Now on this 10th day of July, 2019, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Joe Bainter presiding. Others present were Wes Bainter, Troy Dewey and County Clerk Heather Bracht. Guests were Rachel Farber, Agnes Winter and Doyle Kauk.

Joe Bainter called the meeting to order.

County Attorney Joe Pratt entered the meeting. Pratt confirmed with the board that Sheridan County is unable to withdraw from Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group (NWLEPG) until next year. Notice has to be given by April 1. Pratt advised the board that Norton and Graham County did get out of the program due to the cost. Both counties have someone they hire to inspect the systems. Pratt will talk with Jim Myers about Twin Creeks and the tax lid. After further research, Pratt feels that Twin Creeks does fall under the tax lid. Pratt talked with Greg Andress from the pipeline and they are having trouble justifying the $32,000 figure that Ross Carder came up with for labor/cleanup by the road department. Andress states that the construction company supplied diesel for the graders and helped out the road and bridge employees. Pratt will talk with Carder further.

Ross Carder, Road & Bridge Supervisor entered the meeting. Carder stated the recycling building is being torn down today by Pfeifer Recycling out of Stockton. They will tear it down and take it free of charge for reduced cost on the iron at the landfill, which they will cut and take as well. Altitude Recycling, the company the baler was purchased from, came and inspected the balers. The two older balers cannot be repaired. The new one can be repaired at a cost of approximately $7,000. Carder stated the vertical compactors, like the two older ones, are not efficient for what we do. Pfeifer Recycling will also takes these and haul them off. Carder presented a very rough drawing of his idea for the recycling center, changing the shape and function. This will be pursued more once the insurance is nailed down. Carder advised the board he had tried to get out of the UniFirst contract. This is the company where the mechanic and noxious weed employee got their uniforms. At this time, they are unable to get out of the contract. It will be reviewed at the first of the year. Carder said all the trucks are ready to haul sand. There was discussion on the condition of the roads. There are some roads that are not drivable in a car the ruts are so bad. Wes Bainter stated that having the farmers and road department employees working together is great. The farmers are a big resource and should be utilized. Carder stated the packers had been purchased and as soon as the mowing is caught up, they will start working on culverts. The board and Carder briefly talked about the noxious weed position. Carder has not heard back yet on the samples that were taken from the recycling building. These samples would tell us whether an accelerant was used to start the fire or not.

Joe Bainter made a motion to approve the July 3, 2019 minutes as presented. Dewey seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Bracht was advised by the board to get bids to replace the courthouse roof. A recycling board meeting will be called to discuss recycling and how to avoid the mess that had been occurring previously. Dewey made a motion to have Ron Bracht, Quality Plumbing, lined up to remove radiators on the 2nd floor of the courthouse once the windows and air/heat units are ready to be installed. Joe Bainter seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Quality Plumbing's estimate came in at $1,200.00. Bracht advised the board for Sheriff Carver that the daily rate for inmates is being increased from $35.00/day to $45.00/day.
Cyndie Aumiller and Kaylene Oelke representing the Sheridan County Library entered the meeting. Aumiller presented the library’s 2018 annual report which was full of information such as how many individuals visited the library, how many children attended the children’s programs, number of books checked out, etc. Aumiller discussed the expenditures for 2019 to date and income they receive. Aumiller went on to discuss the Northwest Kansas Library System and the benefits of that service. The county currently levies $19,000 for the library, in addition to the almost $70,000 for the Northwest Kansas Library System. Wes Bainter made a motion to increase the budget for 2020 to $20,000 for the library, seconded by Dewey. Carried 3-0. Aumiller stated current board members are herself, Kaylene Oelke, Melanie Rowlison, Kevin Lager, Miranda Scanlon, Roger Milton and Shannon Morgan.

At 10:25 a five minute break was taken on a motion by Joe Bainter and second by Dewey. Carried 3-0.

Tim Hansen, Program Director Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group (NWLEPG), Connie Albers, secretary and Dan Wells, KDHE District Environmental Administrator entered the meeting. Additional guests were Tony and Jade Meyer, Meyer Electric, Lance Shepard, Woofter Pump and Well, Dan Campbell, Campbell Concrete and Duane Fullbracht, Chairman of the NWLEPG board. Hansen wanted to meet with the board after there was discussion at the July 3 meeting about withdrawing from the organization due to changes being made in waiting period and permit fee. Hansen gave a history of the NWLEG and discussed what services they provide. Hansen stated they are funded strictly by fees, no support from the state since 2012. The bill the county receives are fees for services already rendered. Hansen passed around and discussed photos of wells properly and improperly capped as well as pictures of incorrect septic systems, raw sewage on the ground, etc. Hansen told the board that his main concern is about the ground water. Sheridan County is already in a zone where we have to cut back on irrigation. The water well permit that the NWLEPG board came up with is for the constituents, to be sure that things are taken care of correctly. The NWLEPG board feels the price of the permit fits the task. The 10 day waiting period has been waived down to 24 hours. Hansen said looking back, there are a lot of wells that need looked at. Looking forward, need to educate. The NWLEPG board is made up of 8 board members representing 12 counties. Hansen stated that moving forward, the largest oil company that does work in Sheridan County has stated that they will plug the well. Not an option to leave open for the landowner to potentially not plug correctly. Hansen stated if the oil company transfers the well to the landowner, the landowner can develop it or he can put it in inactive status. Either way it has to be protected and sealed. Wes Bainter asked Meyer and Campbell how they felt and both stated they would hate to see the county opt out and they are in full support of the county remaining in NWLEPG. Hansen stated that it is up to the constituents to report problems. If they see something, it can be anonymously reported to the NWLEPG office and it will be checked. Hansen advised the board that NWLEPG board has tabled the initial recommendation of the increase in fee and the waiting period pending further discussion. Lance Shepard stated that he became involved because the NWLEPG board had met early in the month of June but he was not notified until one day prior to the new rules going in to effect. Joe Bainter stated that if there is a problem, go direct to the NWLEPG board.

The first six month billing for NWLEPG was presented in the amount of $1,285. Joe Bainter made a motion to approve paying this bill, seconded by Dewey. Carried 3-0.
Bracht reminded the board that the meeting on July 17, 2019 will be moved from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

No further business, Dewey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wes Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the commissioner’s room on the main floor in the courthouse.