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(Neb.)-Sheridan County Commissioner Meeting Happenings



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/03/2012 10:53 AM

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

Acting as the Board of Equalization, the commissioners met with Melvin and Carol Bowen and county assessor Trudy Winter to discuss an error in a person property schedule filed by the Bowens in 2011. As the error appears to have been on the part of county staff, the commissioners asked the assessor to prepare a correction sheet for consideration on October 15th.

Kris Ferguson, Trish Loosvelt and Valerie Mann of the Cowboy Trail West Foundation appeared to request a letter to the Nebraska Game and Parks Department indicating that the board would consider accepting ownership of the trail if both sides could reach an agreement on what constituted an acceptable level of maintenance. The board agreed to draft such a letter for consideration at the October 15th meeting.

Sherry Rhoadarmer appeared before the board to request that accumulated vacation and sick leave be reported on the pay stubs of employees of the assessor's office. The commissioners explained that such reporting was the responsibility of each elected official, not of the county. Rhoadarmer also expressed concern regarding the fate of the handicap ramp at the south entry to the courthouse. The commissioners assured her that the ramp will remain in place and that some improvements are being considered.

Road superintendent Tom Kuester reported that the cost of road and bridge repairs attributable to the Wellnitz Fire is approximately \$120,000, much less than originally feared. The commissioners approved a resolution to amend the One-Year Road Plan to include a project to install a 48-inch tube on 430 Trail to replace a timber bridge, known as the Hunter bridge, that was destroyed by fire. Kuester said he hoped to accumulate a 200,000-cubic-yard stockpile of crushed gravel before winter weather ends crushing activities.

The board went into executive session to discuss the possible purchase of real estate. No decision was made.

Andersen led a brief discussion on the development of the county's Website. County extension agent Cindy Tusler joined the discussion by phone and will provide some templates prepared by an extension intern for consideration.

Krotz reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had found the county's application for funding of a community safe room within the proposed courts building ineligible. FEMA determined that the project did not meet the FEMA requirement to be "cost effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss or suffering." A possible appeal of the decision is under consideration.

The commissioners approved a resolution proposed by the National Association of Counties proclaiming October as Cyber Security Awareness Month. A copy of the entire resolution is posted online at www.sheridancountynebraska.com.

The commissioners will not meet on Monday, October 8th. Their next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 15th at 9:00 a.m. All meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome. For proceedings and complete minutes from past meetings in a searchable database, visit www.sheridancountynebraska.com.

--Submitted by James Krotz