

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 24, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Citizen on February 17, 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; Russ Cruise; Matt Gregg; Barb Malm and Dennis Ostgren were present. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ostgren. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Streeter moved, seconded by Puls, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, abstain; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Jim Clampitt, Hwy. Supt. met with the board with his road report. Jim discussed the box culvert project on 744 Road. F & A Concrete, who is the contractor is behind schedule on the project, he was allowed 10 calendar weeks to complete construction which is February 25, 2026. The board will discuss this next week.

At 9:15 A.M. as advertised a public hearing was open for the 1- and 6-Year Road Plan. Clampitt reported the completed projects from 2025 and projected projects for 2026 through 2032. At 9:20 a.m. the public hearing was closed. Gregg moved, seconded by Nutt, to approve resolution 26-3 the 1- and 6-Year Road Plan. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Sierra Burrows, Library Director and Bill Yochum, Board Member met with the board and submitted their yearly state library report for the fiscal year 2025. In 2025 they had 28,709 visitors at the library. They also talked about the education the library provides and the future of the library.

Nutt moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve February payroll claims in the amount of \$271,823.58 for the general, \$77,197.57 for the road and \$2,281.73 for the weed fund. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

The board discussed the county's intention regarding space occupied by DHHS. Due to passage of LB376 Neb. Rev. Stat.68-130, until June 30, 2028, counties shall maintain, at no additional cost to Department of Health and Human Services, office and service facilities used for the administration of the public assistance programs. The county board of any county may request in writing that the department review office and service facilities provided by the county for the department to determine if the department is able to reduce or eliminate office and service facilities within the county. After discussion Gregg moved, seconded by Puls, pursuant to Neb. Statute 68-130 to inform Department of Health and Human Services, effective July 1, 2028, the county will reclaim the DHHS space. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Streeter, abstain; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Matt discussed a committee meeting he attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Sally Fox, County Clerk

Dennis Ostgren, Chairman Board of Commissioner