

Proceedings of the Commissioners  
January 26, 2021

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met via ZOOM on January 26, 2021 as advertised on the County website 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, County Clerk Sindy Coburn, Treasurer Renee Thies and Road Supt. Richard Cross.

There was no business to come before the Board of Equalization (BOE).

Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons notified the Board of Commissioners (BOC) that she will sign a letter of retainer with attorney Victor Covalt later this week to represent the County's interest in a bankruptcy case that involves a tax liability. She will present the letter of retainer for approval at the February 9 meeting.

The BOC considered a request from the Veteran's Service Board to appoint Dean Witt to the Veteran's Service Board for a five-year term. The BOC approved the appointment. Witt will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Ken Frey.

Road Superintendent Richard Cross and the BOC discussed the need for the continuation of an insurance policy on Chuck Lemp, the contractor harvesting and crushing ballast from the Cowboy Trail. With the project nearly complete, the BOC voted to pay the County's half of the premium as agreed, and release Lemp from the insurance obligation. The Chairman was authorized to sign the release pending review and approval by the County Attorney.

Joyce Johnson appeared to request the closure and abandonment of an open section line. The BOC directed Cross to prepare the report and public hearing notice needed to proceed.

Cross informed the BOC that the Road Dept has a fuel contract with WESTCO for 45,000 gallons of fuel at \$1.63/gal. The contract continues until January 31, 2022. Payment is to be made on delivery.

Cross reported that the Tallon estate has approved the removal of approximately 4,400 yards of gravel from the pit.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer reported that four members his department have now been vaccinated for Covid-19. A review of the Jail video system has been scheduled for early February.

Charlie Hamilton joined the meeting by telephone to request clarification of zoning requirements for a new irrigation project.

Building Superintendent Jeff Davis reported on the possible installation of a heating element in the existing air-mover in the District Court Room at a cost of about \$1,500. The BOC encouraged Davis to proceed with the project.

Rudy Stanko appeared to speak of his continued disapproval of the size of the budget and number of employees in the office of the County Attorney.

Jeremy Harris of MANNA systems and Assessor Tina Skinner appeared to discuss Information Technology issues in the courthouse.

Krotz reported on the continuing conversation between Northwest Community Action and Panhandle Trails regarding the possible transfer of the Sheridan County Public Transportation grant.

The Commissioners discussed a pending ZOOM meeting to be hosted by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources regarding the update of FEMA flood maps in Sheridan County. The meeting is scheduled for February 3 at 8:00 a.m. MST. Check [dnr.nebraska.gov](http://dnr.nebraska.gov) for registration information.

The next meeting of the BOE and BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 on the ZOOM platform and will be open to the public. Watch the County website Public Notices site for meeting ID and passcode information. Those lacking a solid internet connection can join the meeting by telephone using the number posted there.

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