

June 4, 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 8:30 a.m. on June 4, 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 June 4, 2024 at 8:30 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.

Jacob Jennings of the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) updated the Commissioners on activities of the organization.

Those officials present for their monthly discussion with the Commissioners were: Emily Manning, Alison Rook and Sherry Schweitzer.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024.

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to approve claims for the period through May 24, 2024.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH MAY 24, 2024

ACCURATE CONTROLS	SE	\$1,856.36	SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	SE	\$3,480.61
ADVANCED OFFICE AUTOM	EQ	\$598.19	SVEHLA LAW OFFICES	SE	\$487.50
AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	FE	\$20,632.20	THAYER CO SHERIFF	SE	\$25.00
BRAVEBE CHILD ADVOCACY	SE	\$4,900.00	THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	EQ	\$1,184.90
CAMPBELL CLEANING	SE	\$4,625.00	OUTDOOR POWER GRP	EQ	\$265.99
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYS	SU	\$39.14	UNIV OF NE - LINCOLN	SE	\$1,231.80
CHARTER COMM	UT	\$316.66	UNL PRINT & COPY	SU	\$166.91
COAST TO COAST COMP	EQ	\$1,043.95	US BANK EQUIP FINANCE	EQ	\$167.99
CONNER PSYCH SERV	SE	\$850.00	UTICA BODY & PAINT	SE	\$400.00
DELL MARKETING L P	SE	\$158.31	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	UT	\$435.82
E 911	SE	\$44,869.17	VISA	FE	\$6,694.84
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SU	\$420.08	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	\$280.99
ELECTION WORKERS	SE	\$17,204.39	BLUE VALLEY DOOR CO	SE	\$2,159.50
SIDNEY FREY	SE	\$834.60	CHEMSEARCH	SE	\$1,346.40
GALLS LLC	SU	\$515.00	DALE JOHNSON ENT	SU	\$8,840.31
THE GRAPHIC EDGE	SU	\$624.18	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	SU	\$20,811.03
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	\$1,149.79	KERFORD LIMESTONE CO	SU	\$2,761.11
GREAT PLAINS UNIFORMS	SE	\$419.46	MEDICAL ENTERPRISES	SU	\$35.00
HELENA AGRI-ENTERPRISES	SU	\$984.10	MILLER SEED	SU	\$1,731.80
HERPOLSHEIMERS INC	SE	\$629.76	SAPP BROS PETROLEUM	SU	\$39,476.35
HIRERIGHT LLC	SE	\$45.50	SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	SE	\$12.73
KEARNEY INVESTMENT	SE	\$459.80	SHAFFER COMMUNIC	EQ	\$11,319.44
HOMETOWN LEASING	EQ	\$263.23	TRUCK CENTER CO	SU	\$24.38

