

Proceedings of the County Commissioners

May 19, 2020

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 on the internet platform ZOOM as advertised by public notice on the County website. This meeting was open to the public and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and the Governor's waiver for meetings during the Covid-19 emergency. The meeting was held electronically and no quorum of the Board of Commissioners was physically present in the Commissioners chambers.

Present were Chairman Loren Paul, Commissioners Bruce Messersmith, James Krotz and Clerk Sindy Coburn. Also present were Assessor Tina Skinner, Treasurer Renee Thies, Clerk of the District Court Carol Stouffer, Road Superintendent Tom Kuester, Chief Deputy Everette Langford, Weed Superintendent Kristi Paul, Building Superintendent Jeff Davis and citizen Jack Andersen.

Treasurer Renee Thies reported to the Board of Equalization that the vehicle exemption form #457 for non-profits organizations will need to be filed and approved annually.

Marie Nelson, County 4-H coordinator the UNL Extension Service reported on efforts to produce and distribute facemasks.

The Board audited and approved salary claims and noted that claim checks had been approved.

Erin Heath CPA and Michelle McNare joined the meeting to discuss the budget formation process for the coming year.

Road Superintendent Tom Kuester reported that his crews have now hauled in enough material to get a threatened section of 133rd Trail above water. Kuester and the Commissioners discussed the possibility of extending the gravel hauling and placement work with the private contractors.

Chuck Lemp reported that the gravel reclamation project on the Cowboy Trail east of Gordon is nearing the half-way point. Approximately 27,000 tons of ballast has been reclaimed, crushed and cleaned. The grade is beginning to dry out facilitating the removal and hauling of material. Lemp suggested that if we have anything like normal rainfall the project should be completed by the end of summer or early fall. The contract is for 60,000 tons the County has the right of first right of refusal on anything over that.

The Board discussed an exit proposal from Tom Kuester and agreed that he would retire June 1 with no continuing consulting agreement. Mr. Kuester has been with the County Road Department for 35 years.

Building Superintendent Jeff Davis reported that handrails on the south courthouse entrance ramp would be installed in about 2 weeks. Plexiglass for the respiratory health screens has been in short supply so construction has not yet begun.

The Board discussed with other Officials the continuing concerns surrounding the reopening of the Courthouse.

Chief Deputy Everett Langford requested permission to use \$34,486 of E-911 funds to purchase radio equipment for which a grant has already been approved. When the grant funds are received the \$34,486 will be restored to the E-911 fund.

Marlin Sandoz appeared on behalf of The Fuel Grill to request approval for an application to the State Liquor Commission for a Special Designated License (SDL) to serve alcohol at a Barn Dance at Galyen Farms on June 19, 2020.

GIVE Director Bev Wellnitz met with the Commissioner to review the paid leave policy and to request that an HP 3500 color printer no longer used by the office be declared surplus. The Commissioners approved the request and authorized the Director to dispose of the printer.

The Board voted to approve the subdivision of a parcel of 5 acres for Dwight Rasmussen and Catherine Sutura in 35-32-44.

Clerk Sindy Coburn reported that there will be no increase in BC/BS health and dental premiums for County employees in the coming year. The Commissioners approve the renewal of the BC/Bs contract.

The Commissioner elected the accidental death and dismemberment benefit from AFLAC as the “free option” for County employees for the coming year.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on the ZOOM platform on May 26 at 9:00 a.m. Visit the county website at sheridancounty.ne.gov for instructions on how to attend.

The minutes of this and all meetings of the Board of Commissioners will be available to the public at the office of the Sheridan County Clerk and now are available online at sheridancounty.ne.gov. All meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held in compliance with Nebraska Open Meetings Act and the public is always welcome.

Submitted by James Krotz