

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 2, 2025 Nineteenth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 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

Congressman Smiths Field Representative Grant Wilson entered at 9:10 am.

In the matter of  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amount of \$19,158.67 for September Contract pay.

Wilson left at 10:31 am.  
AP Clerk Erica Bargerstock entered at 10:31 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff Invoices:

Bargerstock provided commission with a folder of pending invoices from the sheriff's department. Discussions were had on the utilities invoices not being coded to come out of 405 anymore by the sheriff but instead they are being coded out of 410 which frequently low in funds. Further discussions were had on paying the utility bills out of 405 moving forward as 410 needs to build revenue to cover payroll and upcoming loan payments. Further discussions were had on only paying pertinent operational invoices due to the lack of funds available.

Bargerstock left at 10:54 am.  
Chris Boone and David Christensen from Cochran Engineering entered at 10:55 am followed by Treasurer Cathy Tipton at 10:58 am.

In the matter of  
Cochran Engineering:

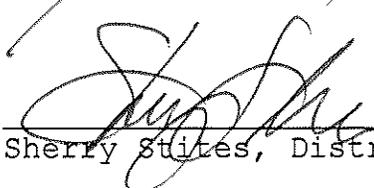
Christensen provided commission with documentation of the past 10 years of bridge design experience. Discussions were had on the bridges that need repaired in our county and the programs available to fund these necessary repairs. Further discussions were had on the multiple projects that Cochran Engineering have designed and completed along with the grant funding they have obtained for each of these projects. Further discussions were had on Cochran not utilizing proprietary equipment so that there will not be any delays due to equipment. Discussions were had on each project being overseen by their company so that nothing falls through the cracks. Christensen advised he would recommend sending his team out to survey the low water crossings to obtain

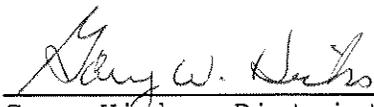
a dollar amount so the county knows exactly where they are to be bale to replace or repair these low water crossings since these would not qualify for BRO funding. He further advised and provided documentation on how every project they have done have been completed under budget. Discussions were had on the savings associated with NovaChip as preventative pavement maintenance. He further explained that he is not a fan of Chip and seal because it is not sustainable and actually costs more money to maintain. Commission asked if you could NovaChip over chip and seal roads. Christensen advised he would have to core the pavement to see what they are working with before he could provide that answer. Further discussions were had on Missouri having a high freeze/thaw rate due to the fluctuating weather which wrecks havoc on the roads in the state. Discussions were had on doing bid opening in January of 2026 so you have a good idea of what will be due for the following year(2027).

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Suites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 4, 2025 Twentieth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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

District 2 Commissioner, Gary Hicks, was absent due to illness.

Also present was HR Director Elizabeth Davis.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$31.75 for GFI Digital, \$6,266.82 for Great-West and Nationwide, \$143,229.74 for UMR and KC Life, \$3,991.99 for ADP Multi-vendor, \$192,102.03 for A - L and \$87,625.86 for M - Z.

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 9:48 am.

Commissioner Stites moved to return to open session, Commissioner Auxier seconded, moved to open session at 9:51 am.

In the matter of  
MAC conference:

Discussions were had on who was going to attend the MAC conference this year. Further discussions were had on County Clerk Johnson attending along side of Commissioner Stites. Commissioner Stites moved to approve Johnson attending conference and it being paid out of commission budget, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried. Johnson advised she will make the hotel and conference reservations.

In the matter of  
Citizen Input:

Local resident April Enke called in to commission at 9:55 am. Enke asked commission if she could put up signs along a county road that advised therapy horses in use to hopefully grab the attention of drivers traveling the road way. Enke advised she was nearly hit while riding her horse lately, the driver was going so fast they threw gravel on her and her horse and her horse went down with some injuries. Commission advised she could place signs on her own fence line but it can not be with in the county's right of way preventing any maintenance and mowing.

In the matter of  
HR seminar:

Discussions were had on HR Director Davis attending an upcoming HR Seminar in Branson MO. Commissioner Stites moved to approve this to be paid out of the commission budget, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried. Davis was advised to make her reservations and give the invoices to commission for coding and payment.

The Focus reporter entered at 10:28 am.

In the matter of  
The Centre options:

Discussions were had on what the city should use the Centre building for if they shut down the facility. Commissioner Stites advised she would like to see it turned into the new City hall as there is plenty of space for offices, court, council meetings and even creating a space for events. Commissioner Auxier advised it would be really easy to fill the pool in with concrete and make that a very nice event space.

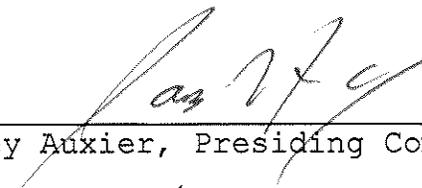
In the matter of  
State Route BB:

Local resident Josh Cohen called commission at 11:15 am. Cohen advised there is a section of highway near his driveway that needs to be repaired and he wants to know if the county would do this. Commission advised Cohen this is a private drive so they are not responsible for maintenance. Further discussions were had on this potentially being a road easement after reviewing it on GIS. Commission advised to go to the recorders office to see if there is any record of who is the owner and if there is a recorded road easement to find out who should be maintaining this.

The Focus Reporter left at 11:18 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:22 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 9, 2025 Twenty-First Day of the July Term**

Now at this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 Ray Schweikhardt and Rick and Mary Zika.

In the matter of  
Citizen input:

Mr. Zika asked commission how many roads they relay with asphalt per year and how often those roads are maintained. Commission advised they have a 5-year plan set for road improvements throughout the county and once those are asphalted they are not relayed for several years. Further discussions were had on the new Dollar General that is going in off Hwy 63 near Vida. Further discussions were had on the need for signage to make areas off Hwy 63 safer but MODOT has not been easy to work with each time the Zikas call. The Zikas advised it would be nice to see MODOT create a turning lane leading to CR 5180. Discussions were had on MODOT also advising they would place a traffic counter on County Road 5180 that comes off of Hwy 63 over a month ago but the Zikas have never seen one placed. Commission advised if there is an area they could attach the county's then they would place one and provide the count information to the Zikas to report to MODOT if that would be beneficial. Further discussions were had on if the county would lay asphalt if home owners wanted to pay for it. Commission advised if you can get all the owners on that county road to pay for it they will lay asphalt. Stites advised she would suggest the Zikas extend the turning lanes suggestion all the way out to Petes Pumpkin patch to allow safer travel for all the citizens utilizing the businesses along 63.

Local Resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:29 am.

The Zikas left at 9:33 am.

In the matter of  
MU Extension Council meeting:

Stites advised she attended the Extension council meeting last night and reported back that the council is going to send an application requesting opioid funds to create a position with in 4-H. Brandi Richardson from the council advised they want this because children involved in 4-H are less likely to be involved in drugs. Stites further advised the Extension Council is doing a drive to assist the Russel House during the last week of September into the first week of October.

In the matter of  
Review of minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the 9/2 and 9/4  
Commission meetings.

In the matter of  
Lake Side HOA ARPA Draw Down #6:

Commission reviewed and approved invoice #6 for ARPA funds to  
the Lakeside HOA project in the amount of \$16,308.75.

Kojro left at 10:25 am.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:40 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's department issues:

Discussions were had on the numerous invoices that are past due  
and currently due in the amount of \$125,245.77, a moperm payment  
due in the amount of \$62,701.32, Payroll and benefits roughly in  
the amount of \$300,000 and they do not have the funds available  
to pay all of this once again. They provided the HR director 5  
new employees without notice prior to their start dates which  
creates non-compliance issues on the county with FLSA laws.  
Further discussions were had on the new discovery of misuse of a  
county credit card by them. There was a receipt turned in for  
meals that was charged well over what our per diem is set at and  
meals are supposed to be on a reimbursement basis not put on a  
county credit card. Further discovery was had that they are  
paying invoices with the credit card instead of sending the  
invoices to the AP clerk as they are supposed to be doing.  
Discussions were had on the need for the sheriff to appear to  
discuss this matter again. Further discussions were had on the  
contract provided to the commission from county clerk to have an  
outside law firm do some research for us to find out what we can  
and cannot do as the county commission and county budget  
officer. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the contract,  
Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Schweikhardt left at 11:15 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of  
\$3,605.76 for Grand Jury Feb-July.

Commissioner Hicks left the meeting at 11:20 am.

In the matter of  
Security contract for next year:

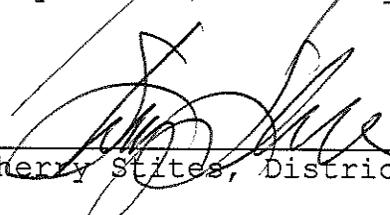
Discussions were had on what to do with the security at the  
front doors now that we have lost our funding due to a supreme  
court ruling. Further discussions were had on the need to take  
over the contract for the security and potentially cut it down

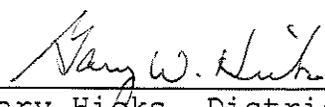
to one guard and utilizing one bailiff to assist since we are already paying for the bailiffs.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:52 am.

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 11, 2025 Twenty-Second Day of the July Term**

Now at this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 Deputy Assessor Paul Long, Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt, Deputy Clerk Amy Asberry, Deputy Assessor Angel Reece, Treasurer Cathy Tipton, Sheriff Mike Kirn and Admin Assistant Theresa Lasher.

