

Now on this 16th day of September, 2020, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Wes Bainter presiding. Others present were Joe Bainter, MaryEllen Welshhon, Joe Pratt County Attorney and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Doyle Kauk, Rachel Farber, Buck Mader, Carolyn Meyer, Wade Tremblay, Reba White, Dana Hess and Sheriff Brandon Carver.

Wes Bainter called the meeting to order.

Pratt stated he had been on the webinar pertaining to the designation of the Chisholm and Western Trails as national historic trails. Pratt stated the group has been working on this project since 2009 but the proposed bill has never been submitted. Pratt will send another letter to Jerry Moran's office with a copy to KNRC about the commissioner's concerns with the trail interfering with Sheridan County landowners. Pratt discussed the history of the Hoxie Feedlot, the airport project and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Pratt believe everything is tied together with great things going on in the county.

A letter of support was requested to Alissa Ice at Kansas Housing Resources Corporation in support of the City of Hoxie's endeavor to secure Moderate Income Housing (MIH) funding to assist with paying off specials on three lots in Sunrise Addition. Welshhon made a motion to approve the letter of support, seconded by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0. Bracht asked about voting delegate for the KAC meeting. More information is requested on what the person would be voting on.

Bracht advised the board that Melissa Wachendorfer, Public Health Nurse/Administrator would be having surgery on Monday, September 21 and would be out for six weeks. Welshhon stated she had gone to the hospital after last week's meeting and spoke with Niceta Farber and Mike O'Dell and the hospital is not anywhere ready for the motion that was made at the September 9 meeting. The hospital does not want Public Health. They want the immunizations. Welshhon stated we need help in public health now, not in six months and that last week she felt blindsided with the motion that had been made. Welshhon continued that she was shocked that Wes Bainter made the motion and that the cart was put before the horse. Welshhon made a motion to rescind the motion made September 9, 2020 by Wes Bainter approving an LPN being provided by the Sheridan County Hospital. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 2-1 with Wes Bainter voting against rescinding his motion. The hospital board, Farber and O'Dell will be invited to the next commissioner's meeting to discuss the situation together.

Welshhon made a motion to change the last meeting day of each month to 10:00. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. This will involve meetings held on September 30, October 28, November 25 and December 30.

Welshhon made a motion to approve the warrant as presented, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0.

Wes Bainter made a motion to approve the September 11, 2020 payroll as presented, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0.

The minutes of September 9, 2020 were approved as corrected on a motion by Wes Bainter and second by Welshhon. Carried 3-0.

Joe Herskowitz from Road & Bridge came to the table. Herskowitz shared the following information:

- Hoxie Feedyard will provide the water for work on the feedlot road and a blade will be parked there. The road will try and be kept safe for truck traffic during harvest.
- Studley street project will be completed this week.
- The horizontal baler in recycling has seals that are leaking oil. They will be sent to Colby to fix. There is also a hose that needs replaced which will be done in the winter. Recycling is picking up a lot more cardboard and a truck should come this week.
- Internet is needed at recycling. Cost from NexTech is \$52.00/mth for slower speed or \$90.00/mth for faster. Herskowitz will go back to NexTech and talk about Wi-fi and being able to use what is at the county shop.
- Herskowitz presented a map with main roads on it. School bus routes, mail routes and roads with residences will be marked.

Welshon stated that the sealed bids that had been presented the prior week appeared to have been opened. Welshon stated and Wes Bainter agreed that all sealed bids should be sent/given directly to the County Clerk.

At 10:00 Wes Bainter opened up the 2021 budget hearing. Jim Myers, CPA, stated that mill levy went to 62.210, down from 68.957 in 2020. The actual taxes levied dropped by \$500,000. There were no comments or questions from the guests. Wes Bainter made a motion to approve the 2021 Sheridan County Budget as presented. Welshon seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. The 2021 Rural First District #1 budget hearing was opened. The mill levy for the fire department went to 3.8 for 2021, up from 3.75 mills in 2020. Taxes levied are up by \$4,000. Wes Bainter questioned Wade Tremblay, Fire Chief, on how the equipment is and where is the fire department headed. Tremblay stated they have good personnel and a good fire department. There currently have two lease purchase vehicles and the department is currently trying to save to purchase trucks outright. The department is trying to get a grant for new bunker gear. Bunker gear has to be replaced every seven years and current bunker gear is probably 10 years old. Tremblay stated equipment wise, everything is good. Wes Bainter made a motion, seconded by Welshon to approve the 2021 Rural Fire District Budget. Carried 3-0.

Jerol DeBoer from Penco Engineering came to the table and distributed the bridge report that was submitted to the state the previous week. The report lists which bridges need replaced or repaired. DeBoer stated the state has a program that will help fund replacement of bridges. Wes Bainter stated that some of the bridges could be put to low water slabs but the state will not fund those. There is a permit process but one design could be used in multiple locations. DeBoer stated no low water crossings on any main roads. For low water crossings, the county would be looking at approximately \$100,000. Engineering fees would be \$10,000 - \$15,000 for the first one and probably \$7,500 for additional ones. The Division of Water Resources approves the low water crossings but no approval is needed from the state. DeBoer had presented the engineering cost estimate from Penco for the feedlot road. DeBoer stated the bridge is not in bad condition but is very narrow and getting overstressed every day. Joe Bainter feels with increased speed and traffic, more stress could be caused to the bridge. DeBoer stated this would bump up the cost of the project. Penco Engineering cost estimate for the feedlot road project is \$20,000 which includes the bid letting and presentation to the Sheridan County Board of Commissioners. The board thanked him for coming.

Buck Driggs from Driggs Design came to the table with their cost estimate for the feedlot road. Driggs gave a history of the firm which was started in 2013 and discussed their bid. Driggs stated that with a 6" top, there should be an 8-10 year lifespan before the county would have to do too much to it than we would have to seal, repair cracks, etc. Driggs Design bid of \$53,745

included the bid letting and presentation to the Sheridan County Board of Commissioners as well. The board thanked him for coming.

Wes Bainter made a motion, seconded by Joe Bainter, to approve the low estimate from Penco Engineering for the design services for the feedlot road. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

Joe Bainter made a motion, seconded by Wes Bainter, to amend the agenda to include Dana Hess, Sheridan County Dispatch. Hess advised the board that there is currently a full-time and part-time position open. Hess would like there to be a higher starting wage for someone coming in with experience. The board advised her to come up with a schedule and bring to the next meeting.

The following warrant was approved and signed:

General	\$ 2,550.00
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No further business, Wes Bainter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at the regular time and meeting place.