

November 14, 2023

Seward County Board of Equalization

State of Nebraska)
County of Seward) ss.

A regular meeting of the Seward County Board of Equalization was convened in open and public session at 8:30 a.m. on November 14, 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 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 Equalization convened on November 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver
Members: Misty Ahmic, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer
County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky
County Treasurer: Jake Zlatkovsky
Absent: Member: Raegan Hain

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 Schmieding to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to approve the vehicle tax exemption application for two 2023 GMC 3500 RWD 155 with VINS 1GJZ7NFP8P1173072 and 1GJZ7NFP2P1172189 both for Concordia University.

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

Hladky then updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to adjourn the Board of Equalization at 8:48 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, 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 November 2023.

County Clerk

Chairperson

November 14, 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 November 14, 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 November 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver
 Members: Misty Ahmic, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki
 County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer
Absent: Member: Raegan Hain

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 Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of November 6, 2023.
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

Terry Wicht, Highway Supt. updated the Commissioners on information about road projects. The hard surfaced road near the northwest edge of Milford was specifically discussed and expressed the need for re-surfacing. They instructed Wicht the need to put it on the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan for 2024. They also talked about box culverts and the A St. bridge that was damaged by an auto accident.

Travis Boyll of Nebraska Machinery was present to discuss concerns about the recent motor grader bids. He gave them information about Caterpillar motor graders and wanted to hear concerns why, although the bid was lower, the Board chose the John Deere model.

The Board then discussed the request to not repair an older vehicle in the building and grounds department that was damaged by the June 2022 hailstorm and put the money from insurance into the department's sinking fund. The subject was tabled since the Building and Grounds Supt. could not be in attendance.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Seward City Council meeting, checked roads, reported on the 911 Director vacant position, have been handling some of the administrative work at the 911 center, and will attend the recommitment dinner for Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA).

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Region V meeting, worked with the Visitors Committee, checked roads, and will attend the recommitment dinner for Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA).

Commissioner Culver reported he attended the Village of Bee, Pleasant Dale and Garland Board meetings, received constituent calls about road conditions, will have a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting this week and gave information on 911 director vacancy.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she asked the County Clerk to put agenda item supporting documentation on the county website along with the agenda that is already published. She attended the Milford City Council meeting, the Veterans Committee meeting, and a meeting in Gage County and learned about a Game and Parks Commission vacancy for a member from Seward County. She talked with the Highway Supt. about a road issue, researched information for a new fleet car and legislative issues, worked on zoning permit forms and the water conservation meeting details. She also reported that phones in the courthouse were changed with a new Allo system and encountered a few problems on Monday morning.

Wicht presented a Surplus Property Disposal form for four motor graders for the Commissioners consideration.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign a Surplus Property Disposal Request from the Road Dept. listing four motor graders with an estimated value of \$200,000.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign a purchase agreement with Murphy Tractor for two Motor Graders in the amount of \$732,992.00.

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

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the Sheriff Fee and Mileage Reports for September 2023 in the amount of \$1,219.00 and \$895.44 respectively.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the County Clerk Fee Report for October 2023 in the amount of \$21,532.61.

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

Ahmic led discussion about the Public Defender Position item on the agenda. Currently it is vacant and has been vacant numerous times during the prior and current term. They considered not having it as an *elected* position. It was suggested that the Commissioners have a public hearing on the issue. An idea presented for the future was to appoint a public defender or contract for public defender duties. There was also an idea to raise the salary enough so that it would entice someone to file if kept as an elected position. No decision was made at this time. Commissioner Ahmic will get more information and the item will be discussed next week.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:40 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:45 a.m.

The Commissioners considered a new fleet vehicle for the county. Currently the fleet vehicles for the county are being used so much by officials and various employees that another vehicle is needed. The cost to drive a county vehicle is much more cost efficient than paying mileage to an employee going to a county meeting/event. Two vehicles that the State of Nebraska has on their state bid list are a 2024 Chevrolet Equinox Model LS and Model LT. Ahmic gave information on both models.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the purchase agreement for the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Equinox LT as a new fleet vehicle for Seward County in the amount of \$27,163 using the State of Nebraska bid and the cost to be paid out of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

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

The Commissioners discussed appointing new members of the Veterans Service Committee. Ahmic explained that she attended the last committee meeting and has been contacted by

several people who would like to be on the committee. She gave information that even though the committee is currently two members short, only one will be appointed at this time.

Moved by Zabrocki to appoint Jim Deremer to the Veterans Service Committee for the term through June 2027.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver

Motion Carried

Ahmic also led discussion about a designated parking spot for veterans at the West Wing annex. The Veterans Service Committee asked that a parking spot be designated at county buildings. The City of Seward officials were contacted and were not interested in designating a spot at the Courthouse. The Commissioners considered designating one spot at the West Wing and the Detention Center with a time limit.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki that a veterans parking spot be designated at the West Wing and the Justice Center with a 2-hour time limit.

Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver

Motion Carried

Ahmic led discussion on the Legislative Support for County Employees and Officials item on the agenda. The Commissioners have been alerted that there are employees who are being troubled/concerned/harassed by the public while doing their job. She contacted Senator Hughes' office which informed them there is already a law concerning this issue. The Commissioners discussed how to relay information to the public if a certain situation arises. It was suggested that a flyer be made so that all offices can display it in their office and employees can use when away from their office. The HR Office will be asked to help with contacting the County Attorney's office to make sure the verbiage on the flyer is appropriate.

There was no information about infrastructure related grants.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on November 17, 2023 are as follows:

8:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period ending Nov. 10, 2023

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on November 21, 2023 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

4. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
5. Pledge of Allegiance
6. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of November 14, 2023
7. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of November 17, 2023

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows:

8. Discuss/Action – Public/Officials/Boards
9. Commissioners Reports
10. Discuss/Action – Change Elected Public Defender Position in Seward County
11. Discuss/Action – Request to put Insurance Proceeds for a 2011 Ford Pickup from the Buildings and Grounds Dept. into a Sinking Fund
12. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
13. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
14. Discuss/Action – Agenda for November 28, 2023

9:30 a.m. Public Hearing – Application for a Re-Zone from A1 Agricultural to TA-1 Transitional Agricultural in the SE ¼ of Section 29 Township 12 North, Range 3 East of the 6th p.m.

Discuss/Action – Res. - Re-Zone from A1 Agricultural to TA-1 Transitional Agricultural in the SE ¼ of Section 29 Township 12 North, Range 3 East of the 6th p.m.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to adjourn at 11:48 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, 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 14th day of November 2023.

County Clerk

Chairman