

February 25, 2025

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 on February 25, 2025 in the Commissioner's room at the Seward County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Courthouse bulletin board, on the Commissioner's Room door, on the Seward County website: sewardcountyne.gov and published in the Seward County Independent and the Milford Times. 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 Equalization convened on February 25, 2025 at 8:34 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Scott Pekarek, 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 Pekarek and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of February 11, 2025.

Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic
Abstain: Hain

Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve tax list correction 209-24P for Tieken House Moving (Tim Tieken).

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

Motion Carried

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on March 11, 2025 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of February 25, 2025
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to adjourn at 8:48 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Zabrocki, 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 11th day of March, 2025.

County Clerk

Chairperson

February 25, 2025

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 25, 2025 in the Commissioner’s room at the Seward County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Courthouse bulletin board, on the Commissioner’s Room door, on the Seward County website: sewardcountyne.gov and published in the Seward County Independent and the Milford Times. 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 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
 Members: Raegan Hain, Scott Pekarek, 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 Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- a. Minutes of February 11, 2025
- b. Surplus Property Disposal Request for Road Department
- c. Utility Permit – Black Hills Nebraska Gas to bore electrical line under Fletcher Road just west of Big Blue River Bridge located in the SW ¼ of Section 34, Township 11 North, Range 3 East of the 6th P.M.
- d. Utility Permit – Black Hills Nebraska Gas to bore and open trench north of Fletcher Road for the installation of pipeline and DRS Firegate Regulator Station located in the S1/2 of Sections 33, 34 & 35, Township 11 North, Range 3 East of the 6th P.M.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Hain, noting she was not present February 11, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve claims for the period through February 14, 2025.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, 2025

ACCURATE CONTROLS	EQ	\$2,002.61	ELIZABETH SAMUELSON	SE	\$300.00
ACKERMAN ENGINEERING	SE	\$114.00	SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL	SE	\$16,320.00
ADP INC	SE	\$4,275.95	SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	SE	\$1,359.68
AMERITAS LIFE INS	FE	\$21,109.18	SEWARD CO SHRF UNCOL FEES	FE	\$318.00
BENCHMARK GOVT SOL	SE	\$689.25	SEWARD LUMBER	SU	\$33.78
BLUE VALLEY BEHV HLTH	SE	\$360.00	SITE ONE LANDSCAPE SUPPLY	SU	\$157.50
BOB BARKER CO	SE	\$165.20	ST OF NE DAS ST ACCNT	SE	\$645.50
BRENNAN,NIELSEN LAW	SE	\$3,759.43	STERICYCLE, INC	SE	\$55.59
CAMPBELL CLEANING	SE	\$4,975.00	SUMMIT FOOD SERV	SE	\$13,990.82
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYS	SU	\$45.32	THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	SE	\$1,208.31
CATTLE BANK & TRUST	SE	\$48.66	UNL PRINT & COPY SERV	SU	\$192.97
CHARTER COMM	UT	\$332.87	US BANK EQUIP FINANCE	EQ	\$167.99
CLERK OF DIST CRT	SE	\$12.00	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	UT	\$748.49

