

Now on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Wes Bainter presiding. Others present were Joe Bainter, Buck Mader, Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Doyle Kauk, Carolyn Meyer and The Sheridan Sentinel.

Wes Bainter called the meeting to order.

Everyone in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board discussed High Point Advocacy & Resource Center Inc. and their desire to meet with the board to request a donation of \$11,000 from the Special Alcohol fund to open their doors. After discussion, Wes Bainter made a motion to not donate to High Point Advocacy & Resource Center Inc. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Bracht will contact them and advise they do not need to come visit with the board on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Bracht presented two Treasurer's Abatements for approval. Joe Bainter made a motion, seconded by Wes Bainter to approve the abatements. Carried 3-0. Abatements were signed by the Chairman. Bids were opened for repairs to the ambulance which had been involved in a fender bender. Mader made a motion to approve the low bid from D & L Service & Body Shop in the amount of \$1,173.78 (adjusted for removal of sales tax). Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. The Agreement from KDOT pertaining to work to be done on State Highway K-123 had been delivered to the board in their packets. Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, will contact KDOT and clarify the route that will need to be maintained before the board approves the Agreement. The Mowing Agreements were signed by the board. There was discussion about gravel hauling and whether the hauler can just have a farm tag. The current policy is they must be commercial tag. Pratt will look at a harvest permit as well as farm tag versus commercial.

At 8:28, Wes Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Bracht and Pratt. The door opened at 8:34 with no decision being made.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, entered the meeting. Herskowitz displayed the map that had been created which marked the FAS roads, bus and mail routes and gravel pits and bridges. Herskowitz spoke with Fred Washburn, City of Hoxie Superintendent and the dates for the city-wide cleanup are March 29-31. The household hazardous waste trailer was reserved for March 26 through April 1. The county currently does not have an employee certified in hazardous waste. There is a class being held in Junction City that Herskowitz would like to send two employees to. Permission was given for Herskowitz to send one employee at this time. Road department has been having trouble with the bobcat. Hoxie Implement believes it is a computer problem. Herskowitz will keep the board updated. The retriever has been put on a blade. Herskowitz stated there are some roads to go over. Joe Bainter advised that at 50E/120N some sand or something needs put on the road as the mail carrier got stuck. Joe Bainter made a motion to amend the Agenda to include Curtis Higby, Noxious Weed Director. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Higby discussed the cost share program. Higby stated that if the county does not continue in the cost share program another \$40,000 in chemicals would need to be purchased. Mader made a motion to continue with the cost share program seconded by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The board discussed the significant increase in the gas bill for the courthouse. Bracht has not obtained the bill for the county shop yet. The county has an Agreement with Secure Energy which should have protected the county from the gas hike. Wes Bainter has had conversations

with Secure Energy, and they will be able to get us a new agreement with a fixed rate. The discussion will continue as more information is obtained.

Renee Wagoner, Public Health Nurse/Administrator, entered the meeting. Wagoner stated that over 1,000 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose COVID 19 vaccines have been given. Wagoner is encouraging the use of masks, limiting gatherings and of course social distancing. There has been a positive case, so the virus is still here. Contact tracing and investigation is being done through the state at no charge to the county. As long as this service is being offered, public health will continue to use them. Public Health will continue with COVID 19 vaccinations in April, anticipating two days a week. Wagoner stated the best way to get the pandemic under control is to vaccinate. Public health plans to start up with blood pressure clinics again and this will include Selden. Wes Bainter signed the grant applications on Monday, so they have all been submitted. Wagoner distributed a letter from KAC/KALHD/KDHE pertaining to the over \$100,000 grant that all public health offices received in the State of Kansas. The correspondence briefly touches on what the money can be spent on. Wagoner stated she sent in a preliminary budget as it had to be submitted but that once it has been approved it can be tweaked to fit the needs. Wagoner stated she budgeted \$10,000 for updating computers/phones/etc and put some in for salaries but most will be carried over to 2022 and 2023. Wagoner registered to be part of the KS Healthcare Coalition so that she can obtain extra PPE supplies. Wagoner has talked with the hospital and asked to be involved in the 2021 health needs assessment discussions. She submitted a letter of support for the clinic for substance abuse and child obesity. Joe Bainter made a motion to approve Wagoner and Mosier to attend the virtual Governor's Conference March 30 – April 1. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Cost of registration is \$420 which can be covered through grant money. Signage for public health was briefly discussed.

The board took a five-minute break.

Randall Hrabe from Northwest Kansas Planning & Development and Karl Pratt, Economic Development, came to the table. Hrabe distributed information to the board about services provided. Hrabe stated that the county dues are 1/10<sup>th</sup> mil based on county valuation. Wes Bainter stated that the board understands that NWKS Planning & Development has done a lot of good things, but the county is not without capability. Sheridan County wanting to remain in or out of the organization is not a criticism, Wes Bainter feels the dues are just too much, but he is not understating the good the organization does. Wes Bainter continued by saying he is not interested in being involved when the county has the ability to do it. The board knows more about what the community needs and can better put the money to good use. Hrabe stated he hoped the county would continue with NWKS Planning & Development as there was a lot of stuff coming down the pike that you need to be a member for. Hrabe exited the meeting. Karl Pratt stated he would feel more comfortable if the county would stick with them for another year as right now, he is not comfortable moving forward on his own. Karl Pratt went on by saying they have done a lot for the city and county. Wes Bainter reiterated that with the money coming down the pike, no one is better to make the decision about spending the money than the board.

Harold Murphy came to the table. Murphy stated he was not at the meeting to be critical, but the feedlot road needs worked immediately after a rain. There are a lot of "chuck" holes right now. You can't fill a dry hole with dry dirt. There needs to be planning. There was discussion about how the rain washes on the feedlot road by the north drives and south of the bridge. There are no ditches or anything. Murphy stated he has talked with Joe Herskowitz about some road that needs culverts but again, feels planning needs to be done. The board thanked Murphy for coming in.

Joe Bainter made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as amended. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

Wes Bainter made a motion, seconded by Joe Bainter, to approve the March 12, 2021 payroll. Carried 3-0.

Joe Bainter gave a report of the NWLEPG meeting he attended in Colby last week. There were 11 of the 12 counties represented at the meeting. There is continuing discussion over Tim Hansen wanting to retire but there not being any applicants. The one applicant they have needs benefits and Joe Bainter stated that since the organization is fee funded, there is no money. The NWLEPG board discussed each county taking care of benefits for a month but no decisions were made. The commissioner agree that the organization needs to continue. Joe Bainter stated they are going to start water testing again.

Bracht distributed a draft of the rural directory for Sheridan County for the board to review. Bracht will pull the DSNWK letter asking for a letter of support and have it ready for the board next week. The board tabled making a decision on whether to remain in Northwest Kansas Planning & Development until next week. Wes Bainter advised Mader and Joe Bainter to make phone calls and decide for themselves the advantages or not of being in the organization.

At 10:27, Joe Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion on non-elected personnel. Wes Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Bracht and Pratt. The door opened at 10:38 and Joe Bainter made a motion to extend the executive session for another 10 minutes, seconded by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0. The door opened at 10:47 with no decision being made.

The board briefly discussed the gravel hauling again.

The following payroll was approved:

General	\$	59,741.59	Road & Bridge	\$	16,258.55
Nox Weed	\$	1,571.24	Public Health	\$	4,805.89
Publ Trnsp	\$	1,196.59	Landfill	\$	1,470.32

No further business, Wes Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 8:00 in the courthouse foyer.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman