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(Neb.)-Sheridan County Commissioners Discuss Roadside Mowing, E-911 Contract

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/10/2013 10:31 AM

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

The commissioners met in executive session with attorneys from the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association to discuss pending litigation. No action was taken.

Road superintendent Tom Kuester recommended that the county increase the charge for roadside mowing from the present \$45 per half mile to \$60 per half mile. Rural landowners are required by law to mow or otherwise destroy the weeds that grow along the shoulder of the roads, once in July and again in September. The purpose of the mowing is to improve visibility (deer and other animals leaping out of the tall sunflowers pose a real hazard), to clear weeds off the road surface to facilitate grading, and to prevent the drifting of snow when winter comes. If a landowner chooses not to mow the roadside, the county road department does the mowing, and the landowner is charged. The commissioners approved the increase.

Kuester also informed the board of his intent to seek bids for a new gravel trailer sometime this fall.

Sheriff Terry Robbins met with the commissioners to discuss the cost of a service contract for E-911 computers and software. The cost of the service contract continues to rise, but everyone agreed that the county cannot afford to be without this coverage.

The board discussed the uncertainties posed by the Affordable Health Care Act and the challenge of structuring employee compensation in a way that will maximize benefits while controlling cost. It is not yet clear whether the Nebraska Association of County Officials will continue to offer Health Insurance for member counties in the years to come. This is a discussion that will no doubt occupy the board for the next several years.

To view minutes from this and previous commissioner meetings, visit the office of the Sheridan county clerk or online at sheridancountynebraska.com.

--Submitted by James Krotz

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