HOPE CRISIS CENTER	SE	\$20,000.00	VILLAGE OF UTICA	UT	\$53.84
INSIGHT PUB SECTOR SLED	SE	\$4,565.35	CITY OF SEWARD	UT	\$250,000.00
JONES BANK (FICA)	FE	\$20,961.48	BLUE RIVER ELECTRIC	SE	\$183.88
KONICA MINOLTA FINANCE	EQ	\$131.48	OMAHA MAGAZINE	SU	\$1,195.00
LA QUINTA INN & SUITES	TR	\$239.90	SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND	FE	\$128,538.05
LEE'S REFRIGERATION	SE	\$32.64	MILFORD AGING SERV	SE	\$124.60
EMILY MANNING	SE	\$202.75	SEWARD AGING SERV	SE	\$442.40
HOLLY MATZKE	SE	\$180.00	UTICA AGING SERV	SE	\$185.50
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	SE	\$213.75	CITY OF MILFORD	UT	\$4,626.54
MENARDS	SU	\$59.98	CROWNE PLAZA KEARNEY	TR	\$627.00
SPORTS EXPRESS	SU	\$2,151.54	INTOXIMETERS	EQ	\$373.00
MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE	EQ	\$1,448.22	LINCOLN POLICE GARAGE	SE	\$458.68
NE HEALTH & HUMAN SERV	SE	\$90.00	MOTOROLA	EQ	\$2,425.00
NE LAW ENFORC TRAINING	FE	\$80.00	NORRIS PUB POWER DIST	UT	\$486.89
NE PUBL HLTH ENVIR LB	SE	\$105.00	SECURITY EQUIP INC	EQ	\$366.06
N A I S M A	SE	\$40.00	ST OF NE DAS STATE ACCNTG	SE	\$738.50
OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	SU	\$51.44	SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION	SE	\$263.00
PETTY CASH FUND	FE	\$181.00	ENGINEERED CONTROLS	EQ	\$11,450.00
PINE CO SHERIFF	SE	\$70.00	BUTLER CO LANDFILL	SE	\$48,431.27
PIONEER AMBULANCE	SE	\$1,256.21	DUTEAU CHEVROLET	EQ	\$27,924.00
POTTER REPAIR	SE	\$54.46	UPPER BIG BLUE NRD	UT	\$1,272.16
QUADIANT, INC	SU	\$140.60	WAHLTEK	EQ	\$2,838.94
QUILL CORP	SU	\$449.19	SALARIES		\$297,365.50
RED ROOF INN	TR	\$101.00	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:		
JENNIFER REES	SE	\$371.18	AMERITAS DENTAL		
RIXSTINE TROPHY	SU	\$16.95	AMERITAS VISION		
SAFELITE FULFILLMENT	SE	\$393.93	COLONIAL SUPPLMENTAL INSURANCE		
SEWARD CO SINKING FND	FE	\$2,700.00	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN		
SMPC, LLC	EQ	\$5,010.00	POINT C FSA		
SOARIN GROUP	SE	\$363.00	WADDELL & REED		

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

Motion Carried

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Hain reported she completed an employee evaluation, participated in a Zoom meeting with other counties about a grant writer and attended the Hazard Mitigation meeting.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended a Seward/Saline Solid Waste meeting (it couldn't convene due to not enough present for a quorum), visited the City of Crete about their participation in the Solid Waste meeting, worked on the Tornado Siren placement issue, attended an Executive Board meeting for Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) and checked cemeteries.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she participated in two meetings in regard to Community Safety Action Plan, met with a law office clerk about the Public Defender files, spent time training the Zoning Administrator, attended the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) inheritance tax session workshop, reported on an Allo issue, had a Broadband Ready meeting with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), attended the Governor's presentation in Seward last week and attended a grants meeting with other counties and Commissioner Ahmic.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) Rising Star presentation, noted information about the abandoned cemeteries and attended a Rotary Club banquet. He has an Extension Board meeting and Region V meeting next week.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) Board meeting, a 4th of July meeting, the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Inheritance Tax Replacement workshop, the Governor presentation and a Highway Dept. meeting. He also met with Commissioner Hain about a Hazard Mitigation Plan and located tornado sirens throughout Seward County.

The Commissioners talked about the abandoned cemeteries upkeep item on the agenda. Some Commissioners discussed that some of the cemeteries need fence repairs. Hain stated that the Road Dept. could help with fence repairs. The Commissioners also talked about flags being put out during Memorial Day time and which are not lit after dark. Suggestions were to talk to the Extension Office staff who works with 4-H Clubs who have placed the flags there or put signage at the flag pole site at the abandoned cemetery. The Commissioners decided that everybody check the cemeteries they were assigned to and report the needed repairs and signage needed by June 25, 2025.

Eric Hofer, Building & Grounds Supt., presented bids he received for painting the emergency stairs at the courthouse and power washing the exterior of the courthouse. Commissioner Culver stated that the power washing needs to be careful to not damage any joints in the exterior stone. It was suggested that Hofer get a bid for tuckpointing and come back to the Board with that information. Hofer also had a bid for painting the exterior emergency stairs. It was mentioned that the exterior rails at the Justice Center also need painting. Hofer mentioned that adjustments have been made involving humidity at the Detention area of the Justice Center. The item will be put on the agenda for next week.

