

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 28, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on January 21, 2025, a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the County Clerk's Office. Availability of the agendas was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting. All of the proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

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

Streeter moved, seconded by Cruise, to approve January payroll claims in the amount of \$279,129.49 for the general, \$83,137.87 for the road and \$3,038.70 for the weed fund. Roll call vote was Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Bobby Hamilton, Highway Supt., met with the Board with his annual road and gravel report. After discussion Nutt moved, seconded by Gregg, to accept the annual road and gravel report presented by Hamilton. Roll call vote was Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. Bobby discussed the purchase of 2025 Chevy Silverado pickup from the state bid which would replace his foreman's 2020 pickup. The state bid is \$46,208 and delivery is 60-90 days out. After discussion Cruise moved, seconded by Malm, to approve Bobby to purchase the 2025 Chevy pickup truck from the state bid. Roll call vote was Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. Bobby discussed the surplus of a 1995 Ford F150 from the weed dept. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Cruise, to give Bobby authority to surplus the 1995 Ford pickup. Roll call vote was Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Aaron Clark, representing Nextlink Broadband, met with the Board. He told the Board Nextlink is a rapidly expanding Internet Service Provider with 5 plus office locations across Nebraska and to help bring affordable high-quality internet service to under and unserved portions of the state.

The Board reviewed the employee's vacation and sick time which was carried over from the previous 2024 year.

Cruise moved, seconded by Malm, to reappoint Mike Nelson, Dirk Ehrneberg and Adam Cain to a 3-year term to the Planning Commission. Roll call vote was Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. The term will be from 2025-2028.

The Board discussed the plans from Benefit Management and after discussion they would like Mike Boden with NACO to come to a meeting so they can ask him about the NACO benefits.

Tom, Theresa, Matt and Rick discussed meetings they attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Dennis Ostgren, Chairman Board of Commissioner