Phelps County Commission Record

October 1, 2026 First Day of the October Term

Now at this 1st 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 was deputy Roger Jarrett.

In the matter of
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed minutes from the 9/29 commission meeting. Road and Bridge Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 9:06 am.

In the matter of
Speed limit sign in college hills:

Commissioner Stites advised of a resident in the College Hills that reached out wanting a speed limit sign and stop signs put in place along college hills drive after there have been several accidents. Commission discussed putting in a 4 way stop at the intersection of College Hills drive, Mann Ct and Norwood Ct with a painted white stop line on each road at that intersection. Commissioner Stites moved to change the speed limit on every road located in the entire college hills subdivision to 25 MPH, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Todd Richardson from MOCA entered at 9:19 am.
HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry entered at 9:20 am.

In the matter of
MOCA board opening:

Richardson introduced himself as the new MOCA board Executive Director. He advised there is an opening that needs to be filled with a commissioner as Commissioner Hicks is retiring from the board. Commissioner Stites advised that would be me and discussions were had on when and where the meeting will be and what is needed from Commissioner Stites.

Richardson left at 9:27 am.
Jarrett and Bock left at 9:30 am.

In the matter of
Emergency Closed Session:

Commissioner Stites moved to go into emergency closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3), Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried, moved to closed session at 9:31 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to return to open session, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried, returned to open session at 9:55 am.

Bailiff SGT. Arnold entered at 9:57 am.
Banholzer left at 9:57 am.
Asberry and Arnold left at 10:22 am.
Ap Clerk Erica Bargerstock entered at 10:22 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Bargerstock provided commission with today's AP batches and asked for clarification on some reimbursements. Discussions were had on there not being any consistency with meal reimbursements and mileage reimbursements. County clerk advised the county should not be paying for any employee to go wash their car or go get snacks at a grocery store when they are heading to training. She further advised along with Bargerstock that auditors need documentation which is why we have been requiring google map logs proving we are not overpaying and misusing tax payer funds. Stites advised Johnson to get a mileage reimbursement form that we will make mandatory for all reimbursements period. Further discussions were had on making it clear for all during the budget process that we will not reimburse if the required mileage form is not submitted.
Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of $20,841.99 for October Contract pay, $105,986.81 for A - L and $225,527.37 for M - Z.

Asberry reentered at 10:45 am.
Collector Faith Barnes entered at 10:52 am followed by HD Admin Assistant Jennifer Wiese at 10:56 am, Assessor Tim Kean at 10:57 am, Sheriff's department Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher at 10:58 am and Treasurer Cathy Tipton.

In the matter of
Quarterly Department Head meeting:

County Clerk advised all in attendance that state is working on implementing a new voter registration system that will integrate with GIS mapping. She further advised in order to streamline reimbursement process she will be sending out a mileage form that will be required for all mileage reimbursements and that the mileage starts from the county campus to the training campus not your home address. This has stemmed from audit findings in the past and been outlined by auditors.

Dana Sooter entered at 11:06 am.

Tipton advised she just returned from training and they advised every county needs to have an AI policy put into the county policy notes. Discussions were had on chatgpt and the use of it can not be for internal processes as AI saves the information input and will disburse that out later. Tipton also advised that when we get the new website up we have to be ADA compliant now with in 2028. Stites advised she has assisted disabled members with navigating websites and there is a key up that will speak to anyone that is blind and it is pretty neat. Further

discussions were had on having that added to our new website that is in the works. Tipton also gave a report on were the vendor fund is at for employee appreciation events.
Lasher advised there are lots of changes at the sheriff's department and the jail is pretty full. She further advised they are looking at needing to open the annex back up for housing additional inmates.
Barnes advised at her conference the major outtake from her conference was the need to utilize a company like Copilot that will provide ADA compliance for any county business. She also advised she has a new employee that took Angie's spot who is retiring at the end of the week. Barnes further advised she will be sending out notices to the entities that will be impacted by the senior tax freeze as she is statutorily required to. Barnes advised she has a CID(Community Improvement District) this year due to the Highlands development so the property owners in that development will see an added cost to their tax bill.
Kean advised the CID goes directly to the developer building in that new subdivision. He further advised the county will see some changes next year on commercial with Cantex demolishing the old building and Amazon building a new building and with the 2 new subdivisions being built we will see a change on residential. He further advised that they have completed his side of the tax books and the data dump into Devnet should be completed by end of day today. Kean advised he is fully staffed at the moment but he did have a field worker turn in 2week notice today and will be looking later down the road at potentially filling that position, instead he will just shift some responsibilities around until the assessment work for 2027 is completed. Kean further advised he has had to suspend some reassessments due to irate/hostile property owners as he had an employee get a gun pointed at them and it was far out into the county which wasn't safe.
Sooter advised all is good in her office and he one employee that has been out due to illness is finally home and recovering. She further advised they are still dealing with an estate in Kentucky but it is an ongoing court battle with the remaining family.
Asberry advised she is making the last few changes to the policy manual so once we get that completed she will get that sent out.
Wiese advised with the resignation of the New HD director she is stepping back in to be interim director as of this morning but she advised the health department will be fine. She further advised today starts the flu shot program so that is in full swing. She advised the Narcan vending machines are being utilized daily so that has been a good benefit for the community.
Stites advised the Christmas party is the first week of December. December 4,2026 starting at 6pm, Auxier has volunteered to smoke the meat this year and elected officials will do desserts again. Discussions were had on asking lions club to bid on making sides for us. Further discussions were had on whether we wanted to approve a certain amount out of the vending fund for prizes to be handed out. Sooter advised we need to make sure we keep all things moving quickly.
Johnson advised Barnes would like to see these meeting pushed back a little to allot for more discussion time amongst department heads/elected officials. All in attendance agreed to the future quarterly department head meetings starting at 10:30 am instead of 11:00 am.