COAST TO COAST COMPU	SE	\$214.99	VISA	FE	\$5,521.90
CULLIGAN	SE	\$184.60	WELLS FARGO FIN LEAS	EQ	\$230.66
JACK DANIEL	SE	\$61.64	BEATRICE CONCRETE	SU	\$22,548.16
DIAMOND DRUGS	SU	\$694.11	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	\$46.79
DIVERSIFIED DRUG TEST	SE	\$55.00	FASTENAL CO	SU	\$1,268.16
DOUGLAS CO CRT	SE	\$1.00	HEARTLAND TIRES	SU	\$1,074.96
DOUGLAS COSHERIFF	SE	\$46.03	KEARNEY INVEST CORP	SE	\$279.90
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SU	\$40.49	INLAND TRUCK PARTS	SU	\$70.24
ENGINEERED CONTROLS	EQ	\$1,750.00	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	SU	\$480.50
EQUIFAX WORKFORCE	SE	\$367.60	KERFORD LIMESTONE CO	SU	\$8,577.03
FARMERS COOP	SU	\$11,480.29	KRIHA FLUID POWER CO	SE	\$34.81
FIFTH THIRD BANK	SE	\$25.00	NE EQUIPMENT	EQ	\$82.61
SIDNEY FREY	SE	\$167.50	NE WEED CONTROL ASSN	FE	\$150.00
GALLS LLC	EQ	\$265.99	NMC, INC	EQ	\$14,071.63
GARCIA CLINICAL LAB	SE	\$103.00	NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DIST	UT	\$3,007.03
HD SUPPLY	SU	\$585.38	PIONEER OVERHEAD DOOR	SE	\$165.00
HELMINK PRINTING	SU	\$648.00	RDO TRUCK CENTERS	EQ	\$899.42
JONES BANK (FICA)	FE	\$21,161.20	SOUTHWEST GRAVEL PROD	SU	\$18,710.19
RYAN KRENK	SE	\$32.16	TRUCK EQUIP SERVICE CO	SE	\$183.87
LANGUAGE LINE SERV	SE	\$3.54	VERIZON CONNECT NWF	UT	\$715.96
LEE'S REFRIGERATION	SE	\$941.86	DALE JOHNSON ENT	SU	\$4,496.66
MCKESSON MED SURG	SU	\$30.84	PAC N SAVE	SU	\$604.76
MEMORIAL CLINIC	SE	\$577.00	SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND	FE	\$143,380.56
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	SE	\$3,748.80	ALL RISE FOR JUSTICE	SE	\$1,590.00
MEYER AUTOMOTIVE	SE	\$33.33	GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	\$629.89
MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE	EQ	\$1,637.43	LINCOLN POLICE GARAGE	SE	\$287.09
MIPS INC	SE	\$672.76	SECURITY EQUIP INC	EQ	\$129.15
NAYLOR AND RAPPL LAW	SE	\$1,350.00	TRANSUNION RISK	FE	\$759.20
NE ASSN COUNTY CLERKS	FE	\$50.00	WESTERN OIL II	SU	\$76.89
NE ASSN CO OFFICIALS	FE	\$160.00	ADVENT FINANCIAL SYS	SE	\$225.00
NE HLTH & HMN SERV	SE	\$186.00	FIRST WIRELESS, INC	UT	\$75.00
NE LAW ENFORC TRAIN	FE	\$175.00	KIRKHAM, MICHAEL & ASSOC	SE	\$4,605.37
NE ZONING ASSOC	FE	\$235.00	SHARON K REZAC TRUST	SE	\$655.58
NEBRASKA.GOV	FE	\$13.50	SALARIES		\$300,953.82
DALE NIEMANN	SE	\$43.55	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:		
OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	SE	\$82.16	AMERITAS DENTAL		
ORKIN LLC	SE	\$161.00	AMERITAS VISION		
PAPER TIGER SHREDDING	SE	\$35.00	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE		
PETTY CASH FUND	FE	\$10.10	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN		
PHYSICIANS LAB SERV	SE	\$491.00	POINT C FSA		
POLLACK AND BALL	SE	\$1,511.00	WADDELL & REED		
RADIOLOGY ASSOC	SE	\$418.00			

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

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Pekarek reported he attended a meeting featuring Senator Hughes at the library, met with the Human Resources Director, Commissioner Ahmic & a representative from the county's health insurance company, met with Commissioner Hain, met with Commissioner Ahmic, contacted the Garland Village Clerk & Board Chairman, registered for the upcoming Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) conference, and assessed some culvert projects with Commissioner Hain.

