

# August 9, 2022

## Seward County Board of Equalization

State of Nebraska)  
County of Seward) ss.

A regular meeting of the Seward County Board of Equalization was convened in open and public session at 8:30 a.m. on August 9, 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 Equalization has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

The Seward County Board of Equalization convened on August 9, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver  
Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Darrell Zabrocki  
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer  
County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky  
Absent: Member: Ken Schmieding

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 Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of July 26, 2022.

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

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to approve Tax List Corrections 364-18R, 365-19R, 366-20R, 367-19R & 368-22R.

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

Hladky then updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

### **Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on August 23, 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 August 9, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 8:48 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Zabrocki, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2022.

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County Clerk

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Chairperson

# August 9, 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 August 9, 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 August 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver  
Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Darrell Zabrocki  
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer  
Absent: Member: Ken Schmieding

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 August 2, 2022.  
Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Culver Motion Carried

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with representatives of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad about two railroad crossings.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he met with the Detention Center Director and the Sheriff on budget issues and helped at the county fair.

Commissioner Culver reported he received a road complaint about a road project and talked with several Dept. heads.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he went to the Seward City Council meeting, to Beatrice with the Executive Director of the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), Jonathan Jank, to a meeting about Broadband, attended a NIRMA round table event, worked at the county fair, and attended the Seward Planning Commission.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the Clerk of the District Court Report for July 2022 in the amount of \$3,330.36  
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Vrbka, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to accept the County Clerk Fee Report for July 2022 in the amount of \$49,916.30.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Vrbka, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Vrbka to adopt Resolution No. 3701 to authorize the Chairman to sign the Seward County Annual Certification of Program Compliance for the Road Dept.

RESOLUTION  
SIGNING OF THE  
COUNTY ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE  
2022

Resolution No. 3701

**Whereas:** State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2115, 39-2120, 39-2121, and 39-2510(2), requires an annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards; and

**Whereas:** State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each county shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include the resolution of the governing body of the county authorizing the signing of the certification.

**Be it resolved** that the County Board Chairperson of Seward County is hereby authorized to sign the County Annual certification of Program Compliance.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022 at Seward Nebraska.

Robert Vrbka, Misty Ahmic, Darrell J, Zabrocki,  
John K. Culver, Chair of the Board  
Absent: Schmieding  
Attest: Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk

County Board Member Misty Ahmic  
Moved the adoption of said resolution  
Member Bob Vrbka Seconded the Motion  
Roll Call: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 1 Absent  
Resolution was adopted, signed and billed as adopted

Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Vrbka, Zabrocki, Culver

Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 9:12 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 9:15 a.m.

Marci Fehlhafer and Sonia Almodovar of CASA were present to give information about their organization and their request for funding for the next fiscal year. Their office was destroyed by the June storm and they asked if there was a room they could use until their office is repaired.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to open the bids at 9:30 a.m. for a utility box for the Road Dept.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Culver

Motion Carried

One bid was received from Aspen Equipment. Awarding of the bid will be on next week's agenda.

Jonathan Jank and Jacob Jennings of SCCDP were present to give information about a feasibility study regarding Broadband access in Seward County. He has requested approval to promote a Request for Information for a public Broadband Response. Norris Public Power has been involved in the process. Discussion about the funding of a county-wide access was held.

Moved by Ahmic and Zabrocki to approve for Seward County Chamber & Development and Partnership to promote a Request for Information (RFI) for public broadband response.

Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Vrbka, Culver

Motion Carried

Highway Supt. Terry Wicht and Jank also talked to the Commissioners about a letter of support in regard to an Economic Opportunity Program Application for a Beck Hybrids Expansion near Goehner, NE. Seward County will be cost-sharing a project to extend hard surfacing from the Interstate Exit at Goehner to the Beck Hybrid location. It is estimated it will be 400 feet in length.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Support and Economic Opportunity Program Application in regard to Beck Hybrids Expansion near Goehner, NE.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Culver

Motion Carried

Matt Starkey, Veterans Service Officer and Public Transit Director, was present to discuss a NIRMA offer for a 2016 Dodge Caravan that was damaged by the June hailstorm. He received an offer from NIRMA for \$12,162.50.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the offer from Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) in the amount of \$12,162.50 with the funds to be placed in the Public Transit Sinking Fund.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Culver

Motion Carried

Starkey said he will pursue the state bids for a new van that will be used by the Public Transit Dept. and for County officials. He will come back with options for a new van at a future date.

Commissioner Ahmic stated she has started the process for applying for a grant. She will get more information through this coming week and next week will be able to show more information to the other board members.

The Commissioners discussed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Village of Goehner reached out to Commissioner Ahmic and has a water project in mind for which they would request county ARPA funds. Ahmic suggested they start with the help of Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) in getting their project and estimates of costs started.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:12 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:15 a.m.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to go into Executive Session at 10:22 a.m. to discuss Litigation.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Culver

Motion Carried

The Chairman reiterated that Executive Session was for Litigation.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to go out of Executive Session at 10:44 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Vrbka, Ahmic, Culver

Motion Carried

Chairman Culver stated litigation was discussed and no decision was made.

Carina Sanchez, HR Director, requested the Board approve Temporary Part Time Equipment Operator positions for the Road Dept. She stated that there is a retired employee and a member of the public that would like to help out since the County has vacancies in the Road Dept. They would be paid the starting wage of a motor grader.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to approve a Temporary Part-Time Equipment Operator position for the Road Dept. with the wage equal to the starting wage of a motor grader.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Culver

Motion Carried

Sheriff Vance was present to discuss the Sheriff and Jail Budget. He read a statement in which he is not happy with what the Commissioners have decided for his budget. He stated he has a sergeant vacancy and the starting wage is too close to a deputy wage. The Commissioners will take another look at their original budget request.

The Commissioners then heard from County Attorney, Wendy Elston about the wages for her office. Casey Tieman, Office Manager, was also present. Elston gave more information about the classification of her staff.

The Commissioners discussed budgets. They also discussed the Miscellaneous entities in Seward County and what they requested for a tax request.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on August 16, 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 August 9, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Claims through the period of August 5, 2022

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

5. Discuss/Action – Public/Officials/Board
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
8. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
9. Discuss/Action – Additional 1% of Restricted Funds for the 2022-2023 Budget
10. Discuss/Action – Budget Discussion
11. Discuss/Action – Agenda for August 23, 2022

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Award Utility bid award

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.

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County Clerk

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Chairman