Johnson also advised she has taken on coordinating the sign-up list for the monthly employee events and the coloring/get to know us book from Recorder Robin Kordes since she is retiring at the end of the year but we need another office holder to take over scheduling the food/coffee trucks for employees. No one in attendance volunteered to take on this task at this time.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Read and approved,

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

October 6, 2026 Second Day of the October Term

Now at this 6th 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

County Clerk Johnson was absent due to a prior arrangement. Deputy Clerk Beth Pross took minutes.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/01 commission meeting.

In the matter of
HR on Health Department updates:

Asberry advised commission about Jones issues after his resignation. She reported that employees in Maries county will hire their county residents. Asberry reported that issues have been resolved. She will outline the proposed structure and plan for Maries health department. Then report back to commissioners. Gary requested an interview with proposed interim director at next Thursday commission meeting.

In the matter of
CERF contribution:

Commission reviewed the annual CERF contribution form. Commissioner Hicks moved to continue contribution at 4%, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Ann Freand and Bonnie Prigge with MRPC, Preston Kramer and Yahkhub Shebob with MODOT, Steve Jackson with Bartlett West, Road and Bridge Superintendent Mark Case and Dawn Bell with City of Rolla entered at 9:30 am.
Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:34 am.

In the matter of
Transportation Needs meeting:

Preston introduced Shebob to commission.
Preston advised Missouri ranks 47% in state highway funding and explained there is 8 billion unused MODOT funds. He further advised MODOT currently has at least one thousand (1k) projects And he will be finalizing the scope of I-44 projects to be presented at a later date to commission. MODOT has TMR posted on website. Discussions were had on fatality reports along I-44; posted on Highway Patrol and MODOT websites.
MODOT Transportation Needs and Phelps County Multimodal Transportation Needs were reviewed by each line item.

Phelps County Transportation Needs

Revised 10/21/2025 FY26 Priorities - Ph-652, Ph-630, Ph-642 & Ph-631(HPUN #5 Ph-630, #6 Ph-669)

	MRPC1	Phelps, Maries, Osage			6	US	63	Major Project: US 63 from US Hwy 50 in Osage County to the Phelps/Texas County line	Corridor improvements including widening to 4-lane, Shoulders and horizontal alignment improvements as well, for any project that will advance the 4-laning of the corridor)	
	Ph-600	Phelps			E	US	63	Around Rolla	roadway need (bypass)	Partially addressed by Route 72 intersection
	Ph-602	Phelps			E	MO	B	St. James to Crawford County Line (entire length)	Further Roadway improvements for Safety and Capacity.	
	Ph-606	Phelps			1	RT	F	Route 72 to Route 68	Safety improvements	
	Ph-610	Phelps			1	RT	Y	at CRD 7260	Safety improvements at intersection (right distance issue).	No low-cost solutions. Kneecap county road approach is best option. County project or partnership project in future?
	Ph-613	Phelps			1	RT	Y	Entire length of Route Y	Safety & Drainage Improvements	
	Ph-614(b)	Phelps	27	3	1	MO	68	Interchange @ off ramp & Route 8 intersection	Safety & Traffic control need (congestion concern) & Economic Development.	City of St. James owns right of way from Route KK to south city limits, MoDOT maintains pavement surface of existing lanes only. City project or partnership project in future? TEAP study/Tier 3 need on State's Rd. in SCOPING FY29
	Ph-614(b)	Phelps			1	MO	68	From south of Interchange to Highway DD	Safety & Traffic control need (congestion concern)	
	Ph-615	Phelps			1	RT	CC	Entire Route	Safety improvements, including flooding issue at end of CC.	Resurfacing in FY25
	Ph-617	Phelps			1	RT	J	2 miles S/O of I-44 to bridge over Spring Creek	roadway need (flooding concern)	
	Ph-621(a)	Phelps			1	RT	KK	St. James East to Cuba	Safety improvements / roadway need / add shoulders (narrow)	
	Ph-621(b)	Phelps			1	RT	KK	Intersection at MO 68	Improvements and curbing near the intersection and improve pavement	
	Ph-624	Phelps			1	IS	44	I-44	Passing improvements to I-44 (lengthened climbing lanes & ramps)	Climbing lane WB - west of Jerome extended
	Ph-630	Phelps			E	US	63	Entire Route in Phelps County	Corridor improvements including widening to 4-lane.	
	Ph-633	Phelps			1	RT	J	Bridge No. N0533 over Little Creek	Bridge Need	4-4-5 (Poor Condition), 2-lane, Load posted, Built in 1964.
	Ph-634	Phelps			1	RT	V	From I-44 to Route 68	Add shoulders/ safety improvements	
	Ph-636	Phelps			C	IS	44	North Outer Road between Northwye and Route V	Add shoulders/ safety improvements. WIDENED SHOULDERS	
	Ph-637	Phelps			C	IS	44	South Outer Road between Exit 180 and St. James	Add shoulders/ safety improvements	
	Ph-638	Phelps	27		1	RT	10X	Bridge No. N0606 over Spring Creek	Bridge Need	5-5-6 (Poor Condition), 1-lane, Load posted, Built in 1958.
	Ph-642	Phelps			E	IS	44	Near Jerome	Flooding Closes Interstate	Raise I-44 (raise road to bridge level)
	Ph-646	Phelps		3	E	IS	44	I-44, entire length across region	Safety & Capacity issues	Tier 3 for pavement improvements. In eastbound traffic I-44 Study completed.
	Ph-646(a)	Phelps			E	IS	44	MM 169-170 Eastbound	Climbing/passing lane.	
	Ph-646(b)	Phelps			E	IS	44	MM 172-173 Westbound	Climbing/passing lane. (Start existing climbing lane earlier, down in the bottom.)	
	Ph-646(c)	Phelps			1	IS	44	MM 182-183 Westbound	Climbing/passing lane. (Start existing climbing lane earlier, down in the bottom.)	
	Ph-646(d)	Phelps			1	IS	44	MM 185-187 Eastbound	Passing lane. (Extend existing 3rd lane to past the interchange on ramp.)	
	Ph-646(e)	Phelps			1	IS	44	MM 188-189 Westbound	Re-align to reduce roadway curvature, or equivalent action.	
	Ph-646(f)	Phelps			1	IS	44	MM 190-191 Westbound	Climbing/passing lane.	
	Ph-648	Phelps	27	2	1	IS	44	Hwy V interchange	Capacity & Safety improvements @ interchange, Inc. N outer road	Old St. James Rd. Thru to Love's Truck Stop Tier 2 need on Central District's HPUN list.
	Ph-650	Phelps			1	RT	U	Bridge over I-44	Convert Overpass to Interchange on I-44	
	Ph-652	Phelps			1	IS	44	44/72 Interchange	Improvements to interchange and roundabouts	Dog bone roundabouts at capacity in SCOPING FY25
	Ph-653	Phelps			1	US	63	63/I-44 Interchange	Improvements to interchange including pedestrian crossings	Existing crossing isn't ADA compliant.
	Ph-654	Phelps	28		1	RT	S	Bridge No. T0878 over Spring Creek	Bridge Need	4-4-5 (Poor Condition). Built in 1953 - look at flooding issue. in SCOPING FY25
	Ph-657	Phelps	29		1	RT	F	Bridge No. N0522 over Norman Creek	Bridge Need	5-6-6 (Serious Condition)
	Ph-658	Phelps			1	RT	V	Intersection at CR 2070	Trucks entering highway w/ elevation and turn radius issues	
	Ph-661	Phelps			1	MO	68	Hwy 68 & CR 3050 intersection	Straightening of intersection and improvements to slope	County demolished steel/possible partnership project
	Ph-662	Phelps			1	MO	09	Hwy 68 & Hwy V	Lighting at intersection	
	Ph-663	Phelps			1	MO	63	Intersection at County Road 5130	Turn lane onto county road at curve	
	Ph-664	Phelps			1	MO	05	Area around Phelps County Fairgrounds	Turn lanes for safety	
	Ph-665	Phelps			1	MO	63	Intersection at County Road 5030/Nagogi Construction	Turn lanes for safety on curve	
	Ph-666	Phelps			1	RT	T	Bridge No. A1315 over Little Piney	Bridge Need	
	Ph-667	Phelps			1	RT	P	Bridge No. A1880 over Mill Creek	Bridge Need	
	Ph-668	Phelps			1	RT	C	Bridge No. A1054 over I-44	Bridge Need	
REMOVED	Ph-669	Phelps			1	IS	44	Bridge No. A4671 over Little Piney (westbound)	Bridge Need	5-7-4 (Poor Condition). Built in 2003
	Ph-670	Phelps			1	IS	44 Outer Rd.	North Outer Road between 72 and I	Outer Road need	
	Ph-672	Phelps			1	IS	N Outer Rd.	North Outer Road between E and 63	Outer Road need	

