

March 21, 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 9:00 a.m. on March 21, 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 21, 2023 at 9:00 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.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to approve the minutes of March 14, 2023.

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

Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 9:02 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:05 a.m.

Sharon Powell representing the "Seward County Gives" organization was present to request the use of the Courthouse lawn on May 3, 2023 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to promote participating organizations for the "Give" week.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to approve the request to use the Courthouse lawn on May 3, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to promote participating organizations for the "Give" week with the rain dates of May 2 or May 4, 2023.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Culver

Abstain: Ahmic

Motion Carried

Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk, updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

During the Infrastructure Related Grants item on the agenda, Hain led discussion. She and Commissioner Zabrocki met with the Road Dept. staff and sent off a grant application by last Friday (May 17, 2023) for funds for a road project. She gave information about the short turn around in applying. She reported they have already received questions from the awarding agency, which she felt was good news.

Bobbi Blath and Sharon Reinmiller, representing the Village of Staplehurst, were present to discuss their application for County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money. She stated the request is for water meters in the amount of approximately \$50,000. She gave information about other work they have done/will do to get funding to complete a project involving the water meters. Board members stated they felt the project funding needed to be finalized before funds can be given for meters that would be stored and not be installed immediately.

The Commissioners decided to not act on the application until the Village of Staplehurst can secure more funding and can report back.

Cindy Wolverton of the Extension Office was present to request 4-H Clubs who have adopted an abandoned cemetery be given permission to plant a tree/bush to increase aesthetics of the cemetery. She stated she is in the process of updating a plan about what 4-H Clubs can do at the abandoned cemeteries that wouldn't interfere with the mowing, etc.

Commissioners stated they feel that there are other projects that could be done instead of planting trees or bushes which can hamper the mowing, etc.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to deny the request for 4-H Clubs to plant trees or bushes at this time.

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

Carina Sanchez, HR Director, and Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk, presented information for changing the starting wage for the Administrative Clerk II job description. The County Clerk's Office currently has an opening and Schweitzer is asking to change the starting wage now rather than waiting until the beginning of the fiscal year. Sanchez stated that the HR Department has started collecting data for a salary study for the positions that did not have one done last year. Data shows the starting wage average for this position is \$19.55 per hour. The current starting wage is \$15.60 per hour. Schweitzer stated that she would have waited until the new budget year to do this, but because she has a current opening, she would like to raise the starting wage at this time in hopes of getting more applicants. There was discussion from other officials about their starting wages. Commissioner Ahmic assured them that a salary study is being done for their positions, too. Questions arose about having funds in her budget, would there be anybody else in her office whose wages would need to be changed and suggestions about offering a wage that is not consistent with other raises that were granted last year.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to set the new starting wage at \$19.76 for the County Clerk's Administrative Clerk II position.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding
Voting No: Ahmic, Hain, Culver Motion Failed

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to set the new starting wage at \$19.50, which is the midpoint of the salary study, beginning at time of hire for the Administrative Assistant Clerk II.

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

Sheriff Mike Vance and Blake Swicord were present to request to temporarily increase the Sheriff's Office credit cards. They stated they will need to pay for out of state training and the current limit is not enough. Vance stated they would like to have \$9,400.00 for each of the two cards for four months.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to increase the Sheriff's Office credit cards for \$9,400.00 each card for four months.

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

They also requested to solicit sealed bids for capital improvements of the TASK Force building at 2737 Van Dorn Road Milford, NE.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to approve the Sheriff's Office to solicit sealed bids for capital improvements of the TASK Force building at 2737 Van Dorn Road Milford, NE.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to go into Executive Session at 10:48 a.m. to discuss personnel, it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).

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

The Chairman re-stated that the reason for Executive Session was for personnel.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to go out of Executive Session at 11:50 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

The Chairmans stated only personnel was discussed and no decisions were made.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to go into Executive Session at 11:51 a.m.
for personnel, it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, Hain, Culver Motion Carried

The Chairman stated the reason for Executive Session was for personnel.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to go out of Executive Session at 12:45 p.m.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

The Chairman stated only personnel was discussed and no decisions were made.

Terry Wicht, Hwy Supt. was present to discuss the approval of Project BRO7080(54)
Seward Northwest and other Road Dept. matters.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adopt Resolution No. 3744 in regard to
approving Project BRO-7080(54) Seward Northwest commonly referred to as the Bluff
Road Bridge.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there has been signed by the COUNTY OF SEWARD on the
13th day of September 2016, and the State on the 28th day of September
2016, an agreement providing for the construction of a Federal Aid County
Project at the following location: NORTHWEST OF SEWARD, and

WHEREAS, in the above agreement, the County has pledged sufficient
funds to finance its share of the cost of the construction of this project
identified as BRO-7080(54), and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned agreement provided that the County will
pay costs as set forth in the agreement, and

WHEREAS, the State, on behalf of the County received bids for the
construction of this project based on the final plans and specifications on
March 02, 2023, at which time 2 bid(s) were received for the construction
of the proposed work, and

WHEREAS, the following Contractor(s) for the items of work listed
has/have been selected as the low bidder(s) to whom the contract(s)
should be awarded:

GENERAL EXCAVATING LLC, LINCOLN, NE 68507-3113
GRADING, CONCRETE PAVEMENT, CULVERTS, SEEDING, BRIDGE AT
STATION 16+06.00, GUARDRAIL, GENERAL ITEMS: \$3,029,010.79

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above facts, the SEWARD
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, by this resolution, takes the
following official action:

1. If for any reason the Federal Highway Administration rescinds,
limits its obligations, or defers payment of the Federal share of the
cost of this project, the County hereby agrees to provide the
necessary funds to pay for all costs incurred until and in the event
such Federal funds are allowed and paid.

2. The Board hereby concurs in the selection of the above mentioned Contractor(s) for the items of work listed, to whom the contract(s) should be awarded.
3. The Board hereby approves of the final plans and specifications that were used in the bidding process for this project.
4. The Board hereby authorizes the Board Chairperson to sign the contract(s) with the above mentioned Contractor(s) for the above mentioned work on behalf of the County using State's standard contract signing process, including when applicable, an electronic or digital signing process such as DocuSign©.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, A.D. 2023

SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John K. Culver, Chairperson

Board member, Zabrocki moved the adoption of said resolution.

Roll Call: 5 yea, 0 nay.

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

ATTEST: Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign a contract with Gehring Construction for Project Culver-80(687) Goehner South Paving Project.

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

The Commissioners then discussed bridge inspection data that was scored by the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation. The score given on a bridge chosen by the Nebraska DOT showed a score of 59 out of a possible 60 points.

The Commissioners reviewed the job descriptions of the Hwy Supt. and the Asst. Hwy. Supt.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to go into Executive Session at 1:07 p.m. for a strategy session.

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

The Chairman state the Executive Session stated it was for Strategy Session.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to go out of Executive Session at 1:46 p.m.

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

The Chairman stated that the Executive Session was for a strategy session and no decisions were made.

After Executive Session, Culver stated that resolving issues in the county requires good communication. Anthony Luebbe, a Road Dept. employee, asked about chain-of-command on road decisions. The response was that foremen are to supervise employees and that the Assistant Hwy Supt. should be consulted and he in turn would turn to the Hwy Supt. for consultation. Commissioner Ahmic stated she wanted to look at the Foreman job descriptions and then the issue will be re-visited.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioners Ahmic reported she worked with the BNSF Railroad pertaining to closing crossings, attended a Broadband Taskforce meeting, the Southeast District NACO meeting, Planning Commission meeting and checked roads.

Commissioner Hain reported she met with the HR Office, the Road Dept. and Sheriff Office and staff on various matters, attended the Southeast District NACO meeting, the Upper Big Blue meeting, the Road Dept. Foreman meeting, and checked roads. She will attend a Four Corners meeting next week.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended the Planning and Zoning meeting, received comments from constituents about various subjects and will attend a Blue Valley Community Action meeting next week.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Southeast NACO meeting last week, a Visitors meeting, and a meeting with Extension staff personnel.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he had meetings with the Road Dept., Broadband Task Force, Southeast NACO meeting, a Windstream meeting and went to the Capital to listen to testimony on an Inheritance Tax issue. He toured the Task Force building, the West Wing tornado safe room, checked various roads, and worked with some audit information. He will attend the Seward City Council meeting and will do work associated with being a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk management Association (NIRMA) Board member.

The Commissioners discussed Seward County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. Zabrocki led discussion about using some funds for Seward County. Most of the funds received via ARPA has been used for the Villages of Seward County. He suggested using the funds for equipment for Seward County. Ahmic suggested setting a deadline for villages to apply for funds. It was decided June 30, 2023 would be appropriate.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on March 28, 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 March 14, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on March 28, 2023 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of March 28, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through March 17, 2023

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
8. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
9. Discuss/Action – Agenda for April 4, 2023

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Res. – Approval of Fiscal Year 23-25 Public Transit 5311 Operating Assistance Application

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open bids for the Mowing of Abandoned Cemeteries

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 2:24 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic, Hain, 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 28th day of March 2023.

County Clerk

Chairperson