In the matter of  
Citizen request:

Commission asked sheriff if he is aware of any laws allowing a citizen to camp on the county grounds for a year. Kirn asked is he wanting to stay on city property or on the county steps. Further discussions were had on the subject that asked for this and Kirn advised he is familiar with the subject and this subject has been battling mental illness for years and it has only gotten worse. Discussions were had on when this person becomes a liability to the community or themselves.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:15 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff Budget Discussions:

Discussions were had on money not being available to cover the bills associated to the sheriff's department. Kirn advised they are still housing 38 ice inmates that are awaiting placement elsewhere. Kirn advised he could take 220 but his problem is his medical bills, he has got to get that bill down. He further advised the new jail admin is very sharp and she use to run the St Louis city jail. He further advised she has contacted a few medical companies to see if there are ways to save. Commission advised they are aware of the situation with the money and asked if his staff is aware of the budget issues and if they are making any attempt to cut the budget. Kirn advised yes, they are aware. Further discussions were had on the need to stop with the excess spending on irrelevant things. Commission advised in order to get ahead we have to cut cost every month by a minimum of \$80,000. If this does not happen then there is no money to pay the debt service in the next years on top of payroll and other expenses. Kirn advised he will have a huge savings moving forward due to not paying 2,4 or 6 people overtime to work the annex. Kirn advised he is saving by not having anymore annex over time but there was roughly \$5,683.81 that was just paid out on the last pay period. Sheriff advised he is still down 2 road positions and 6-8 positions in the jail due to 2 supervisors leaving and 2 upper staff members retiring. Stites asked for the red folder that contains numerous invoices, several of which are past due, because the sheriff does not have any money in his

fund. Auxier advised you also have this monthly insurance bill of \$62,700 on top of the 2 loan payments that are due in November and December. Due to the constant battle of not having enough money commission asked if you have a deputy leave can you just not fill that position to help save money. Kirn advised I can and I am trying to save but what I have already done with cutting overtime we will be good and if I can get medical expenses cut in half that will be a \$40,000 monthly savings right there. Stites advised the money you are bringing in on East and West Us Marshalls doesn't even cover your priority expenses so there needs to be major cuts. Lasher advised there are several employees that are coming to her during pay dates advising they were paid too much and she feels that she should be told about these from over here. Stites advised but those are just a few hundred dollars or less that we are talking about and this in nothing compared to what these weekly overages are. Lasher advised but if that adds up over time and we aren't getting reimbursed those costs then we are out that money. County Clerk interrupted and advised those are getting corrected and there have only been a handful that we were not able to retrieve due to the employee no longer being here. Lasher advised well she keeps asking for things to be sent to her and she's not getting it. Stites advised I have asked for several things from you all too and never get it. Stites advised another big problem is these invoices that keep getting dumped in the clerk's office and there being no money to pay them which is creating way more work on AP and the commission every week trying to figure out which ones can be paid which is your job. Kirn advised he will just fire several employees then and we will go from there. He also advised he also has \$14,000 that he just learned he has to reimburse due to wrong people being paid and wrong amounts being paid on the Deputy Supplemental Salary Grant. County Clerk advised where is the documentation because everything we have shows that we paid the correct amount. She further advised Lisa caught the mistake of Lt. Taylor getting paid and corrected that on the next pay cycle so that was already fixed and there's documentation proving it. County Clerk also advise she wants the documentation of the supposed rate and people changes, as that would have been Glenn Schushanke since Chris Finch was no longer here. Kirn advised he sent Glenn over here to sit with Amy and get this years set in place to make sure it was done correctly. Further discussions were had on there not being any documentation advising of changes for last year. County Clerk provided another email documentation proving dates and times that these reports were sent to Glenn listing every person on the list and that they were paid at \$50.00. She further advised please correct me if I am wrong but isn't it Glenn's job to review the reports and catch any errors so that correction can be made. Sheriff advised well yes. Kirn further advised that Glenn needs these payroll reports and he isn't getting them. County Clerk further interjected advising he has all of them, labeled Deputy Supplemental Salary, I have the email documentation proof as she held up the stack. Stites advised this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing discovered this year that Glenn has dropped the ball on so something needs to change. Kirn advised it would have been Chris and Glenn but County Clerk advised last year was all Glenn as Chris retired in 2023. The biggest problem with this is that on our side there is no documentation stating there were changes so the communication line is broken and needs to be fixed. Kirn advised when he was over the grant, he

requested a monthly report to keep track and now they are sending quarterly reports. County Clerk asked Sheriff if he prefers them monthly. He advised yes, I do want them monthly. County Clerk advised Deputy Clerk Asberry to start sending these monthly to assist. County Clerk also asked for the submittal report that Glenn sends in to the state so that her office can review it to see where the errors are so they can be corrected.

