

**May 16, 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 May 16, 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 May 16, 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 Hain to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023.

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

Terry Wicht, Highway Supt., and Sherry Schweitzer updated the Commissioners of their departments/offices.

Wicht presented a resolution to change a classification of a portion of Fletcher Road west of 196<sup>th</sup> Road from "Minimum Maintenance" classification to "Local".

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to adopt Resolution No. 3755 in regard to changing the classification of Fletcher Road west of 196<sup>th</sup> Road from "Minimum Maintenance" to "Local".

RESOLUTION NO. 3755 OF THE  
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the roadway located in Seward County described as follows: Fletcher Road starting at SE Corner of Section 32, Township 11, Range 4E, and at NE corner of Section 5, Township 11, Range 4E thence East approximately 1,170 feet, currently has a State Functional Classification of "Minimum Maintenance" as classified by the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the functional classification of "Minimum Maintenance" roads consist of (a) roads used occasionally by a limited number of people as alternative access roads for areas served primarily by local, collector, or arterial roads or (b) roads which are the principal access roads to agricultural lands for farm machinery and which are not primarily used by passenger or commercial vehicles;

WHEREAS, Seward County plans to make improvements to this roadway in the future to allow for use by passenger or commercial vehicles in order to provide access to a residence;

WHEREAS, since the roadway will be used by passenger and/or commercial vehicles, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-2013, the appropriate functional classification should be "Local"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Commissioners of Seward County, Nebraska, respectfully request the Nebraska Department of Transportation change the functional classification and designate said segment of roadway to be functionally classified as "Local."

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

Moved by: Ahmic                      Seconded by: Hain  
Ayes: Darrell J. Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding, Misty Ahmic, Raegan Hain,  
John K. Culver, Chair of the Board  
Attest: Sherry Schweitzer, Seward County Clerk

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

The Board also discussed a right of way permit on Van Dorn Road between 225<sup>th</sup> and 266<sup>th</sup> Road and between 252<sup>nd</sup> Road and Oak Avenue. This was on the agenda last week and the Road Dept. at that time asked that the original plan be changed, which the requestor, NextLink, did agree to. The permit with the requested changes is being considered at this time.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign the right of way permit for Van Dorn Road between 225<sup>th</sup> and 226<sup>th</sup> Roads and between 252<sup>nd</sup> Road and Oak Avenue.

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

Carla Ketner, representing the Nebraska Artists and Authors Showcase, Red Path Gallery, Seward Arts Council and Chapters Books and Gifts was present to request use of the Courthouse lawn for an annual arts event on June 24, 2023. She also asked that they be able to use a sound system and request use of the outdoor electrical outlet near the courthouse. She stated the hours of the event will be 2-4 p.m.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to allow the Nebraska Artists & Authors Showcase, Red Path Gallery, Seward Arts Council and Chapters Books & Gifts annual event along the sidewalk of the Courthouse on Saturday June 24, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. with use of a sound System and outdoor electrical outlet.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to accept the County Sheriff Fees and Mileage Reports for March 2023 in the amounts of \$1,591.00 and \$1,209.82 respectively.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Schmieding to adopt Resolution No. 3756 in regard to allowing Jones Bank to withdraw pledged securities.

RESOLUTION NO. 3756 OF THE  
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS the Jones Bank & Trust desires to withdraw the following securities:

DESCRIP	CUSIP#	MARKET VALUE
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK	3130AQWS8	\$ 1,000,000.00
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK	3130AQZG1	\$ 1,000,000.00
FN CB1131	3140QLHH2	\$ 931,333.68

WHEREAS the County Deposits will still be protected at all times.

LET IT BE RESOLVED that this County board accepts the above withdrawal of security pledging by the Jones Bank as of 05/16/2023.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

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

Attest: Sherry Schweitzer, Seward County Clerk

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

E911 Director, Spencer Conradt presented the budget for 2023-2024. He said he has already received approval from the cities of Seward and Milford and is now asking for the Commissioners approval. Commissioners asked questions about the overtime/holiday pay and travel line items of the budget. Conradt gave them information about future use of the 911 Wireless Funds.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the E911 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget.

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

**Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic reported she checked on some abandoned cemeteries, received a call from a constituent about various projects, worked on job descriptions with the HR Dept., attended a meeting for CASA about their Director position and with Mainelli Wagner in regard to information about a grant. She also attended the NACO Institute of Excellence class and the Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hain reported she picked up the gift certificates for an HR recognition project, delivered cookies for Correctional Officer Week, met with the Sheriff's Office on a vacant job opening, and plans to set up meetings once a month for offices in which she is liaison to. She also worked on the Commissioner meeting audio recordings project, met with the Detention Center Director regarding a contract for meals at the Detention Center, and is working with Four Corners Health Department on a building project.

