

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 7, 2024, as advertised, with Commissioners Dennis Ostgren; Russ Cruise; Tom Nutt; Barb Malm; Matt Gregg; Rick Streeter and Theresa Puls present. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Puls. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Theresa announced the open meeting law would be in effect and that a copy is posted on the wall. Gregg moved, seconded by Ostgren, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

Elaine Menzel, representing NACO met with the Board to give legislative and NACO updates.

At 9:19 a.m. the Board went into session as a Board of Equalization. Larissa Davenport, County Assessor, Sally Fox, County Clerk and Natalie Nelsen-Pacey, County Attorney were present. The Board reviewed 4 permissive applications from Adjacent Air LLC and 1 from Mike Szekely, DBA Lighthouse Baptist Church which the Nebraska Dept. of Revenue sent back to the assessor for the Board's reconsideration. The Dept. of Revenue is saying these applications are not following statute 77-202(1) which requires an exempt organization to own the parcel to receive a permissive exemption. The Board is asking these organizations to come to the next meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss these applications.

The Board resumed its regular session as a Board of Commissioners at 9:30 a.m.

Bobby Hamilton, Highway Supt., met with the Board with his road report. Bobby reviewed the only crack seal quote he received from Bader Highway. This will be for approximately 30 miles of asphalt roads in Phelps County. The total quote from Bader Highway is \$33,123. After discussion Ostgren moved, seconded by Gregg, to accept the quote from Bader Highway. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried. Bobby told the Board the road dept. will start summer hours on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, they will be working 10-hour days, 4 days a week and work from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weeks with a holiday they will be working 5 days a week, 8-hour days.

Doyle Morse met with the Board regarding Farmers Market. The dates will be every Thursday from May 19<sup>th</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup> with hours from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Nutt moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve the use of the courthouse lawn and approve the hold harmless agreement between Phelps County and the Farmers Market. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

Sam Bray, representing the Eagle Riders met with the Board to request use of the courthouse sidewalk to place their motorcycles for Swedish Days on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Justin suggested they use the parking lot and Sam thought that would be a good location. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Malm, to approve use of the courthouse parking lot and the hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the renewal of the NACO Blue Cross Insurance. There is a 3.5% increase for health and the dental rates will remain the same. The counties deductible is \$2,600 with a \$600 buy down by the employee, the county pays 100% of the employees insurance and additional coverage is 70% and the employee pays 30% of their coverage. After discussion Gregg moved, seconded by Nutt, to stay with NACO Blue Cross Insurance, keep the deductible at \$2,600 and keep the benefits the same. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

Cruise moved, seconded by Malm, to approve the monthly reports of the sheriff, clerk and clerk of district court. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

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Sally Fox, County Clerk

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Theresa Puls, Chairman Board of Commissioner