

Proceedings of the Commissioners
2-14-2023

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday February 14, at the County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was published on the county website sheridancounty.ne.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, County Clerk Sindy Coburn, Clerk of the District Court Carol Stouffer, and Treasurer Renee Thies.

Acting as the Board of Equalization (BOE), the Commissioners considered two Correction Sheets presented by Tina Skinner, County Assessor. The Correction Sheets proposed the consolidation of two small parcels owned by Great Plains Farm LLC in a larger parcel of about 5 acres. The BOE approved the Correction Sheets.

The BOE reviewed and approved claims for payment.

The Commissioners discussed a problem with the new .gov email system now used by the County.

The Commissioners discussed the review process for salary claims and agreed that it was time for an update.

UNL Extension Educator Jack Arterburn presented his periodic update on recent and upcoming events.

The BOC convened a public hearing on a proposal to vacate and close an alley in Dewing (Whiteclay). Two persons offered testimony, Gary Brehmer opposed the closure. Tyler Oliver (via telephone) representing the applicant, explained that a utility easement would remain in effect which satisfied Brehmer's objection. The BOC has referred the matter to the County Attorney and will vote on the closure within 30 days.

Dan Otte appeared to request reimbursement for time and equipment he utilized in clearing snow from county roads. The BOC stated that compensation could be offered only when the county had requested such services.

Scott Berndt appeared to request that the snowplow stationed in the Pleasant Point area be returned to that location. Road Superintendent Richard Cross reported that an unauthorized user had done significant damage to the plow (broken "shoes" and tire chains) and left it unusable by the county operator. When the plow is returned to service the Board will consider where it is to be stationed and under what conditions.

Mike Bateman of Murphy Tractor & Equipment appeared to present a proposal for the installation of a quick hitch attachment to one of the County's front-end, John Deere loaders. The quick hitch would facilitate the installation of snow blower. The cost of the snowblower, a Snowcrete 948-D (161,250) and the quick-hitch (18,393) might be covered by a grant from the County's ARPA Fund. The Commissioners directed Cross to prepare a grant proposal requesting the necessary funds. Bateman informed the Board that the equipment would not be available for at least several months because the engines that power the blower are in short supply.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer offered a brief report.

Treasurer Renee Thies reported that a new, nationwide Opioid Settlement had been reached, this time with various large pharmacies. The Board discussed whether to "opt-in" to the settlement and, if so, whether to do so as with the earlier settlement with manufacturers. A decision on the matter was tabled until the 2-21 meeting.

The Board considered and approved a proposal from Weathercraft Roofing for the repair/replacement of gutters and downspouts on the Courthouse. Ice dams in the gutters have caused leaks and damage to the walls in several rooms.

Clerk of the District Court Carol Stouffer, who is leading review of the County Employee Handbook, requested a convocation of all the Elected Officials to discuss needed revision. The first such meeting will be February 28.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

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