Phelps County Multimodal Transportation Needs

Updated as of Oct. 2025

PHp-600	Airport				E			Rolla National Airport	Road to Airport on private and/or by lease/	Also on Maries County list
PHp-601	Airport			Y	E			Rolla National Airport	Overlay Runway in Rolla National Airport in Vichy	On Multimodal list of HPUN. Also on Maries County list. Overlay funded for 4/10 century
PHp-602	Airport				E			Rolla National Airport	Construct Hangars and Taxiway	Request, Rod Hough, Also on Maries County list
PHp-603	Airport				E			Rolla National Airport	Taxiway to East End & Taxiways	
PHbp-621	Bike/Ped				1	RT	9	Hwy 8/68 Interchange to Moreland Vineyards	Bike path/pedestrian facilities	
PHbp-622	Bike/Ped			Y	1			South of I-44	Multiuse path/trail connecting St. James and Rolla	
PHbp-623	Bike/Ped				C		Old Wire Road	Old Wire Rd from Maneards to Veterans Clinic	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-624	Bike/Ped				E	MO	68	Hwy 68 from Hwy 8 intersection to Hwy V/1050	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-625	Bike/Ped				E	RT	O	From Hwy 72 south to subdivision	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-627	Bike/Ped				E		Matlock Drive	From Hwy 68 west along Matlock Drive to Middle School	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-628	Bike/Ped				E	RT	KK	From Jeffersonville to 2nd industrial park entrance	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-629	Bike/Ped				E		Main St.	Hwy 72 bridge/Pedestrian crossing over railroad	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-630	Bike/Ped				1	MO	72	Hwy 72/63 intersection	Crosswalk improvements to large intersection	
PHbp-631	Bike/Ped				E	MO	72	McAbee Development/Osage to Huffman's	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-632	Bike/Ped				E		Sweet Rd.	County Road 3000/subdivision	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-633	Bike/Ped				E			Salem and Sweet Rd. intersection	Crosswalk, lighting and improvements	
PHbp-634	Bike/Ped				E		Old St. James Rd.	Hwy V to Rolla City Limits	Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Need	
PHbp-635	Bike/Ped				1	RT	66	Route 66 through Rolla from I-44 to Northwye	Recycling Safety Need along Route 66	
PH-650	BAR				E	RR		Rolla - Amtrak Stop	Amtrak service to Rolla (from St. Louis to Springfield)	NEED BUS AND LIBRARY
PH-670	Transit				E			Countywide	Increased Public Transportation Options.	
PH-671	Transit				E			Rolla	Greyhound Bus Stop	No stops in town currently exist.
PH-672	Transit				E			Rolla	Route in/from Rolla Senior Center	SAME + CITY ACCESS
PH-673	Transit				E				Routes to Jerome and Newburg	Need for residents that cannot drive, esp. during elections.

Kojro left at 10:30 am.

Prigge reminded everyone about fundraiser at Bear Creek Camp that is exciting for all ages, baby lemurs and many family friendly activities.

All Prigge, Freand, Kramer, Shebob, Jackson and Bell left at 11:00 am.

In the matter of
Road and Bridge updates:

Case discussed and reviewed local projects including Rosati crossing updates. Advised more expensive road work there may have to wait until the funding comes through. Commission advised that he could proceed with smaller road projects until then. Commission also advised Case that they were very satisfied with the updates and how the employees handled themselves.

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 8, 2026 Third Day of the October Term

Now at this 8th 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

HD office manager Jennifer Wiese entered at 9:26 am followed by Support Services Sissy Shults at 9:27 am.

In the matter of
County devices:

Commission discussed with Shults the need to potentially get a county cellphone or mini ipad to keep officials from utilizing their personal devices.

Shults left at 9:40 am.

In the matter of
HD updates:

Commission and Wiese discussed the potential changes of moving around personnel to cut some cost down in order to increase the hourly rates for the staff. Discussions were also had on whether the HD gets a substantial amount of grant funding because we are a dual county HD. Further discussions were had on the agreement with Maries county that states Maries would pay a monetary amount and provide in kind office space but they are not providing the office space right now.
Further discussions were had on where we could relocate the health department to better serve the staff, citizens utilizing the services and to free up much needed office space for other county offices.

Tonya Greven with BPJ entered at 9:51 am.

Wiese also advised commission she has discovered a decent amount of TORCH funding that would be available to the HD that could actually be used in relocating the Health Department.
Commissioner Hicks moved to approve applying for the grant and accepting any funding that comes from this, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Commissioner Stites moved to appoint Jennifer Wiese as the Interim Health Department Director for a 90-day period, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Sheriff's Department Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 10:18 am.

