Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(Neb.)-Sheridan County Commissioner Happenings

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/31/2013 10:56 AM

(SHERIDAN COUNTY)-Present at the Sheridan County commissioner meeting this week were chair Dan Kling, commissioners Jack Andersen and James Krotz, and county clerk Sindy Coburn.

County assessor Trudy Winter presented to the Board the 2013 "Statements of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption" from the various non-profit organizations that own property within the county.

Sarah Dorshorst of rural Hay Springs was appointed to the County Extension Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of George Darr.

Harold Hardin appeared before the board to request the establishment of a nominal rent payment by the county for the storage of road materials at the site of the old Rushville Red-Mix plant. The commissioners encouraged road superintendent Tom Kuester to draw up an agreement with Hardin and suggested an annual payment of $250.

The commissioners voted to accept the bid, with trade-in, from DMI Equipment of Rapid City, S.D. for two Dragon/Ranco bottom-dump gravel trailers. The successful bid was for $65,400. (All such bids are available for public inspection at the office of the county clerk.)

Kuester presented his 2012 summary of projects with associated costs. One of the more interesting details in the report indicates an emerging cost concern regarding water. The road department used nearly four million gallons of water for road construction/repair in 2012. The Cities of Gordon, Rushville, and Hay Springs provided 995,000 gallons without charge as part of county/city cooperation programs, but the county had to purchase the remaining three million gallons from private individuals. Kuester informed the board that it is now nearly impossible to secure permission from the state to use water from area rivers and lakes, so the cost of water for roadwork is likely to continue to increase.

Weed department superintendent Kristi Paul presented her annual report to the board. Though the department continues to make good progress in the control of noxious weeds in the county, the ongoing drought and recent fires will give invasive weeds an advantage at least through the coming year. Paul says she is eager to assist landowners whose pastures were burned last year.

Paul also presented a draft resolution for the adoption of a "Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Plan." The

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draft plan is now under final legal review. The committee hopes to present the final draft of the plan to the commissioners and to the public on February 25th.

The commissioners conducted their quarterly inspection of the county jail with Sheriff Terry Robbins.

The commissioners also adopted a schedule of meetings for 2013 that calls for the board to meet on the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month (excepting holidays) and any other such times as called by the chair or the county clerk. The board's next meeting will be February 11th at 9:00 a.m. All meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome.

The minutes of this and all commissioner meetings are available to the public at the office of the county clerk. All meetings are held in compliance with Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

--Submitted by James Krotz

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