

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

Cassie Ehrenberg, Director of the Iron Horse District discussed with the board the Holdrege Haunted Tour which will be October 24, 2026. She would like the courthouse to participate in the haunted tour. After discussion Nutt moved, seconded by Malm, to approve use of the courthouse and hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

The board discussed the mowing proposal from Russ Cruise for 2026. He plans to do 3 cemeteries for a fee of \$1,500. He would maintain them by mowing, trimming, limb and pinecone removal. Puls moved, seconded by Streeter, to accept the cemetery mowing proposal in the amount of \$1,500.00. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, abstain; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Puls moved, seconded by Cruise, to approve the March payroll claims in the amount of \$268,557.10 for the general, \$67,168.58 for the road and \$2,904.45 for the weed fund. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Adam Hernandez, representing the Holdrege Chamber met with the board requesting use of the courthouse lawn, parking lot, electricity, sidewalks and bathrooms for Midsummer Festival, Thursday-Saturday, June 18-20, 2026. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Malm, to approve use of the courthouse lawn and the hold harmless agreement. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Patrick Moore and Bruce Binney, project developers with energyRe a renewable energy company, met with the board to discuss the utility scale solar project which is located by 745 & T Road which is the Northeastern portion of the county. Construction would start in 2027 with production beginning in 2029. Patrick told the board the annual county revenue will be approximately \$1,125,760 over the projects projected 30-year operational life. They will have several community engagements when this project begins.

Jim Clampitt, Highway Supt., met with the Board with his road report. Jim discussed purchasing a new maintainer through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program. By using this cooperative contract, it will shorten lead times and provide cost-effective pricing for the county. After discussion Gregg moved, seconded by Nutt, to allow Jim to use the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program to purchase a new maintainer. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Jim discussed the surplus of 3 items to Adam Marshall auction which is a John Deere 6615 tractor with side mounted diamond mower, 60-gallon upright air compressor and a 50-gallon sprayer. He would also like to scrap 2 truck salt spreaders at Booe's. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Gregg, to give Jim authority to surplus and scrap the equipment listed. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Jim discussed his weed superintendent report and requirements summary. After discussion Puls moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve the weed report and requirements summary. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Gregg, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Cruise, yes; Ostgren, yes. Motion carried.

Matt Gregg left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Jared Reimers, representative of Congressman Adrian Smith, met with the board to discuss any concerns the board may have and gave an update on bills they are reviewing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.