

Now on this 19th day of December, 2023, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Mike "Buck" Mader presiding. Other members present were Kyle Ahlenstorf, Joe Bainter, Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were The Sheridan Sentinel and David Stithem.

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. Herskowitz advised the board the old loader needs at least one new tire. Bids will be reviewed in January. A few roads and work being done was discussed.

Mader made a motion to approve the December 12, 2023 minutes as amended. Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0.

On a motion by Ahlenstorf and second by Bainter, the bid from IOT on Main Street in the amount of \$1,156 for a HP desktop, monitor, keyboard, Office Business license and service/updates was approved. Carried 3-0. This computer is for the new EMS Director and will be paid for out of the ARPA funds.

The December 12, 2023 minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Mader and second by Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The December 15, 2023 payroll was approved on a motion by Ahlenstorf and second by Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The Treasurers abatements/changes were approved and signed on a motion by Bainter and second by Mader. Carried 3-0.

Pratt gave a brief update on a mowing agreement. Ball signed the Release of Assignment and this has been forwarded to Shaw for signature.

John Cahoj came to the table to discuss with the board the phone and internet situation on the 3rd floor. Cahoj is advising that nothing can be done with the phones on their floor until probably mid-January. Cahoj stated he now has the phone number of someone he can speak with at Vyve for questions.

Sheriff Carver and Chief of Police Paul Wisinger came to the table. There was a discussion about call time and the sheriff's office having to cover additional hours. The current Agreement between the city and the county will be extended and will be for a three-year term. After the document is completed, it will be presented to the City of Hoxie council for approval and signature and then forwarded to the county. Wisinger advised the board that the City of Hoxie council were not looking at hiring another officer at this point.

Hadley Gillum, BCBS Representative, Julie Yarmen, Freedom Claims Management, Inc. and Darren Booth, Theel Insurance, came to the table to discuss options after the large 2024 renewal BCBS increase for the county. Freedom Claims is a third-party administrator and would help bridge the gap between a fully insured and partially funded

plan. Freedom Claims would administer the plan, enroll new employees and take care of claims. There are several counties, cities and school districts who use them. There was continued discussion with several questions asked. The board thanked them for coming and clarifying some things.

Sheriff Carver returned to the table to discuss the dash cams that had been approved the previous week to purchase. There is a \$7,000 licensing fee that had not been included in the bid presented. This would bring the total for the five dash cams to \$73,990. For a cost of \$76,917 law enforcement can have both the dash cams and body cams. This is an option due to some things being removed from the original quote. Ahlenstorf made a motion to approve spending \$76,917 for five dash cams and body cams for law enforcement. The fifth unit will be placed in the law enforcement vehicle currently being housed. Mader seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The board continued their discussion about the BCBS 2024 renewal. Ahlenstorf made a motion to accept the BCBS 2024 renewal, \$1,000 deductible, level funded plan. This plan will include MASA for all employees. Freedom Claims Management will be hired as the third-party administrator, which will reduce the increase from 78% to 40%. Mader seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Various Resolutions pertaining to 2024 wages were approved and signed by the board on a motion by Ahlenstorf and second by Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The following payroll was approved and signed by the board:

General	\$ 83,536.83	Road & Bridge	\$ 27,223.61
Public Transp.	\$ 1,248.25	Noxious Weed	\$ 1,969.55
MV	\$ 1,240.97	Landfill	\$ 1,729.44

Bracht reminded the board that David Stithem will be sworn in on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 on the 3rd floor of the courthouse.

The board thanked Ahlenstorf for his service as a county commissioner and wished him well.

At 10:30 a.m. with no further business, Mader made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting and last meeting of the year will be Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the commissioner room.

Attest: _____
County Clerk

Chairman