Proceedings of the Commissioners – November 10, 2026

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met at the County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. 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, Deputy Clerk Paige Rager, Assessor Tina Skinner, Treasurer Renee Thies and Commissioner elect Ryan Paul.

There was no business for The Board of Equalization.

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) discussed with VSO Jayson Hotz the first telephone bill received by the three Courthouse Annex offices (VSO, Roads and Weeds) since the installation of the new phone system. Krotz will attempt to schedule a ZOOM meeting with our Great Plains Communications Account Executive for an "all office tutorial".

The BOC discussed the consolidation of all county phone bills (except the Sheriff) and paying that bill from the General Fund – Miscellaneous. The Board agreed to budget accordingly for that change in the 2027-28 Budget.

Krotz informed the Board that he would be resigning as Floodplain Administrator at the end of the year and suggested a possible candidate for the position. The Administrator reviews and approves certificates for construction in designated floodplains – usually for NDOT highway resurfacing that might raise the pavement level through such an area. The Administrator might also be called upon to certify the construction of buildings in such zones, but in the many years Krotz has held the position there has been no such construction.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton discussed with the Board the revised agreement and modification to the intersection at N-87 and CR 430thLane that was updated based on the conversation we had with NDOT representatives at the site earlier this year. The Commissioners and Norton agreed that the revision addressed our safety concerns and voted to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Norton reported that the owner of a property adjacent to the Hay Springs shop had inquired about consideration for county access to the shop through his property. Before any further discussion of the matter the County Surveyor will inspect the property.

Norton brought forward an earlier proposal to establish a cap on the access to county right of way permits for utilities wishing to dig. The current cost of $150 per mile is intended to cover the cost to the county for gravel and labor to make repairs. For a very large project the permit costs might mount to many thousands of dollars. The BOC voted to set a permit cost limit of $10,000.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer reported that the department's equipment for testing blood alcohol levels needs to be replaced because repair parts are no longer available. DUI suspects are now being taken to the hospital which poses certain security issues. The Commissioners assured the Sheriff

that funding for the equipment, about $12,000, would be available and encouraged him to proceed with the purchase.

County Attorney Jamian Simmons joined the meeting for the reconsideration of a motion approved October 20, 2026 to implement pay increases in January rather than in October. Simmons advised the Board that the motion had not been adequately described in the Agenda for that meeting and that it was therefore probably void.

Also present for the discussion to reconsider were Jeff Brewer, Rod Norton, Melissa Grover, Carol Stouffer, Tina Skinner, Renee Thies and Jayson Hotz.

The BOC voted 2 – 1 that it is our policy to implement wage increases for non-elected county employees on January 1.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE/BOC will be Tuesday, November 17. 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 are available online at sheridancounty.ne.gov.

Submitted by James Krotz