

Now on this 24th day of January, 2023, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Mike "Buck" Mader presiding. Other members present were Joe Bainter, Kyle Ahlenstorf, Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were The Sheridan Sentinel.

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

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor came to the table with Doug Minson and Mark Polifka from Foley Equipment. Inventory list of current graders was distributed to the board. Herskowitz stated there are two graders that are currently out of commission. The Foley reps discussed the Bomag and the fact that it needs a lot of work done to it. A picture was distributed of a 2006 compactor that Foley currently has available with a dozer blade. Cost of the equipment is \$647,900. The Foley reps discussed financing options but financing equipment is not something the county has ever done. The cost of a new compactor is \$953,000 with extended warranty. There is currently not enough funds in the special equipment fund. Mader stated it is hard to spend half a million/million dollars on something used one hour a day. Pratt suggested that if the board pursues the idea to check with local banks for a lease-purchase agreement. Mader stated he would like to see fixing the hoses and parking brake and look at other options. Foley exited the meeting. The board talked about the use of Posi-shell on the trash and equipment that could be used at the trash cell and also the C&D pit. No decisions were made.

Dana Hess, Communications Director/Office Manager and Dana Knudsen came to the table to discuss wages. Hess distributed a document showing job duties for the office manager and director of communications as well as projected pay information if Hess were to be moved to an hourly wage with minimal overtime. Hess would like to be moved from salary to an hourly wage. It was questioned why she is asking now, this is something that should have been discussed when working on the budget. There was discussion about not having anyone apply for the dispatch job. Hess stated she is doing the work of 3-4 people, not just dispatching. Hess has given some work to Knudsen but some of the work requires additional training which means more overtime. There was discussion that everyone is in the same position. If anyone has something major happen and have to be absent from work for any amount of time, a plan would have to be made to help get the work done. Bracht asked if having someone hired to only be the office manager has been discussed. Hess stated that would be a Sheriff Carver question. Hess stated she has shown her dedication and would like something in return. Hess will be put on next week's agenda to discuss the new server needed in the office and pay.

Deb Kaufman, Brian Diercks and Brandon Carver came to the table to discuss the Sheridan County Interagency Coalition. Kaufman stated that in 2004 it was determined that Sheridan County had a larger than average problem with alcohol and drug abuse. The coalition was formed and from 2009-2019 programs were done for the youth. Money was received through grants and donations for the programs. There is \$5,444.91 remaining in the coalition's bank account. Kaufman and Diercks ask that this money be donated to the DARE program which deals with alcohol, bullying and drugs. Deputy William Cousins has gone through DARE training and is certified to put the programs on. The program follows a certain curriculum. Mader made a motion to close the account and move the money to the Fight Addiction fund seconded by Bainter. Carried 3-0.

Bainter made a motion to amend the agenda to include Sheriff Carver. Mader seconded. Carried 3-0. Carver stated he is working on a grant for new bulletproof vests for everyone. The COPS grant has been applied for which helps pay wages for our part-time law enforcement. The new Tahoe should be here in February. This will replace the 2019 Dodge Ram currently being used by

Undersheriff Diercks. The 2019 Dodge Ram will stay in service and the 2010 Dodge Charger will be sold. Carver reported that he attended an Active Shooter class. There are a lot of things being worked on to get everyone up and ready if the situation arises. Prior to the last snow Carver checked the generator at the Methodist Church which is designated as one of the shelters in Sheridan County. Several things had to be repaired on it. Carver stated the cots that had been purchased to use at the shelter several years ago need to be delivered there.

Herskowitz came back to the table. He will check to see if there are any regulations for the Bomag. Herskowitz spoke with Scott Foote about road 10W from Sheridan Ave. south and Foote states he has talked with people and will come up with the \$400,000 to asphalt the road from Sheridan Ave. south to the railroad tracks if the county will asphalt north to Highway 24. Herskowitz presented bids for repairing the boom truck from both Hoxie Ag and Altec. Both businesses would have to do work on the boom. Herskowitz distributed photographs of a road that a farmer bladed and damaged after the snow. Herskowitz will talk with the landowner. The laptop has gone out that Herskowitz uses in the pickup. Bids were received from Tech Junkies, NexTech and Walmart. Bainter made a motion to approve the bid from Tech Junkies which includes a two year warranty. Ahlenstorf seconded. Carried 3-0.

At 10:15, Mader made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Herskowitz, Bracht and Pratt. The door opened at 10:25 with Mader making a motion to extend the executive session for a period of 15 minutes. Bainter seconded this motion. Carried 3-0. The door opened at 10:38 with no decision being made.

Herskowitz stated he and Glenda had reviewed expenditures and there seems to be excess. The road and bridge guys were advised no spending unless approved by Herskowitz first. Ahlenstorf made a motion to approve repairing the boom truck, seconded by Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The January 17, 2023 minutes were approved as amended on a motion from Mader and second from Bainter. Carried 3-0.

Bainter made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook with a change as it pertains to holiday pay during an employee's vacation time. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. By consensus the board okayed paying the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development 2023 dues of \$4,845. The board discussed road 10W and paving to the north. All are in agreement that the funds are not available in the budget to pave county road 10W from Sheridan Ave. north to Highway 24. The board discussed the Bomag and will continue to work on possible alternative solutions. Bainter made a motion to appoint Mader to represent the county on the Sheridan County/Hoxie City Airport board for the 2023 year. Ahlenstorf seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

On a motion by Mader and second by Bainter, the various 2023 Resolutions were approved and signed by the board. Carried 3-0.

The board discussed roads, dragging and grading.

At 11:30 a.m. with no further business, Mader made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ahlenstorf. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 8:00 in the commissioner room.

Attest: _____
County Clerk

Chairman