

## Proceedings of the Commissioners January 10, 2023

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) convened on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at the County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was published on the county website [sheridancountyne.gov](http://sheridancountyne.gov). The meeting was open to the public and a ZOOM connection was also available. Present were Chairman Bruce Messersmith, Commissioners Dan Kling and James Krotz, Clerk Sindy Coburn, and Treasurer Renee Thies.

The Board of Equalization (BOE) reviewed two Correction Sheets presented by Assessor Tina Skinner regarding the valuation of a fire-damaged house owned by Wayne and Elizabeth Childers. The BOC approved the Sheets reducing the valuation as proposed.

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

Bruce Messersmith was elected Chairman, and James Krotz was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The BOC voted to extend the current Commissioner appointments as representatives to the following boards: Bruce Messersmith to Region I Behavioral Health and Region I Office of Human Development and Senior Service Inc. (Handi-Bus). Dan Kling SWANN, Aging Office of Western Nebraska, and Panhandle Public Health. James Krotz to Northwest Community Action Partnership, Region 23 Emergency Management, Extension.

The BOC voted to appoint Bruce Messersmith as Chairman of the County Weed Board.

Richard Cross was appointed Superintendent of the Road Department.

The BOC designated the County Website as the official means of notification for meetings of the BOC & BOE and designated the Sheridan County Journal Star as the official newspaper of record. James Krotz was appointed as webmaster of the County website.

The Commissioners approved a resolution designating official depository banks for county funds; 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.

The Commissioners set the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month as the regular meeting dates for the BOE and BOC.

The BOE voted to accept a bid of \$155,250 from Black Hills Truck & Trailer for a T800 Kenworth Truck.

Road Superintendent Rich Cross reported that seven motor-graders and one front end loader were on the equipment disabled list. Five motor-graders, three loaders and one dozer are in operation. Cross stated that the snowpack is almost glacial in spots and that plows have to repeatedly ram some drifts to break through. Sometimes the equipment breaks instead. The

Board directed Cross to discuss with our insurance carrier the issues of coverage and liability if the County were to hire private contractors to assist with snow removal.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer commended the Road Department for their assistance with numerous storm related rescue efforts and warned the Board that overtime costs are going to be significant.

GIVE Director Bev Wellnitz reported on several volunteer efforts in the schools and local care facilities. Unfortunately the GIVE program will not be able to continue as the sponsoring entity for the Christmas “Trees of Love Program” for local nursing homes and children because of state restrictions on gift giving by government agencies. Wellnitz will attempt to find other community sponsors and assist them by supplying the volunteers needed to continue the effort.

The BOC approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Gordon Memorial Hospital supporting the Hospital’s application for 340B Program funding. The Program helps with the purchase of drugs for the provision of indigent care.

The BOC appointed Jamian Simmons to serve as Sheridan County Attorney. She will serve out the unexpired term of Aaron Conn who was sworn into office as a County Judge earlier that morning.

The next meeting of the BOE and BOC is scheduled for Jan 17 at 9:00 a.m. All meetings are open to the public and may also be accessed via ZOOM – check the Public Notices page of the county website for the 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