In the matter of
BPJ updates:

Greven advised commission they received a proposal that would keep the county at the same stop loss rates that we are currently at. She further advised that normally there is a longer time frame to act on this but this one is due Friday so commission will need to advise if they want to stay where we are at this 8% rate. Commissioner Stites moved to renew with current stop loss carrier at this time, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried. Greven also advised commission that the county is at the best build up since they have been for several years being self-funded.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of $8,058.05 for October 02 PR Great-West & Nationwide, $138,554.70 for A - L and $70,103.92 for M - Z.

Phelps Health CEO Jason Shenefield entered at 10:49 am.

In the matter of
Sheriff's Department updates:

Lasher advised she has received an additional invoice for the sensors that were put in by the former jail administrator without permission from the commission. Lasher further advised someone signed the contract but commission advised unless she slide the signature page into a different contract they did not sign it as they told her they did not approve the funding. Lasher advised she will obtain a contract so we can all review it.

Lasher left at 11:04 am.

In the matter of
Phelps Health updates:

Shenefield advised the ER expansion project is moving right along. He further advised he has just returned from a conference and the main take away was how can companies help with rural health care. He advised next week they are hosting an event to showcase their expanded preferred health plan located off Spillman avenue at their resilient clinic. Discussions were had on the PMP going down cost wise as it would be cheaper for a virtual clinic visit at this location where there is a nurse or medic to assess along with the doctor that will be on the screen instead of an in-office visit.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Read and approved,

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

October 13, 2026 Fourth Day of the October Term

Now at this 13th 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

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/08 Commission meeting.

In the matter of
Review of Purchasing/Procurement policy:

County Clerk provided commission with a purchasing and procurement policy for the county. She further advised that she composed our county policy by utilizing sections from other third-class county policies. Commission reviewed the proposed policy and made a few edits. The edited policy will be presented at the next commission meeting for adoption and implementation.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:34 am.
PA Taylor Banholzer entered at 10:09 am.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amount of $24,043.88 for September Senior Companions Bills & Stipends.

Kojro left at 10:29 am followed by Banholzer at 10:34 am.

In the matter of
NACO annual membership:

Commissioner Hicks moved to accept another annual subscription for NACO County dues in the amount of $893.00, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Commission business:

Commissioner Stites will be attending the Forward 44 meeting today in Rolla at 12:30 pm located at City Hall.

Commissioner Auxier will be attending the Forward 44 meeting today in St. James at 4:30pm located at Nelson Hart Community Hall.

Greg Brauner with Hutchison Engineering, Inc. entered at 11:33 am.

In the matter of
Contracting services:

Brauner introduced himself to commission and advised his company provides engineering and BRO services. Discussions were had on our great relationship with our current engineering services companies. Commission advised Brauner that he should reach out to Bonnie Prigge with MRPC to schedule a time to present to commissioners from 8 counties so they all know what services his company provides.

Brauner left at 11:46 am.

In the matter of
Violation of Floodplain ordinance:

Discussions were had on the floodplain violations in Jerome commissioner hicks advised he will visit today to see if the violations have been remedied and will report at the next commission meeting of his findings.

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

Read and approved,

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

October 15, 2026 Fifth Day of the October Term

Now at this 15th 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 was Tonya Greven from BPJ.

In the matter of
Broker Services Bid opening:

As scheduled bids were opened as follows:

- Higginbotham was opened at 9:05 am.
- BPJ was opened at 9:12 am.
- Bukaty was opened at 9:20 am.
- Caravus was opened at 9:23 am.

Discussions were had on all proposals received. Commissioner Stites moved to accept BPJ as our Broker Services consultants, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried. County Clerk will advise the 3 other companies that we have chosen a company from reviewing the proposals, will not be hosting any interviews and thank them for their time.

In the matter of
Insurance updates and options:

Greven advised commission that our fund is doing well and advised we could offer a few different options during the next open enrollment. She advised the county could provide a premium holiday to employees that would allow the employees to not contribute their month insurance premiums for 1 or 2 months but the county would still pay our portion. This would act almost as a holiday bonus to employees but not violating any laws at the same time.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 9:53 am.
Greven left at 10:04 am.

In the matter of
Use, Sales tax and Opioid fund reports:

Tipton provided commission with reports on sales, use tax and opioid funds.

- Sales tax is down over last month but we are still up 3% compared to this time last year.
- Use tax is looking good and discussions were had on the average monthly revenue being between $118,000 to $120,000.
- Opioid funds are still trickling in but not in any large amounts. Discussions were had on the expenses from approved allocations and the remaining funds that could still be allocated. Tipton advised she spoke with the Drug Court

representative as they have not expended any of their allocated funds. She further advised the program director advised the county could take the funds back as they have not needed to use it. Commission advised yes we will put the $32,000 back into the fund to be allocated to another entity.

Deputy Assessor Paul Long entered at 10:23 am.
Tipton left at 10:25 am.
Dilek Acar entered at 10:29 am.

