

Proceedings of the Commissioners
February 16, 2021

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met via ZOOM on February 16, 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 Superintendent Richard Cross.

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

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) audited and approved salary claims.

Road Superintendent Richard Cross reported that the snow-plows were busy and that bids for private gravel hauling will be opened on March 9.

The BOC and Road Superintendent decided that the Public Hearing on the proposed One- and Six-Year Road Plan will be held at the County Shop on North Main Street in Rushville at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23. The public can attend the meeting in person at the shop or via ZOOM. The Commissioners will attend via ZOOM.

Clerk of the District Court Carol Stouffer appeared to discuss with the Commissioners LB-102 a proposal now before the Unicameral that would permit the combining of the offices of County and District Court Clerks. Assessor Tina Skinner spoke to LB-179 a bill that would make the position of Assessor “appointed” rather than “elected”. The BOC decided not to take a position on either bill at this point in the legislative process.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer and dispatcher Jodi Elsea joined the meeting as Kevin Carmody and Rich Evans of BYTES Computer and Network Solutions presented their preliminary assessment of the IT network in the Courthouse and Public safety Building. After some discussion the Commissioners requested that BYTES submit a detailed proposal to update and simplify the system.

Jeremy Harris of MANNA Systems reported that new microphones will be installed in the Commissioner’s office this week.

Building Superintendent Jeff Davis informed the BOC that the lights in the Commissioner’s office could not be fitted with dimmer switches. In order to override the energy saving, motion-activated switches and dim the lights for video presentations he will install old fashioned pull-chain switches. The drinking fountain in the Courthouse lobby has been removed.

Caleb Johnson, the County Budget Consultant, met with the BOC to present his proposal for budget preparation services. The BOC has taken the proposal under review.

The next meeting of the BOE and BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23 at 9:00 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 reliable 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. 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