

February 20, 2024

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 February 20, 2024 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 February 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic

Members: Raegan Hain, John Culver, 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 Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to approve the minutes of February 13, 2024.

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

Schweitzer stated she had completed the last phase of the liability insurance renewal process for Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA).

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Suicide Prevention meeting since he is liaison for BRIDGES, the Broadband Task Force meeting, the 4th of July meeting, and a Seward Arts Council meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he met with the County Treasurer last week and has a Visitors Committee meeting later today.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended a Veterans Service Committee meeting, the Broadband Task Force Meeting, spoke to a Social Welfare Policy and Program Class about what the duties of a commissioner are, received calls from constituents, researched a grant writer position, worked on the Community Safety Action Plan, worked on an HR issue, sent emails about legislation and attended a Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) Board meeting.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended a meeting with Commissioner Hain and the Highway Supt., attended the Veterans Service Committee meeting, received emails and phone calls about road issues, met with the Emergency Manager about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, met with the Assessor, emailed senators about legislation, has been following introduced legislation, and has a meeting with Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) tonight.

Commissioner Hain reported she has been working on the logo decal for county vehicles, met with Commissioner Culver, the Highway Supt. and Kirkham Michael Engineering in regard to a project on 420th, spoke to the Highway Supt. office about

traffic counts for another round of grants, met with the Aging Services Director, met with representatives of Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District and attended their meeting, has attempted to find a time with Senator Vargas' office about the opioid settlement funds.

Julya Metschke and Ella Kossow, 4-Hers of Seward County gave a presentation about naming February as Nebraska 4-H month.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chairman to sign the proclamation naming February as Nebraska 4-H month in Seward County.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:24 a.m.

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

The Commissioners had discussion on clarifying the definition of subscription vs service for the New GIS Software Agreement item on the agenda. At issue was a contract from a new potential GIS Service requesting full payment. According to law, service must be provided before payment can be made, but a question is whether this is a subscription or a service. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, said there is more risk paying in advance. After working with the company, it was suggested that semi-annual payments be made. The approval of the agreement will be on the agenda next week for the Commissioners' consideration.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:44 a.m.

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

Sara Stenger of the Detention Center presented an agreement with Four Corners Health Department to provide anger management classes for inmates for the Commissioners' consideration.

Moved by Hain to authorize the Chairperson to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Four Corners Health Department to provide anger management classes for inmates.

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

During the legislative update item on the agenda, the Commissioners stated they all had talked to Senator Hughes about LB 1067 which would eliminate Inheritance Taxes. They also had discussion about LB 995 which was about opioid funds and other bills dealing with unfunded mandates and E911. It was stated all Commissioners should contact the Senators again since they will be talking about the elimination of Inheritance Funds on the floor of the Legislature.

Isiah Gonzales of Allo was present along with Tom Nielsen of Soarin' Group to discuss the new phone system for Seward County. In July of 2023, Seward County had signed a contract with Allo and the project wasn't completed until January of 2024. Gonzalez gave a timeline of the installation events/issues and information on the reasons for the lateness. Nielsen also gave information about the installation.

County Attorney, Wendy Elston and Casey Tiemann of the County Attorney's Office were present to discuss the expansion plan their office would like to complete by occupying vacant offices in the Sheriff's Office. Recently, the Sheriff's Office moved some administration to their Task Force Building and these offices are the ones the County Attorney's Office would like to occupy. She would like to move the criminal part of the Attorney's Office into these offices which would include two attorneys and their legal assistants. A better temperature-controlled area, windows, and the ability to move files from storage in the Courthouse were mentioned by Elston. Her intent is to not make any structural changes. She will ask for State Drug Funds to help with costs. There was discussion about approving the request but also wanting to keep some space open for the future.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to allow the County Attorney's Office to occupy vacant office spaces in the Sheriff's Office section in the Detention Center.

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

Motion Carried

Highway Supt., Jon Regnier was present to ask the Board about how to conduct the bridge inspections for 2024. Currently, Regnier does not have a certification to inspect bridges and will not be able to take the test to become certified until October 2024. Because Seward County has bridges that need inspection in the coming months, working with engineering firms was mentioned until Regnier can take the class. Regnier was directed to work with engineers for inspections for this coming year.

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion on the grant funds item on the agenda. She gave information on dates and updated the other members on communication with Nebraska representatives in Congress and the Senate. Hain mentioned that Staplehurst can get a grant for their water tower. It was mentioned that funds can be attained through the railroad. Hain contacted Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District and that grant funds could be received from them also. The Safe Streets and Roads grant and various other grants were also discussed.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on February 27, 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 February 13, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on February 27, 2024 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

5. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
6. Pledge of Allegiance
7. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of February 20, 2024
8. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through Feb. 16, 2024

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

9. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
10. Commissioners Reports
11. Discuss/Action – Change time for Mercy City Church Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024 from 10-11 am to 1-4 PM
12. Discuss/Action – Legislative Update
13. Discuss/Action – Grant Funds being Sought by Seward County
14. Discuss/Action – Agenda for March 5, 2024

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize the Chairperson to sign agreement with Schneider Geospatial for a GIS subscription

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 11:32 a.m.

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

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 February 27, 2024.

County Clerk

Chairperson