Commissioner Culver reported he worked with various emails, set up a special meeting for E911 in regard to a communication tower, and attended the Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he checked on the abandoned cemeteries and will have Visitors Committee and Extension Board meetings later in the week. He received comments, both negative and positive about road issues.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a meeting with our HR Dept. and continues trying to connect with a vendor about the outside courthouse lights. He also stated he attended a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee meeting, has been working on the audit project and an East Seward Road issue. He will attend the Seward City Council meeting tonight.

Donna Hendrickson of the Seward Chamber was present to ask for permission to use the Courthouse lawn on June 9, 2023 for the Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN) event. She wanted to be able to place signs and tents on the lawn for 3 food vendors. Questions were asked what kind of equipment the vendors would use and the damage to the lawn. Hendrickson will come back with information about the vendors.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to approve the request for use of the courthouse lawn to place signs on June 8-9, 2023 for the Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN) event.

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

The Commissioners heard a presentation from Windstream representatives about replacing a phone system for Seward County.

The Commissioners heard a presentation from Allo representatives about replacing a phone system for Seward County.

The Commissioners heard a presentation from Great Plains representatives about replacing a phone system for Seward County.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:50 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 10:55 a.m.

The Commissioners heard a presentation from Unite representatives about replacing a phone system for Seward County.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:15 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 11:20 a.m.

Tom Nielsen of Soarin' Group was present during the presentations and asked additional questions of each vendor.

The Commissioners discussed the logo for the Seward County Road Dept. Safety apparel. The 3 samples were designed by Middle Creek Printing specifically for the Road Dept. The Commissioners discussed having a logo for the whole county. The subject will be discussed later in the meeting after more information is found.

The Commissioners discussed the Seward County audit for 2022-2023 with Zabrocki leading discussion. Seward County received information that the State of Nebraska will no longer conduct audits for Seward County due to staff shortage. Zabrocki had contacted various firms and found some not able to take on new clients for audits. After further discussion, Zabrocki will attempt to contact more firms and the State Auditor will be contacted for assistance.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to go into Executive Session at 12:14 p.m. for personnel, it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).  
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Hain, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Culver                      Motion Carried

The Chairman reiterated that the reason for the Executive Session was for personnel.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to go out of Executive Session at 1:00 p.m.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver                      Motion Carried

The Chairman stated that while in Executive Session personnel was discussed and no action was taken.

The Commissioners recessed at 1:00 p.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 1:32 p.m.

Casey Tieman of the County Attorney's Office presented several items for consideration by the Commissioners.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to authorize the Chairman to sign the State Grant Award for the 2023-2024 Community Based Grant.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver                      Motion Carried

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to approve increasing the County Attorney Credit Card Limit to \$6,000.00 to accommodate end of the year expenses for 6 months through the end of November 2023.  
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver                      Motion Carried

Roxanne Knutson, Interim HR Director, joined Tieman when requesting a new starting wage for the Diversion Case Manager/Attendance Support Case Manager position.

Tieman explained that an analysis was done and that the wage is paid by a grant. She also said the position has not yet been advertised as it has just become vacant on Monday. The Commissioners decided that since it hasn't been advertised yet and it is close to budget time, they would recommend holding off on setting a new wage.

Ann Dobesh of the Extension Office was present to ask for a new starting wage for their full-time Administrative Assistant position in the Extension Office. Dobesh said the

position has been advertised for quite some time. The Commissioners feel since it is close to budget time, they will want a new wage to be taken care of at that time.

In regard to the Infrastructure Grants item on the agenda, Ahmic led discussion about a Planning Grant for the Safe Street and Road Grant. Ahmic stated someone from Mainelli Wagner is going to help with the information required for the Planning Grant.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to go into Executive Session at 2:12 p.m. to discuss strategy.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to go out of Executive Session at 2:39 p.m.

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

The Chairman stated that while in Executive Session strategy was discussed and no decisions were made.

In regard to the County Logo item on the agenda, no more information was found. Commissioner Hain will take a picture of the flag which has art work the Commissioners found to be favorable. She will see if Middle Creek printing can make some new samples for the Board to consider.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on May 23, 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 May 9, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on May 23, 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 May 16, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through May 12, 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 – Agenda for May 30, 2023

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Road Dept. Request to change to 10-hour days

10:00 a.m. Discuss/Action - Phone System for Seward County

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn the meeting.

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

Time of adjournment: 2:44 p.m.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2023.

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County Clerk

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Chairperson