

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

MAY 19, 2026

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:15 A.M. on May 19, 2026. All members present along with County Clerk Sindy Coburn, Treasurer Renee Thies, Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton and Todd Sherburn.

Krotz stated that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act. This meeting was published in the Sheridan County Journal Star on 5-13, 2026 and posted on the official website.

Kling made a motion to accept the agenda. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye. Messersmith made a motion to approve the minutes of 5-5-2026 with changes. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call all voted aye.

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

The Board reviewed a Mental Health Awareness Proclamation that was offered by Region 1. This proclamation recognizes May as Mental Health Awareness Month in the Nebraska Panhandle. Kling made a motion to support Mental Health Awareness with the passage of the Proclamation. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

County Treasurer Renee Thies presented the board with the Pledged Securities and Investments Report as of April 30, 2026.

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton and the board visited with Todd Scherburn of Sherburn Trucking about increasing fuel costs. When the board signed a contract with Sherburn Trucking fuel costs

were \$3.46/gallon with a clause that if fuel costs exceed \$5/gallon that it could be terminated by either party. Neither party wants to terminate therefore new terms were negotiated. Messersmith made a motion for Sherburn to be responsible for fuel costs up to \$5.00/gallon and Sheridan County to participate in the cost of anything over \$5.00/gallon with adjustments made in \$0.10 increments with a cap of \$6.00/gallon. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Norton also reported that Big Iron Auction went well and most things have been picked up.

Keith Wellnitz, Chad Rittgarn and Jeff Davis were present representing the Counties Fire Departments, asking for the boards cooperation in recommending no fireworks this year. Commissioner Krotz stated that the county does not have any authority to set an ordinance but could do a Proclamation. Sheriff Brewer stated that it's hard to enforce no fireworks because there are no statutes to back it. The board agreed to do a Proclamation at the June 9th meeting.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Jeff Davis reported that he is once again seeking a housekeeper for the Courthouse and Annex.

Sheriff Brewer appeared to report on a recent problem with dogs at large causing harm to other domestic animals.

Melissa Grover, Weed Superintendent presented an updated Prairie Dog Management Plan for adoption. Messersmith made a motion to adopt Resolution #2026-10 approving the new updated Prairie Dog Management Plan. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Kling made a motion appointing Melissa Grover as the agent to implement the Prairie Dog Management Plan. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

The board discussed the USDA Wildlife Amendment Agreement. Present: Tim Brewer, Ryan Powers, Michael Raymer, Rick Arnold, Paul Kearns, Greg Nielsen, Don Fryda, Verla Scheer, Kirk Budd, Eric R Calkins, Andrew Thorsen and Bruce Forney.

The new agreement has a \$10,000 fee for Aviation Maintenance Flat Rate. The board is not sure where the \$10,000 increase will come from. The budget is already tight and with fuel costs increasing rapidly they are unsure at this time. Brewer stated that aerial shooting is the most effective method to control the coyotes. Some days he will kill as many as 80. Everyone agreed that the control problem is important for the well-being of the beef industry in the county. The board felt that they could cover the base cost of the contract but asked the ranchers for help with the additional \$10,000. Three in attendance offered a contribution and several others were in favor of contributing. The ranchers will reach out to others and ask for funding.

Ryan Power of the USDA and Tim Brewer, county wildlife control officer discussed the state funding that is lacking in Nebraska. Several of the ranchers wrote letters to Senator Storer urging the State to help with funding for predator control. Commissioner Messersmith will see that these letters are sent to Storer.

Adjourn: 10:45 A.M.

Attest: Sindy L. Coburn County Clerk

James Krotz, Chairman