

Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County, Nebraska Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at the County Courthouse in Rushville. 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 James Krotz, Commissioners Dan Kling and Bruce Messersmith, County Clerk Sindy Coburn, and Treasurer Renee Thies.

Acting as the Board of Equalization (BOE) the Commissioners opened a hearing on the renewal of 66 permissive property tax exemptions in the county. The exemptions are for charitable, educational, fraternal and religious organizations. James Schramm, representing the Hay Springs Senior Center, and Caroline Graham, representing the Rushville Senior Center appeared to speak in support of the exemptions for their respective organizations. Full exemptions were approved for both. To the other applicants 59 full exemptions and 5 partial exemptions were granted. One application was denied.

Assessor Tina Skinner presented a list of four overvalued properties and requested approval of her proposed corrections. The corrections were approved.

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

Road Superintendent Rod Norton reported that the gravel project on 1.5 miles of Mission Road has been completed at a cost of \$102,085. Sherburn Trucking has begun hauling red rock on the Walgren Lake Road. Norton reported that the Adams gravel pit, serving the southwest part of the county, appears to be nearing depletion.

Sales representatives from Eakes Office Solutions made a brief presentation via ZOOM on an integrated, cloud-based telephone and fax service. The Commissioners invited them to present a preliminary cost estimate at a later date.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer appeared to request support for his proposed pay increases for his deputies and corrections officers beginning in July. The Commissioners expressed their support for the increase in the hope that the higher wages will help with recruitment and retention of staff.

Dustin Will of Benefit Management joined the meeting via ZOOM to report on employee participation in, and cost of, the new Health Care Plan with Medica.

Preliminary indications are that the cost for health insurance in the coming year will increase by about 8%.

Commissioner Krotz reported that Region 23 Emergency Management (Sheridan, Dawes, Sioux and Box Butte Counties) has begun work on the required update of our FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan. Only governmental entities that participate in the Plan are eligible to apply for FEMA hazard mitigation grants. The work-plan for the update is now available for public view at <https://www.jeo.com/region23-hmp>

The next meeting of the BOE/BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25 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