

# March 19, 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 March 19, 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 March 19, 2024 at 9:00 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.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Minutes of March 12, 2024 and the County Treasurer's Certification of Tax Sale held on March 4, 2024.

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

Motion Carried

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Hain reported she sent out an email to officials about Allo services, attended the Community Town hall meeting about Broadband, the Village of Beaver Crossing meeting, the Southeast Meeting of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) meeting, worked on grants, worked with the Highway Supt. office on various forms, attended the Our Redeemer Lutheran School Gala, met with Extension Office staff and attended the Ag Appreciation Banquet.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended the SE Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) meeting, the Community Town hall meeting about Broadband, the Bee and Pleasant Dale Village Board meetings, Planning Commission meeting, answered several emails, and will attend the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Board meeting. He also noted that there were questions about the new GIS and the work Marvin Planning consultants will do for updating the Zoning Regulations.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended the SE Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) meeting, worked on the Broadband, delivered notifications to residents on Sunrise Road and Welch Park Road, finished Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) report, put together packets for the Planning Commission meeting. She also worked a lot in the Zoning Office since the position is vacant at this time. She also has been doing work for the Broadband challenge and Bridge Investment Project (BIP). She also notified the Board that the new fleet car is here and later this week she will participate in the Waters Leaders Academy.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Community Town hall meeting about Broadband, the Ag Banquet and a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Tonight is the city meeting for Highway 15 construction. He called on some residents in District 5 to hear any comments.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast meeting, Community Town hall meeting about Broadband, law enforcement Liability seminar, attended a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, the BRIDGES meeting, a Problem Solving Court graduation, met with the 911 Director, a Hwy Dept employee and will go to Highway 15 construction meeting and Seward City Council meeting this evening.

Stephanie Bertagnoli and Genevieve Tonniges of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) were present to ask permission to place pinwheels in courthouse lawn for Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to approve the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) request to place pinwheels on the courthouse lawn for Child Abuse Prevention Month from March 29 - April 30, 2024.

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

Commissioner Hain led discussion about the letter of support for a grant.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the County Board to sign a letter of support for Seward County Application for Community Project Funds grant.

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

Tiffany Allen, Assistant HR Director, was present and led discussion about the request for catastrophic leave hours for an employee. The Commissioners discussed the catastrophic leave policy in the Personnel Policy. The Commissioners did not act on it at this time, but will investigate the request and a decision will be made at next week's meeting.

Tim McCarthy and Chad Marsh of Kirkham Michael were present to discuss the improvement for 420<sup>th</sup> Road Project, also known as the Beaver Road from Interstate 80 north to Highway 34. They gave information on the estimated cost and Commissioner Hain gave information that Seward County was awarded \$3 million for this project. The project cost is larger than the money from the grant, and so the project may be completed in two phases. Having to complete it in two different phases would add approximately \$500,000 to the total cost. The cost for updating the engineering for this project would come out of the Inheritance Fund and the cost of the project would come from the grant.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairperson sign the agreement with Kirkham Michael for the 420<sup>th</sup> Road Project with the engineering cost to be paid out of inheritance and the remainder of the construction costs to be paid out of the Community Projects Fund (CPF) Grant.

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

Heidi Fleischman, Road Dept. Admin. Asst., led discussion on the hard surfacing of the curves of Sunrise Road. Hard surfacing the road curves would cost extra because of the sharpness of them and the construction company would not be able to use their equipment but rather do them by hand. Drainage of the road with the curves was also discussed. Fleishman said the Road Dept. budget does have the extra estimated \$50,000 it would cost.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the additional funding for Sunrise paving project to cover the cost of grading the curves as the funding is available in the current Highway Dept. budget and the approximate cost would be between \$45,000 to \$50,000.

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

Marilyn Hladky, Assessor, was present to discuss the cancellation fees for GIS with gWorks. The County attorney will look over the contracts the various offices have with gWorks and the item will be on the agenda next week.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:07 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 10:10 a.m.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), along with Jacob Jennings, led discussion about requesting funding for a postcard to support the promotion of a challenge for Seward County rural residents to test their internet speeds.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to utilize Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) to send a broadband challenge postcard to Seward County residents utilizing up to \$2,000.

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

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion on the request for funding to support the Promotion of a microsite to market the Nebraska Broadband Office (NBO) Challenge Process. She provided maps showing the unserved and underserved areas. Jank also gave information about the challenge.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) funding to support the promotion of a microsite to market the Nebraska Broadband Office Challenge Process not to exceed \$3,000.

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

The Seward FFA Ag Issues Team was present to give their "Nitrates in Water" presentation. Jessy Eggerling, Seward High School Ag Teacher, gave information about the presentation. Bree Geschke, Addy Rohde, Esten Johnsen, Dylan Hochstein and Bryn Christensen were members of the Seward FFA that were in the presentation.

During our Legislative Update on the agenda, Commissioner Ahmic stated Seward County was mentioned in floor debate this past week. Commissioner Hain stated she is going to an Opioid Summit to better learn if funds received can be used for mental health issues at the Detention Center.

During grants discussion, Ahmic said she is working on a Safe Streets and Roads grant. Ahmic and Hain made several remarks about working on the Bridge Investment Project (BIP) grant which will be submitted today. It was discussed that another firm be hired to help with grant writing in the future. Commissioner Hain gave information about the tire recycling grant to be held in the near future. Community Projects Fund (CPF) grants were also discussed.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on March 26, 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 March 12, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on March 26, 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 March 19, 2024
8. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through March 15, 2024

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

9. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
10. Commissioners Reports
11. Discuss ONLY – Completion of Performance Evaluations for Appointed Officials

- 12. Discuss/Action – Legislative Update
- 13. Discuss/Action – Grant Funds being Sought by Seward County
- 14. Discuss/Action – Agenda for April 2, 2024
- 9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Catastrophic Leave Hours for Employee 010158
- 9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open Bids for Mowing Abandoned Cemeteries
- 9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – gWorks Cancellation Fees for GIS Service of Assessor, Road Dept., Clerk’s Office and Zoning/Weed Dept.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn 11:28 a.m.  
Affirmative Vote: Culver, Zabrocki, 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson