

Phelps County Commission Record

May 5th Nineth Day of the April Term

Now at this 5th 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 Health Department Director Sonya Berry.

In the matter of
Health Department Director Job posting:

Berry advised commission the person she had in mind from another county for the director position is going through a lot currently and no longer interested in the position at this time. Further discussions were had on how the commission wants to advertise the position and what the requirements would be. Discussions were had on the position being more geared to health administration and not necessarily licensed nurse.

Local Resident Dan Victor entered at 9:15 am.
Berry left at 9:16 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amount of \$20,841.99 for May contract pay, \$6,379.75 for May PR Great-West & Nationwide, \$2,960.98 for April Election Reimbursements, \$20,768.33 for A - L and \$32,383.44 for M - Z.

Local resident William Bicknell entered at 9:23 am.

In the matter of
Citizen input:

Bicknell advised he has a pot hole that needs to be fixed on County Road 4000 and wants to know how to get it fixed. Commissioner Stites advised she will inform the Road Department.

Bicknell left at 9:29 am.
Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:32 am.

In the matter of
National Nurses Week certificates:

Commissioner Auxier signed certificates recognizing our 4 County Health Department Nurses.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 4/30 commission meeting.

Kojro left at 10:24 am.
Sheriff Mike Kirn entered at 10:32 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff fund discussions:

Discussions were had on some lines that are already over spent per what was approved on his Budget. Sheriff advised the line item on 410-4013-505-5501 the \$20,900 was a purchase that will be reimbursed from a grant, 410-4016-505-5501 for \$56,000 was the sensors that former Jail Admin S. White advised sheriff was approved for utilizing opioid funding but he later found out that was not approved and he had already purchased and installed the sensors. 410-4016-505-5508 for \$28,100 was for expanding the second jail rec room into a housing cell and advised this has already paid for itself from the federal inmate reimbursements. Discussions were also had on the meal reimbursements that are going to be coming in for ICE transportations and he advised there are 5 employees assigned to this "task force". Kirn further advised that these charges will be reimbursed back to the county by the feds along with any housing after 24 hours, if only held for 24 hrs the county does not get reimbursed to house. Kirn advised he will have the officers code the Reimbursement as ICE487G. Further discussions were had on 410-4013-503-5300 for dues and subscriptions being over due to him having to pay the entirety of the Everbridge contract. Commission addressed the invoice for \$5,700 for 40 electronic QR codes on business cards and advised there is a free program available so they are wanting to know why he is paying for them. Kirn advised he spends \$1,000s each year on business cards and the these QR codes can be attached to emails and flyers to essentially save on the cost of business cards. Commission asked where these overages were going to be taken from on the budget lines to shuffle funds. Kirn advised he has brought in more revenue than projected so he will be utilizing those funds to offset the overages.

Prosecuting Attorney Taylor Banholzer entered at 11:00 am.
Victor left at 11:02 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 11:04 am.

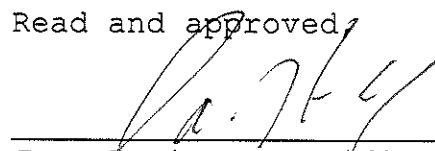
Commissioner Hicks moved to return to open session, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried, returned to open session at 11:20 am.
Banholzer left at 11:24 am.

In the matter of
Proclamation for Carol House Quick Fix:

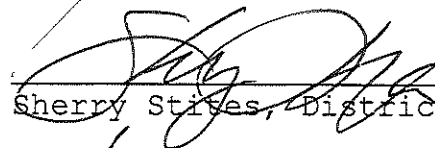
Commission received documentation asking for Proclamation to be enacted advising May 18th as Carol House Quick Fix Pet Clinic Day in Phelps County. Due to this proclamation recognizing Carol House for achieving 150,000 spay/neuter Surgeries and Strengthening Community Animal Welfare in Phelps County commission approved the proclamation.