Trever Trebilcock, Asst. Highway Supt., presented a utility permit for the Commissioners' consideration.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to authorize the Chair to sign a Utility Permit for Windstream Nebraska LLC, to provide a 100 MB Circuit to 1712 Old Mill Rd., Garland, NE.

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

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to authorize the Highway Supt. to go out for bids for rock and gravel with bids to be opened on June 25, 2024.

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

The Commissioners talked about telephone expenses. Music during hold will be deleted since it's an added cost. The Attorney's office wanted an intercom function. It was decided, instead of an intercom, it would be better to put panic buttons in the new area where some staff of the Attorney's Office has moved. Separate bills for the offices were also discussed. Ahmic said the representative from Allo said that could be done. It was decided to ask Allo to separate the bills, however for this budget year, costs would still be paid out of the Building & Grounds budget. In the year 2025-2026, costs will be paid out of each individual department's budget. Zabrocki will make sure new panic buttons are purchased for the County Attorney's staff that do not already have them.

Marissa Pfile, Zoning Administrator, presented for discussion only, Guidelines for Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Overlay District for Seward County. Ahmic stated Marvin Planning Consultants have helped create guidelines that are being considered to add to the Seward County Zoning Regulations. Comments from the Planning Commission were mentioned. The Planning Commission will need to first hold a hearing and then give their recommendation to the Commissioners. The Commissioners will also have to hold a hearing before it can be incorporated into the regulations.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:59 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:04 a.m.

Roxanne Knutson, HR Director, presented information requesting a trainer rate for the Sheriff's Office be approved. Knutson said the Road Dept. and the Detention Center have trainer rates for their employees who train a new employee. Captain Melby from the Sheriff's Office was in attendance and explained their program when training a new employee. Job descriptions will be checked to see if being a trainer for new employees is already part of their job. Knutson will report back next week.

The Commissioners considered a new Title VI Implementation Plan for Seward County.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to authorize the Chair to sign the Seward County Title VI Implementation Plan.

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

Knutson also gave information about a policy and training software she would like to purchase from Power DMS. She explained how the software would help her office with new policies and the training and tracking of those policies. Discussion was held about what exactly this would provide, costs, different offices/departments usage, etc. Knutson will find answers to several questions and the item will be discussed at a later meeting.

Gary Peterson, Seward/York Emergency Manager, was present to discuss the tornado siren at the Seward I-80 Interchange. The first item discussed was the approval of the change of the location for the siren. The siren is currently on private land owned by C & A Complex Management. He gave information about locating the pole in the right-of-way on O St. Road, about ¼ mile west of Highway 15. Another idea was to leave the siren where the landowner moved it. The Commissioners discussed where to put the siren and if another siren is warranted in the area near Ruby. Hain mentioned that grants can also be applied for sirens. They also talked about the testing of the sirens and the reporting of them to make sure they are working.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to authorize the chair to sign an Agreement for a Utility Easement with C & A Complex Management, LLC for a siren in the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 20 Township 10 North Range 3 East of the 6th p.m. to include \$550 for expenses involved with the moving of the pole.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic

Voting no: Culver

Motion Carried

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to accept the resignation of Stephanie Luebbe as a member of the Planning Commission effective June 4, 2024.

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

The Board considered changing deductibles with Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) for liability and workers compensation insurance.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Zabrocki to choose to stay with the current deductibles with Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA).

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

Motion Carried

Ahmic led discussion about grants and gave information about the Safe Streets and Road Grant and the Bridge Investment Project (BIP) grant. She also spoke about a meeting with two other counties about joining together to hire a grant writer. They also have a webinar they will view soon for a Community Projects Fund (CPF) grant. Hain stated that collaboration between counties makes for better grant applications and that could happen with a funded grant writer.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on June 11, 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 May 28, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on June 11, 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 June 4, 2024

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

- 8. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
- 9. Commissioners Reports
- 10. Discuss/Action – Grant Funds being Sought by Seward County
- 11. Discuss/Action – Executive Session - Personnel
- 12. Discuss/Action – Agenda for June 18, 2024

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to adjourn at 12:00 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Culver, Schmieding, Hain, 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 June 2024.

County Clerk

Chairperson