

# April 30, 2024

## 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 30, 2024 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 30, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic

Members: Raegan Hain, John Culver, 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 Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- a. the minutes of April 23, 2024
- b. Sheriff Fee and Mileage Reports for March 2024 in the amount of \$1,821.00 and \$1,451.00 respectively.

Schmieding stated he was not present at said meeting.

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

Jon Regnier, Highway Supt., updated the Commissioners on activities of his office.

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Hain reported she has been working on informing individuals to let them know about the Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) meeting, met with the Detention Center Director and Assistant Director about a program for substance abuse at the Detention Center, attended the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) seminar, received information about a grant from Congressman Flood's office, worked with the Well Being Initiative project, spent time going through suggestions from county employees.

Commissioner Culver worked with Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) work, talked with the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) representative concerning a road project and received calls about roads from the storms this weekend.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she will complete the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) report today, worked on an employee appreciation event, worked with a Public Service Commissioner on a broadband issue, met with the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Broadband Group, met with the Historical Society representative about a potential funding request, participated in a Zoning Administrator interview, and worked in the Zoning Office.

Commissioner Schmieding thanked everybody who helped out this past week with his duties due to illness. Some of his comments are from activities of two weeks ago. He stated he received comments about a road project, went to an Extension Board meeting and has a Region V meeting and an Apace meeting coming soon.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Arbor Day event, attended the Agrifac ribbon cutting, went to a SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SEND) meeting, a 4<sup>th</sup> of July meeting, Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) seminar, participated in the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Zoom call, attended a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) meeting, met with the County Treasurer about the mold problem in the Treasurer's Office basement vault, participated in the Zoning Administrator's interview, met with the Milford Chief of Police about the 911 budget and met with the E911 Director about developing her budget.

The Commissioners considered support for the Well Being Initiative which offers support groups for a variety of issues. Commissioner Hain led discussion that Seward has been picked to be a site for a satellite office/meeting area. They would need a room big enough for 10-15 people 1-2 days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was suggested the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor library in the courthouse could be used. Currently Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) uses the room for meetings. Signage was mentioned for the room so that the public knows what organization is meeting in the room.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to allow support groups held within the Seward County Courthouse by the "Well Being Initiative" in a designated space being in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor library.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain that on May 14, 2024, Primary Election Day, there will be a Board of Equalization meeting and limit the agenda for the Board of Commissioners meeting to allow the Election Commissioner time working with the election.

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

The Board discussed a recommendation for office budget increases.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki that the Board hold office budget increases at 0% unless a necessary item is needed.

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

The Board talked about an employee appreciation/recognition event. The committee has been working on an event in which lunch will be prepared on site for each building for the employees as a thank you for their service to Seward County.

The Board discussed sending a letter of support for the Four Corners Health Department. Four Corners has received a grant for rehabilitating their building, but because of added costs they are also applying for funding via the Community Projects Fund (CPF) grants.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to sign a letter of support for a grant for the Four Corners Health Department.

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

During discussion of the Grant Funds sought by Seward County item on the agenda, Commissioner Hain reported she made some changes for a grant after being made aware of some needed changes. She also stated that she has been tracking information about the costs incurred by Mainelli Wagner Engineers for applying for Bridge Investment Project (BIP) grants. They have helped with the information needed for the grant but have charged Seward County an amount she felt was excessive. Commissioner Ahmic also stated she felt that the amount invoiced was very costly. Mainelli Wagner will be contacted about the costs. The Commissioners also discussed other information about various grants.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:56 a.m.  
The Commissioners reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

Wendy Elston, County Attorney, along with Casey Tiemann, Office Manager, were present to talk about an Interlocal with the City of Milford in regard to prosecuting their local ordinances. According to the interlocal, the funds were to be put in the County Attorney's Grant Fund. The State Auditor has advised the County Treasurer that the grant fund was not the appropriate fund for it. Jake Zlatkovsky, County Treasurer, said he was told that the General Fund would be appropriate since the expenses came from the General Fund. There was discussion where the funds should be placed for future payments.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the request from the County Attorney's Office to move the funds from their Interlocal with the City of Milford to the County Attorney's Sinking Fund.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic

Voting No: Culver

Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 10:13 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Joan Shurtliff representing the Seward County Genealogical Society was present to talk about the school census records. She stated the group received a \$1,000 grant from the Seward Legacy Fund and used the money to put some of the census records in sleeves. She stated the Genealogical Society is presently renting a house in the City of Seward. She also stated there is a house currently for sale that is on the State Historical Register and that would be a great place for the Genealogical Society. She was directed to talk to the realtor selling the house or to Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) on the issue.

Regnier and Trever Trebilcock, Asst Highway Supt., were present to discuss several road dept. items.

Regnier asked to be authorized to go out for bids for culverts.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Highway Supt. go out for bids for culverts with the opening to be on May 21, 2024.

Affirmative Vote: Culver, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Hain, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Regnier requested to purchase a program with Schneider and ArcGIS for culverts, signs, etc.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the purchase of a program from Schneider/ArcGIS that shows road sign locations in the amount of \$770 and for culvert location for \$770 for a total cost of \$1,540.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Culver, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

There was also a request to surplus old equipment of the Road Dept.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to authorize the Road Dept. to surplus old equipment through Purple Wave with funds to go in the Special Road Fund.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Culver, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

The job descriptions for the Weed Supt. and the Road Dept. Utility Position were discussed. After the part time Weed Supt. retired, there was discussion about the position being in the Road Dept. The Weed Supt. position previously was not a full-time position and it was suggested that the position in the Road Dept. be part time Road Dept. employee and part time Weed Supt. Questions about the new position were discussed so that all involved are on the same page. Roxanne Knutson, Human Resource Director, was present and said both jobs can be put into one job description. When that is accomplished, it will be brought back before the Board of Commissioners.

Patrick Kreifels of Region V Systems was present to give information about their annual request. He gave information about the services they give to the various counties in the

Region V area. Due to less funding from the State of Nebraska, they are asking for additional funding over the statutory requirement.

Matt Kasik, Executive Officer for Apace (formerly Region V Services), was present to give information about their annual request. He gave information about the services they give to the various counties in the Apace area. They are asking for \$0 funding this year due to their funding model change. Kasik said they receive Medicaid funds and the funding from the counties in the Apace area was a small amount of their budget.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on May 7, 2024 are as follows:**

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
4. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of April 30, 2024
5. Discuss/Action - Claims for the period through April 26, 2024

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

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – gWorks contracts for Seward County Offices
8. Discuss/Action – Grant Funds being Sought by Seward County
9. Discuss/Action – Executive Session- Personnel
10. Discuss/Action – Agenda for May 14, 2024

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Grant for Public Transit for Special Project

Discuss/Action – Cameras in Public Transit Vehicles

Discuss/Action – Update on Information About Public Transit Providing Services of Transporting Students to Seward Public School

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 12:04 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Culver, Schmieding, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson