

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 7, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. as per public notice given in the Holdrege Citizen on March 24, 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; Barb Malm and Dennis Ostgren were present. Russ Cruise and Matt Gregg were absent. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ostgren. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Puls moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Cruise and Gregg absent. Motion carried.

Justin Norris, Emergency Management, met with the board to discuss the Bertrand Fires which happened just after midnight on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The fires were primarily pastureland, located in both Phelps and Gosper County. Phelps County had around 1,200 acres that were burning. There were 26 different fire agencies and around 180 people involved in putting out the fires. Justin stated that NEMA came and helped with the fires and after 5 days, on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the fires were contained.

At 9:15 a.m. the board went into session as a Board of Equalization. Sally Fox, County Clerk, Corey O'Brien, County Attorney and Jani Thorell, Deputy County Treasurer, were present. Russ Cruise and Matt Gregg were absent. Jani reviewed the 2012 Chrysler van vehicle exemption for New Life Assembly. After discussion Streeter moved, seconded by Nutt, to approve the motor vehicle exemption presented by Jani. Roll call vote was Nutt, yes; Puls, yes; Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes. Cruise and Gregg absent. Motion carried.

The Board resumed its regular session as a Board of Commissioners at 9:18 a.m.

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

Rick discussed a committee meeting he attended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

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Sally Fox, County Clerk

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Dennis Ostgren, Chairman Board of Commissioner