

Proceedings of the Commissioners

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was published in the Sheridan County Journal Star and on the County website sheridancounty.ne.gov. The meeting was open to the public and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Present were Chairman James Krotz, Commissioners Dan Kling and Bruce Messersmith, Clerk Sindy Coburn and Treasurer Renee Thies.

The Board of Equalization (BOE) reviewed and approved two Correction Sheets as presented by Deputy Assessor Linda Raymer. The corrections were to update the property owner on a yard shed (Leslie Cotant), and to add to the tax list a homestead exemption for Jani Ainsley that had inadvertently not been entered.

The BOC reorganized for the year ahead by voting unanimously in favor of an omnibus motion to reaffirm the elections, appointments and designations of 2025. Krotz will continue as Chair and Messersmith will continue as Vice-Chair. The reaffirmed Board representatives are; Bruce Messersmith to Region I Behavioral Health and Region I Office of Human Development and Senior Service Inc. (Handi-Bus). Dan Kling SWANN, Aging Office of Western Nebraska, and Panhandle Public Health. James Krotz to Northwest Community Action Partnership, Region 23 Emergency Management, Extension.

The BOC voted to appoint Rod Norton as Interim Superintendent of the Road Department.

The BOC designated the County Website as the official means of notification for meetings of the BOC & BOE and designated the Sheridan County Journal Star as the official newspaper of record.

James Krotz will continue as webmaster of the County website.

The Commissioners approved a resolution designating official depository banks for county funds; Security First Bank of Rushville and Hay Springs, First National Bank of Gordon, and the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT).

The Commissioners appointed County Clerk Sindy Coburn as the principal official contact person and Bruce Messersmith as the secondary contact for Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Association (NIRMA) the county's insurance carrier.

The Commissioners will meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of each month, except for designated holidays, as the regular meeting date for the BOE and BOC.

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) audited and approved claims for payment totaling \$144,235.

Treasurer Renee Theis and Clerk Sindy Coburn discussed with the Board the process for approving a transfer of funds from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) to the courthouse building fund as intended by an earlier resolution. The Board requested the Clerk to proceed with the necessary public notifications.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton reported that two positions in the department will soon become open due to retirements. Norton consulted with the Board regarding the solicitation of contract bids for fuel. Norton proposed and the Board agreed that we should increase the contracted amount from 50,000 gal. to 70,000 gal. The good news is that fuel prices have seen a modest but steady decline over the past four years.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Jeff Davis reported that the cleaning staff will be retiring this spring. He will begin advertising the openings in February.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer and County Attorney Jamian Simmons joined the discussion on the proposed 2027-2030 Salary Resolution for Elected Officials. The BOC approved the resolution, the heart of which reads as follows.

“Therefore be it resolved by Sheridan County Board of Commissioners that the salaries of Sheridan County Elected Officials (excepting the County Attorney) be established at \$68,131 for calendar year 2027, plus an annual increase during the term of office (2028, 2029, 2030) based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Such increase shall not exceed 5% in any given year.” And “The Salary of the County Attorney shall be set as follows: 2027 - 75,000; 2028 - 78,000; 2029 - 81,120; 2030 - 84,364.”

The full text of the resolution, including benefits, will be published with the minutes and will also be available for review in the office of the Clerk and on the county website.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE/BOC will be Tuesday, January 20. 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.

Submitted by James Krotz