

Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the County Courthouse. 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, Commissioners Bruce Messersmith and Dan Kling, Clerk Sindy Coburn and Treasurer Renee Thies.

Acting as the Board of Equalization (BOE) the Commissioners reviewed and approved a Correction Sheet presented by Assessor Tina Skinner. The correction removed from the Personal Property Sheet of Kurt and Karel Hebbert a 4-wheeler that had been mistakenly entered twice.

Treasurer Renee Thies presented resolutions prepared by the County Attorney that request that Security First and First Nation Bank of Gordon disclose the following information with regard to each and every bank account, including checking, savings or other types of accounts, which are owned or held by Sheridan County, or any office the County and bears the County's Nebraska tax id number: the account number, the name of the county office or official affiliated with the account and the principal balance in the account as of the date of the resolution.

Todd Sherburn appeared to request the approval of a rural subdivision of less than 10 acres along Hwy 20 east of Rushville. The Board approved the subdivision.

Interim Road Superintendent reported that recent precipitation was facilitating the grading of roads. The Board and Norton discussed at some length the details to be considered in securing a new rock crushing contract. Messersmith and Norton reported on their meeting with representatives of NDOT and Sen. Fischer's office concerning the possibility of a grant to resurface asphalt roads in the Antioch area. If the project qualifies for a grant, it now appears that it would not happen this year.

Commissioner Kling expressed his desire to give to the county a 7-8 foot, PTO driven tiller. He asked only that some disinterested party establish the value of the implement, and that the County then provide gravel equal to that value to the City of Gordon. Krotz and Messersmith agreed to the donation and trade.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Jeff Davis presented a proposal from Fox Paving of \$45,000 for the re-surfacing of the Courthouse and Jail parking lots. The Board asked Davis to discover when the project might begin before taking action to approve it.

Bruce Salisbury, Chairman of the Tourism Committee reported on the work of the Committee and their ongoing efforts to secure a committee member from the Hay Springs area.

Christian Pohlenz of Eakes Office Solutions reported that they have secured the necessary numbers from Great Plains Communications but that there would be an increase of \$30/month to the service plan. The BOC agreed to the increase and directed Pohlenz to proceed with the installation of the new phone system post-haste. He said that the installation and training should be complete by mid-May.

At 11:00 a.m. the Board opened a public hearing on the Conservation Easement Application submitted by Derek and Lesa Schwanbek of Ellsworth and the Nebraska Land Trust of Lincoln. Jacob Alishouse, Executive Director of the Nebraska Land Trust, appeared to present the application and to explain its purpose. The Commissioners and other Officials asked numerous questions and though one member of the public appeared, he offered no testimony. The hearing closed at 11:30 and the BOC approved the application with Kling and Krotz voting yes and Messersmith voting no.

Weed Superintendent Melissa Grover reported that the Department needed several safety upgrades and asked if she might establish an Amazon business account to purchase the items. The BOC approved. Grover showed the Board new reporting forms which include only 5 noxious species in our area. The Commissioners agreed to add a sixth “watch species” Bull Thistle.

The Commissioners, Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor discussed the budget making process which will begin in May. The Board will consider on April 22 what wage increases, if any, might be included in that budget.

The Board discussed a request from NDOT to have the County Surveyor secure and preserve the land survey corners that may be damaged or otherwise lost in the course of re-paving project along highways 2 and 250. NDOT will reimburse the county for the cost of these efforts.

The next meeting of the BOE/BOC is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 15 in conjunction with the County Government Day for high school classes from HSH and GRHS.

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