

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2021

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met by zoom at 9:05 A.M. On January 26, 2021. Zoom ID#3358213334 Passcode 069533. All members present along with Sindy Coburn, County Clerk, Renee Thies, County Treasurer and Richard Cross Road Superintendent and Jack Andersen. Paul stated that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act. This meeting was posted on the official county website and published in the Sheridan County Journal Star on January 20, 2021.

Messersmith made a motion to accept the agenda. Krotz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Krotz made a motion to accept the minutes of 1-19-2021 with corrections. Messersmith seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Jamian Simmons, Deputy County Attorney joined the meeting to discuss hiring an outside firm to represent the county on a bankruptcy issue. The county needs to try to recover the taxes owed by the debtor. The board will discuss this matter further at the February 9, 2021 meeting.

The Veterans Board has requested the board to appoint a replacement for Ken Fry on the Veteran Service Board. Messersmith made a motion to appoint Dean Witt to a 5 year term on the Veteran Service Board. Krotz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Road Superintendent, Richard Cross visited with the board about the cost of life insurance for Chuck Lemp that was required by the county for work completion on the Cowboy Trail Ballast project. The minutes of 11-13-2018 state that the County will pay half the cost of the policy. The county paid half in 2019. Lemp paid the whole amount in 2020 and is asking the County to pay in 2021. Cross informed the board that the County does owe one more payment to Lemp.

Krotz made a motion to pay for the insurance and to authorize the chairman to sign the release form allowing the insurance to end, pending review/approval by the County Attorney. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Joyce Johnson was present and presented the board with a Petition to Vacate Road and signatures of 10 land owners within ten miles of the road. The road lies between Section 12 and 13 in Township 32, Range 44 W. Johnson informed the board that they own both sides of the road and it is not passable by vehicle. The board requested Road Superintendent Cross to do a study of the road and report back.

Cross informed the board that he secured a fuel contract with Westco for \$1.63/gallon for 45,000 gallons. This contract runs from 12-1-2020 to 1-31-2022 and we pay on delivery.

Cross stated that he was contacted by the attorney for the Tallon Estate. His department is able to get everything out that is crushed at \$1.15/yard. Cross said a rough estimate of 4400 yards is what is available.

Cross informed the board that he advertised for bids to haul red rock from Hot Springs. County Clerk Coburn asked for the date for bids to be open so she could get it on the agenda. Cross will have to get back to her as no deadline was given. The board requested Cross to set a deadline and re-advertise if necessary.

Sheriff Brewer reported that three staff and himself have received the COVID shot. Brewer stated that he has 15 people in jail now and the courts are gradually working them through.

Brewer informed the board that Bytes computer out of Scottsbluff is coming on February 3 to evaluate the equipment in the Sheriff Office and Jail and give a quote for services. MANNA is not getting done what needs to be done and Brewer said they are tired of trying to deal with it. The board informed Brewer that they would visit with MANNA about the situation.

Charlie Hamilton joined the meeting via telephone to visit about an irrigation project he is doing. Hamilton has already visited with Zoning Administrator Mike Wellnitz and everything is in line. Hamilton is installing a new irrigation well over the hill North from his current one.

Building & Grounds Superintendent Jeff Davis informed the board that Fire and Ice can put a new heat element into the air conditioning unit in the District Court Room, and use the duct work that is already there. The cost would be \$1500. The board felt that the cost was reasonable and said they would leave the decision up to Davis.

Commissioner Krotz visited about Public Transportation. Jonnie Kusek from Panhandle Trails is coming to visit Rushville on January 27 to see if they are interested in becoming the grant administrator. Panhandle Trails already goes to the Scottsbluff/Gering area for health visits which is something our local transportation service doesn't do. And with most of the transports being for medical that would be a good fit. Krotz will report back at next meeting.

Jeremy Harris of MANNA joined the meeting. The board informed Harris about the dissatisfaction of

the Sheriff's office. Harris said they may have other options to try before more money is put into the system. He will contact the Sheriff and visit with him.

Several other officials voiced concerns to Harris.

Adjourn: 11:35 A.M.

Attest:

Sindy L. Coburn, Co. Clerk

Loren L Paul, Chairman