

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 22, 2024, as advertised, with Commissioners Dennis Ostgren; Russ Cruise; Tom Nutt; Barb Malm; Rick Streeter and Theresa Puls present. Matt Gregg was absent. 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. Cruise moved, seconded by Malm, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Nutt moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve the October payroll claims in the amount of \$260,818.47 for the general, \$87,291.08 for the road and \$2,947.25 for the weed fund. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Bobby Hamilton, Highway Supt., met with the Board with his road report. Bobby reviewed his annual SSAR road budget report. After discussion, Ostgren moved, seconded by Cruise, to accept the annual budget road report. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried. Bobby reviewed a quote from Figgins to armor coat ¼ mile stretch on G Rd South of the Loomis School in the amount of \$6,730.50. After discussion the Board gave Bobby approval to go forward with the armor coat project. Bobby discussed the county bridge match program from the Nebraska Department of Roads. He has 2 bridges that qualify for the 55% of eligible bridge construction and the county must provide a 45% match. One is located on 740 Rd just west of A Rd and the other is on M Rd between 736 and 737 Rd.

Jon Thorburn, representing the Prairie Museum along with Patti Simpson met with the Board to discuss putting a historical marker on the Loomis G Rd North of the Loomis School. Jon was telling the Board in 1934 US Army Major Albert Stevens proposed launching a manned balloon with scientific instruments to explore the stratosphere. A pressurized capsule was design and built by Dow Chemical Company. Explorer 1 launched July 28, 1934, from Rapid City SD. The 3 crew members were 60,000 feet and noticed tears in the balloon fabric and began to descend. As the tears grew larger, the crew parachuted to safety before the balloon crashed in a cornfield on Loomis G Rd. Reuben Johnson a farmer saw the ballon crash and the crew members parachute on his land. Jon told the Board where they would like to place the historical marker Central PPD owns part of the land. After discussion Ostgren moved, seconded by Cruise, to approve the historical marker to be placed on G Rd after getting approval from Central PPD. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Cruise moved, seconded by Ostgren, to approve resolution 24-14 to approve the signing of the Year-End Certification of the County Highway Superintendent. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Streeter moved, seconded by Nutt, to approve the Year-End Certification of the County Highway Superintendent as Bobby Hamilton. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Lori Larson, Director of the Holdrege Chamber met with the board requesting use of the courthouse lawn for the Holdrege Holiday & Winter Festival from Thursday, December 12th through Saturday, December 14th. They will set up for a Winter Playland. She is also asking for electricity, and use of the bathrooms. On December 14th they would like to have a lighting ceremony. After discussion Nutt moved, seconded by Malm, to approve the courthouse lawn and hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes; Puls, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Tom and Rick discussed a meeting they attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Theresa Puls, Chairman Board of Commissioner