

December 26, 2023  
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 26, 2023 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 26, 2023 at 8:30 am.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver  
Members: Misty Ahmic, Raegan Hain, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki  
Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson  
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 Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Culver

Abstain: Hain

Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve tax list corrections 420-23R, 421-23R, and 422-23R for Kelby D. & Vicki L. Pflughaupt correcting tax statements due to Sumaran Estates Subdivision being vacated in 2022.

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

Motion Carried

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on January 9, 2024 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 26, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to adjourn the December 26, 2023 Board of Equalization meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Hain, Schmieding, 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

# December 26, 2023

## 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 26, 2023 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 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Raegan Hain, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki

Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson

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 Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of December 19, 2023.

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

Motion Carried

Terry Wicht, Highway Superintendent and Jon Regnier, Assistant Highway Superintendent updated the Commissioners on activities of their department.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Seward City Council meeting and that he accepted an invitation from Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) to serve on the NPAIT (Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust) Board.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he spent some time working in the Public Defender's Office.

Commissioner Culver reported he corresponded with constituents and worked on Blue Valley Community Action items.

Commissioner Hain reported she sat in on a Detention Director interview, attended meetings at the Justice Center, watched Aging Services Director interviews, and visited with the Road Department.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with Jonathan Jank regarding the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), worked with Allo and reported that the new Allo phones will now be installed in the Justice Center in mid-January, rather than the original date of December 28, dealt with phone calls regarding NRD issues, worked with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) on Public Transit issue, and arranged a Broadband meeting.

Wicht and Regnier were present to discuss Seward County's participation in the Lancaster County Chip Seal road project on 140<sup>th</sup> Road, starting one mile south of Agnew Road and going approximately 1 1/2 miles south. Culver stated that he had been approached about this and wanted to bring it before the board so he could report back. They talked about different types of applications and cost. The Commissioners asked Regnier to seek more information on armor coating on the road versus chip seal. After much discussion, the consensus was that it would be more cost effective to not participate in Lancaster County's project.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain that Seward County not participate in Lancaster County's Chip/Seal Road Project on 140<sup>th</sup> Road, starting one mile south of Agnew Road, going south approximately 1 1/2 miles.

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

Motion Carried

The next item on the agenda was the CMP Project C-80(510) Bridge Project at 350<sup>th</sup> & Raymond Road. Wicht stated that the bridge on 350<sup>th</sup> will eventually be replaced and he wants input on whether to continue with this project, as he isn't able to get a cost estimate until it's decided to proceed with the project. There was discussion about challenges with the project as it is now, such as having to straighten out a curve in the road due to an existing building. Ahmic stated that she would be in favor of finding out the cost of moving the road a little farther south of an existing building and continuing the project. Wicht said they can straighten out the curve and make it safer, as safety is an issue.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to approve the Road Department to go out for an estimate on the CMP Project C-80(510), the bridge project in the leveling out of the roadway.

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

Motion Carried

Wicht updated the Commissioners on the Road Department Radios. He was previously asked by the Commissioners to look into replacing radios, and he received two quotes from Shaffer Communications, Inc. The first quote is to reuse the current duplexer and is for \$7449.06. The second quote includes a new duplexer for \$11,319.44. This quote would also provide for additional wattage. Culver stated that he has also done research on this and eventually would like the radios to be on the state system. Ahmic asked if a representative from Shaffer Communications, who gave the quote, could come before the Commissioners to answer questions and give more details. Regnier stated that they would be able to come. This was tabled until then.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:57 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Roxanne Knutson, HR Director, was present to discuss the Highway Superintendent Employment Offer and the next steps with this process. She stated that the offer that had been discussed is a starting wage of \$85,000 and one month of COBRA with potential for an increase after one year. Zabrocki said he wants to have a performance review after six months, even if there is no raise in pay at that time. There was some discussion as to what would happen if the applicant did not accept the offer. Culver expressed his concerns with opening this position back up if the offer isn't accepted, as the county would be without a Highway Superintendent even longer if the position were to be opened to applicants again. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, advised the Commissioners that they could enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy regarding this.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy at 10:07 a.m.

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

Motion Carried

The Chairman stated the reason for Executive Session was for strategy.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to come out of Executive Session at 10:24 a.m., where strategy was discussed, and no decisions were made.

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

Motion Carried

The Chairman stated no action was taken.

Culver suggested offering the potential candidate a starting salary of \$85,000 and \$2,100 COBRA coverage.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to offer the Highway Superintendent position to the candidate with a salary of \$85,000 annually and COBRA coverage to be paid out of the Health Fund up to \$2100.00.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain that should the applicant decline the offer, the position be reopened for 30 days.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic

Voting No: Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to accept the Sheriff's fee & mileage report for October 2023 in the amounts of \$1,397.00 and \$754.64 respectively.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the County Clerk report for the City of Seward Special Election.

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

Commissioner Schmieding led discussion on the change of the Public Defender from an elected position to a contracted position. He stated that he agrees with the previous decision made to proceed with making it a contracted position, but after visiting with some legal counsel, he would like to rescind his offer to handle the claims during the vacancy of the position, as he doesn't want to be held responsible should something go wrong in the office. He reported that Commissioner Ahmic has offered to help with this, and she said that she is happy to serve as the Public Defender liaison moving forward. It was agreed that Commissioner Ahmic will be the Public Defender liaison now.

The next agenda item was to appoint two members to the Planning Commission. Three applications were received for the open positions. Zabrocki and Hain agreed that they had chosen the same two applicants after reviewing the applications and visiting with the Zoning Administrator. Ahmic stated that she will abstain from voting, as she is the liaison to the Planning Commission.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to appoint Jack Daniel and Phil Hargis to serve as members of the Seward County Planning Commission for a three-year term.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Culver

Abstain: Ahmic Motion Carried

During the discussion on the request for Seward County to pay the dues of the Water Leaders Academy Class X, Ahmic reported that she had been accepted as a member of the 2024 class, and has visited with Becky Paulsen, the Weed/Zoning/Floodplain Administrator about the dues. \$500 would be paid out of the Weed/Zoning budget and the remainder of \$2500 would still be due. Hain stated that she thinks it would be beneficial for Ahmic to attend this class, as she would be able to bring a lot of information back to the board. She recommended paying the additional dues out of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Zabrocki is in favor of Ahmic attending the meetings, if it is paid out of ARPA funds but not if it is being paid out of the General Fund.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain that the board approve payment of the Water Leaders Class to be attended by Commissioner Ahmic in the amount of \$2500 to be paid out of ARPA funds and the other \$500 to be taken out of the Zoning budget.

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

During the Infrastructure Related Grants discussion, Hain reported that the Notice of Funding Opportunity is out for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Project.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on January 2, 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 December 26, 2023
5. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through December 22, 2023

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

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for January 9, 2024

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Laura McDougall, Four Corners Health Dept.- Update on Activities of the Organization

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Jail/Sheriff's Department Staffing Update

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn the December 26, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2024.

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

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Chairman