

March 7, 2023

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 March 7, 2023 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 March 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Raegan Hain, 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.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership, and Laurie Sherman of BRIDGES updated the Commissioners on activities of their organization.

Those officials updating the Commissioners on activities of their offices were Kathy Ruzicka, Marilyn Hladky, Eric Hofer and Sherry Schweitzer.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to approve the minutes of February 29, 2023.

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

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Ahmic reported she completed a report for federal funding, met with the Public Transit Director, talked to the Butler Co. Hwy Supt about a bridge project for a grant, met with the Zoning Administrator and met with CASA representatives on various topics. Participated in a Zoom with Railroad representatives about a railroad crossing and had phone calls with our IT personnel, Allo, Great Plains Communications and Windstream about the proposed phone system.

Commissioner Hain reported she participated in a NACO training program, attended Staplehurst and Utica Village Board meetings, met with the Seward City Administrator about wage studies, had multiple discussions with HR and the Detention Center Director. She met with Four Corners Health District representatives. She also attended the Roads Dept. foreman meeting.

Cassius Lee of Mercy Church was present to request using the Courthouse lawn for an Easter Egg Hunt. He said plans are to provide areas for different age groups and will have a photo booth also.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to approve Mercy Church hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and other activities around the Courthouse lawn on April 8, 2023.

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

Commissioners Reports (cont.)

Commissioner Culver reported he attended a Blue Valley Community Action meeting, checked several roads, met with the Hwy Supt., talked to IT personnel, and will attend a meeting tonight with the Garland Village Board.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he will have a Region V meeting, a Visitors Committee meeting, an Extension Board meeting and NACO Southeast Officials meeting in the coming week.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Staplehurst Village Board meeting, a Broadband meeting, attended the NIRMA seminar via Zoom, attended a BRIDGES meeting, attended the Road Dept. Foreman meeting, attended an HR meeting and checked various roads.

Matt Starkey, Veteran’s Service Officer/Public Transit Director, presented the new proposed fare schedule for the Commissioners consideration.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chairman to sign the new Seward County Public Transit Fare Schedule.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the updated Fee Schedule for the Seward County Clerk.

SEWARD COUNTY CLERK SCHEDULE OF FEES

COUNTY CLERK

Plat Books	\$30.00
Marriage License	\$25.00
Certified Copy of Marriage License	\$9.00
Photocopies	\$0.25 per page
Photocopies Mailed	\$0.50 per page; \$1.00 postage
Photocopies Faxed	\$1.50 per document
Photocopies Emailed	\$1.50 per document

ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Certified Voter Card	\$3.00
List of Registered Voters - Hard Copy	\$0.01 per name
List of Registered Voters - Digitally	\$5.00 per 500 names or part thereof
List of Registered Voters - Labels	\$7.50 per 500 or part thereof in addition to list cost

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Documentary Stamp Tax	\$2.25 per Thousand of Consideration
Instrument Filing Fee	\$10.00 1st page; \$6.00 additional page
Certified Copy of Instrument	\$1.50 per page
Certificate of Discharge (DD214)	No Fee
UCC	\$14.00
UCC Continuation and Amendment	\$14.00
UCC Terminations	No Fee
Federal Tax Lien	\$20.00
State Tax Lien	\$20.00
CD of Filed Documents	\$200/month

Approved: John K culver 3/7/2023
John Culver, Chairman, Board of Commissioners

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the County Clerk to advertise for the mowing of abandoned cemeteries in Seward County.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, Hain, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Ahmic to accept the Clerk of the District Court Fee Report for February 2023 in the amount of \$39,479.23.
Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Ahmic, Hain, Zabrocki, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to accept the County Clerk Fee Report for February 2023 in the amount of \$19,907.75.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to accept the Seward County Audit for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Culver Motion Carried

The Commissioners discussed contracting for future audits. Correspondence has been received from the State Auditor's Office that they will not offer their auditing services anymore. Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk, gave information about previous processes when auditors were chosen. She will survey counties in the area to see what firms they use and the subject will be put on a future agenda.

Lisa Lindau representing Southeast Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) was present to request a table be placed in the courthouse and pinwheels on the courthouse lawn to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to approve Southeast Nebraska CASA to place a table in the courthouse and pinwheels on the courthouse lawn for the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Hain, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Culver Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 9:53 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Hwy Supt., Terry Wicht presented the Commissioners with the proposed Seward County 1 & 6 Year Road Plan and asked them to approved a date for the annual hearing.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to set the date of April 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. for the hearing for the 1 & 6 Year Seward County Road Plan and advertise the same.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

During the Infrastructure Related Grants item on the agenda, Ahmic stated she talked to the Butler County Hwy Supt. about partnering with Seward County on a bridge Project for a grant. She stated that the Butler County Board approved it recently. Hain stated that she has located a grant that could be applied for to help fund improvements such as hard surfacing a road. It's a federal grant that is offering up to 47 million dollars that is available for such projects.

Maria Hatfield, Detention Center Director, led discussion on the Detention Center Staffing Issues item on the agenda. She gave information about her staff shortages, specifically male staff and suggested that raising the hiring bonus from \$2,000 to \$5,000 may help alleviate the problem. She also gave information on past history of applications submitted/accepted. It was stated there is a 9-week training period for the job as Correctional Officers. Commissioners Zabrocki and Culver stated they would like to see some longevity with this program and offer most of the bonus at the end of two years, for example. There was discussion about from which budget these bonuses would be paid. Ahmic stated there should be some fairness when other departments have the same staff vacancy problem. All Commissioners gave information/ideas to help solve the situation. The HR Office was directed to make a policy for offering bonuses.

The 2021 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Payroll Credits item on the agenda was not discussed.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to go into Executive Session at 10:51 a.m. to discuss a strategy session regarding pending legal action.

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

The Chairman re-stated the reason for Executive Session was a strategy session regarding pending legal action.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to go out of Executive Session at 11:21 a.m.

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

The Chairman said while in Executive Session, a strategy session regarding pending legal action was discussed and no action was taken.

The Commissioners discussed the Public Defender vacancy process. Ahmic stated that it would be advantageous to advertise more. HR Director, Carina Sanchez said it has been advertised on Indeed, NE Works, and on our website. Barb Armstrong, Deputy County Attorney, said there may be other sites with listservs that it can be advertised on. They were directed to visit with another county who had a similar vacancy to find out more information.

Roxanne Knutson, Assistant HR Director, led discussion that she had reached out to other counties to see what they gave for their recommendations for an annual increase. She listed several counties that had decided, some had not. Knutson said the office's recommendation was 4%. She stated that the HR Dept. is currently performing a wage study. All Commissioners suggested ideas ranging from 3% to 4%. Zabrocki suggested to the E911 Director that he put in 3% when he is beginning to develop his budget, since he has to compile his budget earlier because of the 911 Interlocal.

During discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) item on the agenda, Culver stated he is going to the Garland Village Board meeting tonight to get information for their application for Seward County ARPA money. It was stated that the City of Seward, who was awarded county ARPA money, bid their new water tower project and no bids were received. ARPA funds have to be expended by 2026. Hain stated the Village of Staplehurst has been trying to get an application in for a large project. They have a large water meter project and will ask for County ARPA funds for the meters and hope that they will qualify in the future for grants to install them. It was decided that the Village of Staplehurst be given 6 months to come up with additional funding before the county obligates any money.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on March 14, 2023 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of February 28, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Tax List Correction 200-22P
5. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on March 14, 2023 are as follows:

9:00 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 March 7, 2023
5. Discuss/Action – Claims through the period of March 3, 2023

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Accept the Zoning Administrator’s Fee Report for February 2023 – \$2,250
8. Discuss/Action – Review Commissioner Assignments for Abandoned Cemeteries
9. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
10. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
11. Discuss/Action – Agenda for March 21, 2023

9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – Res. - Administrative Replat to Create Schulz Pankoke Subdivision in L Precinct in the SE ¼ of Section 26 Township 10N Range 1 East of the 6th p.m.

Discuss/Action – Res. – Administrative Replat to create Deer Valley First Add in J Precinct in the NW ¼ of Section 33 Township 10 North Range 3 East of the 6th p.m.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to adjourn at 12:13 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Hain, 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 14th day of March 2023.

County Clerk

Chairperson