Effective Oct. 1, Phillips County will be charging a fee to out-of-county people obtaining driver's licenses.

Phillips County Commissioners gave County Clerk Beth Zilla permission to initiate this new fee because of the increased amount of out-of-county drivers using Phillips County to obtain licenses and the burden it puts on County employees.

Also at their Aug. 31 meeting, commissioners reported the County has contracted with Matt Meusborn for CDL testing.

Commissioners attended a regional budget meeting Thursday, Aug. 16 for regional organizations to present their requests for 2013.

The proposed grant to Colorado Historical Fund was denied for funds to replace windows at the courthouse. Commissioners said they are still working on plans to update the courthouse steps.

The County is also working with the Holyoke School District to reapply for a Great Outdoors Colorado grant for the track project.

Several new employees were hired during the month of August. Evan Consalvos replaced Larry Zuber as the Dist. 1 Road and Bridge superintendent. Also in Dist. 1, new employee Ed Race replaced Harlan Hightower. Erik Young was hired as the new sheriff's deputy in Phillips County, taking the place of Barry Winckler.

Phillips County Social Services Director Judy McFadden has turned in her resignation, and Dave Henson from the Yuma County Social Services Department will fill in until a new director is hired.

Jeff Weaver is the new Phillips County Economic Development Corp. executive director, replacing Erica Ayoub.

Commissioners said they approved a road crossing and deceleration lane from the east at Highway 6 and County Road 35 for Seaboard Foods. The company will also need to contract a railroad crossing for their new feed mill west of Holyoke.

The board approved nonprofit status for the new building of First Baptist Church of Holyoke.

Commissioners were pleased to note prisoners have completed the refinishing of all the benches in the Phillips County courtroom.

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