

COMMISSIONERS ROOM, HOLDREGE, NE
9:00 A.M. January 27, 2026

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 27, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Citizen on January 20, 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 Tom Nutt; Theresa Puls; Rick Streeter; Matt Gregg; Russ Cruise; Barb Malm and Dennis Ostgren were present. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ostgren. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Puls moved, seconded by Gregg, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, abstain; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Cruise moved, seconded by Nutt, to approve January payroll claims in the amount of \$296,183.85 for the general, \$99,974.08 for the road and \$3,194.09 for the weed fund. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Cassie Ehrenberg, Director of the Iron Horse District, met with the Board requesting use of the courthouse lawn, electricity and bathroom on May 30, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for the Iron Horse Arts Festival.

After discussion Nutt moved, seconded by Malm, to approve the courthouse lawn, electricity, bathrooms and hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried. Cassie discussed the Mini Mural Showcase which will feature small-scale murals created by local and regional artists, shared on the courthouse lawn throughout August. After discussion Puls moved, seconded by Gregg, to approve the courthouse lawn the month of August and hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

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

The Board reviewed the employees' vacation and sick time which was carried over from the previous 2025 year.

The board discussed the settlement agreement and agreement and release between Phelps County and NIRMA regarding claims submitted by the county which occurred on May 3, 2024, when the hailstorm came through Phelps County and damaged property, courthouse roof, 9 deputies vehicles, road dept. vehicle, 2 towers, emergency mgr. vehicle, road dept. building, and 2 other county vehicles. Phelps County and NIRMA agree the claim submitted and paid by NIRMA to the county in the amount of \$112,661.18, which the county agrees to accept in full settlement for the claim. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Cruise, to approve the agreement and release between Phelps County and NIRMA. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Rick discussed a committee meeting he attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Dennis Ostgren, Chairman Board of Commissioner