

# July 27, 2021

## 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 July 27, 2021 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 July 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, 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 Schmieding to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Vrbka, Ahmic, Culver Motion Carried

Chairman Culver stated that an emergency exists and there needs to be an addition to the agenda.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to add to the agenda "Discuss/Action – Increase the Credit Limit of the Sheriff's Office Credit Cards."

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Ahmic, Schmieding, Ahmic, Culver

Motion Carried

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended the Nebraska Weed Conference and the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he investigated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and how the funds can be used.

Commissioner Culver reported he also spent time investigating ARPA funds and attended the Seward County Safety Committee meeting. He also discussed with the Highway Supt. the problem of pivots spraying water over county roads.

Commissioner Schmieding thanked everyone who helped carry out his duties while he was ill.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Visitors Committee meeting, a Seward City Council meeting, a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and a BRIDGES meeting.

Gary Petersen, Seward/York Emergency Management Director, was present to give details about his annual grant.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Emergency Management Director to apply for the 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant.

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

Motion Carried

Patrick Kelley, Mayor of the City of Milford, was present to discuss the request from the City of Milford for the County ARPA Funds. He stated the City of Milford has old lead pipes and experiences brown water. The city tries to flush hydrants and other processes to help with this problem. The City of Milford will be using all, or a portion of, their ARPA funds for this project and he is requesting a portion of the County's ARPA funds. Commissioner Schmieding stated he believes all the cities/villages in Seward County need to be aware of the funds the County has. Kelley was requesting for \$845,015.00 in funds on behalf of the City of Milford.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the disbursement of ARPA funds to the City of Milford in the amount of \$845,015.00 for the Water Main Replacement Project #1.

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

Motion Carried

Greg Butcher, Seward City Administrator, and Mike Oneby, City Engineer, gave information about a new Water Tower project for Seward in which they are requesting ARPA Funds. He stated the current water tower has many deficiencies. A new water tower would be placed by the old water tower which is near the downtown area of Seward. He stated the City of Seward is using their ARPA funds for this project and is requesting a portion of the County's ARPA funds. He stated they had no dollar amount request, but would appreciate any help.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to approve the disbursement of ARPA Funds to the City of Seward in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the Seward Downtown Water Tower Project.

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

Motion Carried

Chelsea Smith, Operations Manager of the Sheriff's Office, stated the Seward County Task Force is in Maryland for the Interdiction Task Force Conference. She called the hotel prior to stay and they indicated they would direct bill (charge) Seward County for the costs. Upon arrival, the hotel would not direct bill the costs therefore their credit card needed to be utilized. Other travel costs, such as meals, also need to be paid via credit card. The two credit cards for the Sheriff have a current limit of \$3,500 each. She is requesting that the limit of one card be raised to \$8,000.00. Discussion was held about charges for a future conference that will need to be charged to this card also. It was decided \$8,000.00 may not be a high enough limit due to the timing of the billing cycle.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to increase the Sheriff's credit card # 9725 to \$10,000 for 90 days.

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

Motion Carried

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to display on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor wall, near the World War II Service Members picture, an acquired photograph depicting a 1918 Celebration at the Fairgrounds.

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

Motion Carried

The Commissioners discussed contacting the other cities/villages of Seward County that may have projects for which ARPA funds can be used. Ahmic reported that she talked to the Dept. Heads of the Detention Center and Public Transit and stated that the County has costs for which ARPA funds can be used.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chairman to sign a Surplus Property Disposal Request from the County Clerk's Office.

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

Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 10:11 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:13 a.m.

The Commissioners then held budget hearings for various officials.

The first official for which the Commissioners held a hearing was County Attorney, Wendy Elston. Elston and Office Manager, Casey Tieman, were present to discuss the budget for which she is in charge.

The next official present for a budget hearing was Ann Dobesh for the Extension Office.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:05 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 11:10 a.m.

Marilyn Hladky, County Assessor, was the next official present for her budget hearing.

District Court Judge Stecker appeared before the Commissioners to discuss his budget.

Becky Paulsen, Weed/Zoning Administrator, spoke to the Board about her budget request.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch at 11:42 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 12:30 a.m.

Sheila Beins, Clerk Magistrate of the County Court, gave information about her budget request.

Matt Starkey, Veteran's Service Officer/Public Transit Director, was present to give information about those budgets.

Eric Hofer, Building & Grounds Supt., gave information about his budget request.

The Commissioners recessed at 1:47 p.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 1:54 p.m.

Maria Hatfield, Detention Center Director, was present for her budget hearing.

Bob Dahms, Treasurer, and Sherry Leising, Deputy Treasurer, were present for their budget hearing to give information to the Commissioners.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on August 3, 2021 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 July 27, 2021
5. Discuss/Action - Claims through the period of July 23, 2021

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

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act Funds
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for August 10, 2021

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Region V Services – Annual Report and Request for funding

10:00 a.m. Discuss/Action – Budget Meeting with Officials

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to adjourn at 2:48 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Vrbka, Ahmic, Schmieding, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2021.

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County Clerk

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Chairman