

Proceedings of the Commissioners  
January 12, 2021

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met via ZOOM on January 12, 2021, as advertised on the County website [sheridancountyne.gov](http://sheridancountyne.gov). Governor Ricketts has authorized the use of such virtual meetings during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic to help minimize public contact and possible virus transmission. Since the meeting was held electronically no quorum of the public body was physically present and there was no public, in-person attendance.

Members of the public and media were informed of the meeting and invited to attend via ZOOM.

Present were Chairman Loren Paul, Commissioners Bruce Messersmith and James Krotz, Clerk Sindy Coburn, Assessor Tina Skinner, Treasurer Renee Thies and Road Supt. Richard Cross.

Acting as the Board of Equalization (BOE) the Commissioners approved two Correction Sheets presented by Assessor Tina Skinner to correct the boundary lines and building placement on two adjacent parcels owned by Roxane Gatewood.

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) re-organized for new year as required by statute:

Elected Loren Paul as Chairman, Bruce Messersmith as Vice-Chairman and James Krotz as Webmaster/Secretary.

Appointed Commissioner representatives to the following boards;

Loren Paul to SWANN, Aging Office of Western Nebraska and Panhandle Public Health. Bruce Messersmith to Region I Behavioral Health and Region I Office of Human Development. James Krotz to Northwest Community Action Partnership, Region 23 Emergency Management and Extension Service.

The BOC designated the County Website as the official means of notification of meetings for the BOC & BOE and designated the Sheridan County Journal Star as the official newspaper of record.

The Commissioners approved a resolution designating official deposit banks for county funds. They are: Security First Bank of Rushville and Hay Springs, First National Bank of Gordon, Bank of the West and the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT).

The Commissioners appointed County Clerk Sindy Coburn as the official contact person for Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Association (NIRMA) the county's insurance carrier.

Road Superintendent Richard Cross reported; that the bridge near the Gordon airport will be replace with a double steel tube; that FEMA reimbursement for flood damage is still in limbo; that there are no Covid cases within the department.

The BOC and Cross discussed a request from Chuck Lemp for the release of a life insurance requirement for work completion on the Cowboy Trail ballast project. No action was taken.

The BOC discussed possible funding sources for the replacement of sun-faded road signs. Cross stated that E-911 funds were the most like source.

Treasurer Renee Thies and Supt. Cross requested that the BOC approve two corrections to the road-side mowing assessments approved in December. The corrections for Troy Goings and Sandra Koinzan simply corrected typos in the parcel ID numbers.

Treasurer Thies briefed the BOC on the process (approved by the State Auditor) of dealing with a returned check for the E911 surcharge.

Weed Superintendent (and Prairie Dog Control Supt.) Seth Tausen introduced Tim Brewer the new USDA Animal Control officer. Members of the Prairie Dog Control Board Jerry Meyring, Lloyd Kearns and Rick Schneider members of the Prairie Dog Control Board appeared and reported that the public reaction to the program has been generally positive. The BOC reappointed Meyring and Kearns to 3—year terms.

Tausen presented for review and approval his Annual Noxious Weed Control Activity Report to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The BOC discussed the report and approved it for submission.

Building Superintendent Jeff Davis reported on the progress of several projects at the courthouse – replacement of the south entry door, new counter-tops in the Assessor's office and securing pricing for security glass in the Treasurer's and Assessor's office.

Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons presented an Addendum to Supplemental Indigent Defense Agreement with Andrew Pope of Crites Shafer Connealy Watson Patras & Watson appointing Andrew Pope as the interim Public Defender for a term not to exceed 45 days from January 1, 2021. The BOC approved the Addendum.

The BOC will now proceed to fill the position of Public Defender; appoint an advisory board of two attorneys and one lay person to receive applications and nominate, from among those applicants, a successor to complete the term of Michal Varn who retired at the end of 2020.

Jeremy Harris of MANNA met with the BOC to review IT issues at the courthouse.

Marie Nelson, Extension Assistant for 4-H reported on activities in the months of November and December.

The next meeting of the BOE and BOC is scheduled for Jan 19 on the ZOOM platform and will be open to the public. Watch the County website Public Notices site for meeting ID and passcode information.

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](http://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