



# Phelps County Board Minutes



COMMISSIONERS ROOM, HOLDREGE, NE  
8:30 A.M. March 19, 2020

The Phelps County Board of Commissioners had an emergency meeting on March 19, 2020, with Commissioners Rick Streeter; Barb Malm; Dennis Ostgren; Matt Gregg; Theresa Puls; Russ Cruise and Tom Nutt present. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Nutt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Tom announced the open meeting law would be in effect and that a copy is posted on the wall.

The purpose for this emergency meeting is to discuss the concerns and procedures on the Coronavirus for the Courthouse and employees. Justin Norris, Emergency Manager met with the Board to discuss having one entrance to the courthouse and locking the others. After discussion Gregg moved, seconded by Streeter, to approve having one access to the courthouse which would be the north back door. Roll call vote was Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes; Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Nutt, yes. Motion carried. If there is a positive case in Phelps County the Board will delegate the authority to Justin Norris to lock the doors to the courthouse after consulting with the Board. The employees will still work but the public could not enter the building. After discussion Puls moved, seconded by Cruise, to give Justin the discretion on closing the doors to the public after consulting with the Board. Roll call vote was Streeter, yes; Malm, yes; Ostgren, yes; Gregg, yes; Puls, yes; Cruise, yes; Nutt, yes. Motion carried. When the Federal Legislation passes the bill on COVID-19 for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act the county will follow the guidelines for the employees. The Board will suspend the county policy on FMLA in the employee handbook due to the extraordinary circumstances of the coronavirus. Phelps County is trying to limit the use of public access to all Phelps County Offices and the Phelps County Courthouse. We are strongly encouraging the use of the mail, email, the drop box at the rear entrance of the courthouse or the Phelps County website: [www.phelpsgov.org](http://www.phelpsgov.org). Our goal is to continue to serve the people of Phelps County efficiently and keep everyone safe.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

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Sally Fox, County Clerk

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Tom Nutt, Chairman Board of Commissioner