

# May 21, 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 May 21, 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 May 21, 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 Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of May 14, 2024.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve claims through the period of May 10, 2024.

### SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH MAY 10, 2024

ADP INC	SE	\$2,741.75	ST OF NEBR DAS ST ACCN	SE	\$172.00
ADVANCED OFFICE AUTOM	SU	\$121.65	STEPHANIE FLYNN LAW	SE	\$1,382.50
ALL COPY PRODUCTS	SU	\$37.01	SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	SE	\$3,440.74
ALLO COMMUNICATIONS	UT	\$5,726.47	UNL PRINT AND COPY SER	SE	\$31.22
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SU	\$214.16	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	UT	\$644.82
AMERITAS LIFE INS	FE	\$19,907.24	VIRTUAL IMPRESSIONS	SE	\$36.00
BLACK DIAMOND AUTO DET	SE	\$165.00	VISA	SU	\$5,963.92
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	\$1,307.63	VISUAL EDGE IT	SE	\$44.94
BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH	SE	\$600.00	WATER ENGINEERING	SE	\$210.00
BOARDERS INN & SUITES	TR	\$214.00	WELLS FARGO FIN LEAS	EQ	\$230.66
BOB BARKER CO	SE	\$821.32	CANDICE WOOSTER LAW	SE	\$1,118.75
CITY OF SEWARD	UT	\$11,243.20	WYTHERS LAW	SE	\$9,643.50
CLERK OF DIST COURT	SE	\$321.00	ALL STAR GLASS	SE	\$1,012.00
CLERK OF SUPREME CRT	SE	\$129.00	BAUER BUILT INC	EQ	\$311.98
COOP EXTENSION DIV	SE	\$499.50	BEATRICE CONCRETE	SU	\$16,835.09
CULLIGAN	SE	\$112.25	BEAVER HARDWARE	SU	\$169.27
DEB DAGEFORDE	SE	\$208.00	DALE JOHNSON ENT	SU	\$14,325.47
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SU	\$1,059.42	EKOS, INC	SE	\$2,876.00
EGR BIRKEL & WOLLMER	SE	\$1,048.00	HELMINK PRINTING	SU	\$224.00
EQUIFAX WORKFORCE	SE	\$55.95	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	SU	\$14,634.78
FARMERS COOP	SU	\$10,452.62	KERFORD LIMESTONE CO	SU	\$9,200.45
FRANKLIN CO SHERIFF	SE	\$6.00	NELSON CONTRACTING	SE	\$1,328.00
GALLS LLC	SE	\$46.54	NEXTLINK AIS	UT	\$56.27
GREAT PLAINS UNIFORMS	SE	\$403.97	NMC, INC	SE	\$5,038.18
GWORCS	SE	\$15,196.00	NORRIS PUB POWER DIST	UT	\$1,283.10
HARTLEY CONSTRUCTION	SE	\$550.00	OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	SE	\$159.75
KEARNEY INVEST CORP	SE	\$847.85	PAC N SAVE	SU	\$1,913.16
HOMETOWN LEASING	EQ	\$578.17	PAVERS INC	SU	\$403,515.09
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	EQ	\$1,846.30	POWERPLAN	SE	\$460.43
JONES BANK (FICA)	FE	\$20,110.94	RDO TRUCK CENTERS	SE	\$41.49
DAVID KIMBLE	SE	\$234.00	TRUCK EQUIP SERVICE CO	EQ	\$163.82

KIRBY ROTH INSURANCE	FE	\$50.00	VERIZON CONNECT NWF	UT	\$697.02
KOTIK & MCCLURE, ATTYS	SE	\$4,033.25	VILLAGE OF GARLAND	UT	\$67.20
LANCASTER CO SHERIFF	SE	\$15.50	CATTLE BANK & TRUST	FE	\$80,530.00
LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	SE	\$76.48	CHAPTERS BOOKS & GIFTS	SU	\$103.86
MARLIN MATULKA	SE	\$60.00	KOLN 10/11 NEWS	SE	\$2,000.00
MATTSON RICKETS LAW	SE	\$150.00	MERLES FLOWER SHOP	SU	\$14.99
JANET MCKITTRICK	SE	\$124.80	NEBRASKA TRAVEL ASSOC	FE	\$125.00
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	SE	\$26.00	AMERITAS LIFE INSURAN	FE	\$692.96
SPORTS EXPRESS	SU	\$164.85	MILFORD AGING SERVICES	SE	\$1,625.00
MIDWEST AUTO PARTS	SU	\$401.25	SEWARD AGING SERVICES	SE	\$1,625.00
MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE	SE	\$265.22	UTICA AGING SERVICE	SE	\$1,500.00
MIPS INC	SE	\$2,573.73	CORI J STAVA	SE	\$705.04
MORROW, POPPE	SE	\$2,604.08	GRAHAM TIRE LINCOLN	SU	\$501.48
NCRAAO CONFERENCE	FE	\$600.00	HERPOLSHEIMERS INC	EQ	\$2,546.77
ONESOURCE	SE	\$302.80	JONES BANK	SE	\$350.00
TRAVIS MEYER	SE	\$1,394.00	TRANSUNION RISK & ALT	FE	\$1,601.40
PAPER TIGER SHREDDING	SE	\$271.70	WESTERN OIL II	SU	\$439.43
PETTY CASH FUND	EQ	\$57.42	LEVANDERS BODY SHOP	SE	\$1,050.00
POLLACK AND BALL	SE	\$3,157.25	MAINELLI WAGNER &	SE	\$14,127.50
QUADIENT LEASING	EQ	\$231.00	TRANSPORTATION SUPPLY	SU	\$31,760.00
QUILL CORPORATION	SU	\$456.43	KIRKHAM, MICHAEL	SE	\$20,344.00
REDWOOD TOX LAB	SE	\$48.00	LEE'S REFRIGERATION	SE	\$2,924.00
REGION V SYSTEMS	SE	\$1,284.00	RDF, INC	EQ	\$7,938.99
RUMERY LAWN	SE	\$11.24	GEOCOMM INC	SE	\$10,650.00
SAFELITE FULFILLMENT	SE	\$1,265.47	POLICE LEGAL SCIENCES	SE	\$1,200.00
SAUNDERS CO ATTORNEY	SE	\$150.00	CIDNET	SE	\$2,843.36
SEWARD CO COURT	SE	\$132.00	SALARIES		\$286,102.54
SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	SE	\$3,416.00	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:		
SEWARD CO PUBLIC TRANSIT	SE	\$85.00	AMERITAS DENTAL		
SEWARD CO SHERIFF	SE	\$30.60	AMERITAS VISION		
SEWARD CO SHERIFF UNC FEES	FE	\$467.00	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE		
SEWARD LUMBER	SU	\$64.80	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN		
SMPC, LLC	EQ	\$3,930.00	POINT C FSA		
SOARIN GROUP	SE	\$13,039.50	WADDELL & REED		
SOFTWARE UNLIMITED CORP	SU	\$3,326.40			

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

Highway Supt., Jon Regnier updated the Commissioners on activities of his department.

Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk, updated the Commissioners about her office activities including information about the 2024 Primary election.

Chelsea Smith, Sheriff's Dept. Operations Manager, gave information about the City of Crete wanting to join the Zuercher program. She gave information about agencies that have joined the program *after* the initial start-up.

Alison Rook, Seward County Aging Services Director, along with Randy Jones, Director of Aging Partners, were present to discuss their services in Seward County. They also gave information about their annual request for the 2024-2025 budget.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to open the bid for culverts for Seward County.

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

Bids were received from: Ace/Eaton Metals, Metal Culverts Inc. and Contech Engineered Solutions.

The awarding of the bids will be considered next week.

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion about the Public Defender Policy Board. Seward County will not have an elected Public Defender starting in 2025 and so a Board will need to be appointed to help with finding an appointed Public Defender.

