

Now on this 12th day of October 2021, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Wes Bainter presiding. Others present were Buck Mader, Joe Pratt, County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Commissioner Joe Bainter was absent. 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.

The board asked Bracht about the warrant to Road Groom Manufacturing in the amount of \$17,200. Bracht stated this is for the road drag equipment the county received back in June. Bracht stated that two individuals have paid for their road groom and picked the equipment up from the road & bridge department. Their checks will be included with a copy of the bill. Bracht clarified if individuals would be paid for dragging secondary roads. The board agreed that as long as the primary roads are done, individuals will be paid for secondary roads. Primary roads have to be done first. The board and Joe Herskowitz discussing dragging.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. Herskowitz stated the bridge in the northern part of the county will probably be started in November. The road & bridge department has smoothed out the bridge area on the Sheridan County/Graham County line. They are still working on the Angelus Road. Shoulders on the Studley road heading south were worked on. Herskowitz stated they are planning on going through the pickups and road equipment and get a list of tires needed. There was discussion about the purchasing process and requiring bids. Sometimes the different entities are unable to get the same tires or at the time of the bid they are able to get two tires but by the time the board approves the bid the tires have been sold. There was also discussion about the bid process, having to be sealed and delivered to the Clerk's office. One vendor has stated that if the bid has to be delivered, they won't bid. The board agreed that this is the process that will remain in effect. Herskowitz distributed bids for cutting edges. Wes Bainter made a motion to purchase 540 cutting edges from Foley in the amount of \$35,672.40. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 2-1. Foley had low bid. The board briefly discussed individuals maintaining a road and using their own machine. At 8:55, Wes Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 2-0. Present were the board, Pratt, Bracht and Herskowitz. The door opened at 9:05 with no decision being made.

Curtis Higby, Noxious Weed Director came to the table. There was discussion about pre-emergent and post-emergent. Higby would like to do both. Prairie dogs were brought up. Higby stated that by statute noxious weed treatment is primary function, not prairie dogs. The prairie dogs are still going to be treated but noxious weeds are priority. Higby is coming up with a plan to treat weeds at bridges and signs where it is difficult to mow. He has concerns because there have been times when he has sprayed and the same day the area is mowed. He will work on coordination with the mowers next year. A quote for chemicals will come to Bracht.

Deb Kaufman, EMS Director, entered the meeting. Kaufman advised the board she had started an EMT class. There are two students from Sheridan County and two students from Gove County. Kaufman presented the Education Incentive Grant through the Board of EMS which provides funds to assist in the cost of the class – presenters, tuition, supplies. By consensus the board approved the Education Incentive Grant and Chairman Wes Bainter signed. There was discussion about the need for volunteerism and working in the healthcare field. Everyone is struggling with help and a lot more is expected of employees. The board agreed to the \$500 incentive given to the Sheridan County students who are currently taking the EMT class. This

incentive has been given to students for the last 10 years at least. This helps with the cost of meals, daycare if needed, fuel and any other incidentals that might come up while taking the class. In the past, another \$500 is given once the student passes the testing and has completed time on the ambulance. The board and Kaufman discussed the vaccine mandate. Kaufman stated it doesn't matter which side you're on, people don't feel supported. The Medicare mandate could potentially mean losing Medicare funding if all EMS volunteers are not vaccinated. The Board of EMS is currently fighting this battle. Kaufman advised the board she will be applying for grant funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). There was discussion about bids for an ambulance. This is something that can be purchased with the ARPA funds received by the county. Kaufman asked about Public Health and what services were being provided. EMS can do paramedicine – filling med boxes, wellness checks, blood pressures, etc. Bracht will contact Mike O'Dell/Trisha Hageman at the hospital and schedule a time for them to come to the board meeting and give an updated report on Public Health.

Bracht distributed information from KCAMP pertaining to the Aqua Shield Roofing bid for the schoolhouse. The board approved the insurance claim amount.

The Environmental Sanitary Code for Sheridan County has been approved by KDHE. There will need to be a public hearing to hear comments/questions. Effective date would be January 1, 2022. Once all commissioners have had a chance to review the document, the Resolution will be published and the hearing date set.

Bracht advised the board that correspondence had been received from the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center regarding additional funding for them using the ARPA funds received. Wes Bainter advised the board members to come up with ideas and ways to use the money and then start making a plan.

The October 5, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by Mader and second by Wes Bainter. Carried 2-0.

Mader made a motion to approve the October 8, 2021 payroll and October 12, 2021 warrants as presented. Wes Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 2-0.

Mader asked when wages would be discussed and Bracht stated usually November/December. Bracht will get the information to the board about current wages.


The board discussed the road dragging again.

The following warrants and payroll were audited and approved:

General	\$ 58,098.63	Road & Bridge	\$ 15,709.62
Forfeiture	\$ 832.34	Spec Mach	\$ 17,200.00
VIN	\$ 360.24	Nox Weed	\$ 1,946.53
MV	\$ 1,233.45	Public Transp	\$ 1,073.08

At 9:57 with no further business, Wes Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mader. Carried 2-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 8:00 in the courthouse foyer.

Attest:


County Clerk




Chairman