

## Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County, Nebraska Board of Equalization (BOE) and Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the County Courthouse in Rushville. Notice of the meeting was published on the county website [sheridancounty.ne.gov](http://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, Treasurer Renee Thies and Clerk of the District Court Carol Stoufffer.

There was no business for the Board of Equalization.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton reported that extremely dry conditions combined with heavy harvest traffic are leading to lots of blowouts. Hauling gravel to the blowouts can further damage the roads so the response must be measured. More than anything else we need rain. Norton presented a model "Dig Permit" for consideration. The Permit (and fee) would be required for any trenching or other incursion on the county right of way. The Commissioners will review the proposal and take action at a future meeting.

Kris Pyle of the Veteran's Service Board presented a positive evaluation of the VSO Jason Hotz stating that Sheridan County is number four among Nebraska Counties in providing benefits. The VSO Board recommended a compensation increase. The BOC approved the proposed compensation rate of \$26/hour or \$54,080/year.

Treasurer Renee Thies presented her Tax Sale Certificate/Foreclosure list which the BOC approved.

The Board discussed the use of county vehicles, reiterating that they may not be used for personal business. The Board also wants to inform the public that the Weed Department truck is housed in the Gordon shop because it is the only locked garage space currently available.

The Board discussed the implications of the US Department of Labor's Final Rule on "white-collar exemptions." The rule states that employees earning less than \$58,656/year (effective 1/1/2025) must be paid on an hourly basis and must be paid overtime for over 40 hours/week. A number of employees, including deputy officials have been paid an annual salary and so have not been qualified for overtime. The Board voted to transition to the hourly wage system effective 1/1/2025. Those employees effected by the change will receive the same

annualized compensation if they work full workweeks. Elected officials are exempt from this change.

Philip Jensen of Great Plains Communication presented a proposal for the replacement of the County telephone system. The present system is now considered “obsolete” and if certain components should fail replacement parts are not available. A significant portion of the cost of the project will be “re-cabling” the courthouse. The Board is considering proposals from Great Plains and Eakes Office Solutions.

Interim Weed Superintendent Melissa Grover presented the updated and revised Prairie Dog Control resolution and reported that it has been reviewed by the County Attorney. The BOC voted to approve the Resolution. The Board also approved Management Fees of \$250 to be assessed on property owners who do not comply with notices to control noxious weeds or prairie dogs. The rate for Labor/Machine Hire/Spraying will be charged at the normal rate times two. Mileage will be charged at \$2/mile.

Grover provided an update on Department activities and reported that she has hired Ryan Lovell as temporary employee (till the end of the year) to assist with spraying. The weeks leading into winter are the prime time for spraying many noxious weeds.

The next meeting of the BOE/BOC is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 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](http://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