Further discussions were had on suspending the COPS program, not terminating it, just suspending it until money can get built back up in his fund and things can get back to normal. Kirn said he was onboard with that. Stites advised when you suspend this you will have a savings on insurance, fuel, vehicle maintenance, uniforms and salaries. Stites further advised there has to be other areas that cuts can be made so help us out with that please. We have gotten no where with building revenue and it has been a constant battle every week to try to find the funds for their bills and payroll.

Further discussions were had on the need to cut PR funds as commission understands this is beneficial for the county but it is not necessary and those costs need to be cut to further build funds back up.

Kirn advised he has 2 jailers that are going to be leaving so he will just not fill those positions at this time.

Faith Barnes left at 9:52 am.

Commission asked why the new Jail Admin was provided a vehicle. Sheriff advised because Joe Taylor had one. He further advised she has the former jail staff sergeant's vehicle and then further advised she is currently staying in a hotel Monday - Friday on her own dime due to her residence being in St Louis.

Commission advised they would like to go down to 1 person on the security guard contract due to cuts in the counties funding. Kirn advised he was fine with that but also advised why not just utilize part time employees that are already on payroll at the sheriff's department. Commission agreed this was a great idea and that solves the funding crisis.

Stites further advised she wants to see the red folder of past due invoices go away. She advised every Tuesday and Thursday she is having to look at these invoices to find out what can or can't be paid. Mike said he will do his best to cut that down and be more involved. It was further reiterated that he will do what he can to create a \$80,000 monthly cut in expenses.

Kirn advised with most of the ICE inmates being gone he has seen a \$4,000 weekly savings adding up to a savings of \$16,000 a month.

Commissioner Stites advised we have and will continue to use fund 405 to pay utilities until 410 revenues get built back up. Kirn and Theresa advised that was fine.

Tipton asked Kirn if he ever got anywhere with the mental health staff member to be paid with Opioid Settlement funds. Kirn advised he had been talking to Doug Roberts about the mental health application and he thought he was supposed to have already submitted it.

Commissioner Stites asked if we stopped utilizing ADP for payroll, what time frame are we looking at to implement payroll being done in New world and utilizing paper timesheets. Johnson estimated 30 days but reiterated that she would communicate if it would take longer.

Kirn and Lasher left 10:32 am followed by Commissioner Hicks at 10:33 am.

In the matter of  
Support Services Cyber investigation:

Commissioner Stites moved to accept the contract for the Cyber Security investigation with Kroll law firm, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$32,751.47 for UMB BANK August 50% EATS Westside TIF, \$156,906.89 for A - L and \$30,988.33 for M - Z.

The Focus Reporter entered at 11:00 am.

In the matter of  
MAC voting delegates:

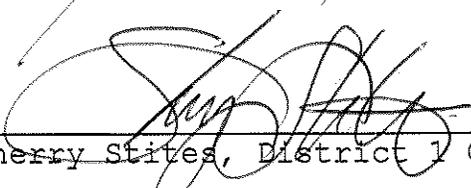
Commission compiled a list of the Phelps County Delegates attending MAC. Commissioner Stites moved to approve sending Commissioner Stites, Recorder Kordes, Treasurer Tipton, Collector Barnes and County Clerk Johnson as MAC delegates to the MAC conference, Commissioner Auxier seconded, motion carried.

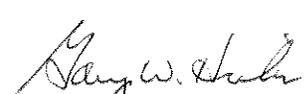
The Focus Reporter, Asberry and Britt left at 11:40 am.

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

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 16, 2025 Twenty-third Day of the July Term**

Now at this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt took minutes.

Local Residents Carrie Craun and Ray Schweikhardt entered at 9:00 am.

In the Matter of  
Cochran Engineering PPMP Proposal:

Commissioners reviewed proposal and decided to take under advisement.

Health Department Director Sonya Berry entered at 9:09 am.

In the Matter of  
Health Department Business:

Berry presented a Contract for Maternal Child Health Services in the amount of \$46,072.29. Commissioner Hicks moved to accept, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion passed.

Berry left at 9:12 am.

In the matter of  
Rosati RR crossing Diagnostics meeting:

Discussion was had in regard to Diagnostics meeting at Rosati RR crossing. No action taken at this time.

Local Resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:32 am.

In the Matter of  
Crisis Intervention payment requests:

Two requests were presented for payment in the amount of \$400.00 each. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion passed.

Commissioner Hicks left at 10:05 am.

Craun left at 10:07 am.

Road Superintendent Mark Case entered at 10:13 am.

Kojro and Schweikhardt left at 10:25 am.

Local Resident Sue Amos entered at 10:35 am.

In the matter of  
Citizen Input:

Amos discussed a Stop sign that needed replaced on CR 2430 and Hwy V. Commission informed her that was a MoDot sign. Case will contact MoDot to inform them.

Amos left at 10:36 am.

BPJ representative Tonya Greven entered at 10:46 am.

In the Matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved an invoice in the amount of \$62,701.32 for First Insurance - MOPERM.

Case left at 11:03 am.

In the matter of  
BPJ updates:

Greven discussed a company called Vista Counseling that she found through research. They charge \$60 for a 60 minute session and will travel to law enforcement. She also informed commission that she is working on quotes for open enrollment.

Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 11:20 am.

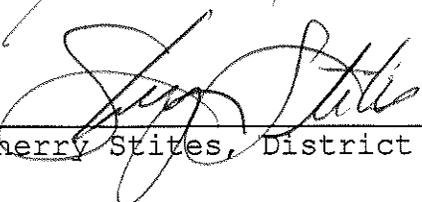
Greven left at 11:22 am.

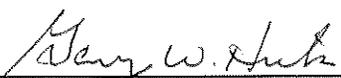
Sooter left at 11:45 am.

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

Read and Approved:

  
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 18, 2025 Twenty-Fourth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt took minutes.

Local Residents Rick and Mary Zika entered at 9:00 am.  
Rick and Mary Zika left at 9:05 am.  
Deputy Clerk Erica Bargerstock entered at 9:05 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's Department:

Discussion was had in regards to an Alliance invoice for Windows 11 upgrade implementation for the Sheriff's Department. Since Windows 10 will not be supported on October 14, 2025, this upgrade is needed.

Also discussed was the overtime that will be paid out on the upcoming payroll for the employee's that worked in the Annex building due to moving prisoners out of the annex. There should not be any more overtime moving forward.

Also discussed was the COPS program being suspended. A request can be submitted to CLERF to see if the volunteers can be funded to keep the program going.

Deputy Assessor Paul Long entered at 9:15 am followed by Road and Bridge Admin Assistant Michelle Bock at 9:25 am and Prosecutor Taylor Banholzer at 9:35 am.

In the Matter of  
Road and Bridge grader lease contracts:

Commissioner Stites moved to accept two Cat Financial lease contracts in the amount of \$51,297.10 for 7 years, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion passed.

Banholzer left at 9:41 am.  
Support Services Sissy Shults and Meredith Joyce entered at 9:56 am.

In the Matter of  
Bid opening for elevator maintenance:

Commission opened two bids received:

All Rise Elevator company

- Option 1 - Quarterly preventative maintenance at a cost of \$530.00 per month paid quarterly and
- Option 2 - Monthly preventative maintenance at a cost of \$850.00 per month paid quarterly

Otis

- \$670.00 per month
- Alternative option of \$285.00 for Quarterly visits

Commission have taken bids under advisement and will have Support Services look them over.

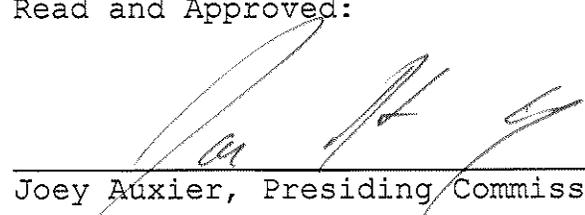
Shults and Joyce left at 10:10 am.

In the Matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$6,010.13 for September 15 PR Great-West & Nationwide, \$251,371.81 for General Invoices A-L and \$15,463.10 for General Invoices M-Z.

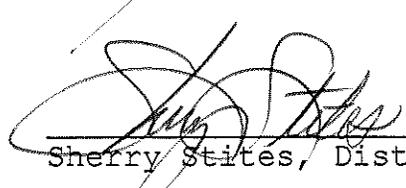
Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 10:21 am.

Read and Approved:



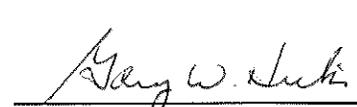
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Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner



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Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner



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Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 23, 2025 Twenty-Fifth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt took minutes.

In the Matter of  
Technical Assistance contract with MRPC:

Commission reviewed and discussed the MRPC membership renewal Contract. Commissioner Hicks motioned to accept the Basic Membership of \$12,218.58. Commissioner Stites seconded. Motion passed.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's Department funds:

Discussion was had in regard to Fund 410 for the Sheriff's Department. There is currently enough funds in the account at this moment to cover payroll but not benefits. Still waiting for reimbursement from US Marshalls West Board.

In the Matter of  
Lakeside HOA ARPA fund draw down:

Commission reviewed and approved the invoice for ARPA fund draw down to Lakeside HOA in the amount of \$16,308.75.

In the Matter of  
Remonumentation Program:

Commission reviewed contract for services by and between Phelps County Surveyor and the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Hicks motioned to approve. Commissioner Stites seconded.

