

Now on this 29th 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. Guest was Carolyn Meyer.

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

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wes Bainter made a motion to amend the agenda to include Mindy Harting, Sheridan County Appraiser. Joe Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. Harting stated there are two residences in Selden that are eligible for tax relief due to being totally destroyed in the May tornado. This is per Kansas Statute. Wes Bainter made a motion to approve abating a certain portion of the taxes for Chris Bainter and Loran Sulzman seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor came to the table. Herskowitz stated the wi-fi had been installed at the recycling center so they will work on getting the app to open and close the door using a phone. The road & bridge employees have started doing dirt/bridge work at 20E and 1/2 S. Some of the road & bridge employees are looking for cornerstones in an area where an individual wants to put in a fence. Herskowitz will get to Bracht the pay scale for sand haulers.

At 8:12, Joe 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, Bracht and Pratt. At 8:30 the door opened. Joe Bainter made a motion to extend the executive session for a period of 10 minutes, seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0. The door opened at 8:40.

Dana Hess, Communications Director, came to the table to discuss the board changing the policy of the county paying 100% of insurance to the employee having to pay 6% of the insurance. Also present were employees from the courthouse, EMS, road & bridge, law enforcement and dispatch. Hess' concerns consisted of: Wes Bainter has stated that no changes will be made to insurance benefits, etc; having the county pay the insurance offsets travel expense for the employees who come from another town; by taking away the county paying 100% of the medical insurance premium we are not taking care of employees; what is the draw to hire new employees; the decision to have employees pay 6% of total medical insurance premium needs reversed; where does the percentage the employee pays end – 100%?. Wes Bainter had Bracht state the total wage/benefit package amount that Hess made with the contributions from the county and stated that she wasn't happy with it. Wes Bainter reminded everyone that the money comes from the taxpayers. If we don't put a cap on it, they will have to go back to the taxpayers and ask for money. Wes Bainter continued by saying that no employee comes in and thanks the board for the pay and benefits. Wes Bainter stated he serves the public and has to be mindful of the taxpayers. The county has a Cadillac insurance plan with BlueCross/Blue Shield and having to pay 6% of the premium is a bargain. Wes Bainter stated that it doesn't hold water that employees stay for the insurance and that taxes haven't been saved on employees or budgets. Other employee comments included: salaries are good enough to pay the 6% insurance; maybe pay the single policy in full; grandfather in current employees and any new employees would have to pay a portion of

the premium; no complaints, appreciate the county; thank you for allowing us to come and talk. The board agreed that next year when the renewal comes in there will be employee/board discussions.

County attorney Joe Pratt came to the table. There are questions about public health. Shirley Niermeier, Treasurer was also at the table. Niermeier stated she is to watch the money. She is only seeing money going out to the hospital for public health expenses but no money coming in for public health services. The board agreed that Mike O'Dell should come in and explain what they are doing. Niermeier will also be present. Pratt gave to Bracht information on the Opioid Settlement and will come later to talk with her.

Wes Bainter distributed a google map picture of the historical society buildings. Wes Bainter has talked with Britton Sealock about possibly purchasing the land to the east. Sealock currently does not wish to sell the garage or track right north of the garage but would be willing to give the county first right of refusal for the parcel. Pratt will talk to a historical society board member and see what they are thinking. They will be asked to attend a commissioner's meeting. Pratt stated there is discussion about turning the old Getz IGA building into two daycare facilities, the parking lot could be turned into a gravel playground. Pratt will make arrangements to look at the building with the board and Karl Pratt, Economic Development Director.

Bracht presented the board with the Resolution appointing Dr. Doug Gruenbacher as the County Health Officer for the 2022 year. The hospital requested he retain the position for 2022. The board tabled approving this Resolution. The board thought the hospital wanted to take that position using a local doctor.

Joe Bainter made a motion to approve the 2022 Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) membership dues in the amount of \$1,457.28. Wes Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0.

Wes Bainter made a motion, seconded by Mader, to approve the amended pay for Sheriff's Office and Dispatch and approve the wages for Road & Bridge and EMT's for 2022. Carried 3-0.

Approval of three transfers was done on a motion by Joe Bainter and second by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0.

Mader made a motion to approve the two Treasurer's Abatements presented. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

Bracht will give the board the miles mowed and total dollars spent for mowing at the next meeting.

There was discussion on the holidays currently being observed by the county. Wes Bainter would like to observe the eight holidays that are federal holidays. The board discussed this but no decision was made.

The minutes of December 21, 2021 were approved as presented on a motion by Wes Bainter and second by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0.

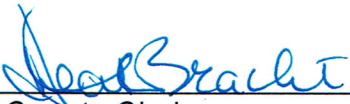
Mader made a motion to approve the warrants and payroll as presented. Joe Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0.

The following payroll and warrants were audited and approved:

General	\$166,302.06	Road & Bridge	\$ 109,051.34
Forfeiture	\$ 2,189.50	Spec Hwy	\$ 3,030.00
Nox Weed	\$ 12,583.46	Public Transp	\$ 3,075.45
E911	\$ 2,695.90	Public Health	\$ 16,279.36
Landfill	\$ 1,225.14	Stray Animal	\$ 26.55
MV	\$ 8,870.65		

At 11:35 with no further business, Joe Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 8:00 in the first-floor foyer.

Attest:



County Clerk





Chairman