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

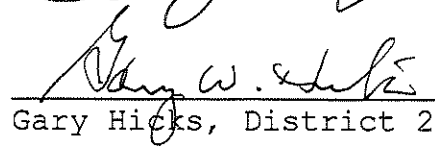
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stives, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

May 7th Tenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 7th 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 Bailiff Jamie Arnold.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/05 commission meeting.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:05 am and left at 9:07 am.

In the matter of
Medical supplies for courthouse:

Arnold presented commission with a request to order a non-rebreather bag mask for adult and infant. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the request, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Additional discussions were had on the need to have at least one member of each county office certified in basic life support and CPR incase of an emergency situation. Commission asked Arnold to reach out to Deputy John Scott at the sheriff's department to get a class arranged since he is a certified instructor.

Arnold left at 9:18 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$4,046.91 for A - L and \$47,578.31 for M - Z.

Commissioner Stites left for other business meetings.
Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:59 am followed by Jamie Meyer with prevention consultants at 10:04 am.

In the matter of
Opioid fund requests for approval:

Meyer provided documents from the last board meeting that would utilize \$8,000 for overdose kits to the health department. Discussions were had on the health department holding training and handing these kits out to families to assist with the growing overdoses in our community. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the expenses utilizing opioid funds, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Meyers advised Dukes returned to the committee and asked if he was able to utilize the approved \$30,000 for all 3 houses he has established for recovering addicts in his program instead of just paying all to 1 house. Commission advised they would need to have an amended request advising of this change and then they would approve the amendment. Tipton provided the amended funding request. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the amendment, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

Tipton advised commission the interest made on the opioid funds each month could pay for the meals associated to the board meetings. She further advised if commission approves she feels the expense could come out of the miscellaneous line since the interest is already deposited into General Revenue. Commission advised this would be a great way to track the expense for auditing purposes so they are on board.

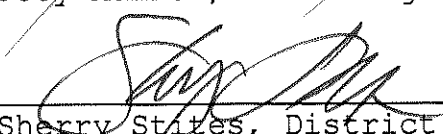
Tipton and Meyers left at 10:30 am.

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

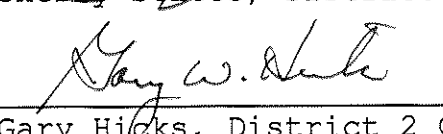
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

May 12th Eleventh Day of the April Term

Now at this 12th 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
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/07
Commission meeting.

Health department director Sonya Berry entered at 9:10 am.

In the matter of
Health Department updates:

Berry advised commission she is needing to make changes to the Health department wellness day policy. Discussions were had on the former director setting the wellness leave being used with PHEP grant funding but Berry has discovered that the way it is set we would not be utilizing all of the funds. Berry presents commission with an addendum to the wellness leave policy which would increase the days allowed to utilize these funds and not have any surplus at the end of the year. Commissioner Stites moved to approve the addendum, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Berry left at 9:23 am.

Local Resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:27 am followed by Assessor Tim Kean at 9:36 am.

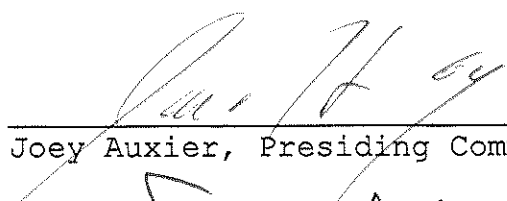
In the matter of
Assessor Department updates:

Kean advised he gets data requests several times for information and he received one recently that he felt needed to be brought to commissions attention. The request he received seems to be along the lines of what data centers are looking for so he wanted to put this on the commissions radar. Discussions were had after looking at the company that this request might be oil and gas related.

