

Proceedings of the Sheridan County Commissioners.

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met at the Courthouse on July 14,

Present were Chairman Loren Paul, Commissioners Bruce Messersmith and James Krotz, Clerk Sindy Coburn and Assessor Tina Skinner. (Paul was present via the ZOOM platform).

The Commissioners audited and approved claims.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved a request from the Gordon Country Club to extend the approved hours for liquor sales at the club to begin at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday June 19 and Sunday August 2 for special events.

Marie Nelson, Extension 4-H Assistant, reported on recent youth education activities. She also reported that the plans for the upcoming County Fair have been approved by Panhandle Public Health District.

Road Superintendent Richard Cross reported that local projects are proceeding on schedule and rock crushing is ahead of schedule. He also reported that the cost of crack-sealing and armor coating on 6 miles of 440th Road will cost \$126,000 and will begin in March of 2021.

At the request of Superintendent Cross the Commissioners declared as surplus a CAT-12 grader, not running, that was modified for roadside mowing and a GMC tanker truck that is also not running. The equipment will be offered for sale by an on-line auction service.

GIVE Director Bev Wellnitz and members of the GIVE Advisory Board; Karol Lockman, Willis Gran, Linda Strasburger and Karla Perry met with the Commissioners to discuss the future of the GIVE Thrift Store. Karol Lockman, president of the Advisory Board and former owner of the store building, had made the facility available to GIVE free of charge. The building was sold earlier this year and the new owner, concerned about liability issues, asked GIVE to vacate the facility by mid-September. After considerable discussion regarding safety issues, county liability and the uncertain public health climate posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commissioners and Advisory Board agreed that the most responsible course of action was to take a "time-out" from the project. The building will be vacated, and the inventory donated to other thrift/aid projects in the area. When the public health (pandemic) situation is more settled and if a suitable building is found the Board will consider a re-launch of the project. The Board of Commissioners is especially grateful to Karol Lockman for her generous support of GIVE and the Thrift Store project.

Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons and Sheriff Jeff Brewer appeared to request the Commissioners' permission for Simmons to represent Brewer in a lawsuit filed against him by (Rudy Stanko) an inmate of the county jail. The Commissioners approved.

Treasurer Renee Thies requested the authorization of a transfer of \$25 from the State Sales Tax Fund to the General Fund and the approval of a claim for \$3.50 from the General Fund to settle and unclaimed property claim from 2003. The Commissioners approved both transactions for the purpose of reconciling accounts.

Building Superintendent Jeff Davis and Sheriff Jeff Brewer reported that new steel exterior steps were being installed today on the east emergency exit from the Jail. The group discussed proposals from Tile Concepts & Epoxy Concepts for the painting/sealing of the men's and women's showers and dayrooms in the jail and the resurfacing of the public entrance stairway in the jail/county court building. The showers have been a perennial maintenance problem because no paint or sealer will adhere to the surfaces for more than a few months. The Commissioners authorized Davis to sign the \$53,653 proposal which includes a 20-year warranty.

Acting as the Board of Equalization (BOE) the Commissioners reviewed and approved a list of 4 overvalued properties as presented by the Assessor.

At 11:00 the BOE, working with appraisal consultant Suzi Lore, began considering property valuation protests from 20 property owners. Most protesters presented their cases by telephone, a few in person and a few in writing only. The Building Superintendent has installed a couch-screen in the Commissioner Chambers and the digital document sharing, ZOOM application, and teleconference capability enabled a safe and efficient environment for the hearings. The Commissioners would like to thank the public for their patience.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commissioners will be Tuesday July 21 at 9:00 at the Courthouse.

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