The Commissioners discussed utilizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the courthouse for meetings for the Well Being Initiative group. Commissioner Hain stated that it was discussed in

previous meetings that this group may want to use a room in the courthouse. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, was not sure if the group wanted to use the room for meetings or if they wanted to use the room regularly as an office. There was discussion about what to do if other groups want to use the space since the Civic Center is currently closed for renovation. Hain stated the group would pay \$40 a day if they would be able to use the room and would want it 1 or 2 days a week. Currently, there is no policy in place for groups who may want to rent a room in the courthouse. Commissioner Hain will work with the County Attorney's Office to get a draft policy created for the Commissioners consideration.

Sheriff Mike Vance came before the Board asking permission for a former Deputy Sheriff to be able to purchase his K9. He stated that previously, this is what has been done when a Deputy is no longer employed by Seward County.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Hain to approve the request for a former Deputy Sheriff/K9 handler to purchase his K9 Mala for \$1.00  
Affirmative Vote: Culver, Hain, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic                      Motion Carried

Regnier was present to give information on four utility permits the Board is being asked to consider.

Permits for Windstream, Viaero Fiber and Norris Public Power District were questioned and may need changes from the original plans and will be considered at next week's meeting.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to authorize the Chair to sign a Utility Permit for Braun Intertec Corp. for two vertical borings for geotechnical evaluation at the SW ¼ of Section 34 Township 11 North Range 3 East of the 6th p.m. also known as Fletcher Road west of 252<sup>nd</sup> and with the intent they will cover the holes bored.  
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Culver, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic                      Motion Carried

The Board also considered a lease for a John Deere tractor for the Road Dept.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chair to sign a 1-Year Lease Agreement with AKRS Equipment for \$6,000 for a 2023 John Deere Tractor.  
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Hain, Culver, Ahmic                      Motion Carried

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Hain reported she delivered treats and a card to the Jail and Sheriff because it was Corrections Appreciation week, met with the Highway Supt. about roads and a mentorship for his position, attended the Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) meeting, participated in a Zoom call with Mainelli & Wagner Engineers related to the billing for a grant assistance, responded to questions about a grant application to Congressman Flood's Office, completed a tour with the Well Being Initiative group, in the process of contacting a representative of Concordia in regard to grant questions and attended the Ag Society meeting.

Commissioner Culver reported he attended a Veteran's Service Board meeting, and attended the meeting of the Garland, Bee, and Pleasant Dale trustees. He also attended a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting, checked abandoned cemeteries, and participated in a federal risk assessment notification for Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA). He also took care of some things as Vice Chair of the Seward/Saline Solid Waste Agency.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended a Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) meeting, received calls on roads, and is getting the Zoning Office ready for the new Zoning Administrator. She attended the Zoom meeting with Mainelli & Wagner, the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) training series, met with Senator Hughes on Public Service Commission subjects, attended the Waters Academy the past week, the monthly Planning Commission meeting, participated in the Zoning Office internship, sat in on the Broadband Ready meeting with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) and is training the new Zoning Administrator. She also talked with the Deputy

County Clerk about Verizon bill issues, attended the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) meeting and the Seward County Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported on receiving comments about the parking issues around the courthouse. He will have a Visitors meeting this afternoon and checked on abandoned cemeteries. He will attend a meeting Friday for Seward County Leadership Development event called "Rising Stars". He also noted he received a thank you for the county's participation in Arbor Day activities.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Seward City Council meeting, a 2-day Disaster Management seminar in Nebraska City, met with the 911 Director, Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) meeting via Zoom, looked into an HR matter, attended the City Planning Commission. Met with the Building & Grounds Supt. and an electrical vendor about lighting for the statues in front of the courthouse. Had a meeting with the Highway Supt., attended the Planning Commission meeting, a BRIDGES board meeting, a Suicide Prevention Board meeting, and will have Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) meetings this coming week.

The Board recessed at 10:34 a.m.