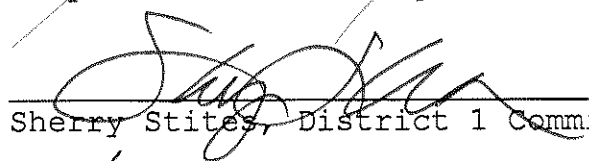
Kean left at 9:50 am followed by Kojro at 10:27 am.
Commissioner Stites left at 11:20 am for a prior arranged meeting.

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

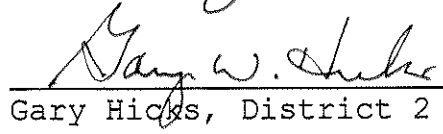
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

May 14th Twelfth Day of the April Term

Now at this 14th 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 Senator Jason Smiths field representative Grant Wilson.

In the matter of
CART, Sales, Use and Opioid reports:

Tipton provided commission with the CART funds report and advised the Motor Fuel tax is down slightly from last month but looking back this is consistent from March to April. She further advised Motor vehicle sales tax and Motor Vehicle fees are down from last month but still up over all.

Tipton provided commission with the Sales Tax report that shows we are up overall and in good standing.

Tipton provided commission with the Use Tax report that shows we have received slightly more than last month.

Tipton provided commission with the Opioid fund summary and advised we have received 2 new payments from vendors.

Discussions were had on the current allocations for this being roughly 20% of what we have received.

Detective Shawn Hedge with the Sheriff's Department and Intern Constance Barnett entered at 9:13 am.

Hedge, Barnett and Wilson were asked to step out so commission could go into the scheduled closed session.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(14), Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried moved to closed session at 9:18 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to return to open session, Commissioner Hicks seconded, Motion carried returned to open session at 9:23 am.

Tipton left at 9:24 am. Wilson, Hedge and Barnett reentered at 9:24 am.

In the matter of
Cyber Crimes Grant:

Hedge presents commission with the grant application that funds his salary and supplies for cybercrimes. Discussions were had on him covering 10 counties through this grant. Further discussions were had on how could the county or state assist Hedge with more funding to cover all of the overtime that he and the other cyber-crimes officer are currently not being paid for. Discussions were also had on the amount of cyber crime tips that

are being reported have greatly increased and he could honestly use more man power in order to stop more predators. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the application for the grant in the amount of \$177,786.48, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Hedge and Barnett left at 9:53 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/12 commission meeting.

In the matter of
Accounts payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices it the amounts of \$28,328.48 for UMB Bank 50% EATS Rolla Westside TIF, \$100,982.42 for A - L and \$29,351.77 for M - Z.

Wilson left at 10:32 am.
HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry entered at 10:35 am.

In the matter of
Employee retention files:

Asberry advised commission that she learned at a recent conference that we do not need to keep the hard file of employee files. She advised we can digitize these so she would like to purchase a few thumb drives to scan the documents for retention which would free up a lot of storage space. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the purchase of 2 thumb drives, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accruals on 26 pay periods:

Asberry advised she was told by the former HR Director that since we moved to 26 pay periods the employees will not get accruals on 2 of those pay periods. Commission advised they did not discuss the accruals being this way they only discussed the benefits, phone and uniform side of things would be taken out of 24 pay periods and not the full 26 due to billing. Further discussions were had on the need to verify with legal on how we should proceed with the accrual side.

Asberry left at 11:00 am.

In the matter of
Citizen Input- Summerfield Subdivision:

Charles Shivers called in to commission to ask about a storm drain that is in between his yard and his neighbor's yard that is causing a lot of erosion to their land. He further advised

the sewer lines are in the ditch along the culverts and he feels these lines would be exposed soon due to erosion in the ditches as well. Commission advised the culverts would be the HOA to address and the sewer lines would be the Public water district responsibility.

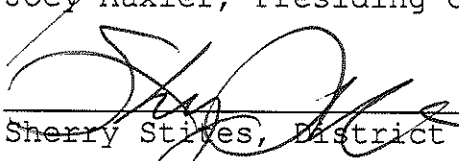
Collector Faith Barnes entered at 11:46 am.

