

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 13, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on May 6, 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; Theresa Puls; Matt Gregg; Barb Malm, Russ Cruise and Dennis Ostgren were present. Rick Streeter 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. Gregg moved, seconded by Malm, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Streeter absent. Motion carried.

Bobby Hamilton, Highway Supt., met with the Board with his road and weed report. Bobby is going to advertise gravel bids to be opened on June 17th at 9:30 a.m. for the fiscal year July 2025 through June 30, 2026. He discussed the Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA) letter he received. They are asking for funding in next year's budget and asking counties to pay \$5,000 to \$10,000 to help control the phragmites on the Platte River. The weed management area covers 14 counties and stretches over 380 miles. After discussion they will discuss this later and Board members will attend the next PVWMA meeting.

Ron Melbye, Planning and Zoning met with the Board and at 9:15 a.m. as advertised, Corey O'Brien, County Attorney, opened the public hearing. In attendance was Mel Wiens and Harold Smith. The purpose of the hearing is to approve a conditional use permit for Keith Becker, Southwest Gravel Products to operate a sand & gravel operation located on Hwy 44 on 747 Road, Elm Creek. Keith spoke about the sand & gravel operation. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:40 a.m. After discussion, Cruise moved, seconded by Gregg, to approve the conditional use permit for a sand & gravel operation. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Streeter absent. Motion carried.

At 9:42 a.m. the Public Hearing reopened to discuss approving a portable greenhouse for Jacob Nicols located at 74420 Hwy 183, Elm Creek. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:54 a.m. After discussion Puls moved seconded by Nutt, to approve the conditional use permit for a portable greenhouse. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Streeter absent. Motion carried.

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

Tom left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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

Gregg moved, seconded by Cruise, to approve one payroll claim in the amount of \$3,301.62 for the general fund. Roll call vote was Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Streeter and Nutt absent. Motion carried.

Gregg moved, seconded by Malm, to approve signing the letter of support for the Nebraska Broadband grant application. Roll call vote was Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Streeter and Nutt absent. Motion carried. This is for the Nextlink Nebraska Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (NE BEAD) grant.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Dennis Ostgren, Chairman Board of Commissioner