

January 16, 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 January 16, 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 January 16, 2024 a.m.at 9:00
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.

Chairman Ahmic suggested adding an emergency item to the agenda.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to add, as an Emergency item on the agenda, “Discuss/Action – Affirm Disaster Declaration for Snow Storm of January 12 & 13, 2024.”
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Culver, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to approve minutes of January 9, 2024.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Culver, Schmieding, Hain, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to approve claims for the period through January 5, 2024.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH JANUARY 2024

ADVANCED CORR HLTHCR	SE	\$6,976.59	SEWARD CO CHAMBER	SE	\$110.00
ADVANCED OFFICE AUTO	SE	\$113.11	SEWARD CO HLTH CL FND	FE	\$178,808.09
AERNI LAW, LLC	SE	\$1,769.20	SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	SE	\$1,915.42
ALLO COMMUNICATIONS	UT	\$3,851.77	SEWARD LUMBER	SU	\$84.83
AMERITAS LIFE INS	FE	\$23,704.86	SOARIN GROUP	SE	\$16,129.50
BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH	SE	\$360.00	SE DIST ASSESSOR ASSN	FE	\$50.00
BRYAN HEALTH	SE	\$150.00	SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	SE	\$7,469.17
BUTLER CO TREASURER	SE	\$30.00	SVEHLA LAW OFFICES	SE	\$1,237.50
ALEGENT CREIGHTON CLIN	SE	\$66.00	TCA OUTDOOR POWER	EQ	\$692.30
CITY OF SEWARD	UT	\$10,531.68	THIES & COOK PLLC	SE	\$428.00
CLERK OF DIST COURT	SE	\$638.00	UNITED STATES TREASURY	SE	\$575.07
COMFORT INN	TR	\$1,439.40	UPS	SE	\$13.29
CULLIGAN	SE	\$423.72	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	UT	\$141.81
JACK DANIEL	SE	\$29.48	VISA	FE	\$966.47
DIAMOND DRUGS	SU	\$343.78	WINDSTREAM	UT	\$6,175.47
E 911	SE	\$44,869.17	WYTHERS LAW	SE	\$434.50
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SU	\$298.16	BEAVER HARDWARE	SU	\$78.36
FARMERS COOP	SU	\$3,326.39	DALE JOHNSON ENT	SU	\$23,258.67
HELMINK PRINTING	SU	\$553.00	FASTENAL COMPANY	SU	\$143.35
HOMETOWN LEASING	EQ	\$149.50	RONALD STACHURA	SE	\$898.43
IDEMIA IDENTITY	SE	\$1,959.91	GRANTSKI ENTERPRISES	SE	\$300.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	EQ	\$82.13	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	SU	\$21,501.67
JONES BANK (FICA)	FE	\$23,362.89	MAINELLI WAGNER	SE	\$8,614.56
RYAN KRENK	SE	\$14.42	MEDICAL ENTERPRISES	SU	\$35.00
LANCASTER CO SHERIFF	SE	\$20.06	MIDWEST AUTO PARTS	SE	\$428.02
LEE ENTERPRISES	SE	\$825.00	MIDWEST PETRO EQUIP	EQ	\$419.00
RELX INC	SU	\$222.00	NE PUBLIC POWER DIST	UT	\$118.25

LOWER PLATTE SO NRD	UT	\$200.00	NEXTLINK AIS	UT	\$39.95
STEPHANIE LUEBBE	SE	\$15.07	NMC, INC	SE	\$2,513.96
LYNN PEAVEY CO	SE	\$124.65	OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	SU	\$9.85
MCKESSON MEDICAL	SU	\$58.60	PAC N SAVE	SU	\$448.08
SUE MEDINGER	SE	\$14.42	POWERPLAN	SE	\$287.41
MEMORIAL CLINIC	SE	\$210.00	RDO TRUCK CENTERS	EQ	\$1,077.40
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	SE	\$26.00	SACK LUMBER	SU	\$3.92
MID-AMERICAN INS GRP	FE	\$46,135.08	SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION	SE	\$2,523.00
MIPS INC	FE	\$4,772.68	TRUCK CENTER COMPANY	SE	\$21.82
MY CENTRAL SUPPLY	SU	\$560.45	VERIZON CONNECT NWF	SE	\$694.85
NACO. PLAN & ZONING	SE	\$40.00	VILLAGE OF GARLAND	UT	\$56.28
NE LAW ENFORCE TRAIN	FE	\$400.00	CHAPTERS BOOKS	SU	\$600.00
NEBRASKA NOTARY ASSN	FE	\$109.32	DELTA DENTAL OF NE	FE	\$234.53
NE SUPREME COURT	SE	\$339.75	VSP INSURANCE CO	FE	\$15.57
NEBRASKA.GOV	SE	\$45.00	MOMS MEALS	SE	\$31.25
DALE NIEMANN	SE	\$24.24	JONES AUTOMOTIVE	EQ	\$4,876.86
ONESOURCE	SU	\$305.50	PATRICK HOTOVY, MD	SE	\$2,000.00
PAPER TIGER SHREDDING	SE	\$35.00	NORRIS PUB POWER DIST	UT	\$268.00
SCOTT PEKAREK	SE	\$22.28	WELLBEING INITIATIVE	SE	\$1,000.00
PETTY CASH FUND	FE	\$714.00	SALARIES		\$328,663.61
POLICE OFFICERS ASSN NE	FE	\$72.00	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:		
POTTER REPAIR	SE	\$83.39	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE		
REGION V SERVICES	SE	\$2,484.58	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN		
REGION V SYSTEMS	FE	\$9,539.75	DELTA DENTAL		
ZOE RICHERT	SE	\$14.41	VSP VISION		
BRENT SCHLUCKEBIER	SE	\$17.04	WADDELL & REED		

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

Dave Pankoke, a member of the public, asked a question pertaining to the Veteran's Service Committee.

