

Now on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Mike "Buck" Mader presiding. Other members present were Joe Bainter, David Stithem, Harry Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were The Sheridan Sentinel and Michael Egner.

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. At 8:02 Bainter made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Stithem seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the board, Bracht, Pratt and Herskowitz. The door opened at 8:08 with no decision being made. Representatives from Foley Tractor were present to present information on lease purchase options for new equipment. The board discussed pros and cons of the leasing option. Foley currently has two new graders on site but if that equipment sells, the next opportunity would probably be in October when they get more equipment. Pricing would remain the same if the county waited. Bracht stated by the end of the year there will be funds in Special Machinery to purchase one grader outright and then next year there would be funds to purchase a second. Representatives exited the meeting and no decision was made. Michael Egner was recognized. Egner wanted to discuss the mowing contracts. Egner stated that he feels the contractors are not held accountable for the mowing they do and feels the county needs to keep the control. Egner feels there are still many farmers who are planting out to the road which creates a safety hazard and Herskowitz has the authority to tell the operator to mow down the crop. Herskowitz stated that if it is close to harvest, they let it go but otherwise they will mow it down. Herskowitz also clarified that he and Glenda Schaffer, Road & Bridge secretary, go out and review all the mowing before the contractor is paid. Egner suggested something going in the paper about the planting to the roadway and then backing it up when it is ignored. Viktorija Briggs from the Sheridan Sentinel suggested putting something in the paper or on Facebook stating in what area the county intends to be working and what they will be doing, understanding that plans can change. Egner would like to see "unofficial" minutes in the paper the week of the meeting, otherwise too long a time elapses before the community sees what was discussed. Egner and the board discussed various road conditions. The Agreement was signed for the signage program. Road work on Highway 23 and the landfill were discussed briefly.

By consensus the board agreed to pay one-half the cost of new vests for law enforcement out of ARPA funds. Total cost of four vests is \$4,800. Carver will apply for a grant to cover the cost of the rest. The new Tahoe is in and should be ready at the end of May. \$25,000 of the cost will come from the sheriff's budget (vehicle replacement line item) and the balance will be paid from ARPA funds.

Bainter made a motion to purchase six new chairs for the commissioners table at a cost of \$400/each. Stithem seconded. Carried 3-0. ARPA funds will be used for this expense. The six old chairs will be offered to other departments.

Mader made a motion to approve the April 30, 2024 minutes as amended. Stithem seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

On a motion by Stithem and second by Mader, the May 3, 2024 payroll was approved as presented. Carried 3-0.

At 9:38 a.m. with no further business, Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stithem. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the commissioner room.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman