

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 11, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on March 4, 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 Tom Nutt; Russ Cruise; Rick Streeter; Theresa Puls; Barb Malm and Dennis Ostgren were present. Matt Gregg was absent. 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 Nutt, abstain; Cruise, yes; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, abstain. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Sharon Hueftle, representing 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.

Josh Young, representing SCEDD broadband community consultant, met with the Board to discuss the Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Our county is impacted by this program in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reach every rural household and business with quality, affordable broadband fiber service through this one-time BEAD grant.

Ashley Kreutzer, CASA Director, met with the Board requesting use of the courthouse lawn to put up pinwheels for child abuse awareness month from April 1st through April 30th. Puls moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve use of the courthouse lawn and hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Corey O'Brien, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss the revised burial/cremation assistance guidelines. He discussed what statute 68-133 provides for general assistance and what services the county will provide. After discussion Cruise moved, seconded by Puls, to approve the revised burial/cremation assistance guidelines. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Bobby Hamilton, Hwy. Supt., met with the Board with his road report. He discussed 2 bridge replacement project agreements with Oak Creek Engineering for their engineering service to replace #C006901205 located on 744 Road, between H Road and I Road and #C006902005 located on 740 Road, between 438 road and A Road with concrete box culverts. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Malm, to approve Oak Creek Engineering to be the professional engineer for these projects. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, yes; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Bobby discussed getting bids for a new motor grader and will set a bid opening date for April 1, 2025, at 9:15 a.m.

The Board discussed the mowing proposal from Russ Cruise for 2025. He plans to do 3 cemeteries for a fee of \$1,500. He would maintain them by mowing, trimming limbs and pinecone removal. Nutt moved, seconded by Streeter, to accept the cemetery mowing proposal in the amount of \$1,500. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Cruise, abstain; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Gregg absent. Motion carried.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Dennis Ostgren, Chairman Board of Commissioner