

## Proceedings of the Commissioners May 19, 2026

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners convened 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

There was no business for the Board of Equalization.

The Commissioners signed claim checks and audited and approved salary claims.

Acting as the Board of Commissioners (BOC) approved a resolution declaring May 2025 “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Sheridan County.

Treasurer Renee Theis presented her report on pledged securities from our depository banks.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton reported that all operational graders are deployed in the wake of recent rains.

Todd Sherburn of Sherburn Trucking appeared to discuss with the BOC and Norton two options for a fuel surcharge adjustment to our gravel hauling agreement. The cost of diesel has recently spiked to more than \$5/gallon. The Commissioners agreed to share in the cost exceeding \$5/gallon, in \$0.10 increments to a maximum of \$6/gallon.

Fire Chief Keith Wellnitz (Rushville) and Chief Chad Rittgarn (Gordon) appeared to discuss the possibility of a County ban on fireworks in light of the continuing drought. The Commissioners, though supportive, do not have the authority to enact such an ordinance. The BOC and Chiefs discussed possible resolutions of support and calls to civic awareness to discourage the use of fireworks this summer.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Jeff Davis reported that he is once again seeking a housekeeper for the Courthouse and Annex.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer appeared briefly to report on a recent problem with dogs at large causing harm to other domestic animals.

Weed Superintendent Melissa Grover presented to the Board a proposed update to the Prairie Dog Management plan. The BOC reviewed the changes and approved the plan as presented.

Ryan Power of the USDA and Tim Brewer, county wildlife control officer, and 10 Sheridan County ranchers, appeared to discuss the proposed new contract for predator control. The Commissioners told the ranchers that the proposed 46% increase was too costly. The ranchers told the Commissioners that there were too many coyotes. Brewer stated that the most effective means of control was aerial shooting. Some days he shoots as many as 60 to 80. Everyone agreed that the control problem was important for the well-being of the beef industry in the county. Together we decided that the County would cover, if at all possible, the base cost of the new contract. Brewer and the ranchers present would approach other cattlemen to seek cost-sharing support for the \$10,000/year aircraft maintenance fees. Before the meeting ended, 3 of those present had pledged a total of \$2,200 for the project. At the urging of Commissioner Messersmith, most of those present wrote letters (on the spot) to Sen. Storer urging the restoration of state funds for predator control.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE/BOC will be Tuesday, May 26. 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).

Submitted by James Krotz