

Now on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 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 and Jim White.

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. Jim White spoke about the road in front of his home. White states the road is an “open” road and should be maintained. White gave a history of when it all happened. White continued by saying the road does need some work but not much. It will not have to be maintained regularly but in the winter will need the snow cleaned out. Herskowitz will reach out to Great Western Tire for the grader tire bid. Herskowitz advised the board that the cardboard recycling truck will be coming this week to pick up a load of cardboard. Herskowitz stated they had put culverts put in by Dave Niermeier’s home. Various road conditions/projects were discussed as well as areas that need culverts. Road & bridge employees will start mowing at various cemeteries this week. The individual who received a letter about farming a ditch reached out to us and advised that he was doing it because of the bindweed. He will be advised that he can mow or spray this weed.

At 8:28 Mader made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 15 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 8:40 with no decision made.

Joe Pratt stated the prairie dogs can be treated in the area southeast of town.

Bainter made a motion to approve the May 16, 2023 minutes as amended seconded by Ahlenstorf. Carried 3-0.

The May 19, 2023 payroll was approved on a motion by Mader and second by Bainter. Carried 3-0.

At 8:50 Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Ahlenstorf seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Bracht and Pratt. The door opened at 9:00 with no decision.

Kaylene Oelke, Chairperson for the Sheridan County Library came to the table to discuss the 2024 budget request. Oelke distributed information pertaining to the Sheridan County Library, the activities that have been going on, upcoming events and some upgrades they have planned. They are keeping their budget request the same as previous years at \$20,000.

At 9:20 Mader made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 15 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Bracht, Pratt and Hess. The door opened at 9:23.

Dana Hess and Dana Knudsen from dispatch and Sheriff Carver came to the table. Hess discussed her budget request and her desire to go from salary to an hourly rate of pay. Bracht stated that because she is head of the department, hires/fires, etc. she needs to remain salary. There is a dispatcher leaving soon which leaves only two people in a full—time position and two

people part-time. There had been discussion about hiring an office person for the sheriff/dispatch. This had been discussed previously with Sheriff Carver but there was some miscommunication. Carver was going to try and have a part-time office person that would also be part-time law enforcement. The understanding of the board was it was going to be a full-time person but shared between sheriff and dispatch. This was clarified. Hess will continue to be the communications director and will also dispatch, filling in when needed due to staff shortage, illness, etc. Hess stated six individuals make up a full staff. Hess stated she is not asking for a raise, just to move to hourly so she is paid for the time she spends working. Hess continued by stating that Sheridan County wages are not competitive with neighboring counties. Hess advised the board she would like the \$10,000 the City of Hoxie pays for dispatch services to be used as a bonus for dispatchers, to show appreciation for the work they do. Hess spoke with the board about the various jobs she does. The board discussed hiring and benefits. Bainter stated Hess comes in often asking for more money. At what point is enough? Hess exited the meeting.

At 10:45, Mader made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 30 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. The door opened at 11:15. Bainter made a motion to increase the wage of Dana Hess, Communications Director/Dispatch effective May 22, 2023. Ahlenstorf seconded. Carried 3-0.

Bainter made a motion to amend the agenda to include Dana Hess again. Mader seconded. Carried 3-0. The board offered Hess an additional \$4,100/annually for a wage increase effective May 22, 2023. Hess will accept the offer if the salary is reviewed again in January. The board stated it will be reviewed in December when wages are reviewed for raises but to not expect another large increase or any increase. There was a discussion about the radio infrastructure as it pertains to other counties helping with dispatch when there is not enough staffing.

The following payroll was reviewed and approved by the board:

General	\$ 80,614.25	Road & Bridge	\$ 28,425.61
Noxious Weed	\$ 2,266.70	Public Transp.	\$ 985.00
Landfill	\$ 1,865.25		

At 11:56 a.m. with no further business, Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the commissioner room.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman