

Now on this 4th day of October, 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, County Attorney Joe Pratt and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Carolyn Meyer 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.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. Herskowitz advised the board that the county should know about the Cost Share Program Application the end of October or first part of November. This is for the Sheridan Ave. to 10W road project. The bridge by the Elk Ranch is coming along real well. They are currently working on the railing. The road & bridge employees have worked on some culverts and done some road work. There is a road in the northwest corner of the county that was not marked on the map to be mowed and graded. This has been corrected. Other mowing and road work was discussed.

At 8:06, 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, Pratt and Bracht. The door opened at 8:17 with no decision being made.

Pratt stated he had received the Attorney General's opinion on whether Kyle Ahlenstorf being elected as Commissioner in District #1 would be a conflict of interest. Attorney General's opinion is there is no conflict with Ahlenstorf being County Commissioner. Pratt reiterated it is not law, it is an opinion. Pratt advised the board that he had reviewed the documents previously generated when Birdie Reynolds had petitioned to have the alley vacated in Studley. Pratt stated if the adjoining landowner objects to vacating the alley, it's not done. Pratt will send a letter to Reynolds advising her of this and also that she would be responsible for the expense associated with the process.

The board approved and signed correspondence to KDOT showing support for Sheridan County/City of Hoxie's Cost Share Application for work to be done on Sheridan Ave. to 10W. This will be emailed to Penco Engineering.

The board and guests discussed the Attorney General's opinion as it pertains to Ahlenstorf being elected County Commissioner and conflict of interest. It was suggested that it be a policy within the County's Employee Handbook. Pratt reiterated again that it is an opinion. If someone wants to take it to the judge, they can. The Board and Bracht discussed the policy the Clerk's office has regarding taking residents from the Long Term Care facility to outings, appointments or anywhere else and there needing to be a CNA or other hospital staff with them. This policy has been questioned. The commissioners fully support the decision of the Clerk's office. The board recognizes that this is a great service in the community and that sometimes it takes a lot of time.

Chad Koster, CEO, Rebecca Bird, CFO of the Sheridan County Health Complex and Ken Eland and Joy Bretz, Hospital Board Members came to the table to answer questions on the emergency room project. Bird stated the financial report would be completed at the end of the month through the period ending September 30, 2022. There is approximately 3.4 million dollars not committed to projects. The 2.5 million dollar emergency room project will be funded 64% by Medicare/Medicaid. Eland stated the project could be funded without bonds but economically it is better to fund it with bonds so if the need arose they would have cash for an emergency. The hospital is asking for the commissioners to sign a document allowing the Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Board (Hospital Board of Trustees) to sign the paperwork so they do not always have to come to the commissioner meeting for signature. Bretz stated the 2.5 million dollar acute care

remodel project included not only the construction cost but also beds, chairs, tables, etc. The commissioners thanked everyone for coming and answering their questions.

The September 27, 2022 minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Joe Bainter and second by Mader. Carried 3-0.

At 9:13 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, October 11, 2022 at 8:00 in the courthouse main floor foyer.

Attest: _____
County Clerk

Chairman