

# December 14, 2021

## 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 December 14, 2021 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 December 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

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

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 Vrbka to approve the minutes of November 23, 2021.

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

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to approve Tax List Correction 350-20R.

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

Hladky then updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

### **Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on December 28, 2021 are as follows:**

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of December 14, 2021
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 8:38 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Schmieding, 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

# December 14, 2021

## 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 December 14, 2021 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 14, 2021 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 Ahmic and seconded by Vrbka to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021.  
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Vrbka, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk, and Sheriff Mike Vance updated the Commissioners about activities in their offices.

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Conference, talked to the Highway Supt. about a grant, received a call from the Cordova Village Clerk in regard to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) application, worked on (ARPA) information, and helped with the new equipment in the Commissioners room.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he attended the NACO conference and received various questions from constituents.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended the NACO Conference, dealt with Blue Valley Community Action mandates, will attend a 911 meeting this evening and worked on ARPA items.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the NACO meeting and talked to Southeast Nebraska Development District representatives.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the NACO conference, was helping at the 911 Center and will attend a 911 meeting tonight.

Ann Dobesh, Extension Educator, presented two applications from individuals who wish to volunteer to be on the Extension Board.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Vrbka to appoint Peggy Oborny for the At-Large position on the Extension Board and Jenn Nantkes for District 3 on Extension Board.  
Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Vrbka, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to accept the Sheriff Fee and Mileage Report for September 2021 in the amount of \$1,141.00 and \$550.46 respectively.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to accept the Sheriff Fee and Mileage Report for October 2021 in the amount of \$1,211.00 and \$708.74 respectively.

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

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign the Purchase Agreement for the Courthouse Postage Machine with Quadient.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:25 a.m.

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

Matt Starkey, Veteran Services Officer, was present to give information about a part time employee for the Veteran Service Office. He gave information about the veteran population in Seward County and the work that he would like the employee to help with.

Moved by Ahmic to approve the request for a part time Veteran Services Officer's Assistant.

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

The Commissioners discussed a wage for the new Veteran Services Officer's Assistant.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to approve the wage for the part time Veteran Services Officer's Assistant at \$15.60 per hour.

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

The Commissioners discussed setting salaries for the elected officials who are up for election for the years 2023-2026. Chairman Culver led discussion and gave information for his suggestion.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to adopt Resolution No. 3562 in regard to setting the salaries for the Seward County elected officials for the years 2023-2026.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 3562 OF THE SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Nebraska provide that the salaries of elected officials be fixed by the County Board prior to January 15, of the year in which a general election will be held for the respective offices; and

WHEREAS, all elected county officials shall be included on an equal basis with other County Employees as to the provisions and benefits of any group insurance, retirement, life insurance or any other benefits adopted by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, salary increases to accommodate cost of living increases should be granted such elected officials on an annual basis.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Association of County Officials completed a salary study and published "2023-2026 Salary Recommendations for County Officials" in October of 2021; and

WHEREAS, said salary study set a minimum base salary of elected officials, in Seward County, to be between \$69,400 and \$91,400 for the year of 2023 with annual increases for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026; and

WHEREAS, said salary study states that the minimum base salary recommendation should be the least amount acceptable to provide a livable income for a person maintaining the duties of the county office; and

WHEREAS, said salary study set the Attorney minimum salary to be 160 % of the minimum base salary, Sheriff minimum salary to be 125% - 140% of the minimum base salary, and County Commissioner minimum salary to be 50% of the minimum base salary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Seward County Board of Commissioners, that the following salaries for the respective offices be established for the term of office encompassing the calendar years of 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 for all elected officials who are subject to election in 2022 and being sworn into office in 2023; and 2023 and 2024 for the County Commissioners office.

The annual salary of the office of County Commissioner is hereby established at 43% of the County Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of the District Court salary for the calendar years of 2023 and 2024.

The annual salary of the office of Attorney is hereby established at 160% of the County Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of the District Court salary for the calendar years of 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. The County Attorney shall devote his or her full time to the legal work of the office of the County Attorney and shall not engage in the private practice of law.

The annual salary of the office of Sheriff is hereby established at 140% of the County Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of the District Court salary for the calendar years of 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

The annual salary of the office of County Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of the District Court is hereby established at \$82,000.00 for the calendar year 2023; \$84,500.00 for the calendar year of 2024; \$87,000.00 for the calendar year 2025; and \$89,500.00 for the calendar year 2026.

The County Surveyor salary shall be \$10,000.00 during the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

FURTHER, all elected county officials shall be included on an equal basis with other County Employees as to the provisions and benefits of any group insurance, retirement, life insurance or any other benefits adopted by the County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the County Board should designate any elected official, who is a qualified individual or who is provided for designation by statute, to serve as the Budget Making Authority, he or she shall, beginning in the calendar year 2023 and ending in the calendar year 2026, receive \$10,000.00 for each calendar year that said official is designated as the Budget Making Authority.

Dated this 14th day of December 2021.

Moved by: Zabrocki                      Seconded by: Ahmic                      12/14/2021  
Ayes: Robert Vrbka, Misty Ahmic, Darrell J. Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding,  
John K. Culver, Chair of the Board  
Attest: Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk

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

Motion Carried

The Commissioners discussed ARPA Funds. Culver stated at the NACO Conference he learned what other counties are planning to use funds for. He suggested that if rules for ARPA funds are allowed for infrastructure, a truck bypass near Milford would be a benefit.

Ahmic talked about the windows, HVAC and security in the Courthouse and maintenance of the county buildings. She also stated that IT was mentioned in the rules of use of ARPA funds.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on December 21, 2021 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 14, 2021
4. Discuss/Action – Claims through the period of December 10, 2021

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

5. Discuss/Action – Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for December 28, 2021

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action - Authorize Chairman to sign the Service Agreement with Accurate Controls for the Security Automation System for the Justice Center

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 10:23 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Zabrocki, Schmieding, 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2021.

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

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Chairman