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

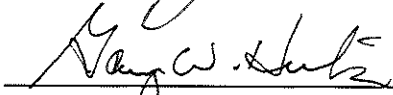
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stives, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

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Phelps County Commission Record
May 19th Thirteenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 19th 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's Department IT Rob Rhibar and local resident Sherry Richardson.

In the matter of
Managed IT services Bid Opening:

As scheduled commission opened bids as follows:

- Consultadd Public services was opened at 9:02 am in the amount of \$173,400 for the first year.
- Alliance was opened at 9:05 am in the amount of \$10,198-\$13,215 plus an annual licensing \$2,200 per month.
- GFI Digital was opened at 9:09 am in the amount of \$14,600-\$17,900 per month for basic services.
- Fired Synapse Technologies was opened at 9:14 am in the amount of \$105,824 for the first year.

Commission advised they will take all bids under advisement and have Rhibar schedule a time to present which companies met all of our requirements.

Rhibar left at 9:26 am.

In the matter of
Citizen Input:

Richardson advised commission the county needs planning and zoning. Commission advised we do not have the money or resources to have planning and zoning. Commission further advised we will not be able to have planning and zoning unless we become a first-class county. Richardson advised we need planning and zoning due to data centers taking over which will ruin the community and land. She further advised she is really worried about the water table and the noise that comes with data centers. Richardson advised she has a neighbor that is building a barn dominium 25 feet off of her property line and she does not like this. Commission advised that is their land and that is the beauty of living in the county where we have no permits and red tape that property owners have to abide by.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:34 am.

Commission advised Richardson that if she has issues with sewer systems then she needs to contact DNR and they also provided her the website to look up the laws governing sewer codes and requirements.

Richardson left at 9:40 am.

Road and Bridge Department Superintendent Mark Case and Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 9:40 am followed by HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry at 9:41 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 05/14 commission meeting.

Asberry left at 10:00 am.

In the matter of
Generator bid solicitation for review:

Discussions were had on the below solicitation bid:

Phelps County is currently seeking bids on the installation of a new turnkey automatic propane generator for use at the Phelps County Highway Department located at 11780 Co Rd 3080 Rolla, MO 65401. Bidders must schedule an appointment with Mark Case, Road Superintendent and 573-426-3864 to do a walkthrough of the building. All bids must include parts, labor and any other costs associated with installation. Bidders must include their proof of insurance and any licensing or certifications. Sealed bids will be accepted in the Phelps County Clerk's Office at 200 N. Main St. Ste 133, Rolla, MO 65401 until Thursday, June 12, 2026 at which time they will be opened. Phelps County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Done by the order of the Phelps County Commission, this 19th day of May, 2026.

Laura Johnson, Phelps County Clerk

PUBLISH: Phelps County Focus

In the matter of
Summerfield subdivision:

Stites advised she has been contacted by a resident in the Summerfield subdivision about bad erosion. She asked Case if there is anything road department could do to help the resident attempt to rectify the erosion. She further asked if we would remove the flare near the area that is eroding to potentially help prevent any further damage. Case advised the HOA is responsible for this not the Road department. Hicks advised we have to look at physics in this situation and brought up the GIS map showing the elevation and water flow in this subdivision. Discussions were also had on the potential of creating some ditches in this subdivision to assist with storm water drainage. Case advised he can go remove the flare and see if that helps any for the time being. Commission asked Case to also clean out the culverts in the area to see if that assists any.

Kojro left at 10:31 am.
Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 10:36 am and left at 11:10 am.
Local resident Sherry and George McCormick entered at 11:12 am.

In the matter of
Discussions on former Road vacation of CR 8500:

McCormick advised she heard there was some issues with the way the vacation was recorded. Discussions were had on where the gate is placed and the access the graders have. McCormick advised if the gate is closed the road grader crews have permission to open it to go through and turn around like they have in the past. Further discussions were had on placing the 40 x 60 turn around up a little further so it is on flatter ground. Commission advised once they place the turn around spot then they need to make sure they record it to be to the county so the county can utilize the turn around.

The McCormicks left at 11:28 am.
Don Diehl with Bartlett West entered at 11:40 am.

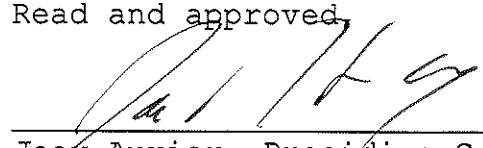
In the matter of
Discussions on former road vacation of CR 8500 revisited:

Diehl presents commission with documents that he has been able to find for the plats on CR 8500. Discussions were had on letting the 2 land owners decide where the hammerhead turn around will be placed and once it is built then the commission will amend the road vacation with accurate meets and bounds recorded.

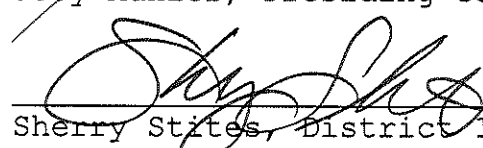
Diehl left at 11:50 am.

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

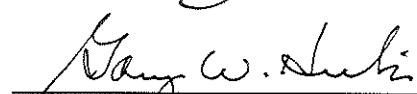
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
May 21st Fourteenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 21st 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
Brookshire Cemetery:

Communication was received from Brookshire Cemetery Association President Todd Humphrey. Humphrey advised this public cemetery is looking to apply for a nonprofit cemetery recognition to receive funds from the IRS. Humphrey further asked commission to keep Brookshire cemetery in mind if the county were to ever receive any cemetery assistance program funding.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/19 commission meeting.

In the matter of
KC Life reinstatement:

Commissioner Stites moved to accept reinstating the benefit period to being effective on the first day of the month following or coinciding with 30 days, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$131,673.96 for May -PC Self Insured UMR/KC Life, \$6,561.73 for May PR Great-West & Nationwide, \$423,046.67 for A - L and \$55,970.72 for M - Z.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 10:54 am.

In the matter of
Health Department Contract:

Berry presents commission with contract renewal for Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) in the amount of \$85,636.60 for 9/1/26 - 8/31/27. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

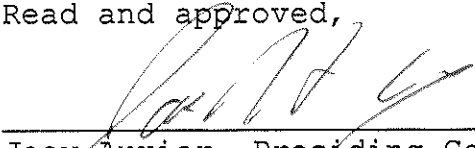
Berry left at 11:10 am.

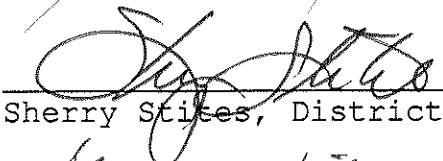
In the matter of
CR 1050 approach to HWY 68:

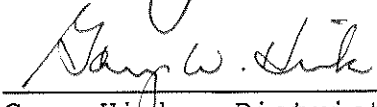
Discussions were had on the approach on County Road 1050 that
goes into Hwy 68.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:49 am.

Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record
May 26th Fifteenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 26th 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

Deputy Clerk Beth Pross took minutes.

County Clerk Johnson was absent due to moving her office.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 5/21
Commission meeting.

Local resident Bill Hamilton entered at 9:30 am.

In the matter of
Utility construction of Hwy BB:

discussion of utility construction in the easement between Daryl and Jackie Rogers, Josh Cohen and Hamilton's property. Commission advised Hamilton to contact the utility company that did the work.

Local residents Brenda and Charles Shivers entered at 10:00 am.