Local resident Chester Korjo entered at 9:34 am.

In the Matter of  
Review of Commission Minutes:

Commission reviewed and approved the commission minutes from the 9/16 and 9/18 meetings.

In the Matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved an invoice in the amount of \$4,460.72 for Jul/Aug Senior Companions bill's.

Korjo left at 10:14 am.  
HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 10:20 am.

In the matter of  
HR updates:

Davis informed the Commission that there was an employee on Workman's comp. Davis also discussed free hearing loss prevention screenings that will be provided to Phelps County employees. Davis will send an email to all employees with the details.

Davis left at 10:26 am.

In the matter of  
Incarceration Reimbursement changes:

Discussion was had in regard to changes to the jail reimbursement process. Effective August 28, 2025, the responsibility for submitting jail reimbursement claims for state individuals who are found guilty will be shifted from the Circuit Clerk's office to the Sheriff's department.

Treasurer Cathy Tipton entered at 10:35 am.

In the matter of  
MOVERS state payment system:

Tipton discussed MOVERS, the payment system the State of Missouri uses to pay their vendors. Tipton said it was approved in September and she created a parent account to receive payments from the remonumentation program.

Tipton left at 10:40 am.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis reentered at 10:57 am.

In the matter of  
Sheriff's department discussion:

Davis discussed the sheriff's department payroll going to bi-weekly next year and its effect with funding. Commission told her to continue on the current plan.

Davis left at 11:05 am.

In the matter of  
NACo Membership:

Commission reviewed and discussed the NACo membership renewal Contract. Commissioner Hicks motioned to accept Membership of \$893.00. Commissioner Stites seconded. Motion passed.

Sheriff Kirn called the Commission at 11:25 am.

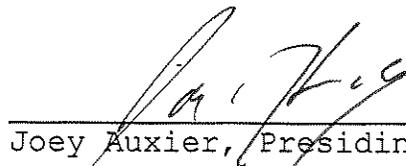
In the matter of  
Sheriff's Department updates continued:

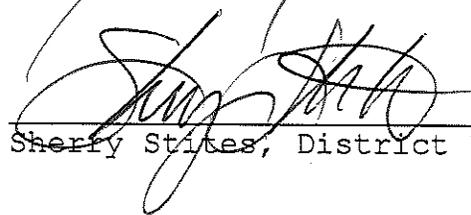
Kirn discussed the potential savings of up to \$225,000.00 a year on medical services. He will be putting it out for bid hopefully this week or as soon as possible. Also discussed saving up to \$62,000.00 a year if they take over the food

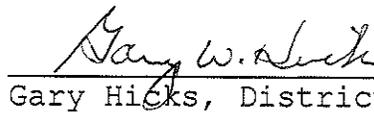
service. Commissioners discussed the jail reimbursement process changes and Kirn said an agreement has been signed with the Circuit Clerk's office for them to continue until the end of the year.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:21 am.

Read and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner



**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 25, 2025 Twenty-Sixth Day of the July Term**

Now at this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 9/23 commission meeting.

In the matter of  
Nationwide Renewal:

Commission reviewed and approved the renewal of the Nationwide insurance contract for the Circuit employees.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:31 am followed by local resident David Black at 9:33 am.

In the matter of  
Citizen input:

Black advised he wants to camp out on courthouse property. Commission advised the courthouse is within the city limits and there are city ordinances in place controlling camping. The commission also informed Mr. Black that the commission does not allow camping on county property. Stites asked why he is wanting to camp out. Black advised because he is being harassed by law enforcement for being a medical marijuana user by rolla pd and the sheriff's department. Black asked how not allowing protesting is not against his constitutional right to protest. Further discussions were had on how the courthouse is not the law enforcement agencies that are harassing him so they are not sure what camping on courthouse property will do for him. He further advised that since no one is willing to help him than when he kills himself it is going to be the commissions fault. Black left abruptly at 9:38 am.

Commission was concerned for Mr. Blacks safety and felt the need to report the open confession of self-harm. Commission made a call to the police at 9:42 am for a wellness check on the individual.

Support Services Sissy Shults and Assistant Meredith Joyce entered at 9:44 am.

In the matter of  
Elevator Bid Award:

Shults advised after reviewing the contracts she would suggest going with Allrise Elevator. Commissioner Hicks moved to award

the elevator maintenance bid to Allrise as recommended,  
Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of  
IFS Contract:

Shults presented commission with a renewal contract for IFS  
maintenance. Commissioner Hicks moved to approve, Commissioner  
Stites seconded, motion carried.

In the matter of  
Culligan Contract:

Shults provided commission with a contract to purchase and  
install a water softener in the courthouse. Commissioner Hicks  
moved to approve, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

HR Director Elizabeth Davis entered at 9:51 am.  
Shults and Joyce left at 9:52 am.