In the matter of
Emerald Springs subdivision plat amendment:

Dilek presented an amended subdivision plat that shows the names of all the roads in her subdivision. Commission all approved the amendment of the plat showing the road names.

Long left at 10:42 am followed by Acar at 10:51 am.

In the matter of
Speed limit change CR 3430:

Commissioner Stites advised she has been approached by residents on County Road 3430 who advised there have been several accidents on the road due to speeding cars. Commissioner Stites moved to decrease the speed limit from 35mph to 25mph, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
TEAP study on

Commissioner Stites advised she spoke with city engineer Darrin Pryor about conducting a TEAP study on old St. James road from city limits to the V Highway railroad viaduct. Commissioner Stites moved to pay $15,000 for a TEAP study on this section of road, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
County Purchasing and Procurement policy adoption:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the County Purchasing and Procurement Policy with the edits, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
County Road 4160:

Citizen Dalton Samuel called in to commission to inquire about County Road 4160 being paved. Commission advised that road has been on our radar but the residents on that road have not submitted their portion of what the cost to initially pave it would be in order for the commission to pave it. Commissioner Auxier advised that we had just done a traffic counter on that

road and there was just not enough traffic to justify paving that road at the counties expense.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of $132,950.20 for A - L and $53,231.63 for M - Z.

In the matter of
Review of Commission Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the 10/13 commission meeting.

In the matter of
Commission business:

Hicks advised he visited the Jerome properties that had violated our flood plain ordinance. He reported that one property owner had already completed the work to return our property to its original state. He further advised there was some pontoons and an RV still located on county property so he is working to track down the owners of that property to have it removed.
Hicks further advised he went by the property off martin springs drive that was in violation and confirmed that the property owner has removed the violation and he advised commission of his future plans. Commissioner Hicks advised that property owner has been very pleasant to talk with and appreciates the young man's efforts to communicate with the county.

In the matter of
MOCA meeting Call:

Executive Director of MOCA Todd Richardson called in to commission to inform Commissioner Stites that the next meeting will be held next Thursday with dinner starting at 5:30 pm.

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 20, 2026 Sixth Day of the October Term

Now at this 20th 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

In the matter of
Personal and Real Court Orders:

Commission reviewed and approved Personal property court order numbers: 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338 and 2339.
Corrections were reviewed and approved on Court order numbers: 2298, 2303, 2307 and 2317.

Road & Bridge Admin Assistant Michelle Bock entered at 9:22 am.

In the matter of
Invalid Reassurance contract:

Commission called Sheriff Kirn to inquire about a contract with a vendor that the commission did not sign. Discussions were had on the questioned contract and sheriff advised he was not thinking at the time it needed to be approved by commission but that he will have the company send a new contract to be signed by commission in order to keep the county compliant with state Statute.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:35 am.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the 10/15 commission meeting.

Tonya Greven with BPJ entered at 9:56 am followed by HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry at 9:57 am.

In the matter of
BPJ updates:

Greven advised she has configured some numbers for offering the additional coverage option for an employee and 1 child. Discussions were had on the option and Greven advised she is scheduled to present the renewal with pricing and options to the county next week on Thursday.

Bock left at 10:13 am followed by Kojro at 10:25 am and Greven at 10:30 am.

Sheriff's Department Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher entered at 10:31 am.
Lasher left at 11:05 am.

In the matter of
Jerome property encroachments:

Commissioner Hicks advised he had to do some digging but located the owners of the boat/trailers and RV's located on our county property at Jerome. He further advised he was able to contact one of the owners who has already removed their items but it appears the remaining items belong to someone that is deceased. Hicks advised his next option is to contact the sheriff to have the items marked for towing.

Lasher reentered at 11:39am.

In the matter of
Amended contract for Reassurance:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the 2 amended contracts for reassurance in the amounts of $48,350 and $48,600 for vital pod sensors, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Lasher left at 11:49 am.

In the matter of
Meal reimbursement discussions:

Discussions were had on receipts that show the paid amount different from what an employee has written on receipt changing the total. Commission confirmed meal reimbursements will only be reimbursed for the amount printed on the Paid receipt.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Read and approved,

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

October 22, 2026 Seventh Day of the October Term

Now at this 22nd 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

County Clerk was absent due to attending the South-Central Regional Clerk meeting. Deputy Clerk Beth Pross took minutes.

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 10/20 commission meeting.

Jeana Bahr with the Health Department entered at 9:15 am.

In the matter of
Health department updates:

Bahr discussed recent staff changes in the department with the commission. She also discussed closing the department all day, to outside business on 10/30/2026. Bahr advised she will post a notice to the public prior to that date via their department website and on the exterior department door.
Bahr left 9:45 am.

In the matter of
New County website proposal:

Commission reviewed and discussed the website redesign & digital services proposal for Phelps County.

It was noted that Lions Club and Rolla Chamber of Commerce also use the same website developer, By Design Media LLC(BDM). Both entities report satisfaction with BDM development and maintenance of their websites.