In the matter of
Summerfield Subdivision:

Charles and Brenda Shivers provided written documentation citing water trespass and private nuisance at 10231 Summerfield Drive in Summerfield subdivision. Commission reviewed and discussed the document in question. Joey met with Prosecutor. Prosecutor advised no further action by Commissioners at this time. Discussion held and phone call to Phelps County Surveyor Terris Cates. Commissioner Hicks moved to appoint Cates as Phelps County Engineer, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

David Fields, Darren Washburn and Troy Flickinger from MODOT Rail entered at 10:30 am.

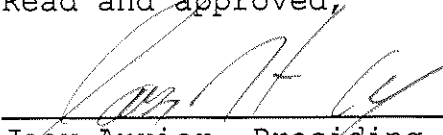
In the matter of
Rosati rail crossing closure agreement:

Fields, Washburn and Flickinger presented commission with the Closure agreement of the Rosati crossing on CR 3640 between MODOT, BNSF, and Phelps County. Commissioner Hicks moved to accept the closure contract, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

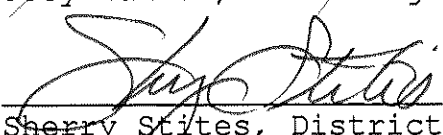
Stites left at 10:20 am followed by Fields, Washburn and Flickinger at 10:50 am.

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

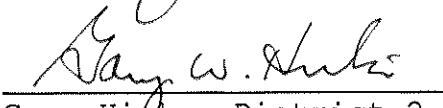
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

May 28th Sixteenth Day of the April Term

Now at this 28th 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

Deputy Clerk Beth Pross took minutes.

County Clerk Johnson was absent due to moving her office.

Also present were local residents Mark Roselli, Rebecca Roselli, Betty Goris, Jeff Goris, Trina Arikian, Brenda Shivers, Charles Shivers, Carol Green from Phelps Connections for Seniors and Kelly Sink from MRPC.

In the matter of
CDBG Public Hearing:

Green and Sink provided commission with documentation that Outlined services, programming, and physical property improvements that would be made to the Phelps Connections for Seniors if the CDBG grant funding is approved.

All present were supportive of the projected property repairs, and further development of the property and programming services for Phelps Connections for Seniors.

It is notable that these changes and others not stated here, can benefit from current grant of \$500,000.

Green, Sink, Roselli and Goris left at 9:45 am.

In the matter of
Citizen Input-Data Center Concerns:

Arikian advised commission of their concerns about data center location and the many negative issues such as; water usage, and possible harm and health issues to nearby residents.

Arikian left at 10:10 am.

In the matter of
Citizen Input-Summerfield Subdivision:

Shivers provided commission with documents to demonstrate damages and the need to redirect storm water drainage and culvert placement. Shivers advised that sometimes this flow can be up to 4 feet deep. Further discussions were had that the current culvert placement discharges water much like a fire hose and has caused considerable damage to their property. Shivers proposed to commission that a new underground culvert pointing to a new culvert or retention pond might help the situation. Auxier explained why this is not feasible and that old sewer

lines run under the older drainage ditches. It is notable that Shivers have two utility easements on their property.

Shivers left at 11:00 am.

County Clerk Johnson entered at 11:16 am followed by State Representative Bill Hardwick at 11:17 am.

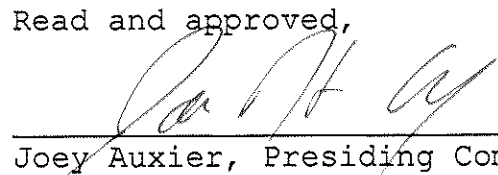
In the matter of
Financial Statement for approval:

County Clerk presented commission with the financial statement of the county for the year 2025. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the statement for publication pursuant to statute, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

County Clerk left at 11:23 am.

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

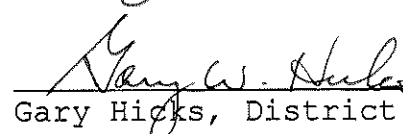
Read and approved,



Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner