

Now on this 23rd day of April, 2024, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Vice-Chairman Joe Bainter presiding. Other members present were David Stithem, Harry Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht.

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

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor and Evan Turley, Noxious Weed Director, came to the table. Turley presented chemical information on Whetstone, used to treat range pasture musk thistle. Bainter made a motion to approve purchasing 40 gallons of Whetstone from Central Plains Agronomy at a cost of \$245.00/gallon which was the low bid. Stithem seconded. Carried 2-0. Turley talked with Lishe Kaiser about treating weeds up at the fairgrounds area. The rodeo arena and derby pit are the two areas they would like the county to treat. The city will provide the chemical and Turley will spray. Herskowitz clarified for the board about funds for bridges. A partial mixed paper load went out last week for recycling. There was discussion about mowing and turning in bills past the 30 day period. Pratt will draft a letter that will be sent to all individuals mowing. The board will think about and start discussing whether to continue with mowers in 2025 or have the road and bridge employees mow. If the employees are not going to mow, should sell the mowers. Herskowitz will make up a list of the mowers currently sitting there. Blades are currently running and they hope to get the retriever out this week. Herskowitz has heard nothing back from KDOT about the moving of the well. Bracht advised everyone that the bid documents and plan specifications have been received for the work to be done on Sheridan Ave. to 10W. There was discussion about road 10W being included in the counties information. Bracht has a call in to Jerol DeBoer at Penco Engineering.

Pratt revised the Road Maintenance Agreement between Sheridan County and Scott Foote for road 10W from Hwy 24 South to Foote's home and east on Sheridan Ave. past the cemetery. Pratt will obtain Foote's signature and then get to the board for approval.

Pratt advised the board that Bob Borger contacted him and the Swap Shop has a leak. They are wanting to know who will pay for the repair. The county covers the insurance on the building but has never paid for repairs or maintenance on the building. Bracht will contact Borger and ask him to come and speak with the board.

Stithem made a motion, seconded by Bainter, to approve the April 16, 2024 minutes as amended and the April 19, 2024 payroll as presented. Carried 2-0.

Brian Diercks, Undersheriff, came to the table. At 8:35, Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Stithem seconded. Carried 2-0. Present were the board, Pratt, Bracht and Diercks. The door opened at 8:40 with no decision needing to be made. Diercks reported that Officer Cousin's Tahoe has been in the shop for two weeks. Sheriff Carver is looking into "lemon" laws as this vehicle has had multiple problems. The body and vehicle cameras are all working well. Carver is going to apply for a 30 day free trial of LPR (License Plate Reader). The tower south of Hoxie has been painted. Carver is applying for a grant to help cover one-half the costs of vests for the officers. Current vests expire in May. There was discussion about the problems that are occurring with the Tahoes.

Craig Poe, Executive Director and Karla McFee, Outreach & Education Specialist, from High Plains Mental Health entered the meeting and Joe Welshon entered as a representative for the High Plains Mental Health board. The board and clerk had received a packet of information prior to the meeting. Poe gave a brief history of himself and then he and McFee discussed the services they provide and answered a few questions. They are asking for a budget of \$17,196.77 in 2025.

Bainter made a motion to amend the Agenda to include Don Rivera, Development Director from Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. Stithem seconded the motion. Carried 2-0. Brian Diercks, Undersheriff, was also in attendance. Rivera distributed information on Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center and stated they are the first response after a report of child abuse. Rivera discussed the services they provide and requests the budget remain the same at \$5,000 for 2025.

Diercks advised the board that Cousins Tahoe has been repaired and is ready to pick-up.

The following payroll was approved:

General	\$ 94,486.51	Road & Bridge	\$ 40,606.50
Nox Weed	\$ 2,136.25	Public Transp	\$ 1,187.50
Landfill	\$ 1,923.75		

At 10:08 a.m. with no further business, Stithem made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bainter. Carried 2-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the commissioner room.

Attest: _____
County Clerk

Chairman