Discussions were had on the website redesign being comprehensive and would include better accessibility for consumers and visitors. Examples of services could be:

- Quick access to common services, community resource hub, and news, calendar, public updates.
- Department heads could have direct access to their department information via their own landing page.
- Community section, offering access to local government agencies, schools throughout Phelps County, emergency services, local utilities, health services.
- Online forms and other digital tools would benefit

various county departments and services.

Commissioner Stites moved to approve the new website proposal in the amount of $10,000, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.
HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry entered at 10:30am.

In the matter of
Employee guidebook:

Asberry provided feedback and discussion about the employee handbook. It was noted that Phelps County Sheriff Department has their own guidebook.

Discussions were had on the guidebook emphasizing employees should never use personal electronic devices for any county business.

Discussions were had on having no access to chat GBT or AI on digital devices at this time.
Commission and Asberry advised current employees will need to sign the page accepting the county rules and regulations and then return that signature page to HR during open enrollment.

Commissioner Stites moved to adopt the policy as written, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Flood plain application:

Commissioners reviewed and discussed floodplain development permit application for Mr. Ross. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the application, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.
AP Clerk Erica Bargerstock entered at 11:30 am

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of $7,735.50 for October 16 PR Great-West & Nationwide, $147,581.54 for A - L and $175,959.44 for M - Z.

Presiding Commissioner Auxier left at 11:30 for a prior arranged commitment.

Commissioner Stites appointed Commissioner Hicks as Presiding Commissioner for the remainder of the Commission meeting.

Joe Dalton from the pregnancy resource center entered at 11:45am

In the matter of
Possible New Location for Health Department:

Dalton discussed some real estate that could possibly serve as the new location of the Phelps/Maries health department. Discussions were had on available space in the Hwy 72 Center building.

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 27, 2026 Eighth Day of the October Term

Now at this 27th 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 do to a prior arranged appointment.

Also present was local resident Ray Schweikhardt.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amount of $136,408.00 for Road Dept Vehicles and MRPC Banquet.

Local resident Dale Wands entered at 9:10 am and left at 9:20 am.
HR/Payroll Specialist Amy Asberry entered at 9:26 am followed by local resident Chester Kojro at 9:30 am.

In the matter of
HR updates:

- Asberry advised commission we have an employee that was denied unemployment and is now threating to sue the county. Commission advised to turn it over to our MAC attorney.
- Asberry also advised she wants to put the "emergency response plan" out with the newly adopted employee guidebook. Commission advised absolutely lets send it out together.
- Discussions were had on the changes to 90 and out with 30 years of service and 60 years of age. Discussions were had on notifying our insurance agents of the change so they can make the changes in their system. Commission advised this is what was discussed when we adopted the changes.

Coroner Ernie Coverdell entered at 9:48 am.
Asberry left at 9:52 am.

In the matter of
Coroner updates:

Coverdell provided commission with the booklet that he put together providing answers to a lot of questions for families of decedents. He further advised he has created a policy that outlines what constitutes the need for an autopsy when a death occurs.
Commission asked if the illegal immigrants that died several months ago have been removed from storage. Coverdell advised the last body has been transported and no longer stored. Commission asked why he did not cremate the bodies after 10 days as the

statute advises which led to the tax payers paying a large bill for storing a body for over 70 days. Coverdell advised that because he was in constant contact with the families, he could not cremate the body since their religion did not allow cremation. Commissioner Hicks asked what statutes and legal counsel did he use to come up with this decision. Coverdell advised he will get copies of the statutes he was referring to. Commissioner Hicks further advised he feels that there was no consideration given to the tax payers money on the excessive expenses. Coverdell advised further that "he had to do an autopsy on all of them because what if one of them didn't die from carbon monoxide." Commission further advised due to you being over budget on a few lines he will need to move some money around to cover the excess expenses. Commissioner Hicks asked again why he thought it was necessary to do an autopsy on all the bodies when he advised there are clear indications that show when there is carbon monoxide poisoning. Coverdell advised because the prosecutor told him to do autopsies on all 5. Coverdell further explained "he was told she advised that by the sheriff's department."

Local resident Johnathan Ahl entered at 10:14 am.
Coverdell left at 10:16 am.

In the matter of
Citizen inquest:

Ahl asked commission how involved they are in the revenues and expenses by office holders, specifically the sheriff's department. Commission advised they approve the budget and are only directly involved with the office holders when their budgets are in the red. Ahl advised he is questioning that outside of residents that are arrested in our county or neighboring counties that we have contracts with that when we open up housing ICE inmates this moves the jail into a business and not a public service. Commissioner Auxier advised he does trust the sheriff to run the jail as it needs. Ahl advised he understand that he can not make an elected official speak on a matter but he does feel that in the interest of the public the official should be willing to speak on a matter. Discussions were had on the sheriff dissolving the transportation side of the contract as that was costing the county more money than what the county was getting paid to offer this service on ICE detainees.