Commissioner Schmieding reported that two of his scheduled meetings were canceled due to weather, he attended an Extension Board meeting, met with the Building & Grounds Superintendent, and drove some of the county roads.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she had a call with Broadband Task Force members, met with the Highway Superintendent & Assistant Highway Superintendent, received calls about the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan, had a call with a local Housing and Urban Development contact, talked to Commissioner Schmieding about joining the Blue Valley

Community Action Board in her place, was asked by the Solid Waste Management Board to check with the other Commissioners about the county's interest in hosting another clean-up day or tire event, attended a Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) meeting, watched the Legislature for updates, met with the Human Resources, met with three Planning Commission members, attended a Planning Commission meeting, went to Kearney to give presentation at the Highway Safety Conference hosted by the Department of Transportation, spoke with BNSF about railroad ties, met with Commissioner Pekarek & the Human Resources Director about health insurance, did research regarding the landfill, and received phone calls regarding roads.

Commissioners Zabrocki had a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) teleconference, contacted a constituent regarding the board's decision on paying a tow bill from last week's meeting, attended a Planning Commission meeting, had a meeting with Human Resources and reported on an accident involving a Public Transit vehicle.

Ray Foreman, Veterans Service Officer, introduced the February 2025 Veteran of the Month, Dave Pankoke.

Pankoke was drafted into the service after graduating from the Automotive Department at the school in Milford. While in the service, he performed maintenance on heavy equipment. Pankoke is active in the American Legion and serves on the Veterans Service Committee.

Commissioner Reports, continued:

Commissioner Hain reported she provided written testimony on multiple bills in the Legislature, attended an Extension Board meeting, received a call about a tax sale issue, spoke to County Treasurer and County Attorney about that issue, spent time reviewing the Interlocal Agreement with the Four Corners Health Department, spoke with the Highway Superintendent regarding road conditions, received an email from Kirkham Michael, had a Teams meeting with the Highway Superintendent and officials from the City of Seward, met with several department heads, met with a representative from the Nebraska Department of Transportation Infrastructure Hub, met with a representative from Onyx Overlay with the Highway Superintendent & Assistant Highway Superintendent regarding asphalt roads, met with Commissioners Pekarek to assess projects on the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan, and met with the Juvenile Comprehensive Plan team.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to open the public hearing on the proposed 1 & 6 Year Seward County Highway Department at 9:33 a.m.

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

Those who spoke at the hearing were:

Dave Helge, who made comment regarding the paving project on 154th Road.

Steve Bartels, who made comment regarding dust control on 252nd Road at Milford.

Mike Cookus, who also spoke regarding the excessive dust on 252nd road.

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent & Trever Trebilcock, Assistant Highway Superintendent, were present to answer questions during the discussion.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to close the public hearing at 10:07 a.m.

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

Regnier led discussion regarding repairs and future plans for the portion of Fairground Road between Hillcrest Drive and Lincoln Street. His department recently met with representatives from the City of Seward to discuss this matter. This road, which is not within the city limits, is in poor condition. The county will be putting concrete on this

road in a small area that is in the worst condition, but something more needs to be done with the entire stretch of road. There were questions regarding whether the city plans to annex the road into the city limits. Mike Oneby, City Engineer, stated that traditionally, the city requires that a developer pay for the infrastructure up to all of the city's standards, and everything in the right of way then becomes dedicated to the city. Because of that, if the city annexed it, they'd prefer that it meet or be very close to meeting city standards at that time. As this road is not part of the city's 1 & 6 Year Road Plan, there wouldn't be a plan to repair it for at least the next 7 years, and currently there has been no discussion to advance this road above other priorities. Oneby stated that Greg Butcher, the City Administrator, suggested that the Commissioners and Seward City Council need to converse on developing a plan to resolve the current issues. A team of representatives from both will be established to begin developing a plan.

Laura McDougall, Executive Director of Four Corners Health Department, was present to update the Commissioners on their department's activities.

Next, McDougall discussed appointing a physician member to the Four Corners Health District Board for the term of 2025 to 2027. Dr. Jillian Fickenscher is the current board physician and she has volunteered to continue serving. Commissioners Ahmic and Hain asked questions regarding the availability of this position being shared publicly to allow others an opportunity to serve if interested.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to appoint Dr. Jillian Fickenscher as the physician member on the Four Corners Health District Board for the term of 2025 to 2027.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Pekarek

Voting No: Ahmic

Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 10:41 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 10:46 a.m.

