

COMMISSIONERS ROOM, HOLDREGE, NE
9:00 A.M. January 13, 2026

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 13, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Citizen on January 6, 2026, 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 Matt Gregg; Russ Cruise; Barb Malm; Rick Streeter; Theresa Puls; Tom Nutt and Dennis Ostgren present. The Meeting was called to order by Sally Fox, County Clerk. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Sally announced the open meeting law would be in effect and that a copy is posted on the wall. Sally requested nominations for Chairman of the Board. Puls nominated Dennis Ostgren, seconded by Cruise. There being no other nominations Gregg moved, seconded by Streeter, the nomination ceased. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. Nutt nominated Barb Malm for Vice Chairman of the Board, seconded by Streeter. There being no other nominations Ostgren moved, seconded by Nutt, the nomination ceased. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Malm, yes; Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. Newly elected Chairman Ostgren took over the meeting. Malm moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. The Board Chairman has the authority to sign checks.

Under citizen comments Calvin DeVries with the Phelps County Extension introduced Chris Termunde as the new Extension Educator.

Cruise moved, seconded by Puls, to approve resolution 26-2 on bank deposits with banking institutions from First State Bank of Bertrand; First State Bank of Loomis; First Interstate Bank; Firs Tier Bank; Bruning State Bank; The First State Bank of Holdrege and NPAIT. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Puls moved, seconded by Gregg, to designate NACO Phelps County website (www.phelpscounty.ne.gov) as one of the official means of publication. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

The Board agreed to retain the current meeting days and times for this year. Which will be the first four Tuesdays of the month and will begin at 9:00 a.m. with no meeting held on May 12th and November 3rd due to the Primary and General Election. Gregg moved, seconded by Cruise, to approve the meeting days and time. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Nutt moved, seconded by Malm, to approve the primary official county newspaper with Holdrege Citizen. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Cruise moved, seconded by Streeter, to retain the following appointments of Bobby Hamilton as Road Supt & part-time Weed Supt. and starting January 31, 2026, Jim Clampitt will take over as the Road Supt. & part-time Weed supt.; Justin Norris as Emergency Management; Travis Horner as Veteran's Service Officer and Ron Melbye as part-time Planning and Zoning. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Streeter moved, seconded by Nutt, to approve the legal holidays and close early dates for 2026, plus, any additional days proclaimed by the Governor to be a state holiday. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

LEGAL HOLIDAYS FOR 2026:

Monday, Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day	Monday, Sept. 7	Labor Day
Monday, Feb. 16	President's Day	Monday, Oct. 12	Columbus Day
Friday, April 24	Arbor Day floating holiday	Wednesday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day	Thursday, Nov. 26	Thanksgiving
Friday, June 19	Juneteenth Day	Friday, Nov. 27	Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, July 3	Independence Day	Friday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day
		Friday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day, 2027

COURTHOUSE EARLY CLOSE DATES:

Friday, April 3, Good Friday at noon
Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve at noon
Thursday, December 31, New Year's Eve at 3:00 pm

Puls moved, seconded by Streeter, to adopt the 2026 IRS mileage rate for 2026 at .725¢ and the sheriff fee for serving papers at .755¢ based on the information from the state auditor. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

The Board approved the 2026 committee appointments.

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

Malm moved, seconded by Gregg, to approve resolution 26-1 salaries for elected officials for terms 2027-2030 with a 3% increase. The Commissioners salaries for 2027 and 2028 shall be the same and for calendar years 2029 and 2030, the annual salary of the Commissioners and Chairman of the Board shall be established by December 15, 2028 any salary increase set must not exceed an increased based on the cumulative Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor for Calendar years 2027 and 2028 plus 1%. Roll call vote was Cruise, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Nutt, yes; Malm, yes; Puls, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Barb and Matt discussed committee meetings they attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Dennis Ostgren, Chairman of the Board