

Now on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2021, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Wes Bainter presiding. Others present were Joe Bainter, Buck Mader, Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Doyle Kauk, Carolyn Meyer and The Sheridan Sentinel.

Wes Bainter called the meeting to order.

Everyone in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pratt reported that after doing some research he believes the sand haulers need to have commercial tags. Pratt will recap this with Joe Herskowitz. Pratt had found the statute pertaining to the special alcohol fund and where that money can be spent. High Point Advocacy had contacted the clerk and brought up a statute that said the county needed to spend the money in a specific area and was upset because the board had voted to not fund them this year. Wes Bainter stated the county cannot fund everyone. They will be contacted later to meet with the board about possibly funding in the 2022 year.

Bracht presented the Secure Energy Agreement for natural gas transportation to the board. This Agreement locks in a contract price of \$0.412 per THERM for gas for a three-year period beginning March 1, 2021. Mader made a motion to approve and sign the Agreement seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0.

At 8:23, Joe 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 3-0. Present were the board, Bracht and Pratt. The door opened at 8:26 with no decision being made.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, entered the meeting. Pratt recapped with Herskowitz about the commercial tag for gravel haulers. Herskowitz stated that currently there are only two people who haul continuously for the county. Herskowitz advised the board that he has reached out to KDOT multiple times regarding the Agreement between KDOT and Sheridan County for road work to be done on K-123 in 2022 but has not heard back a response. Herskowitz stated he had talked with Graham County about the bridge on the Sheridan/Graham County line and Graham County does not like the idea of cement slabs/pads because of drainage issues. Jerol DeBoer from Penco Engineering will bring information today about this. The brake on the bobcat still won't release but everything else is working. The board and Herskowitz discussed the feedlot road and the need to take the lump out of the road. This will be worked when the road is done. Herskowitz stated some of the new guys are riding with the more experienced employees to learn from them.

By consensus, the board approved going ahead and having the rural directories made. Bracht asked the board about remaining in Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. Mader stated he sees no reason to not remain in, that it's a win/win for everyone involved. The board discussed the charges when services are provided and Wes Bainter stated that nobody asks "what are you going to charge?" The county should be able to negotiate the price. The county will ask the price ahead of time next time their services are utilized. Also, keep Karl Pratt, Economic Development, involved between the county and Northwest Kansas Planning & Development. Mader made a motion to remain in Northwest Kansas Planning & Development for another year and to pay the dues of \$5,096. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 2-1.

Walt Hill, High Plains Mental Health, was contacted via speaker phone. Joe & MaryEllen Welshon entered the meeting as High Plains Mental Health board members for Sheridan County. Hill gave a report of the challenges faced last year due to the COVID crisis. Hill stated that patients were still seen, the numbers did not drop off but most were seen by video

conference. Dave Anderson, Clinical Director, stated that High Plains Mental Health does provide drug and alcohol evaluations and has licensed out-patient substance abuse services available virtually. Hill stated that High Plains Mental Health have not increased funding from the counties for many years. Hill went on to say they appreciate the Welshhons being on the board for as long as they have been. Renee Wagoner, Public Health Nurse/Administrator stated that public health has the capability to provide an area if someone needs assistance and needs a virtual computer. Bracht stated that alcohol money could be used for High Plains Mental Health's drug/alcohol services.

Bracht had included Resolution No. 21-51, Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the board to review and approve. This document is required for FEMA through Emergency Management. Joe Bainter made a motion to approve and sign Resolution No. 21-51 seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0.

Wes Bainter made a motion to approve the warrant presented. Joe Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0.

The March 16, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by Mader and second by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The board took a 5 minute break.

Jerol DeBoer from Penco Engineering, Jim McCormick from McCormick Excavation and Paving and Steve Collins with Apac came to the table. Feedlot road bids were opened by Wes Bainter and read aloud by DeBoer. McCormick had a total bid of \$1,281,790 which included the highway to the bridge (including guardrail), over the bridge and approximately one mile north of the bridge. Apac's bid was \$1,373,907.35 for the same area. The county is receiving \$720,000 from KDOT for this road work. Penco Engineering will have costs of \$20,000 for the design and \$40,000 for the inspection. Wes Bainter contacted Scott Foote and advised him of the bids received and cost. Foote stated to just let him know what he owed and he would pay it. He hopes the county will be fair. The board asked DeBoer if he could come back in 30 minutes and they would continue the discussion. DeBoer exited the meeting.

Renee Wagoner, Public Health Nurse/Administrator, entered the meeting. Wagoner presented a bid in the amount of \$4,228.33 for a new phone system for public health. This will be paid for out of the COVID money public health is to receive. Wagoner stated they will also update computers but she doesn't have a bid for that yet. The board stated they would revisit this after the money has been received. Bracht will contact NexTech and advise them to contact Wagoner about the computer bid. Pratt advised Wagoner that instead of texting or emailing the commissioners with information she is to get the information to Bracht who will forward to the board or will include in their commissioner packets. Wagoner presented the Business Associate Agreement between Public Health and NexTech which states NexTech with comply with HIPAA privacy rules as they pertain to public health. Wagoner will reach out to NexTech and have them change the signature page to allow Wes Bainter, Chairman, a place to sign. Wagoner reminded the board of the Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, April 13 with the Sheridan County Hospital. The is for the community needs assessment. Wagoner advised the board she attended the Sheridan County Hospital board meeting on Monday and introduced herself, discussed immunizations, physicals and working together.

Jerol DeBoer re-entered the meeting. The board discussed the feedlot road and the bids received. It appears that the total project is estimated at \$1,341,790. After deducting the amount to be received from KDOT of \$720,000, there will be a balance of \$621,790. Wes Bainter stated he feels the county should pay one-half of the balance with Scott Foote paying the other

one-half. Bracht reminded the board that when the county made application to KDOT, the board stated the maximum the county would put in was \$210,000. Joe Bainter made a motion to approve the McCormick Excavation and Paving bid inclusive of Alternate #1 and Alternate #2 in the amount of \$1,281,790 contingent on KDOT approving the bid. Wes Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Wes Bainter made a motion to approve the county's share not to exceed \$310,000 and Foote contributing the balance which is estimated to be \$312,000. Mader seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. DeBoer stated there should not be any overruns. DeBoer distributed information pertaining to the Graham/Sheridan County line bridge. The board and DeBoer discussed rebuilding with materials already in stock so the expense would just be the labor or changing to concrete which DeBoer said would cost \$100,000. Herskowitz will talk with Graham County again and confirm what they are thinking.

Bracht presented information from NexTech for 24 hr. IT service for the Sheriff's office in the amount of \$31,646.04 annually and for the rest of the county departments an Agreement in the amount of \$14,568 annually. Bracht was asked to go back to the individuals who had presented bids previously and double check their numbers.

The following warrant was approved:

General      \$ 35,000.00

No further business, Wes Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 8:00 in the courthouse foyer.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman