

Now on this 21st day of December 2021, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Wes Bainter presiding. Others present were Joe Bainter, Buck Mader and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Carolyn Meyer and The Sheridan Sentinel.

Wes Bainter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wes Bainter called for a moment of silence in memory and honor of Doyle Kauk.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor and Jerol DeBoer, Penco Engineering, came to the table. There was discussion about low water crossings. DeBoer stated the county could back out of the state program but we would be giving up the \$200,000 to be used for bridges. For the state program an engineer and contractor have to be used. Herskowitz is to let DeBoer know as soon as possible. DeBoer discussed the local road safety plan and the fact that the county has not submitted anything. The cost for the county for this plan is \$5,000. The state creates a document with concerns about the FAS routes. If we do not do the safety plan by February, the county will never be allowed to get HRR funding. DeBoer will forward the document to Herskowitz and Bracht to be completed. DeBoer stated that the bridge at 120N will be started in March. There was discussion about bridges. DeBoer feels the feedlot road turned out well. DeBoer exited the meeting. Herskowitz distributed photos of the county line bridge which was completed on December 20. The board is confident that low water bridge crossings can be done with local contractors. Herskowitz will come back with the bridge location that he feels needs replaced first. By consensus, the road & bridge department will start working on the road at 20E heading south for the new low water bridge. Wes Bainter stated that Mick Zerr is cleaning out the ditch as it isn't draining. Wes Bainter reiterated that we need to utilize the farmers that have the know how to fix problems. There was discussion about Teeter Oilfield Service LLC and the work he is doing at 60N from Hwy 23-70W with elevation and shoulder work. Herskowitz advised the board that during the fires on the day of the windstorm Rex Storer went out with the tanker. The grader at the landfill had both doors blown open and one shattered. Quite a few signs are leaning due to the wind.

At 8:45 Wes Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 15 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Mader seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Herskowitz and Bracht. The door opened at 9:00 with no decisions being made.

Dustin Dick and Randy Dick from Kaw Valley Insurance came to the table. They presented a GAP plan to go with a higher deductible BlueCross/BlueShield plan to try and help save money.

The board signed the Disaster Declaration that had been approved during the high wind/fire situation that happened on December 15, 2021. Bracht advised the board that the Public Notice Hearing for the revised Sheridan County Environmental Sanitary Code book had not been published three consecutive weeks so we would go through the process again.

Deb Kaufman, EMS Director, came to the table to discuss the purchasing of a new ambulance. There is currently an ambulance that is being put together now, a 2022 Ford E450 gas unit. The cost would be approximately \$166,000. The diesel ambulances are no longer available so EMS will have to go with gas no matter what. Wes Bainter contacted Mike O'Dell, CEO at the Sheridan County Hospital and asked if they were still interested in the old ambulance. O'Dell stated yes they were so they will get first chance at the ambulance that will be disposed of. There was discussion about where the funds would come from to purchase the ambulance. Mader would

like to use some of the COVID funds but Wes Bainter opposes the idea. Mader made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2022 Ford E450 gas ambulance seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. Funding of the unit will be discussed next year. Kaufman advised the board that they had obtained a grant for two neonate safety devices for the ambulance in Selden and Hoxie as well as a \$1,250 grant from Omaha Community Foundation which was used to purchase a portable suction machine for Selden as well as a ladder and broom. A \$4,966 HRSA grant was received and is to be used to encourage and support the ambulance service. Kaufman stated the last time they received these funds they put the money back to the budget to reimburse for loss of revenue. Kaufman advised the board that they are losing another EMT at the end of the year and that there are two more that need to recertify by the end of the year. There was discussion about utilizing the \$4,966 HRSA grant as some type of incentive to keep current EMT's on the team. There is no easy answer for the shortage of EMT's but because of the shortage, we are asking a lot of the current personnel. Time seems to be the challenge.

Brandon Carver, Sheridan County Sheriff, entered the meeting. Carver presented bid information for the new sheriff vehicle. The Dodge Durango will be traded in for a 2021 Tahoe. Wes Bainter made a motion to purchase the 2021 Tahoe from Superior Emergency Response Vehicles. Joe Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. Carver stated they will keep the 2010 Dodge Charger as a backup and will place the 2017 Dodge Charger on purple wave for sale "as is". At 10:00, Joe Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Mader seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Carver and Bracht. The door opened at 10:17.

Joe Bainter made a motion to approve the Treasurer's abatements presented. Wes Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. The board reviewed and chairman signed.

On a motion by Wes Bainter and seconded by Joe Bainter, Sheridan County will pay the 2022 dues in the amount of \$500 for Western Prairie RC & D. Carried 3-0.

Mader made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 minutes as amended. Wes Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

Joe Bainter made a motion, seconded by Mader, to approve the December 17, 2021 payroll as presented. Carried 3-0.

The KCAMP 2022 renewal for insurance was approved on a motion by Mader and second by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0.

At 10:30 Joe Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 30 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Mader seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board and Bracht.

At 11:02 Wes Bainter made a motion to extend the executive session for a period of 30 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Joe Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board and Bracht. The door opened at 11:40.

Mader made a motion to accept the 2022 renewal from BlueCross/BlueShield for health insurance. The motion included revising the county policy so that employees pay 6% of the premium. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. The insurance increase was 6.11%. The employee portion to pay will be evaluated annually after the renewal is received.

Mader made a motion, seconded by Joe Bainter, to approve the wage increase for the courthouse employees, dispatch and law enforcement. Carried 3-0.

The following payroll was audited and approved:

General	\$ 82,906.60	Road & Bridge	\$ 23,066.52
Nox Weed	\$ 1,560.13	Public Transp	\$ 1,220.00
MV	\$ 1,223.70		

At 11:54 with no further business, Wes Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. The last meeting of the year will be Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 8:00 in the first-floor foyer.

Attest:

Joe Bainter
County Clerk



Wesley Bainter
Chairman