

Now on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Wes Bainter presiding. Others present were Joe Bainter, Mike "Buck" Mader, Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Brandon Fenner, Carolyn Meyer, Tyler Sauvage and The Sheridan Sentinel.

At 8:00 a.m. Wes Bainter called the meeting to order.

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bracht presented the Employee Handbook and advised the board of the few clarifications and changes made. Mader made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook with the changes seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. Bracht presented a letter created from the commissioners to the road and bridge employees clarifying the policy for having to come in and clean snow or do other road work in an emergency. Mader made a motion to approve and sign the letter seconded by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. The board and Herskowitz discussed the hauling rates. The rates will remain the same for the time being. The mowing map is somewhat complete. The road from Hwy 24 at Six Toes past 10S will be worked in the spring. There was discussion about the ditch on the same road. Herskowitz stated that there are three employees who are blading in the southeast part of the county. They are still working on clearing out that bridge at 10E. The board discussed with Herskowitz the landfill possibly taking tires again. Mader did some research and came up with Resource Management who will come on a regular schedule or when needed. Herskowitz will come to the next meeting with a plan. There was discussion about a small tract of land that the county owns in the SW4 10-6-30. It was deeded to the county in 1953 and is just wasteland. There is an individual interested in purchasing it.

Kelsey Rhodes came to the table and introduced herself. Rhodes stated that she had purchased several greenhouses from Mona's Market in Dresden and wanted to be sure that her road could be in good condition during the time she opens for the season and starts getting deliveries and when she closes. Rhodes states the road needs a crown as there is a flat spot that becomes a mess when it rains. Herskowitz stated they would do extra grading and millings in the spring.

Brad Weese, Owner of The Hoxie Times, came to the table. Weese would like the opportunity to serve as the official county newspaper. Weese stated that this is his sixth year owning a newspaper. He does not live in Sheridan County but states he has stayed committed to the community. They have friends here and a good Facebook following and reader base. Weese continued by saying that the community is fortunate to have two newspapers. Weese feels he has a good relationship with the people in the community. The board did not make a decision.

Wes Bainter made a motion to approve the January 4, 2022 minutes as presented. Joe Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0.

Joe Pratt, County Attorney stated he had toured the building located on Sheridan Ave. again. Karl Pratt, Economic Development, met with the daycare group. Joe Pratt has contacted Appraiser Keith Gustin from Hays who has agreed to come and appraise the building. Roofmasters out of Colby will come and take a look at the roof.

Mike O'Dell, Joy Bretz and Kyle Ahlenstorf from the Sheridan County Health Complex came to the table. O'Dell stated a new public health director and public health nurse have been hired. The public health office will open soon and offer services previously provided. Paul Davis from Quinter has been named the Interim CEO for the health complex. O'Dell reviewed the budget

for the health complex and stated it was a tight budget this year. Wes Bainter made a motion to accept the 2022 Sheridan County Health Complex Budget as presented. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. O'Dell discussed the Public Health budget for the 2022 year. O'Dell asked that the board rescind the previous Resolution approved appointing Dr. Doug Gruenbacher as County Health Officer and to appoint Dr. Dallas Walz as the County Health Officer. Wes Bainter made the motion to rescind the Resolution appointing Dr. Gruenbacher as the County Health Officer and to appoint Dr. Walz as the County Health Officer with the wage to be negotiated with the hospital. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. O'Dell stated they are completing a USDA application for funding for expansion of the hospital and clinic. Anticipated cost is \$6,500,000 with the hospital contributing approximately \$1,000,000-\$1,500,000. The architect Agreements have already been approved and they anticipate putting out for bids early spring. This expansion would include connecting to the current Independent Living area for the clinic and public health offices and expanding and moving the emergency rooms and operating rooms to the clinic area. This funding would be through revenue bonds not general obligation bonds. Mader made a motion to approve the USDA application for the Sheridan County Health Complex expansion/remodel project. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Ahlenstorf discussed with the board the preliminary plans for a mobile unit: outfitting the old ambulance with a lift, removing lights, etc.; purchasing a Sprinter van or purchasing a small RV that would be renovated to use as a clinic. The dollars for this purchase will be through a grant. Ahlenstorf presented a Notice of Federal Interest which pertains to a grant using federal funds that the clinic received. These funds will be used for the finishing cost of the renovation project. Wes Bainter made a motion to approve and sign the Notice of Federal Interest document seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0. There was discussion about the Memorandum of Agreement between the clinic and the Public Health office. Public Health will send patients needing immunizations to the clinic. Monica Reuber, the newly hired Public Health Administrator was introduced to the board. Reuber stated Gove County Public Health is taking care of WIC clients until the public health nurse can get certified. Trisha Hageman gave a COVID report for Sheridan County. Hageman stated there are no beds in the United States right now to transfer critical COVID patients to.

Shirley Niermeier, Sheridan County Treasurer, came to the table. Niermeier distributed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter financial report. Niermeier discussed with the board the various reports and answered questions.

Sheriff Carver and Undersheriff Diercks came to the meeting. At 10:15, 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 the motion. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Carver, Diercks and Bracht. The door opened at 10:30. Bracht will contact the City of Hoxie office and ask if the city council, Paul Wassinger and City Attorney Ken Eland can meet with the county commissioners during the next commissioner meeting, January 18.

At 10:34 a.m. with no further business, Wes Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 8:00 in the courthouse foyer.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman