

# January 7, 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 8:30 a.m. on January 7, 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](http://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 January 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic  
Members: Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki  
Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson  
Absent: Members: John Culver, Raegan Hain

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.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), updated the Commissioners on activities of his organization.

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on activities of his department.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- a. Minutes of December 31, 2023
- b. Surplus Property Disposal Requests for County Clerk
- c. County Clerk Fee Report for December 2024 - \$109,538.96
- d. District Court Fee Report for December 2024 - \$6,533.23

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

### **Commissioner Reports:**

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) round table review and a BRIDGES meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended a Seward City Recreational Department meeting and will attend an Extension Board meeting and a Tree Board meeting.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she worked on a presentation for the Nebraska Highway Safety Council, received a call from a surveying company regarding a dam project, reviewed a legislative bill, attended a Zoom meeting with Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad, spoke with a landowner, and made edits to the Community Safety Action Plan.

Ahmic led discussion on considering adding hold music to the current Allo phone service in the Attorney's Office. Currently, the county receives one phone bill from Allo for all of the phone lines and it is paid out of the Building & Grounds budget. The Attorney's Office has offered to pay for this additional feature for just their phones out of their budget if necessary.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to approve the additional phone service feature of hold music to the County Attorney's Office phone lines.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Zabrocki led discussion on the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan contract and amendments with Spectrum/WealthPlan Partners item on the agenda. He stated that he and the Human Resources Director had been exploring various vendors that offer the plan to employees. The proposed 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan would allow employees to have an additional retirement account that the county manages for employees but does not contribute to. Employees are already offered this benefit, but this plan is an upgrade from what has been offered in the past. There was discussion regarding the contract that was presented not stating the parties it is between. No action was taken at this time because of this, and this item will be added to next week's agenda after Human Resources is consulted about the contract.

The County Attorney's Office requested increasing the limit on their credit card to \$6,000.00 through July 2025. This increase is to cover the travel costs for a conference in Florida that two employees will be attending.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to increase the limit on the Attorney's Office credit card to \$6,000.00 through July 2025.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic

Motion Carried

The Commissioners Recessed at 9:06 a.m.

The Commissioners Reconvened at 9:15 a.m.

The Commissioners discussed applications for two vacancies on the Planning Commission Board. Four applications were received for the two vacant positions and those four applicants were asked to come speak to the Commissioners. Two applicants, Brock Henderson and Katie Schweitzer, couldn't be present, but submitted statements that were read by Zabrocki. The other two applicants, Josh Delcamp and Ryan Krenk, were present to give their statements. Ahmic tasked the other Commissioners to make their decisions and the new members will be appointed at next week's meeting.

The Commissioners Recessed at 9:24 a.m.

The Commissioners Reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Marcus Kallhoff, Weed Superintendent, presented the Commissioners with the 2024 Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Noxious Weed/Weed Superintendent Yearly Report. Kallhoff discussed some ideas he has for his department moving forward, including potential chemical spraying and different equipment to do the spraying. Discussion was held regarding past and future budgets for chemicals and equipment, including a potential trade with Fillmore County for a side by side utility vehicle in exchange for Seward County's four wheeler.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chair to sign the 2024 Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Noxious Weed/Weed Superintendent Yearly Report.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

The Commissioners Recessed at 9:43 a.m.

The Commissioners Reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Regnier presented information and quotes for Speed Monitor Trailers. He stated that these trailers could potentially increase safety, as well as provide traffic data such as peak traffic times and types of vehicles traveling particular roads at various times. Since they're trailers, they can be moved throughout the entire county and wouldn't stay in the same place all the time. Ahmic noted that Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) offers grants that could be applied for and asked for a motion to move forward with applying for said grant.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to pursue funding for speed trailers through a NIRMA assist grant with the county matching the funds that the NIRMA Grant doesn't cover.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on January 14, 2025 are as follows:**

- 8:30 a.m. **Reorganizational Meeting**
  1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
  2. Pledge of Allegiance
  3. Discuss/Action - Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
  4. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of December 31, 2024
  5. Discuss/Action - Motor Vehicle Tax Exemptions for Tax Year 2025
  6. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on January 14, 2025 are as follows:**

- 9:00 a.m. **Reorganizational Meeting**
  7. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
  8. Pledge of Allegiance

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

- 9. Discuss/Action – Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
- 10. Discuss/Action - Appoint Office Liaisons, Make Committee Appointments, Select Depositories, Newspapers, Set Wages of Deputy Officials and other Reorganizational Meeting Responsibilities
- 11. Discuss/Action - Approve Minutes of January 7, 2025
- 12. Discuss/Action – Claims for the Period through January 3, 2025
- 13. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
- 14. Commissioners Reports
- 15. Discuss/Action - Appoint Members to the Planning Commission
- 16. Discuss/Action - Legislative Update
- 17. Discuss/Action - Agenda for January 21, 2025

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action - Public Hearing – Permit to Upgrade/Modify Existing Equipment on Wireless Tower in I Precinct in Section 29, Township 10, Range 4 East of the 6th P.M.

Discuss/Action - Res – Permit to Upgrade/Modify Existing Equipment on Wireless Tower in I Precinct in Section 29, Township 10, Range 4 East of the 6th P.M.

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action - Public Hearing – Permit to Upgrade/Modify Existing Equipment on Wireless Tower in K Precinct in Section 22, Township 10, Range 2 East of the 6th P.M.

Discuss/Action - Res – Permit to Upgrade/Modify Existing Equipment on Wireless Tower in K Precinct in Section 22, Township 10, Range 2 East of the 6th P.M.

9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to Sign 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Contract and Amendments with Spectrum/WealthPlan Partners

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 9:55 a.m.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki Schmieding Ahmic

State of Nebraska)  
County of Seward) ss.

I, Brandy Johnson, the undersigned Deputy 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

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Deputy County Clerk

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Chairperson