

Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, 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, Treasurer Renee Thies and Road Superintendent Rich Cross.

Assessor Tina Skinner had no business to bring before the Board of Equalization (BOE).

The Commissioners audited and approved salary claims and signed claim checks.

The BOC approved for submission to the State Liquor Control Commission, an application from The Fuel Grill of Gordon, to serve alcohol at a wedding reception to be held at the County Fairgrounds on 9-22-23.

Treasurer Renee Thies presented her report on Distress Warrants and the report on pledged securities on bank accounts. The Commissioners affirmed her decision to transfer the Road District 31 CD from Bank of the West in Alliance to the Gordon branch of the same bank.

Road Superintendent Rich Cross shared with the Board a letter from the US Department of the Interior dated 2-24-1932 stating that the Secretary of the Interior had approved the attached map of the Definite Location of the 2.75 miles Tribal Route 121, Outlaw Trail Rd. This road has been referred to as 790th Road east of White Clay on Reservation land.

Dustin Wills of Benefits Management joined the meeting via ZOOM and the Board continued the discussion of health insurance benefits for County employees. The Commissioners acknowledged that such transitions can be anxiety producing for employees, but the new plan will improve benefits and reduce costs to the County.

After much deliberation the Board voted to approve the proposal from Benefits Management to offer health care coverage for County employees from MEDICA. The new plan will include two options, the first of which replicates the present plan and the second of which is a high deductible plan with a Health Savings Account to which the County will contribute \$1,500/year. Both options include much more generous pharmacy benefits. Life and Disability benefits will also increase.

Health Benefits Advisors will be on site in September to explain the new plan to employees. Coverage is scheduled to transfer on October 1.

Extension Educator Jack Arterburn (Northern Panhandle Beef Systems Educator) reported on recent programs offered by the service. Of particular interest were field demonstration of the moisture retention benefits of proper grazing, and a Management Tour of cheatgrass sites where Rejuva© was applied.

The BOC interviewed three applicants for the position of County Road Superintendent.

The next meeting of the BOE and BOC will be Tuesday, September 12.

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 are also 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.