

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

The Sheridan County Commissioners met in regular session and by Zoom (ID# 93997918251 Passcode 625274) at 9:15 A.M. All members present, along with County Clerk Sindy Coburn, Treasurer Renee Thies, Clerk of District Court Clerk Carol Stouffer and Highway Superintendent Richard Cross.

Messersmith 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 posted in the Sheridan County Journal Star on February 8, 2023.

Krotz made a motion to accept the agenda. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye. Krotz made a motion to approve the minutes of 1-24-2023. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

The board audited and approved claims. One claim was disallowed for reimbursement to Bev Wellnitz for \$262.86. The board stated that the reimbursement should come from Lister Sage since they received the grant.

The board visited about the county email procedure and how they should address salary claims in the future. Any questions need to be addressed in the open meeting.

UNL Extension Educator Jack Arterburn presented an update on his recent and upcoming events.

At 9:30 A.M. the board opened a public hearing to discuss the request to vacate/close an alley located in Dewing :

All that portion of the twenty (20) foot alley lying adjacent to Lots Twelve (12) thru Twenty-One (21), in Block Seven (7), in the Original Townsite of Dewing, Sheridan County, Nebraska.

Present: Gary Brehmer and by telephone Tyler Oliver.

Brehmer was present to oppose the closing of the alley. He owns property down the same alley and if he chooses to get water to it he would need to go down the alley from his other property.

Tyler Oliver stated that they are putting up a new Dollar General Store and would like to close it to restrict traffic coming thru. However they would have a utility easement so access would still be available.

Commissioner Messersmith stated that he did not feel it was in the best interest of the Community of Dewing to have this new Dollar General Store.

Kling made a motion to table any decision at this time and consult with the County Attorney. Krotz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

The hearing was determined closed at 10:15 A.M.

Dan Otte appeared to request reimbursement for 109 hours of snowplow removal that he put in clearing snow from county roads. The board discussed the fact that several residents have helped neighbors and they do appreciate that, but not sure how they could reimburse them for that service. Otte stated that he would like them to think about his request.

Scott Berndt was present to ask for some help on the cut across road down south. Berndt stated that this spring the road is going to be a major problem. The board stated that they did have a plow down in that area, but an unauthorized user had done significant damage to the

plow and left it unusable. The plow has since been repaired and has not been taken back down to that area.

Mike Bateman of Murphy Tractor & Equipment presented a proposal for the installation of a quick hitch attachment to one of the county's front-end, John Deere loaders. The hitch would facilitate the installation of snow blower. The cost of the quick-hitch \$18,393 and the Snow Crete 948-D snow blower (\$161,250). The board felt that these purchases could qualify for ARPA funds and requested Cross to complete the necessary paperwork to request funds. Bateman informed the board that the equipment would not be available for at least several months because the engines that power the blower are in short supply.

Road Superintendent Richard Cross visited with the board about the 1 & 6 year road hearing schedule. The hearing is scheduled for February 21, 2023 at 11 A.M. at the Road Office.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer visited briefly with the board. No action needed.

County Treasurer Renee Thies reported that a new, nationwide Opioid Settlement has been reached with the large pharmacies. Thies is needing direction from the board as to whether they want to "opt-in" to the settlement with manufacturers. Board tabled until 2-21-23 meeting.

The board approved a proposal from Weathercraft Roofing for the repair/replacement of gutters and downspouts on the Courthouse for \$19,965.00.

Public Comment: Chairman Messersmith visited with the board about a request he had from Weed Superintendent Seth Tausan. Tausan informed Messersmith that he would like them to consider his

position as a contracted position rather than a salary position.
Discussion was had no decision at this time.

Adjourn: 1:20 P.M.

Attest: **Sindy L. Coburn, Clerk**

Bruce Messersmith, Chairman