

## COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2021

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met by zoom at 9:15 A.M. on March 23, 2021. Zoom ID 3358213334 Passcode 625274. All members were present along with Sindy Coburn, County Clerk, Renee Thies, County Treasurer, Richard Cross Road Superintendent, Tina Skinner, Assessor and Jamian Simmons, Deputy County Attorney. 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 March 17, 2021. Krotz made a motion to accept. All voted aye.

Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons presented the board an agreement with Crites Shaffer Connealy Watson Patras & Watson, PC LLO for Public Defender services. Andrew Pope was appointed to fulfill the statutory duties of the remaining term of office for the Sheridan County Public Defender from March 9, 2021 through January 1, 2023. The monthly cost for these services will be \$8,185/month through the end of the fiscal year and \$8,350/month thereafter.

Messersmith made a motion to approve the contract with Crites Shaffer law firm for Public Defender services. Krotz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Simmons also requested an executive discussion to discuss pending litigation. Krotz made a motion to go into executive session at 9:25 A.M. with Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons to discuss pending litigation. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

At 9:40 A.M. Krotz made a motion to come out of executive session. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Krotz made a motion to decline legal defense coverage offered by NIRMA in the lawsuit most recently brought against the county by Rudy Stanko. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Messersmith made a motion to retain the services of Steve Olson, from the office of Simmons, Olson Law firm of Scottsbluff, to defend the county against the Stanko lawsuit. Krotz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Deputy County Attorney Jamian Simmons asked Road Superintendent Richard Cross if they had gotten any material out of the Tallon pit. Cross responded that they have not taken anything out because it is too muddy. It will be at least 2 weeks before they can get material out.

Richard Cross Road Superintendent informed the board that he has filled the employment position in the Gordon shop. Beginning April 5, crews will begin working 4 -10 hour days.

Sheriff Brewer reported his concerns with LB-51 that would eliminate the reserve deputy program, mandate training requirements and would eliminate the 1 year grace period for law enforcement candidates to graduate from the academy.

Jeremy Harris of MANNA systems joined the meeting to discuss IT concerns with the board.

Assessor Tina Skinner reported that residential valuations in the County have increased and are set within the limits allowed by the state. Skinner informed the board about all the increase that were necessary.

Adjourn: 11:36 A.M.

Attest: Cindy L. Coburn, Clerk

Loren L. Paul, Chairman