The Board re-convened at 10:39 a.m.

The Commissioners discussed the Region V contribution request for 24-25 budget request item on the agenda. Commissioner Schmieding led discussion that at a recent meeting, he abstained from voting on a motion about the county's contribution for the Region V organization due the Seward County Board of Commissioners not being able to discuss it prior to the Region V meeting.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Ahmic to approve the matching funds for Region V Systems in the amount of \$44,015.

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

Roxy Knutson, Seward County HR Director, led discussion on General Assistance duties of the county and to pay the Zoning Administrator for the extra duties as she was already doing the GA duties in her previous job with Seward County.

Moved by Zabrocki to designate the General Assistance duties to the Zoning Administrator and be paid an additional \$1.00/hour for these duties making her pay rate \$26.76 with an increase on July 1, 2024 to \$27.76 and to be backdated to May 20, 2024.

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

Moved by Hain to authorize the Chair to sign the Seward County Urban Area Map for the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT).

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

The Commissioners recessed at 10:58 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Ahmic announced that the first Veteran of the Month for Seward County is Marvin (Peewee) Schulz. He was present to accept the honor and a certificate as Veteran of the Month. He stated that in 1945 he enlisted in the Coast Guard. After boot camp, he was stationed in Newfoundland where he was involved in weather activities.

The Commissioners discussed telephone expenses for the budget year 2024-2025. Years ago, the various offices of Seward County had telephone expenses in their budget. When a new Windstream system was purchased, Windstream would no longer submit separate bills. Our current phone does separate the billing; however, it is on one bill. After discussion, Ahmic will ask Allo if the invoicing could be separate, and more discussion will occur then.

In regard to Grant Funds on the agenda, Commissioner Ahmic stated Seward County was declined for the Safe Streets and Roads Grant. Commissioner Ahmic has signed up for a debriefing session which will let us know the deficiencies in the grant application. Commissioner Hain gave information about the Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) grant that was applied for.

Hain also asked if there was interest in another tire recycling grant. Another grant of this kind could be applied for in two years. A meeting is being held on May 22, 2024 at the West Wing in regard to hiring a county grant writer.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to go into Executive Session for personnel at 11:35 a.m., it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).

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

The Chairman reiterated the Executive Session is for personnel.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to go out of Executive Session at 12:18 p.m.

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to go into Executive Session for personnel at 12:18 a.m., it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).

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

The Chairman reiterated the Executive Session is for personnel.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to go out of Executive Session at 1:59 p.m.

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

Personnel was discussed and no decisions were made.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on May 28, 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 May 14, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

8:35 a.m. Public Hearing for Permissive Exemptions

- a. Holy Cross of Life, Inc.
- b. St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church of Bee

Discuss/Action – Action on the Above Permissive Exemptions

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on May 28, 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 May 21, 2024

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

8. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
9. Commissioners Reports
10. Discuss/Action – Telephone Expenses for Seward County
11. Discuss/Action – Seward County 2<sup>nd</sup> Tire Recycle Event
12. Discuss/Action – Grant Funds being Sought by Seward County
13. Discuss/Action – Agenda for June 4, 2024

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action -Report from SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SENND) – Appreciation to Seward County for their Support and Discuss County Projects

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Award Culvert Bids

- 9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to sign a NE Crime Commission 25-CB-0528 Grant Award Packet for the County Attorney’s Office
- 10:00 a.m. Discuss/Action – Weed Supt. Job Description and Wage
- 10:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to sign Agreement to Allow Crete Police Department to Join Zuercher
- 10:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Quarterly Report from Four Corners Health District

The Commissioners recessed at 2:03 p.m. to go to the jail for the quarterly inspection.

Vice Chair Zabrocki re-convened the meeting at the Seward County Detention Center at 2:17 p.m.

Commissioners Ahmic and Schmieding are absent at this time.

The Commissioners viewed the Detention Center.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to adjourn at 2:42 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Culver, Zabrocki

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 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson