development Board opening.

The Focus Reporter entered at 9:08 am.

In the matter of
CART program participation letter:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the participation letter in the CART Program for FY 2027, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 7/23 commission meeting.

Road and Bridge superintendent Mark Case and Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 9:21 am followed by Prosecuting Attorney Taylor Banholzer at 9:23 am.
Davis and the Focus Reporter left at 9:30 am.

In the matter of
Closed Session:

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1), Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried and moved to closed session at 9:31 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to return to open session, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried and returned to open session at 9:45 am.

Davis re-entered at 9:45 am.
Banholzer left at 9:47 am.
HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry at 9:55 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts
\$128,237.84 for A - L and \$100,803.73 for M - Z.

Case and Bock left at 10:32 am.

In the matter of
Retiree payout change to guidebook:

Johnson and Asberry advised commission they looked into the
legalities of allowing a retiree to be paid out the accrued
vacation/holiday/comp time bi weekly until it is gone.
Discussions were had on the matter and it was decided to include
this as an option to retirees in our payout leave.

Lt. Scott Jarrett from the sheriff's department entered at 10:55
am.

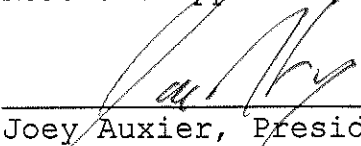
In the matter of
Blue Shield Grant:

Jarrett advised commission he just applied for the Blue Shield
grant again this year and if it is awarded he will have funds to
purchase new tasers.

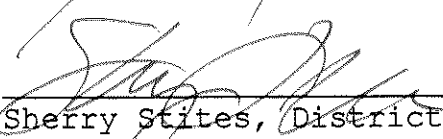
Asberry left at 11:02 am followed by Jarrett at 11:06 am and
Davis at 11:35 am.

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

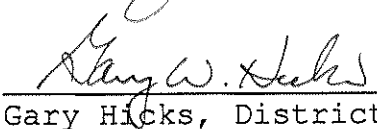
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner