

## Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at the County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was published in the Sheridan County Journal Star and on the County website [sheridancountyne.gov](http://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.

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

The BOC approved the renewal of a 25-year lease for a communication tower site north of Rushville at \$1,000/year to be paid by the state to the landowner.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton reported on the completion of a challenging project leading south from the Niobrara river up along a very sandy stretch of 392nd Trail, and a number of smaller projects underway.

Weed Superintendent Melissa Grover presented to the BOC a proposed revision of the bylaws of the Prairie Dog Management Board, proposed by that Board, concerning the number of meetings a member can miss before being subject to removal. The BOC approved the revision setting that limit at 4 per year.

Valerie Beel, a grant-writer for the County Ag. Society and 4-H Foundation, and David Russel, Chairman of the Ag. Society, met with the Board to discuss their upcoming proposal for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The proposed grant would provide \$630,000 toward the projected \$980,000 needed to upgrade the existing “dance hall building” at the fairgrounds to serve as an “events venue” for the entire county.

At 11:00 a.m. the BOC opened a hearing to receive public comment for or against the CDBG grant proposal. Two members of the public addressed the proposal expressing general support for the project but raising some concerns about the funding process. Russell indicated that the 4-H Foundation would probably be willing cover the cost of a federal audit that the influx of grant funds would trigger for the County.

When the hearing had been closed the BOC, noting that there were numerous opportunities to exit the process, voted to authorize the Chairman to sign off on the various agreements and contract required for the process to proceed subject to the formal assurance of the 4-H Foundation covering the federal audit cost. (N.B. when the County receives less than \$1,000,000 per year in Federal funds no special audit is required. If federal funding exceeds that amount a more extensive audit is required. That "Federal Audit" may more than double the current audit cost of about \$24,000.)

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE/BOC will be Tuesday, September 16. 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