

May 3, 2022

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 May 3, 2022 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 May 3, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, 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 Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership, and Harrison Helmer, Executive Director of BRIDGES updated the Commissioners on activities of their organizations.

Those officials updating the Commissioners on activities of their offices were Terry Wicht and Sherry Schweitzer.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022.

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

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended the Seward Community Sector briefing, submitted the Seward County America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) report and will put together an overview for the Commissioners. She worked with JEO Consulting Group in regard to the proposed Planning and Zoning Regulations and received some road concerns.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he received concerns about roads.

Commissioner Culver reported he received concerns about roads, heard from the Village of Bee about ARPA, attended the E911 meeting, and represented Seward County at the annual Arbor Day celebration in Seward.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Arbor Day event. He also noted the various meetings he will attend in the next week.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Staplehurst Village Board meeting, a NIRMA committee meeting, a 911 Board meeting, a Seward Chamber luncheon, a Highway 15 re-surfacing meeting, the Village of Utica meeting and viewed the Butler County Commissioners meeting via Zoom. He also met with Matt Starkey about updating the General Assistance guidelines.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the County Treasurer's 3rd Quarter Investment report.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 8:58 a.m.

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

Wicht was present to ask permission to advertise for gravel and culvert bids for the coming year.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Highway Supt. to advertise for bids for gravel and culverts.

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

The Commissioners discussed ARPA funds. Ahmic stated she would like to make some changes to the county ARPA application. She has noticed some problems with prior applications and suggested that the new form be used in the future.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:13 a.m.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:15 a.m.

Sharon Powell and Dylan Wiemer of the Village of Utica were present to discuss an ARPA application they submitted. It is for a back-up generator for the Village of Utica Lift Station.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Vrbka to approve the request from the Village of Utica to use the County ARPA funds for a back-up Generator Project in the amount of \$40,119.66.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:24 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:30 a.m.

Carina Sanchez, HR Director, and Spencer Conradt, E911 Director, met with the Board to discuss a "Difficult to Fill" position. Currently the 911 Dept has two openings and has not been able to find replacements for them.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to declare the 911 Dispatcher Position as "Difficult to Fill".

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

The next item on the agenda was to set the wage for the starting wage for a 911 dispatcher. Conradt gave information about a survey of area county 911 Depts.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka authorize the 911 director to proceed with a starting wage for a 911 Dispatcher of \$19.76 and a maximum of \$20.94 effective 7/1/2022.

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

The next item on the agenda was wages increases for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Sanchez, along with Roxie Knutson, HR Assistant, led discussion on possible options for raises for the workforce for the next budget year. Knutson said the estimated costs for the 2022-23 budget were supplied to the Commissioners and stated the caveats of the data. Culver suggested \$2 to those employees not already receiving a raise in the first quarter of 2022. There was discussion about those who have already received salary adjustments, about those who have worked less than one year and whether the increases are for Supervisors also.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to give a \$2 increase for those who did not receive a salary adjustment resulting from a "Difficult to Fill" designation in this fiscal year, for full time employees that have been employed for at least one year and

pro-rate the raise according to the hours worked based on a 40 hour work week for those who are part time and have worked more than one year effective 7/1/2022 excluding the E911 Dept. staff due to a previous action dealing with the wages for 911 budget discussion for next fiscal year.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Vrbka to go into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss pending litigation.

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

The Chairman re-stated the reason for Executive Session was for pending litigation.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to go out of Executive session at 10:40 a.m. and no decision was made.

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

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on May 10, 2022 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of April 26, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

8:35 a.m.

- Hearing on Permissive Exemption for Omni Health
- Discuss/Action – Action on Permissive Exemption for Omni Health
- Discuss/Action – Authorize Assessor to send County Board of Equalization Change of Value Notice

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on May 10, 2022 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action – Approve Minutes of May 3, 2022
- Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through April 29, 2022

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Vrbka to adjourn at 10:43 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Vrbka, Zabrocki, Ahmic, 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 10th day of May, 2022.

County Clerk

Chairperson