

## Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met via ZOOM on March 23, 2021 as advertised on the County website [sheridancountyne.gov](http://sheridancountyne.gov)

Present were Chairman Loren Paul, Commissioners Bruce Messersmith and James Krotz County Clerk Cindy Coburn and Treasurer Renee Thies.

The Commissioners convened as the Board of Equalization (BOE) and approved the minutes of 3-16-2021 meeting. There was no other business for the BOE and the meeting was adjourned.

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

Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons presented the proposed contract with Crites & Shaffer for the services of Andrew Pope, a member of the firm, to serve as interim County Defender. The monthly cost for those services will be \$8,185/month through the end of this fiscal year and \$8350/month thereafter. The BOC approved the contract with one small amendment.

Simmons met with the BOC in closed session from 9:23 to 9:41 to discuss pending litigation. No action was taken.

The BOC voted to not make use of the legal defense coverage offered by NIRMA in the lawsuit most recently brought against the county by Rudy Stanko.

The BOC voted to retain the services of attorney Steve Olson of Scottsbluff in defending the county against Stanko's lawsuit.

Road Superintendent Richard Cross reported on hiring efforts in the department. At present there is only one open position. Beginning April 5, crews will begin working 10-hour days/4 days per week.

Building Superintendent Jeff Davis sent a report that he has entered a contract-cleaning service agreement with Laurie Salisbury beginning April 1.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer addressed the BOC regarding his concerns with LB-51 a bill before the Unicameral that would eliminate the reserve deputy program, mandate burdensome continuing training requirements, and would eliminate the 1-year grace period for law enforcement candidates to graduate from the state law-enforcement academy.

Jeremy Harris of MANNA Systems visited with the BOC regarding IT services at the Courthouse.

Assessor Skinner reported that residential valuations in the County had increased and are set within prescribed limits. The assessment of commercial properties continues to be a challenge because of the lack of comparable sales.

The next meeting of the BOE and BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, at 9:00 in the Commissioners' Chambers in the Courthouse and will be open to the public. The meeting will also be available on ZOOM – check the Public Notices page of the county website for meeting number and passcode.

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