

December 3, 2019

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 8:30 a.m. on December 3, 2019 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 December 3, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver
Members: Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Becky Paulsen
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer
Absent: Member: Mike Mundhenke

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.

Those officials giving updates on their office activities were: Ann Dobesh, Maria Hatfield, Mike Janssen & Sherry Schweitzer.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership, updated the Commissioners on his organization's activities. He also introduced Leanne Gamet as a new member of his staff.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to approve the minutes of November 26, 2019.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Schmieding, Paulsen, Culver Motion Carried

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Vrbka reported he met with a prospective Highway Supt. along with Commissioner Culver and extended a contract for employment.

Commissioner Culver reported that he was involved with the hiring of the Highway Supt., met with a constituent, and checked roads.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended a Visitors Committee meeting and received a few calls from constituents. He will meet with SENDD this coming week.

Commissioner Paulsen attended a BRIDGES meeting and attended the festivities around the courthouse this past weekend.

The Commissioners recessed at 8:48 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:00 a.m.

Tom Nielsen of Soarin' was present to give an IT report for Seward County.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:20 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:30 a.m.

Moved by Paulsen and seconded by Vrbka to open the hearing at 9:30 a.m. for establishing a uniform policy for awarding plaques, Certificates of Achievement and any other item of value for Seward County Employees.

Affirmative Vote: Paulsen, Vrbka, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

Brea Ehmen, HR Director, stated that the old policy did not address events such as a wellness challenge, employee of the quarter, etc. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, said her office was not able to look through the new policy as drafted and will give advice on some of the issues discussed.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Paulsen to close the public hearing at 9:39 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Paulsen, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

The resolution involving the policy will be acted on at a future meeting.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:40 a.m.
The Commissioners re-convened at 9:45 a.m.

Commissioner Paulsen removed herself from the Board at 9:45 a.m.

Greg and Terri Whisler, Managers of the Seward Airport, were present to discuss the zoning and obstructions of the airport in regard to communication towers. He stated that it is their responsibility to make sure the airspace of their runway is not inhibited by any hazard that would be dangerous for navigation. He said that a 125-foot tower was constructed in the road right-of-way and within one mile of the Seward Airport. He said the tower is directly east of the center of the runway and if it were moved ½ mile either east or west, he would have no problem with it.

Becky Paulsen, Seward County Weed/Zoning, was present to say the original zoning request was for an 87-foot high tower. Windstream, the owner of the tower, made changes to the tower plan as presented to her and made the tower 125 feet high. Paulsen said the change is not within the zoning regulations without a Zoning Permit. Paulsen said Windstream is stating that the tower is a utility pole within a utility right-of-way. She is working with various contractors who are working on constructing the towers.

Paulsen re-joined the Board at 10:15 a.m.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on December 10, 2019 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of November 26, 2019
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on December 10, 2019 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of December 3, 2019

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

4. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
5. Commissioners Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Agenda for December 17, 2019

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 10:16 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Schmieding, Paulsen, 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 10th day of December 2019.

County Clerk

Chairperson

