

# April 19, 2022

## 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 19, 2022 in the Commissioner's room at the Seward County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and on the Commissioner's Room door. 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 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki

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 Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Ahmic, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Culver      Motion Carried

Marilyn Hladky, Assessor, updated the Commissioners on information concerning a property that is no longer exempt.

Terry Wicht, Highway Supt., updated the Commissioners on activities of his department.

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic reported she and Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk, had a Zoom session with Mark Lutz, CPA regarding reporting for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She attended a Quality Growth meeting through the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership and attended the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting the previous night. She suggested another member of the Board go to a job fair at Centennial High School.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he attended the Ag Society meeting and will be attending the Upper Big Blue NRD meeting this week. He also fielded questions about road issues and asked about the new lighting in the courthouse.

Commissioner Culver reported he checked roads, attended the Planning & Zoning meeting and dealt with department heads and various emails.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended an Extension Board meeting and will be going to a Visitors Committee meeting this next week. He reported he received thanks from some emergency responders for their money received via ARPA funds.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Beaver Crossing Village Board meeting, attended a Broadband Task Force meeting, met with Greg Butcher about a County/City Road project, and received a call from the Nebraska Corn Board about bridges. He also reported he met with Matt Starkey about General Assistance updates and will attend the Seward City Council meeting tonight.

Matt Wullenwaber of Mid-American Benefits Inc. was present to give information on the health insurance renewal for the coming year. He presented information from the past year's experience and gave options for the 2022-2023 year.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Vrbka to authorize the Chairman to sign the Employer Disclosure Statement.

Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Vrbka, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Culver          Motion Carried

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve American National for the Seward County Health Insurance plan effective 6/1/2022 with a 3% increase.

Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Vrbka, Schmieding, Culver          Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to accept the Zoning Dept. Fee Report for March 2022 in the amount of \$2,000.

Zabrocki withdrew his motion and Ahmic withdrew her second due to questions in the report.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:28 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:30 a.m.

Tammy Sladek, a member of the Cordova Village Council, was present to give information about a project they had completed in which the County ARPA funds were used. Sladek said the company completing the project ran into problems with sewer lines and the total cost of the project was more than anticipated. She stated the Village of Cordova appreciated the help with the cost and would graciously ask the Board to help pay for the additional costs.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Vrbka to approve the additional cost of \$5,882.75 for the Village of Cordova Project using ARPA funds.

Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Vrbka, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver          Motion Carried

Sladek stated that on behalf of the Village of Cordova, the sharing of costs is really appreciated.

Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, spoke about the Interim Grievance Board that may need to be appointed if a grievance is received before the new policy is implemented. Commissioner Ahmic will work with Human Resources to assemble the new Board.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:43 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:45 a.m.

Eric Hofer, Building and Grounds Supt., reported that he received quotes for the new temperature controls for the Courthouse upgrade. The quotes indicated that, due to the cost, Hofer will need to advertise for sealed bids.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Building and Grounds Supt. to advertise for bids for new temperature controls upgrade for the Courthouse HVAC System.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Vrbka, Ahmic, Culver          Motion Carried

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion on the ARPA item on the agenda. She stated she received an *example* application for ARPA funds for meters for the Village of Staplehurst. She stated a project for installing individual meters normally would not qualify for ARPA funds. She contacted the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Supervisor and learned that the Village of Staplehurst wants to get meters in order to collect data for water and sewer conditions/problems and in turn, use the data to apply for grants/funding. This reason would enable the project to be funded with ARPA funds. The Department also gave information about the Village of Utica and their lack of meters. Both are eligible to be funded with ARPA money. No other Village has

contacted Board members. Zabrocki stated the Broadband Task Force has asked for funding for various costs.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:57 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 11:00 a.m.

Carina Sanchez, HR Director, presented information about the request from the County Attorney's Office wanting to declare the Legal Secretary II position as a "Difficult to Fill" position. She stated she started advertising as soon as they knew of the opening and have received only two applications and the applicants didn't meet the minimum requirements. It has been advertised for just over 30 days with no applicants. Casey Tieman of the County Attorney's office gave information about the legal experience required for this position. Armstead also gave information on the need. Zabrocki stated he feels it should be dealt with over with the budget process. Schmieding agreed with Zabrocki.

Moved by Zabrocki to disapprove the "Difficult to Fill" request for the Legal Secretary II position.

Zabrocki withdrew his motion.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to declare the Legal Secretary II as a "Difficult to Fill" Position as stated in the employee policy.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Vrbka, Schmieding, Culver          Motion Carried

Sanchez gave wage information for a Legal Secretary II position from a survey she conducted of four counties.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to not change the salary for the Legal Secretary II position due to it needing to be addressed with the new budget.  
Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Vrbka, Culver          Motion Carried

Tieman was present to discuss a State Grant Special Conditions Award.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the State Grant Special Conditions Award # 223-CB-0528.  
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Vrbka, Schmieding, Culver          Motion Carried

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on April 26, 2022 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 12, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on April 26, 2022 are as follows:**

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of April 19, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Claims through the period of April 15, 2022

**Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows**

5. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Request to limit items for the May 10, 2022 meeting
8. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
9. Discuss/Action – Agenda for May 3, 2022

9:15 a.m.      Discuss/Action – Authorize the Chairman to sign the Seward County

- Extension Office Interlocal Agreement
- 9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Jonatan Jank/Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) – Beck’s Seed Hybrids to expand their business in Seward County and request road upgrades
- 10:00 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize the Chairman to sign an Interlocal Agreement With the City of Seward for the paving of East Seward Road

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 11:29 a.m.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Vrbka, Ahmic, Culver      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 April 26, 2022.

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County Clerk

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Chairperson