

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2026

The Sheridan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:25 A.M. on June 9, 2026. All members present along with County Clerk Sindy Coburn, Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton and Treasurer Renee Thies.

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 website.

Messersmith made a motion to accept the agenda. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye. Messersmith made a motion to approve the minutes of 5-26-2026. Krotz seconded the motion. With a roll call vote Krotz and Messersmith voted aye and Kling abstained.

Messersmith made a motion to approve the following Proclamation regarding Fireworks. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

As we prepare to celebrate the 250th Birthday of our beloved United states many Americans look forward to colorful lights and noise of fireworks. Some with glee, other with dread.

This year Independence Day is likely to be among the driest we have ever known. And so our faithful and courageous firefighters, even those who love fireworks, are dreading the return of the season.

Your County Board has no authority and no desire to ban fireworks in Sheridan County, but we do want to suggest that it may be our patriotic duty to refrain from fireworks in such a dangerous season. Think of our neighbors in the southern panhandle who lost

nearly a million acres of pasture, to say nothings of livestock and buildings. Think of the many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of firefighters who put their lives and health on the line to battle those wildfires.

We can help to spare our beloved county such a conflagration if we are willing to make a small sacrifice.

We are resolved to celebrate our independence this year by declaring a ban on fireworks on our own properties and we invite you to do the same.

Approved this 9th day of June, 2026

James Krotz, Dan Kling, Bruce Messersmith; Sheridan County Commissioners

Interim Road Superintendent Rod Norton informed the board that his department has been out blading when the moisture is right. Norton stated that he has received a Notice to Proceed with the Antioch Road/Southern Sheridan County Project.

The board reviewed the Petition presented by Glenna Vodicka to request the closure of County Road #217 lying between Sections 17 and 20 in Township 32, Range 44. The board directed Norton to visit with the County Attorney to prepare a resolution so we can set the date for a hearing.

Commissioner Krotz stated that they had a favorable interview with Trent Kling for the Road Superintendent and they need to call him and see if he could meet with them so they could present an offer.

Norton asked if they would consider another applicant for the position. The board said they would consider another. They would need to apply thru Zelle. Norton stated that he would like to apply for

the position. He stated that he has visited with the workers and they are happy with the way things have been going for the last 2 ½ years. The board asked Norton if he would be interested in obtaining the Road Superintendent License. Norton stated that he didn't feel he would, due to the time he has left before retirement.

Brandi Brunz, Justice Systems Coordinator with Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority met with the board to update them on the Crisis Stabilization Project. This project is funded by grants and Opioid Settlement dollars from the Panhandle counties. Brunz stated that the facility is located in Kimball and they have hired a director and a therapist.

County Surveyor Carl Gilbert met with the board to discuss two different issues. First was a request by the Department of Roads on Highway 27 from Gordon to Ellsworth to find corners. The surveyor that was hired did not do what Gilbert felt was necessary and Gilbert would not sign off on his work. The board approved for the request for additional funds to cover this project.

The other issue is the fraudulent survey done by Blew Inc of Fayetteville AR on the Rolling Meadow Ranch properties. In order to clean this up Gilbert has entered into an agreement with them to recover and reset each corner and in the agreement the Sheridan County Surveyor shall be paid a lump sum cost with a not-to-exceed cost of \$60,500. Gilbert presented a check to the board for \$30,250 for half the cost of this project. The remaining amount is due 30 days of completion of the project, which is estimated to be completed by July 31, 2026 or 60 days from authorization.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Jeff Davis informed the board that he is still looking for housekeeping.

Sheriff Jeff Brewer had nothing to report.

David Russell and Phyllis Lindsey representing the Ag Society met with the board to update them about the upcoming Fair & Rodeo scheduled for August. The Ag Society doesn't anticipate requesting any more money than last year.

USDA Representative, Ryan Powers along with Stephen Schmitt, Martin Swane, Randy Benben, Jeff Housh and Eric Calkins were present to discuss the Wildlife Services contract. JoAnn Lee was present by telephone. Powers addressed the board informing them that Box Butte, Dawes and Sioux Counties were all contributing to the aviation maintenance flat rate. Powers stated that he would hate to see Sheridan County not participate. The increase is a 37.9% over last year with \$10,000 of that being for the aviation costs.

Randy Benben spoke to the board about the importance of the arial hunt when he was employed by the USDA. At that time Sioux and Dawes County paid for all the arial hunting. If a Sheridan County resident was in need of the service the cost was covered by the neighboring county. Benben encourages Sheridan County to take part in this program while its available.

Others spoke on the importance of the arial hunt and the success of Tim Brewer and the program. Powers addressed the funding mechanism that was discussed at the last meeting. With landowners each contributing X amount of money. It would be a bookkeeping nightmare. Powers said that legislation was introduced to obtain State Funding in the future.

Powers informed the board that the current contract goes until June 30, 2026. The board stated that they haven't started working on the budget but understood the importance of the service. They will

have to see where the increase will fit. Suggestions were made on ways to cut the budget. The board stated that about the only place that can be cut is the Road Department. Powers explained that the agreement can be negated at anytime by either party. The board was unaware of this and stated that if the money wasn't available, they could amend the agreement.

Messersmith made a motion to accept the Amended July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 Work Financial Plan between Sheridan County and the USDA to create a separate account code (WBS) for aircraft maintenance flat rate expense. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Messersmith made a motion to approve the Work Financial Plan between Sheridan County and the USDA for July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 at the rate of \$50,726.78. Kling seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Jeff Housh was present to request a subdivision approval of 4.857 acres. Kling made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-11 authorizing a subdivision of 4.857 acres in the NE1/4 of Sec 27-Township 29-Range 46 for Jeffrey & Michele Housh. Messersmith seconded the motion. With a roll call vote all voted aye.

Martin Swayne representing the Gordon Rural Fire Department and David Welanko & Kyle Keller representing PADD were present to visit with the board about a grant to help pay for a new Pumper Truck. Welanko stated that since he made the appointment to get on the boards agenda he researched and found that the County can not be the grant holder. They will have to go thru the City of Gordon. Discussion only.

Adjourn: 1:15 P.M.

Attest: **Sindy L Coburn, Clerk**

James Krotz, Chairman