

June 25, 2024

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 a.m. on June 25, 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 Equalization 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 June 25, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, John Culver, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer
County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky
Deputy County Treasurer: Sherry Leising

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 Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption application for St. Gregory the Great Seminary for a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN# 2C4RDGBG8KR639248.

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

The Commissioners held four valuation protest hearings.

The first one was for Lodges Preserved, LLC. Mark Becker, representing the LLC, was present for the protest and presented information about the building on Lot 12, (Tax Lot 21) Block 10, Original Town, Seward, NE.

No decision was made on the protest from Lodges Preserved, LLC at this time.

The second protest hearing was for Ron Carder who was present for his hearing on Lot 1, Block 1, Van Andel's Addition, Pleasant Dale, NE. He presented information about his property in the Village of Pleasant Dale.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to deny the request for change of valuation for Ron Carder for Lot 1, Block 1, Van Andel's Addition, Pleasant Dale, NE based on the Assessor's testimony and recommendation and also the property owner has not produced supporting evidence that the property should be a different value.

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

The next protest hearing was for Kayton Development, LLC. Thomas Kayton was present for the LLC at said hearing for Lot C & D, Seward Plex Subdivision PUD, Seward, NE and gave information about the apartment building.

No decisions were made on the protests from Kayton Development, LLC at this time.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of June 11,2024.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver, Ahmic Motion Carried

The Change of Valuation Notice items on the agenda were not considered at the meeting, per request of the Assessor.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on July 9, 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 June 25, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Decisions on Valuation Protests
5. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to adjourn at 9:17 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Culver, Hain, Schmieding, 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 9th day of July 2024.

County Clerk

Chairperson

June 25, 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 9:17 a.m. on June 25, 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 16, 2024 at 9:17 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.

The Commissioners then named Donald Baldwin as the Veteran of the Month. Ray Foreman, Veteran Service Officer, introduced Mr. Baldwin and gave information about him. Mr. Baldwin gave information about his service in the Army during the Korean War time.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:29 a.m.
The Commissioners re-convened at 9:32 a.m.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to open gravel bids at 9:32 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Culver, Schmieding, Hain, Ahmic Motion Carried

Bids were received from Johnson Sand & Gravel, Southwest Gravel LLC, and Don Johnson.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Zabrocki to award gravel bids to all who submitted bids as follows with prices listed "per ton":
Johnson Sand and Gravel: Pit Site - \$15.50 Missile Base Stockpile: \$26.50
Southwest Gravel LLC: Pit Site - \$13.86 Grover Stockpile - \$30.49 Missile Base - \$31.99
Don Johnson: Pit Site - \$15.35 Garland Stockpile - \$26.91
Affirmative Vote: Culver, Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to approve the minutes of June 18, 2024.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver, Hain, Ahmic Motion Carried

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

Maria' Scamehorn, E911 Director, was present for the budget hearing for the 911 Department. She explained the details of the budget. The Commissioners asked questions and suggested changes she might consider and bring back to next week's meeting.

Carmen Hinman, Executive Director of Hope Crisis Center, along with Shannon Koranda and Cait Park, Victim Advocates for the organization, were present to give their annual report and request for a contribution for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Shelby Petersen, Executive Director of Southeast Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), was present to give information about her organization and request for a contribution for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Tom Nielsen of Soarin' Group, along with Marty Walter, were present to discuss a possible secondary internet circuit for the Justice Center to mitigate any outages or potential downtime brought on by a single carrier. Nielsen talked about an internet outage from Allo and recommended removing Allo as a dedicated line and using Unite Internet. When the outage happened, the dedicated line from Allo was compromised and a program called Zuercher went down. Seward County is the host of that program for three other counties' 911 Departments and when the internet went down for Seward County, those counties also went down. Unite Internet is already in the Justice Center and being used by state offices. Using them as a dedicated line would prevent 911 Department from going down unless a massive outage occurred. Financially, costs of changing the dedicated lines are about the same. The Commissioners decided to change to Unite Internet for a dedicated line.

The Commissioners discussed a request from the Seward Ag Society to put a Neon sign on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn promoting the Seward County Fair. Questions arose about how the sign is placed on the lawn and size of tires on the sign.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to approve the request from the Seward County Ag Society to place a neon sign on the southwest corner of the Courthouse lawn starting August 5, 2024 with the stipulation of nothing larger than turf tires be used on the grass and be moved within 5 days after the fair.
Affirmative Vote: Culver, Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Roxanne Knutson, HR Director, and Tiffany Allen, Asst. HR Director, were present to discuss ending the extension of the Seward County Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act that was passed during Covid time.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to end the Seward County Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act Extension.

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

They also requested funding for events for Seward County Employee Appreciation.

Knutson discussed Resolution #3487 which was passed in 2019 in regard to longevity awards given to employees in the form of Chamber Bucks. The longevity awards have never been given since the resolution was passed. She stated the anticipated cost of the awards that need to be given out going back to 2019 to the present are in the area of \$4,000.00. The Board asked Knutson to come back with more information at a later meeting.

Hans Szarafinski of Central Valley Ag was present to give information about a possible building project at the Tamora grain terminal. This project would need to have the road on the west side of the elevator relocated or a portion vacated to accommodate the new building. The road is called Railroad St. and it was suggested vacating it from Chapman Ave. to 378th Road west of the elevator for this project. Szasrafinski said the project is in the beginning stages and will present this information to the elevator's board of directors in the future.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:43 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 11:47 a.m.