Kojro left at 10:27 am.

In the matter of
Meal Reimbursement discussion:

County Clerk Johnson advised she is burdened with constant harassment from employees and office holders who do not get a full refund due to improper required documentation. Johnson further advised that when talking with surrounding 3rd class counties we are the highest paid for meal and mileage reimbursements and several of those counties either do not reimburse for tips or they advised their office holders and employees are very mindful of tax payer funds and never submit

meal reimbursements. Johnson advised commission she would like to see the county get rid of the meal reimbursements all together since this has become a problem, even though we have always followed auditing best practices, and that this is not a requirement by law. Commission advised they are not willing to get rid of it until it becomes a bigger issue. Johnson then provided and advised commission with a guideline showing the requirements set by GSA, State Office of Administration and Auditors for meal reimbursements. Johnson asked if commission approves of this being sent out as a reminder of what is required since we follow GSA standard rate for meal reimbursements. Commission advised her to send the meal reimbursement guideline out to elected officials and ask them to remind all their employees of the requirements.

Schweikhardt left at 10:48 am.
Local resident Chester Crider entered at 10:51 am and left at 11:02 am.

In the matter of
TEEP study contract:

Commission reviewed the contract to work with Great Rivers Engineering to do a traffic analysis on old St. James road.

In the matter of
Additional Opioid settlements opt-in:

Commissioner Hicks moved to opt in on the 6 new remnant defendant companies that are involved in the opioid settlement, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Commission Business:

Commissioner Auxier is meeting with the Interim Health Department Director at 1pm today to look at a potential new location for the Phelps/Maries Health department.

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

Read and approved,

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

Phelps County Commission Record

October 29, 2026 Ninth Day of the October Term

Now at this 29th 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

In the matter of
Review of Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the 10/22 and 10/27 Commission meeting.

In the matter of
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amount of $20,841.99 for November Contract Pay, $7,331.95 for October 30 PR Great-West & Nationwide, $4,576.91 for October Multi-Vendor, $25,916.06 for A - L and $64,438.19 for M - Z.

Tonya Greven with BPJ entered at 9:20 am.

In the matter of
BPJ renewal rates:

Greven presented commission with the vision plan through KCL that the county is currently on and suggests we stay with them as they have the best rates.

Dental is going up slightly but still very reasonable and the best plan out there so suggests staying with

Commissioner Stites moved to accept the proposed insurance plan with UMR, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of
Closed Session:

Commission moved to go into closed session pursuant to RSMO 610.021(5), Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried. Moved to closed session at 9:44 am.

Commissioner Hicks moved to go back in to open session, Stites seconded, motion carried. Returned to open session at 9:55 am.

In the matter of
Health insurance:

Discussions were had on the prior changes to our Health insurance option for retirees that needed clarification. Commission advised Greven due to the increase of employees retiring at a younger age we changed our years of service from

25 to 30 years of service and 60 years of age (this original motion was documented as 90 and out).

Commissioner Stites moved to approve the clarification of action taken on November 14, 2024 to read as an employee that is retiring with 30 years of service plus 60 years of age my stay on County Health insurance until they reach the age of 65 at which time they will be removed from the county plan, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Greven left at 10:35 am.
Collector Faith Barnes entered 11:03 am and left at 11:11 am.
Prosecuting Attorney Taylor Banholzer entered at 11:35 am.

In the matter of
Autopsy costs related to incident on Village Circle:

Commission advised Banholzer the Coroner said you informed the sheriff's department that all 5 bodies needed autopsied. Banholzer advised no, when I spoke with the detective I inquired if it was a human trafficking issue and he advised no this is carbon monoxide poisoning as the vehicle was still running in the garage when they arrived on scene. They further discussed that by law the minor is the only one that legally had to have an autopsy. Further discussions were had on where any of the personal property went that was gathered at the scene. Discussions were had about referring to statutes to find where it says what can be done with unclaimed property. Commissioner Auxier advised had we only done the autopsy on the required minor, the rest of the deaths would have the same cause, saving a large amount of tax payer funds. Commissioner Stites advised in just doing a little research today she has found laws that clearly outline what should have been done in the beginning and wants to see if there is any property that can be sold by statute where the county could recoup some of the cost that the coroner put on the county. Banholzer advised she will look into if the property was ever turned over to the sheriff's department. Stites further asked if a report of the entire case start to finish can be obtained. Banholzer advised yes you can request a copy. Banholzer further advised to send an email requesting it and further advised he does not use the secured county email like every other elected official so you will have to send it to his outlook email that he created. Commissioner Auxier called the Public Administrator to ask if the coroner had turned over any property from the 5 deaths of the illegals that passed from carbon monoxide. Sooter advised no she received nothing from him. Commission advised this is a breach of the statutes and we need to inquire further into the matter.

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