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(Neb.)-Sheridan County Commissioner Meeting Happenings



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/21/2013 08:11 AM

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

On the recommendation of road superintendent Tom Kuester, the commissioners approved the Fracture Critical Bridge inspection agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Kuester also presented photographs of road damage caused by recent heavy rains in several areas of the county. Much of that damage has already been repaired, and most folks are so grateful for the rain that no one seems to be complaining about muddy roads.

The commissioners also met with the county planning board to hear a presentation from Chuck Karpf of the Panhandle Area Development District on an update of the county's comprehensive plan. Planning commission members George Darr, Dave Kayton and Marjean Terrell were joined by county attorney Dennis King, Sheriff Terry Robbins, and zoning administrator Gerald Larson. Karpf presented a sobering, statistical picture of the county as an area of declining population and declining income, farms of increasing size and declining numbers, and few employment possibilities for young people. The commissioners will meet again in July to hear the next installment of Karpf's report.

The commissioners approved the renewal of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance Plan for county employees for 2012-2013. The cost to the county for the \$1,500 deductible plan will increase by 12% this year.

County animal damage control officer Randy BenBen presented the new contract proposal from the United States Department of Agriculture for his services to the county. The cost to the county will increase by 2% to \$24,995 for 2012-13. The contract was approved.

Members were appointed to the Black Tail Prairie Dog Advisory Board as follows: Jean Parker to a three-year term, Jerry Meyring and Bruce Gordon to two-year terms, and Wayne Dreyer and Rick Schneider to one-year terms.

The commissioners also approved the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the update of their regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The city of Alliance is joining the original group of partner cities, counties and other entities in this update so the cost to Sheridan County will be proportionately reduced to \$960 for the \$75,000 project.

The commissioners approved a request from Peter and Amanda Hill and Kevin and Donna Jech to subdivide 7.5 acres of rural property to enable a property exchange between them.

The next commissioners meeting will be held on Monday, June 10th at 9:00 a.m. For minutes of this and other previous commissioner meetings, visit www.sheridancountynebraska.com or the office of the Sheridan County clerk.

--Submitted by James Krotz

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