

Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County, Nebraska Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at the County Courthouse in Rushville. Notice of the meeting was published on the county website sheridancountyne.gov. The meeting was open to the public and a ZOOM connection was also available. Present were Chairman James Krotz, and Commissioners Dan Kling and Bruce Messersmith. Also present were Clerk Sindy Coburn, and Treasurer Renee Thies.

There was no business for the Board of Equalization (BOE).

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

Treasurer Thies presented to the BOC her report on pledged securities from the depository banks for County funds. The Board accepted and approved the report.

Joe Headrick presented to the Board an “open letter” offering his ideas on how to improve the oversight of remote county business. Ron Dreyer appeared with Mr. Headrick and spoke briefly on Headrick’s ideas. Mr. Headrick hopes to have his “open letter” published as a letter to the editor in the SCJS.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton reported that the Department now has snowplows stationed at six locations: Gordon, Rushville, Hay Springs, Mirage Flats, Lakeside, and Pleasant Point. In consultation with Superintendent Norton the Board set the public hearing for the One Year Road Plan for 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20 at the Road Shop in Rushville.

Clerk of the District Court, Carol Stouffer, Sheriff Jeff Brewer, and Building Superintendent Jeff Davis briefed the Board on the need for certain security updates to the District Courtroom.

County Attorney Jamian Simmons, Ms. Stouffer and Assessor Tina Skinner joined the meeting to discuss updates to the Employee Handbook. The discussion was primarily concerned with the legal requirements for “exempt” and “non-exempt” employees. The distinction between those who are exempt from over-time pay and those who are not, is ever more challenging for employers such as the county. No decisions were made on the matter and the County Attorney was asked to do even more research.

Caleb Johnson appeared to present his proposal for budget preparation services for the coming fiscal year. The proposal, which included a modest cost increase to

cover inflation, also included an option to extend/renew the agreement for three years. The Commissioners, being well satisfied with Mr. Johnson's services, voted to accept the proposal with the option for the three-year renewal.

Weed/Prairie Dog Superintendent Seth Tausen, Matt Anderson of the USDA, and members of the Prairie Dog Advisory Board Wayne Dreyer, Rick Schneider, Lloyd Kearns, and guest Sharon Kearns, in addition to the County Attorney, appeared to discuss certain concerns regarding the planned forced control of a colony along the Sheridan/Dawes boundary line. The BOC directed the County Attorney to draft an agreement with Roger Ray that would address the concerns raised regarding liability, jurisdictional boundaries, and the duration of the agreement.

The next meeting of the BOE/BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 at 9:00 a.m.

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