Gary Peterson, Seward/York Emergency Manager, was present to discuss the draft of the Hazard Mitigation Profile and National Insurance Program worksheet. They discussed and made several changes to the draft.

The Commissioners discussed the Disbursement of Opioid Funds in Seward County. Previously, the County did choose to accept the Opioid Funds distributed to Nebraska counties. In deciding how those funds should be distributed, there is certain criteria in which these funds can be used. Commissioner Hain stated she would make an application that entities would need to complete.

The Commissioners recessed at 12:31 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 1:00 p.m.

Brandon Noordhoek, Detention Center Director, presented an amendment to the inmate food service contract for Summit Food Service LLC. He said he has contacted a local vendor, but has not received any information back. In the interim, Summit has provided a 1-month extension to the original contract. He provided three different contracts, depending on different criteria, for the Commissioners to consider that would be effective July 1, 2024.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic that the Chairperson sign the inmate food contract with Summit Food Service LLC for a 1-month contract from July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024.

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

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Hain reported she completed an employee evaluation, met with the HR Dept., the Highway Supt., attended a Juvenile Justice Institute presentation with County Attorney's office personnel, worked on the Courthouse Library Use Policy, participated in a meeting with Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT), checked and documented cemeteries, and received correspondences about roads.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting, checked roads and checked abandoned cemeteries.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with Commissioner Hain and the Detention Center Director with a potential food vendor for the detention center, had a budget meeting with Weed Supt. and Zoning Administrator, completed a performance evaluation with an employee, participated in a Zoom meeting with Commissioners Culver and Hain about federal aid roads, attended a PN-3 meeting with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), received an update about the Public Defender's office case files, completed a Juvenile Justice survey, met with several Senators about broadband and the public service commission and dealt with various correspondences.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he had a Visitors Committee meeting, an Extension Board meeting, reviewed abandoned cemeteries and mentioned that he was re-appointed to the Seward City Rec Board and the Seward Tree Board.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he completed an employee review, attended the Seward City Council meeting, attended a BRIDGES meeting, a 4th of July meeting, and an Economic Summit.

Commissioner Hain led discussion about the Courthouse Library Use Policy and application. She presented a draft for the other board members to view. There were questions pertaining to the rules of use, so the item will be put on next week's agenda.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to adopt Resolution No. 3810 in regard to transferring \$400 to the Highway Supt. budget from the Misc. Budget in the General Fund.

**RESOLUTION # 3811 OF THE
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the budget of the Seward County Highway Supt. was set at \$139,262.00 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, necessary expenditures of said office is going to result in the expending over that amount, and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists requiring that said budget be expanded as provided by law, and

WHEREAS, said additional funds to be applied to said budget must be appropriated from a General Fund Budget of Seward County, Nebraska;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the budget of the Seward County Highway Supt. is increased in the amount of \$400.00 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, resulting in an amended budget of \$139,662.00 AND

AND FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the sum of \$400.00 which has been added to the budget of the Seward County Highway Supt. for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be appropriated from the Miscellaneous General Budget.

Dated this 25th day of June 2025.

Moved by: Zabrocki Seconded by: Culver

Ayes: John K. Culver, Raegan Hain, Darrell J. Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding,
Misty Ahmic, Chair of the Board

Attest: Sherry Schweitzer, Seward County Clerk

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

Motion Carried

The items involving abandoned cemeteries and an agreement with the Nebraska Dept. of Environment and Energy that were not discussed today, but have been put on next week's agenda.

Chairman Ahmic led discussion about a Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) request for County Participation in Prevention, Recidivism Reduction and Alternative Solution Programs. Ahmic stated that NACO is wanting a list and cost of the resources Seward County is spending on different programs on these subjects.

Chairman Ahmic led discussion on reviewing Section 005 of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Regulations to consider bringing Conium Maculatum under the Seward County Weed Control Program. This is commonly known as Poison Hemlock and is abundant throughout the county. Ahmic handed out information about it. It is not on the State of Nebraska Registry of Noxious Weeds, but counties can have it on their weed control program. Ahmic will ask the County Attorney for legal advice on the issue.

Commissioner Hain stated she had a meeting with Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) related to Federal Aid Roads and asked if there is potential funding designated for these roads. They were told about a grant for a hard surface road project where the road needs to be replaced. There also may be some resources through the NDOT to help in the writing of this grant. Commissioner Ahmic stated there was a preservation grant that could help with a project of tuckpointing the courthouse. She also said there is a grant available through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for help with abandoned cemetery stones.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on July 2, 2024 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 June 25, 2024
5. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through June 21, 2024

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Allow Commissioner Hain to sign the Amended Agreement with the Nebraska Dept. of Environment & Energy for the Waste Tire Grant
8. Discuss/Action – Conditions and Possible Repairs for Abandoned Cemeteries for 2024-2025 Budget
9. Discuss/Action – Grant Funds being Sought by Seward County
10. Discuss/Action – Jail Inspection
11. Discuss/Action – Agenda for July 9, 2024

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Appoint 2 Members to the Veteran Service Committee

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open Rock Bids for the Seward County Road Dept.
Discuss/Action – Award Rock Bids for the Seward County Road Dept.

10:00 a.m. Public Hearing – Receive Comments in regard to the Purchase of a New Public Transit Vehicle

10:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Courthouse Library Use Policy and Application

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 2:22 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Culver, Schmieding, 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 2nd day of July 2024.

County Clerk

Chairman