

April 15, 2025

Seward County Board of Commissioners

State of Nebraska)
County of Seward) ss.

A regular meeting of the Seward County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session at 9:00 a.m. on April 15, 2025 in the Commissioner's room at the Seward County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Courthouse bulletin board, on the Commissioner's Room door, on the Seward County website: sewardcountyne.gov and published in the Seward County Independent and the Milford Times. The agenda for all meetings is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The agenda is held open until one business day prior to the meeting for appearance before the Board. The Board of Commissioners has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

The Seward County Board of Commissioners convened on April 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Darrell Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding,
Scott Pekarek
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer

The Chairperson noted that the public meeting information is posted as required by law and available for public distribution if requested.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- a. Minutes of April 8, 2025
- b. Utility Permit for Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, running fiber optic conduit on the south side of the road from 3276 Old Mill Road west to 3293 Old Mill Road in Section 11 Township 11 North, Range 2 East of the 6th P.M.
- c. Utility Permit for R&J Bohaty running electrical under Rock Creek Road for a pivot in the NE ¼ of Section 22 Township 12 North, Range 1 East of the 6th P.M.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Pekarek, Ahmic Motion Carried

Gary Petersen, Emergency Manager, updated the Commissioners on activities of his office.

Trevor Trebilcock, Asst Highway Supt., presented the office's recommendation for awarding a bid for Project C-80 (677) Bridge Deck Replacement on Bridge # 8011235 on Branched Oak Road East of 266th Road.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to award the bid to JJK Construction in the amount of \$137,806.74 for Project C-80 (677) Bridge Deck Replacement on Bridge # 8011235 on Branched Oak Road East of 266th Road.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Hain reported she met with a member of the jail staff about inmate programs, reached out to various residents who use 420th road in regard to a grant, received a call from Congressman Flood's Office about a grant, met with Commissioner Ahmic on completing an employee evaluation, attended the GOP Speaker event and met with the HR Director about a program the County utilizes for employee resources.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Apache and Region V Board meeting, completed evaluations for three employees and will attend the Safety Committee, Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA) and the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) meeting next week.

Trebilcock was in attendance when the Board discussed vacating various county roads. Commissioner Ahmic led discussion about a person that contacted her about how he uses a road that is not maintained but also is not vacated. She also mentioned other roads that are not maintained and barely used but are not vacated. Some of these roads are vacated but most are classified as minimum maintenance. Surveying the roads before they are vacated would be warranted. They also talked about what to do with bridges that are on a road that may be vacated.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:43 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:53 a.m.

Commissioner Reports (Cont.):

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with Tom Nielsen of Soarin' Group about computers in the county that need to be updated/replaced due to support for Windows 10 ending in October 2025, had a meeting with a Dept. Head, prepared evaluations with Commissioner Hain, distributed a Community Safety Action Plan that was made for a grant and met with Commissioner Pekarek about reviewing various matters.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Extension Board meeting and will have a Visitors Committee meeting and a Blue Valley Community Action meeting later this week. He stated there is an Arbor Day event coming soon. He also stated he checked the road near the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Pekarek reported he attended a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) meeting and met with Commissioner Ahmic and checked abandoned cemeteries.

Matt Wullenwaber and Hannah Pares of Point C (formerly Mid-American Benefits) were present to give information on the renewal of the health insurance for Seward County. They gave a presentation about the current cost and use of the health insurance program and the future premiums of the plan.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to accept the group insurance funding analysis as presented by Point C and accept a bid from Pan American with a 1 % increase and authorize the Chair to sign disclosure agreement.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Pekarek, Hain, Ahmic Motion Carried

The Commissioners discussed a Dust Control Program that Seward County may start. Commissioner Ahmic led discussion that a program in Kansas has a program that Seward County modeled their suggested program under. Costs for applying the dust control product would be entirely funded by the person requesting the service and not Seward County. Application of a product may last up to 6 months of dust control, so there will be only a spring and fall application period. A test site will be available for those to see the product.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Hain to approve a dust control program for Seward County with an insurance liability statement on the application.

Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki to authorize the Chair to sign an amended letter of support for NextLink for the Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Project for rural broadband.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Board sign the amended letter of support for NextLink for the Nebraska BEAD Project for rural broadband.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to approve the Suicide Prevention Coalition request to display green lights in the Courthouse windows in May for Mental Health Awareness Month.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

During the Legislative Update item on the agenda, Commissioner Ahmic reported information about the current sessions they are having.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on April 22, 2025 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of April 8, 2025
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

8:35 a.m. Public Hearing – Tax Exemption for:

- a. Sunrise County Manor
- b. Seward County Historical Society
- c. Mercy City Church

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on April 22, 2025 follows:

9:00 a.m.

5. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
6. Pledge of Allegiance
7. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of April 14, 2025
8. Discuss/Action - Claims for the period through April 11, 2025

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

1. Discuss/Action - Public/Organizations/Officials
2. Commissioner Reports
3. Discuss/Action – Nebraska Dept. of Transportation 5311 Agreement for Public Transit
4. YouTurn Health Estimate for Service to Seward County and determine if Seward County should Proceed with Further Discussions
5. Discuss/Action - Legislative Update
6. Discuss/Action – Executive Session – Personnel
7. Discuss/Action – Agenda for April 29, 2025

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 11:24 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Pekarek, Ahmic Motion Carried

State of Nebraska)
County of Seward) ss.

I, Sherry Schweitzer, the undersigned County Clerk of Seward County, Nebraska do hereby certify the foregoing minutes are true and are part of the official records of this office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 22nd day of April 2025.

County Clerk

Chairperson