

## COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2024

The Sheridan County Commissioners met in regular session and by Zoom (ID# 93997918251 Passcode# 625274) at 9:15 A.M. on January 23, 2024. All members present along with County Clerk Sindy Coburn, Treasurer Renee Thies, District Court Clerk Carol Stouffer and Rod Norton.

Krotz 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 January 17, 2024.

Kling made a motion to accept the agenda. Krotz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote Krotz and Kling voted aye Messersmith abstained. Krotz made a motion to approve the minutes of 1-16-2024. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote Krotz and Kling voted aye Messersmith abstained.

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

County Treasurer Renee Thies presented a report on the pledged securities from the depository banks for the County. Messersmith made a motion to approve and accept the pledged security report. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Joe Headrick presented the board with an "open letter" with ideas on how to improve the oversight of remote county business. Headrick plans to have the letter published in the Sheridan County Journal Star as a letter to the editor. Ron Dreyer was present to speak on Headrick's ideas.

Rod Norton, Interim Road Superintendent informed the board that the he has snowplows at all shops and at the Mirage Irrigation District and the one down South will be housed at the Mooney residence.

The board visited with Norton about the 1 & 6 year road hearing. Messersmith made a motion to set the 1 & 6 year road hearing for February 20, 2024 at 11 A.M. at the Road Shop. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Extension Educator Marie Nelson gave the board a brief update on the Extension Office activities.

Clerk of the District Court Carol Stouffer, Sheriff Jeff Brewer and Building Superintendent Jeff Davis visited with the board about new doors for District Courtroom. With all the new equipment that has been installed in the Courtroom the need for security has increased. The group will look into what other counties have. The board assured the group that funding is available. They will report back.

County Attorney Jamian Simmons met with the board to go over the legal requirements for exempt and non-exempt employees. Discussion was held but no decisions were made. The board asked Simmons to research the topic more and report back.

Caleb Johnson appeared to present his proposal for budget preparation for the coming year. Johnson has asked for a minimal increase to cover inflation and also has included the option to renew the agreement for three years. Messersmith made a motion to renew the budget agreement of \$4000/year with J13 Enterprises LLC for 3 years. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Weed/Prairie Dog Superintendent Seth Tausan, USDA Wildlife Specialist Matt Anderson, Prairie Dog Advisory Board members Wayne

Dreyer, Rick Schneider, Lloyd Kearns and wife Sharon and County Attorney Jamain Simmons met with the board to discuss concerns regarding a planned prairie dog force control issue. Messersmith made a motion to direct the County Attorney to develop an agreement with Roger Ray based on the input from the Weed Superintendent and the information discussed at the meeting on 1-16-24. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Adjourn: 1:30 P.M.

Attest: Cindy L. Coburn, Clerk

James Krotz, Chairman