

February 13, 2023

The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, February 13, 2023. Chairman Jim Marshall and Tom Claussen were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting were approved as written on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Farm Bureau invited the commissioners to coffee at the Zion Lutheran Church February 25th at 9:00am. Senator Elaine Bowers and Representative Susan Concannon will be present.

Marty Hernandez, Public Works Director, met with the commissioners to discuss the recycling center expenses. Tom Claussen explained that the recycling center offsets materials that would be taken to the county landfill, that is why the expenses are paid out of the solid waste budget. Some of the expenses can get pretty high when things break. The recycling center is a county owned building. Road & Bridge still has not received the new grader, there is an issue with the mount for the shoulder machine. All of the cranes are up in the new shop and they have rubber pads to put down on the concrete for machinery with tracks. The commissioners then discussed some roads in the county that need attention.

Noxious Weed Director Jason Vetter met with the commissioners. Vetter has straightened and put up new 911 signs. His department purchases the blank signs and then they are cut out by Bell Memorial. It costs \$206 to completely replace a sign and post and approximately 30 signs in the last year have been replaced. If you know of a sign that is missing, stolen, or if you find a sign call the Noxious Weed Department to report or return.

Vetter next spoke about Guardrails and Phragmites. His department had many complaints about the weeds on the causeway last year. They sprayed twice but the lack of moisture rendered the chemical ineffective. He did weed eat and mow some but the steepness of the road is too much. Also, non-native phragmites are very invasive and taking over in many waterway areas in Mitchell County. Looking at both of these problems Vetter is looking into getting a spray boom that is specifically for guard rails that can be run entirely from the cab. The bid is \$10,104. The commissioners said the boom is a needed piece of equipment but wanted him to check to see if it can be purchased locally through Simpson Farm Enterprises. Vetter has talked to a gentleman with a drone license that is going to come spray in Mitchell County as an experiment. Drones are legalized for use in weed control.

Vetter mentioned that he had to service his spray truck because the DEF was regulating all the time. While in the shop they found a problem with the turbo. They have ordered a new part and if that works it will be \$1,000-\$1,200. If it doesn't then they will have to order a new turbo for \$3,000. The truck only has 40,000 miles and is a 2016.

Jim Marshall said the NIMs training in Lincoln lasted 3 hours and was about incident command.

Tom Claussen moved to appoint David Porter to the County Planning Commission Board, his title would be treasurer. The motion was seconded by Jim Marshall and carried by unanimous vote. The commissioner meeting agendas will be mailed to Nancy Rush.

The next commission meeting will be on Tuesday February 21, 2003 because of Monday being a federal holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am on motion by Tom Claussen and seconded by Jim Marshall. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

_____ Jim Marshall, Chairman

_____ ATTEST: Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk