

County Budget Workshop

The Sheridan County, Nebraska Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Wednesday, August 28, 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. The sole purpose of the meeting was to workshop the 2024-2025 Budget. Present were Chairman James Krotz, Commissioners Dan Kling and Bruce Messersmith, Budget Consultant Caleb Johnson, Deputy Clerk Paige Rager, Treasurer Renee Thies, Clerk of the District Court Carol Stouffer, Sheriff's Secretary Carol Tiensvold, Weed Superintendent Seth Tausan, Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton and Assistant Thomas Price, Veteran's Service Officer Jason Hotz and Building Superintendent Jeff Davis. Citizen Mark Cover was also present.

Each Officer or Department submitted their 2024-25 Budget requests to Johnson in late May and he assembled the requests and the various revenue projections into a proposal that meets the requirements of state law. In the course of the Budget Workshop we reviewed every office/department budget discussing needs and objectives, making cuts where necessary and sometimes increasing allocations. This joint exercise helps develop a sense of team ownership of the County Budget.

During the Workshop, the Budget Consultant maintained a continuous update of the entire Budget document as office/department budgets are tweaked, keeping the Board constantly informed of compliance with lids and restrictions.

Commissioner Messersmith and Mr. Cover left the meeting at 10:00 to travel to Valentine for a meeting with Senator Deb Fisher concerning the possibility of federal funds for the renewal of rural roads.

At the end of the day, 3:00 p.m, we agreed on a Proposed Budget for 2024-25. Highlights of the proposal are: a Total Taxable Value of \$1,466,971,414 up from \$1,206,012,259 in the prior year, a reduction of the levy (tax rate) from .339010 to .3041, a tax asking of \$4,455,693, an increase of cash reserves to \$1,460,000, a 3% cost of living raise for all county employees, and \$425,000 for the purchase of new motor-grader. The County has no debt.

The Commissioners concluded the day by approving three budget related resolutions; approved an additional 1% increase to the base amount for restricted funds authority for a total of 3 1/2%; authorized Petty Cash Funds for the County Clerk, County Court and Treasurer; allocated real and personal property tax to 11 political subdivisions.

The Proposed 2024-25 Budget will be presented for public comment at a hearing on September 18. The detail of the Proposed Budget is available at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.

The next meeting of the BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10 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