

(Neb.)-Sheridan County Commissioners Seek Public Defender, Transportation Agreements

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/09/2013 09:42 AM

(SHERIDAN COUNTY)-Present at the Sheridan County commissioner's meeting on Monday morning were commissioners Jack Andersen and James Krotz and County clerk Sindy Coburn. Commissioner Dan Kling was delayed by car trouble, but arrived in time for the afternoon session.

Brek Brixus of the Northwest Community Action Partnership (NCAP) presented for signature a grant agreement for the Sheridan County Transportation Project. The county will receive \$17,086 in federal funds and \$8,543 in state funds for the project, which is administered by NCAP. Brixus informed the commissioners that one of the two county vans has been declared obsolete. Federal and state funds could cover 80 percent of the replacement cost if the county and other local entities can supply a 20 percent match. The commissioners asked Brixus to explore the details of a replacement proposal.

Road superintendent Tom Kuester, Deputy county attorney Jamian Simmons, and resident Mike Feddersen met with the commissioners to discuss a dispute regarding access on a section line.

Simmons recommended that the county explore the possibility of a contract for public defender services with the public defender from Dawes County. In cases where several offenders are brought before the court for the same incident, Sheridan County's public defender cannot represent more than one. Without a contract for services, the county might have to pay a high hourly rate to provide the required representation. The board asked Simmons to negotiate such a contract.

Simmons introduced new attorney Aaron Conn to the board. Conn is working with the law firm Smith, King and Simmons and will be based in the firm's Rushville office. He will also be providing some legal services to the county.

The commissioners, Simmons and Conn met in a closed session to discuss a matter of pending litigation. No action was taken.

A representative from the chair lift company made a minor modification to the courthouse lift, and it now appears to be working properly. The commissioners requested the clerk prepare a claim for final payment on the project for approval at their meeting on July 15th.

The commissioners approved the re-appointment of Virgil Hagel as member and chair of the Veteran's Service Office Board.

At 11:00 a.m., the commissioners re-convened as the Board of Equalization to continue hearing property valuation protests.

To view minutes from this and previous meetings, visit the office of the county clerk or online at

sheridancountynebraska.com.

The Board of Commissioners will meet next on Monday, July 15th, at 9:00 a.m. All meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome.

--Submitted by James Krotz

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