Jon Regnier, Highway Supt., updated the Commissioners on the snow removal due to the snowstorm of January 12 & 13, 2024. He stated he had contacted the schools, agricultural operations and others during the storm. Regnier also said some of his crew had even stayed overnight in their shops so that they could respond to emergencies during the major storm. Commissioners expressed much appreciation for the work done by the Road Dept. crew.

Gary Petersen, Seward/York Emergency Manager, spoke about the Disaster Declaration for the storm and if expenses or losses are able to be reimbursed.

Kelsie Lee of Mercy City Church was present to request use of the Courthouse for an egg hunt on March 30, 2024. She stated they had used it last year with much success and is asking again this year.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to approve the request from Mercy City Church to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on the Courthouse lawn on March 30, 2024 and allow access from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. pending completion of the courthouse lawn application.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:27 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:31 a.m.

Emily Manning of the Extension Office was present to request the Commissioners appoint two members to the Seward County Extension Board.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Hain to appoint Jennifer Eickhoff and Krystel Naber to the Seward County Extension Board.

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

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Seward County Mutual Aid Board meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he had a Visitors Committee Meeting planned for today, but it was postponed due to the weather. He will also have an Extension Board meeting and Region V Board meeting in the near future. He received calls about the snowstorm and roads.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she worked with the IT company of the Assessor's Office about their internet, called Mainelli Wagner & Associates about grant information, participated in a planning meeting for the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District meeting, worked on legislation, worked with Levander's about snow removal, expressed appreciation to all those involved in helping clear roads from this last storm, talked to Marvin Planning Consultants about zoning regulations update.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, participated in a WebEx with the Governor about snowstorm, kept people updated via Facebook about roads and the snowstorm, received phone calls about roads and the snowstorm, and gave appreciation to the Highway Supt. and Road Dept. employees.

Commissioner Hain reported she worked on the Aging Services Board matters, reached out to Middle Creek Printing about vehicle logos, received a quote from Levander's about placing logos on vehicles, worked on a Community Outreach meeting idea, participated in the Governor's WebEx about the snowstorm, been in contact with the interim director at the Detention Center, and informed the Board there were Correctional Officers that had to stay on duty because some of the staff could not get to work due to the storm.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:41 a.m.
The Commissioners re-convened at 9:45 a.m.

Becky Paulsen, Seward County Weed/Zoning Administrator, was present to discuss the 2023/2024 annual reports to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Discussion was held about the amount in her budget for chemical spraying.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Seward County Weed Director 2023/2024 annual report to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

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

The Commissioners discussed the Disaster Declaration that was signed during the snowstorm by Chairperson Ahmic. The Board needs to affirm her decision to declare the storm a disaster. Commissioner Culver and Ahmic explained if funds are available, a disaster declaration needed to be declared in order to receive funds. Letting Seward County residents know about the disaster declaration was also discussed.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to affirm the Disaster Declaration for Seward County for the snowstorm of January 12 & 13, 2024.

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

Marilyn Hladky, County Assessor, was present as was Roxanne Knutson, HR Director, for the agenda item for the Administrative Clerk III position. Hladky requested approval of the job description for the Assessor's Office Administrative Clerk III position. Hladky gave a history of job descriptions previously in Seward County. Discussion was held about the job description of the Deputy and the wage of both descriptions as well as the duties of the new job description.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to go into Executive Session at 10:26 a.m. for legal advice.

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

The Chairperson stated again the Executive Session is for legal advice.

Sherry Leising, Deputy County Treasurer, gave information about when she was appointed deputy.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to go out of Executive Session at 11:06 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Culver, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

The Chairperson stated no decision was made and only legal advice was given.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to approve the request for HR to post the Assessor's Office Administrative Clerk III position with a wage of \$21.34 - \$22.62 per hour.

Affirmative Vote: Culver, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic

Voting no: Zabrocki

Motion Carried

Knutson was in attendance to introduce the candidate for the Seward Aging Services Director. Alison Rook gave information about herself and previous work history.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to appoint Alison Rook as the Seward Aging Services Director effective Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Culver, Schmieding

Voting: Ahmic

Motion Carried

During discussion of the "Grant Funds being sought by Seward County" item on the agenda, Commissioner Hain stated a Community Outreach Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024 from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Staplehurst Community Hall. The meeting will be about hardships that will occur while bridge projects are being replaced using money from grants. Other grants that Seward County has applied for were also discussed.

During the legislative update portion on the agenda, Ahmic stated there are many bills introduced in the latest session that deal with counties. The Board discussed various bills including changes for jails, weeds, inheritance taxes, open meetings law, etc.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on January 23, 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 January 9, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on January 23, 2024 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of January 16, 2024

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

4. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
5. Commissioners Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Legislative Update
7. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for January 30, 2024

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn the Board of Commissioners at 11:59 a.m.

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

Motion Carried S

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 23rd of January 2024.

County Clerk

Chairperson