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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 Meeting Happenings



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/14/2013 10:30 AM

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

Road superintendent Tom Kuester presented the commissioners with updated road reclassification maps to be submitted to the State. After reviewing the changes, the commissioners authorized Kling to sign the maps for return to the State.

Kuester reported that the State is requiring an underwater inspection, by a professional diver, of the Mills Bridge across the Niobrara River. An exploratory dive by foreman Richard Cross revealed that the surging waters of the Niobrara are as much as two feet deep at the crossing.

Kuester reported that the nine surplus vehicles recently offered at auction sold for a total of \$20,949, a better than expected return for such old equipment.

Sheriff Terry Robbins, Rushville mayor Chris Heiser, deputy county attorney Jamian Simmons, and county attorney Dennis King met with the board to discuss the challenges posed to county law enforcement by recent events in Whiteclay. Though the commissioners said this long-standing problem seems intractable, the county is committed to providing the resources needed to support the sheriff and his deputies. The commissioners agreed to continue to seek long-term solutions to the problem.

The commissioners approved an agreement with VIP to continue making the optional vision care program available to county employees and renewed a contract with county budget consultant Pete Petersen. The contract will continue at \$1,800/yr. Petersen assists the commissioners in the preparation of the county budget and provides counsel throughout the year to help assure that the complex requirements of state law are met.

The commissioners approved a new five-year service contract with GeoComm to provide support services for the County's GeoLynx 911 system. The five-year cost is \$16,906. They also approved the Nebraska Department of Roads Federal Funds Purchase Program agreement and the updated Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) for Sheridan County as presented by Nan Gould of Region 23 Emergency Management.

At the request of county assessor Trudy Winter, the commissioners declared a very large wooden desk as surplus. Bids on the desk will be received by the clerk until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 10th.

The board discussed the amount set aside each month for the county Self-Funding Insurance Program (Health Insurance) and decided that no increase was needed. The Self-Funded Insurance Program enables the county to offer a high-deductible health plan at a lower premium cost and to reimburse employees for a portion of the deductible thereby saving money for the county and employees.

Meeting as the Board of Equalization (BOE), the commissioners approved several correction sheets presented by assessor Winter, including accelerating taxes on a mobile home owned by Jerry Halverson that is being moved from the county. They also removed from the tax rolls a building in Gordon owned by Halverson that was destroyed by fire removing a penalty assessed against Dan Otte for a late filing of his personal property schedule. A clerical error in the assessor's office rendered the penalty unenforceable. The board agreed to accelerate the taxes on a mobile home sold by Dennis Thompson as well as taxes for Jacquie's Coffee Shop in Gordon as the shop has been sold.

To view minutes from this and other previous commissioner meetings, visit www.sheridancountynebraska.com or stop by the office of the Sheridan County clerk. The board will meet next on Monday, May 20th at 9:00 a.m.

--Submitted by James Krotz

All meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held in compliance with Nebraska Open Meetings Law.