

December 31, 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 9:00 a.m. on December 31, 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 31, 2019 at 9:00 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.

Moved by Paulsen and seconded by Schmieding to approve the minutes of December 23, 2019.

Affirmative Vote: Paulsen, Schmieding, Vrbka, Culver

Motion Carried

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Vrbka reported he received several constituent calls about county concerns.

Commissioner Culver reported he received a constituent concern and checked roads.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he also received concerns and comments from constituents.

Commissioner Paulsen reported she was ill last week and had no report.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Vrbka to authorize the Chairman to sign the Engineered Controls, Inc. Planned Service Agreement Renewal for the Justice Center Building.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Vrbka, Paulsen, Culver

Motion Carried

Commissioner Paulsen removed herself from the Board at 9:10 a.m.

Becky Paulsen, Weed/Zoning Administrator, updated the Commissioners on the Windstream Tower Height Restrictions for the Seward County Airport Approach item on the agenda. She stated that she has received information from Windstream that they are reducing the height of the tower to 87 ft. as originally stated on their zoning application. She stated that she is holding 4 other Windstream permits and will wait until the tower by the Seward Airport is reduced in height before allowing them to be constructed. She stated she also has received reports of problems with other towers

that have been already been erected that are leaning, etc. and will look into those concerns.

Commissioner Paulsen rejoined the Board at 9:13 a.m.

Moved by Paulsen and seconded by Schmieding to go into Executive Session at 9:16 a.m. to discuss personnel, it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).

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

The Chairman re-stated that the reason for Executive Session is for personnel.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to go out of Executive Session at 9:40 a.m.

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

The Chairman stated that in Executive Session personnel was discussed and no action was made.

Brea Ehmen, HR Director for Seward County, led discussion on a new job description for a Non-Law Enforcement Task Force Commander.

Commissioner Schmieding stated he was not in favor of creating a new position. He felt that the position was created because a person in the Sheriff's Dept. couldn't comply with current job requirements. The first job description submitted for Commissioner approval had the word "temporary" in it. The current description submitted for Commissioner approval showed the word "temporary" had been taken out. Wendy Elston, County Attorney, replied that temporary employees receive no benefits and this was not Sheriff Vance's intention. Culver said he felt the word "temporary" needed to be out of the description because it leaves it open ended. Ehmen said a "temporary" position in the personnel manual says it can't be for more than 1 year. Vrbka stated he thinks the word "Commander" should be replaced with some other word. The word "Administrator" was suggested.

Darrell Zabrocki, a member of the public, stated he was not in favor of the new job description process. He felt that the person in question for this job could not attain law enforcement certification and that is the only reason a new job description is being discussed.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Vrbka to table the discussion of the agenda item "Job Description for a Non-Law Enforcement Task Force Commander" for one week.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Vrbka Motion Denied
Voting No: Paulsen, Culver

Moved by Paulsen and seconded by Schmieding to deny the new job description of a "Non-Law Enforcement Task Force Commander."

Affirmative Vote: Paulsen, Schmieding, Vrbka Motion Carried
Voting No: Culver

Discussion was held on setting salaries for the Public Defender and County Commissioners. Schweitzer stated that a resolution needs to be passed by January 15, 2020 for setting the salary of the Public Defender and the County Commissioners and explained past history. Ehmen was present and stated she had done some work on the possibilities for a salary for the Public Defender. Schweitzer will give the Commissioners past salary numbers for both positions and the item will be put on next week's agenda.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on January 8, 2020 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 31, 2019
5. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through Dec 31, 2019

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Res. – Setting Salaries for Public Defender and County Commissioners
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for January 14, 2020

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 10:24 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 8th day of January 2020.

County Clerk

Chairperson