

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 13, 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. Ostgren moved, seconded by Gregg, 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.

Sharon Hueftle, of South-Central Economic Development District (SCEDD), met with the Board. She reviewed her SCEDD report and gave an update on the services they offer. SCEDD covers 13 counties.

Micah Huyser gave an update on the Nebraska Prairie Museum and submitted a proposed budget for the county portion of the coming year in the amount of \$15,000.

Larissa Davenport, Assessor, discussed the mineral property appraisal contract between Phelps County and Pritchard & Abbott, Inc, for the tax year 2025 and 2026. They will be appraising mineral properties production oil, gas, coal or other hydrocarbons located in Phelps County. The county will agree to pay Pritchard & Abbott \$200 for the year 2023 and 2024 and pay the rate of \$1,150 per day, plus out-of-pocket expenses. After discussion Gregg moved, seconded by Nutt, to accept the 2-year contract between Phelps County and Pritchard Abbott. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

Larissa reviewed the 521's (real estate transfer statements) with the Board.

Ostgren moved, seconded by Gregg, to approve resolution 24-7 the signing of the county annual certification program compliance form. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

Nutt moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve the monthly reports of the clerk, sheriff 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 Board discussed the permissive exemptions they approved in July and after discussion Malm moved, seconded by Ostgren, to go into closed session at 10:11 a.m. with Natalie Nelsen-Pacey, County Attorney to discuss potential litigation and for the purposes of protecting the public interest. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried. At 10:22 a.m. Nutt moved seconded by Cruise, to go out of closed session. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Streeter, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the budget.

Tom discussed a meeting he attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Theresa Puls, Chairman Board of Commissioner