

May 21, 2019

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 21, 2019 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 Equalization 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 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver
Members: Mike Mundhenke, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding,
Becky Paulsen
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 Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to approve the minutes of May 14, 2019.
Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Schmieding, Paulsen, Mundhenke, Culver Motion Carried

Casey Kiem, Highway Supt. updated the Commissioners on a project involving the edge of the Seward city limits near the 2nd St. bridge. He reported that there are 13 roads closed yet due to the flooding.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Mundhenke reported he attended the Zoning & Planning meeting and checked on roads.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he attended the Ag Society meeting and also checked on county roads.

Commissioner Culver reported he met with some Dept. Heads, attended a GEO Comm meeting, a zoning meeting, and checked on a cemetery and roads. He also visited with Hamilton Communications.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended a Visitors Committee banquet and welcomed guests at the event, visited with some Dept. Heads, and reported he had some inquiries about roads.

Commissioner Paulsen reported she checked on some abandoned cemeteries, worked with the Salary Committee and attended a Strategic Planning Session with Seward County Chamber Development and Partnership.

Mike Vance, Sheriff; Maria Hatfield, Detention Center Director; and Barb Liska, E911 Director, were present to discuss comp time payout for their employees. Hatfield said each office has different reasons. She said the Detention Center has never been fully staffed. There are 2 employees in her Dept. that have a lot of comp time and have difficulty accumulating vacation hours. She asks that all comp time over 40 hours be paid out. She calculated that it would be just over \$5,700 to pay 6 employees down to

40 hours. Vance said the same problem has occurred in his department before he took office. At that time they were understaffed. When staff needs to go to a future training in the fall, there will be even more comp time accumulated. His calculation is just over \$13,000. Liska reported that she has the same problem. She didn't have a calculation of costs. Brea Ehmen, HR Director, reported on the directives that are in the Personnel Manual. She stated that the 24-hour departments incur problems such as these when they have staffing problems. She stated that the number of hours to pay out is up to the Commissioners. Culver stressed that this should be a one-time occurrence. Paulsen stated that she feels bringing it down to 40 hours is too much and suggested 60 hours. Vance stated he felt 40 hours was appropriate since they work 10-hour days and the comp hours could be accumulated again. Casey Keim, Highway Supt. was present and asked if his Dept. would also be eligible to get comp time paid down to 40 hours. Schmieding asked if a compromise can be made on the number of hours to be paid back. Hatfield said some of it was paid out in 2015. Hatfield said that even with full staffing, comp time will still be accumulated.

Moved by Paulsen and seconded by Vrbka to table the issue of paying comp time out for the Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, and E911 Center.

During discussion time, Hatfield said that if the issue is not decided today, any comp time payout would not incur in this fiscal year which is important since they have funds in their budgets in the current fiscal year.

Affirmative Vote: Paulsen

Voting No: Vrbka, Schmieding, Mundhenke, Culver

Motion Failed

During discussion of the payroll times, it was discovered that there is another payroll period after May that can be used to pay out comp time to employees.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Schmieding to table the issue of comp time payout for certain employees until next week.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Schmieding, Mundhenke, Paulsen, Culver Motion Carried

Brad Slaughter of Ameritas was present to give information about refinancing the Detention Center Bonds. Ameritas is a Nebraska company that is in the top 10 in the nation for facilitating bond issues such as Seward County's. Currently, the bonds were issued at a 3.8% interest rate and we issued in October 2014. They become callable after 5 years from the date of issuance. Currently, refinancing the bond issue would save approximately \$32,000 a year and a net savings of \$520,000. Rates have dropped recently and that is why he is entertaining the idea of refinancing. Their fee would be .8% of the bond issue. The Commissioners will consider it and get more information before a decision will be made.

Andy Hartman was present to ask the Commissioners to consider the sight distance on Matzke Highway north of Fletcher and 238th Road. He stated the sight distance is very short and would be a safety issue. He gave some history on the improvements around the area in question. He feels the hilltop should be lowered about 4 feet so that someone can see someone pulling out from a driveway or field entrance. Keim stated that while he feels the sight distance is adequate, the speed of vehicles on Matzke Highway make the issue something to think about. The Board will consider it for the future.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on May 28, 2019 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 14, 2019
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on May 28, 2019 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 21, 2019

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

4. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
5. Commissioners Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Agenda for June 4, 2019

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Res. – Authorize Chairman to sign Nebraska Dept of Transportation Operating Agreement Project # RPT-C801 (220) CN13078N, DUNS # 967427357

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize One-time payout of Comp Time for Sheriff’s Office, Detention Center, and E911 Department

Moved by Paulsen and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 10:37 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Paulsen, Schmieding, Mundhenke, Vrbka, Culver

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 May 2019.

County Clerk

Chairperson