Wendy Elston, Seward County Attorney, Brandon Noordhoek, Detention Center Director and Lisa Borges, Sheriff's Office Administrative Captain, were present to discuss the exceptional anticipated costs associated with Seward County Court Case CR25-55. Elston stated this is for a murder case, which is generally not budgeted for within normal office budgets. Expected expenses could include mental health evaluations, depositions, expert witnesses, etc., and could become very costly to the county. Noordhoek reported that Seward County took this individual into custody on February 14th. Detention Center staff have been providing 24 hour/day security in the medical facility where the individual is still currently receiving care. Borges stated that the Sheriff looked into private security, but it's much more cost effective for the county to have corrections staff there than it would be to hire private security. Zabrocki asked if the county will be responsible for paying for medical care prior to Seward County taking custody of the individual. Elston stated that the county is not responsible for costs incurred prior to the individual being in the county's custody. Statutes provide that the hospitals are under obligation to seek private insurance first. Although Elston anticipates a large majority of legal costs will occur during the next fiscal year budget, there will be costs related to staffing and security during this fiscal year. Currently, there is \$100,000.00 budgeted in the Inheritance Fund to cover potential legal fees and/or major trials. Those funds can be used to cover expenses incurred during this fiscal year, and additional funds will be budgeted next fiscal year to cover the costs associated with this case.

Zabrocki led discussion on the courthouse maintenance project with Berggren and Associates. The project includes power washing and tuckpointing the exterior of the courthouse, as well as replacing the handrails outside the courthouse. The project would need to be re-bid, as the current estimate is over a year old. Discussion was held regarding the current potential expenses the county will be incurring due to the previously discussed court case, posing the question of whether this is something to pursue at this time. It could potentially save money if the Building & Grounds Superintendent could lead this project himself. Schmieding stated he is in favor of the project, but he is not in favor of hiring extra people to oversee it. Zabrocki will contact

Berggren & Associates to let them know their services won't be needed for this project. The handrail replacement is a much lower cost than the other projects and could potentially be paid using the Commissioners Sinking Fund. This will be added to next week's agenda after the Sinking Fund balance is verified with the Clerk's Office.

Ahmic led discussion on department closing policies & procedures. Recently, there have been instances of departments closing when the rest of the county does not close due to weather. Ahmic asked Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, to look into the current policy regarding offices closing. The current policy relating to county offices closing due to weather was also discussed. Pekarek stated that he was not in favor of the most recent weather closure decision. The policy for closing will be reviewed.

Commissioner Schmieding is absent at 11:13 a.m.

Hain led discussion on the estimate from Middle Creek Printing for Seward County vehicle decals. She asked Commissioners who are liaisons to departments with county vehicles to visit with those departments to make sure they are purchasing new decals out of their budgets when new vehicles are purchased. She recommended they be purchased through Middle Creek Printing moving forward, as they have the logos on file already.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the estimate from Middle Creek Printing in the amount of \$416.50 for vehicle decals, to be paid out of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Zabrocki, Hain, Ahmic

Motion Carried

During the legislative update, Ahmic stated she has been and will continue to email the rest of the Commissioners with updates every week on current bills being discussed in the Legislature. She will be providing testimony on some bills and encouraged others to provide their testimony as well.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on March 4, 2025 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

5. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
6. Pledge of Allegiance
7. Discuss/Action – Public/Organizations/Officials
8. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of February 25, 2025

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

9. Commissioners Reports
10. Discuss/Action - Scrap Tire Cleanup Day
11. Discuss/Action - Legislative Update

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action - Open Bids for Road Department Belly Dump
Discuss/Action - Res – Adopt Seward County 1 & 6 Year Road Program
Discuss/Action - Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig and Kirkham Michael
Agreements for 420th Road Paving Project

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action - Department Closing Policy & Procedures

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Pekarek, 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 4th day of March 2025.

County Clerk

Chairman