In the matter of  
County Policy:

Davis advised a department had an issue with an employee that  
wanted to wear a political based shirt to work. The employee was  
advised that any shirt with political view, alcohol, tobacco or  
violence are not to be worn on county property. The reason is to  
keep a soft comfortable and neutral environment. This employee  
then advised that was against their first amendment right and  
they quit. Davis advised she has reiterated county dress code  
policy, which will include political, faith based or lude and  
crude slogans. Commission advised to take this under advisement  
and make a decision once legal has had a moment to review.

Davis left at 10:02 am.  
Bailiff Sgt Jamie Arnold entered at 10:09 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of  
\$100,409.89 for A - L and \$19,873.00 for M - Z.

Arnold left at 10:20 am.  
Local Resident Kent Bagnel and MS&T Graduate program Director  
Clair Kueny entered at 10:20 am followed by Health Department  
Director Sonya Berry at 10:24 am.

In the matter of  
Health Department WIC contract:

Berry presented commission an amended contract for WIC that  
increases the fund amount to \$236,938.02. Commissioner Hicks  
moved to approve the amended contract, Commissioner Stites  
seconded, motion carried.

Prevention Consultant Jamie Meyer entered at 10:27 am followed by Treasurer Cathy Tipton at 10:28 am. Berry left at 10:31 am.

In the matter of  
Opioid Committee recommendations:

Meyers advised commission of the recent proposed recommendations to utilize funds. Crisis Center Transportation - \$8,725.80 has been spent of the \$39,000 leaving \$30,274.20 to be extended for use over the next 2 years.

Commissioner Stites moved to approve the recommendations as presented, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Clair Kueny from the university advised commission that the request she has submitted would be to allow a doctoral student to work along side of her to obtain training and learn the skills necessary to assist in recovery programs. Further discussions were had on the request clarifying that the funds would pay for that students' class associated to this program. Commissioner Stites asked what would happen if the funding is no longer available? Kueny advised this current request is just for a 1-year period as she is applying for grants to further fund the program. She further advised the student selected is referred to more of a sudo-employee and fully devoted to this program.

Commissioner Stites moved to accept the request in the amount of \$45,138, Commissioner Hicks seconded, motion carried.

Tipton, Meyers and Kueny left at 11:00 am.

BPJ representatives Tonya Greven and Mike Scott entered at 11:07 am.

Bagnol left at 11:08 am.

In the matter of  
BPJ updates:

Greven and Scott provided commission with documentation to review. Discussions were had on the standing of the partially self-funded insurance account. Further discussions were had on the reinsurance (stop loss) cost projected to increase between 15-30 % due to inflation. Discussions were had on the options available to the employees and if there were any areas we could make changes.

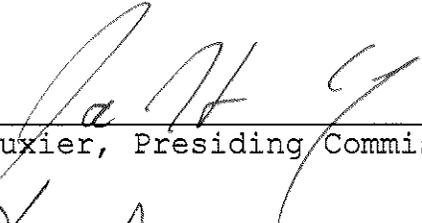
Public Administrator Dana Sooter entered at 11:44 am.

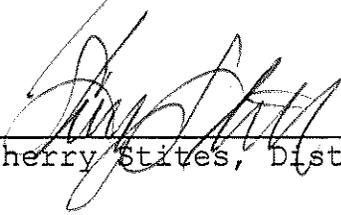
Further discussions were had on the potential of raising the max out of pocket slightly to help offset the expenses associated with inflation.

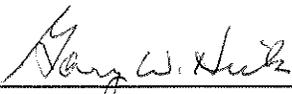
Sooter left at 12:00 pm.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Read and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

**Phelps County Commission Record**  
**September 30, 2025 Twenty-Seventh Day of the July Term**

Now at this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, Commission met pursuant to adjournment and a quorum was present of the following members:

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

Deputy Clerk Lorraine Britt took minutes.

Also present was AP clerk Erica Bargerstock.

Local resident Brenda Wagner entered at 9:16 am.

In the matter of  
Road Vacation petition:

Wagner advised commission she has an appointment that she can not miss so she has brought in the petition for road vacation on a street in Jerome to be heard on 10/01/25.

Wagner left at 9:20 am.

Collector Faith Barnes entered at 9:21am

In the matter of  
Reimbursements to employees:

Barnes advised she was not reimbursed \$25 dollars due to not having an itemized receipt as county policy states. Discussions were had on the tax maintenance fund and how those fees can be used. Commission advised we can not reimburse without an itemized receipt for auditing purposes.

In the matter of  
Senior Tax Freeze applications:

Barnes provided Presiding Commissioner Auxier with the large stack of applications for the Senior Tax Freeze that all need his signature in order to move on to the next step.

Barnes left at 9:26 am.

Local resident Chester Kojro entered at 9:29 am.

In the matter of  
Accounts Payable:

Commission reviewed and approved invoices in the amounts of \$19,158.67 for October contract pay, \$3,882.75 for September ADP multi-vendor, \$133,060.72 for self-insured UMR & KC Life and \$6,185.78 for Great-West & Nationwide.

Bargerstock left at 9:45 am.

In the matter of  
Document Destruction:

Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the below documents for  
destruction pursuant to retention laws, Commissioner Stites  
seconded, motion carried.

Document Destruction  
9/29/2025  
Commission approved on 9/30, 2025  
Schedded on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Accounts Payable retention met from: January 1985 – December 1985  
January 1988 – December 1988  
January 1990 – December 1993  
January 1995 – December 1996  
January 2002 – December 2006  
January 2008 – December 2011

Time Sheets retention met from: January 2008 – December 2011  
January 2020 – December 2022

Receipts retention met from: January 1992 – December 1995  
January 2000 – December 2003

Journals retention met from: January 1993 – December 1995  
January 2013 – December 2014  
January 2020 – December 2021

Bank statements retention met from: January 2004 – December 2006  
January 2015 – December 2022

FIRMA/SEMA records retention met from: 2008, 2009 and 2014

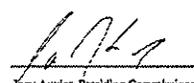
Inventory lists retention met from: January 2012 – December 2021

Vendor lists retention met from: January 1995 – December 2000

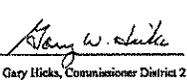
Payroll records retention met from: January 1982 – December 1982  
January 1984 – December 2003  
January 2015 – June 2020

941 forms retention met from: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2008

Assessor Quarterly retention met from: 2013 and 2014

  
Joy Aukler, Presiding Commissioner

  
Sherry Stites, Commissioner District 1

  
Gary Hicks, Commissioner District 2

Assessor Tim Kean entered at 9:53 am.

In the matter of  
Assessor Bulk Mailing bid opening:

As scheduled commission opened the following bids:

- 1) EJ Rice was opened at 10:00 am in the amount of \$23,640.33
- 2) DIVCOData opened at 10:02 am with no price included.

Discussions were had and Commissioner Hicks moved to approve the EJ Rice contract, Commissioner Stites seconded, motion carried.

Local resident Dennis Gray entered at 10:05 am.  
Kean left at 10:08 am.

In the matter of  
Citizen concern on CR 3010,3040 and 3030:

Gray advised he would like the county sheriff's department to sit and observe the multiple drivers at the intersections of CR 3010,3040 and 3030. He further advised these drivers blow through the stop signs and are speeding all the time. Commissioner Stites asked if he had the sheriff's department app on his phone where he could send in pictures of the drivers violating state laws.

Kojro left at 10:19 am followed by Gray at 10:20 am.  
County Clerk Johnson entered at 10:22 am.  
Britt left at 10:22 am.  
Recorder Robin Kordes entered at 10:56 am.

In the matter of  
Notary public new database:

Kordes advised there is a new system that has been implemented to help prevent notary fraud.

Kordes left at 11:08 am.  
AP Clerk Erica Bargerstock and Collector Faith Barnes entered at 11:08 am.

In the matter of  
Reimbursements to Collectors office:

Discussions were had on the federal law that advises the collector can file a form that advises she is being responsible for this as a county expense. She further advises that the collectors fund is not county tax payer money so she has sole responsibility over the county. County Clerk asked for clarification because this fund is still built off of county tax payer funds whether it is regular or delinquent. Barnes advised delinquent is not and she has the sole responsibility on expenses. She further advised Davis Haas had a separate bank account that he was having the delinquent taxes that were paid written to him so he could deposit that money into the fund and then he has full responsibility over it but the prosecutor's way back when were not happy with this so Jeff City changed the process and now that is associated to the county funds.

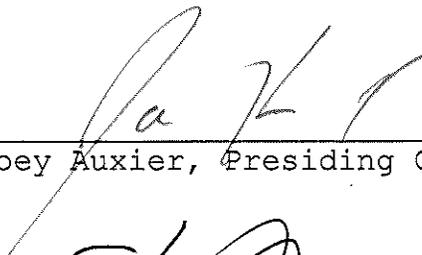
Commission advised if Barnes is willing to accept responsibility and fill out the signed form for any expenses she has that do not follow county guidelines then that is fine. Moving forward

Barnes will due this when she is unable to get an itemized receipt so that the county is covered on auditing purposes.

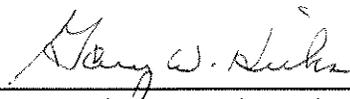
Barnes and Bargerstock left at 11:20 am.

Hearing no other business commission adjourned at 11:26 am.

Read and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Stiles, District 1 Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner