

November 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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
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 Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023.

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

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on December 12, 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 28, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to adjourn at 8:50 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 12th day of December 2023.

County Clerk

Chairperson

November 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to approve the minutes of November 21, 2023.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

Those officials present for the Public/Officials/Boards item on the agenda were Mariá Scamehorn, the new E911 Director for Seward County. She introduced herself and gave information on her background. Those officials also giving information about their offices/departments were Terry Wicht, Jake Zlatkovsky and Sherry Schweitzer.

The Board then discussed the next steps regarding the Water Conservation Meeting outcome item on the agenda. Previously, the Seward County Planning Committee hosted a meeting involving Water Conservation in Seward County and the impact zoning can have on it. Scott Pekarek, a member of the Planning Committee, spoke and explained there are many requests to change zoning in the water conservation area which is the eastern edge of Seward County. Many of those requests are turned down due to the building restrictions in the area because of lack of water. Pekarek stated representatives from the University of Nebraska were in attendance at the meeting. Phil Hargas, a former groundwater geologist for the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) was in attendance today and explained information about the Dakota aquifer. People at the conservation meeting suggested that the County do a study to get more data, given that nearby counties do not adhere to water conservation in their zoning regulations. The Board questioned what would be done with the data from the study. It was suggested having another meeting and inviting neighboring county representatives would be beneficial.

Brandy Hafer, Public Transit Director, was present to discuss the proposal to expand passenger fares to include rates for out-of-town travel. She provided information on the proposed rates. The Board will hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the new rates.

Hafer also requested approval for a revised Driver/Passenger Handbook for Public Transit. The handbook will have the County Attorney's Office look through it and the approval of it will be on a future meeting agenda.

The Board recessed at 10:03 a.m.
The Board re-convened at 10:07 a.m.

Sarah Dickmeyer of Schneider Geospatial was present to give a power point presentation about a new program for GIS from Beacon. Officials asked questions about a possible new GIS website for the county. She gave information about costs and other financial information. The Board will consider proceedings with her company for GIS services at a later date.

Tim Huntington of the Sheriff's Office presented an amendment for the Guardian RFID System Agreement. The Commissioners questioned the reason for the amendment and because Huntington was just presenting it in the absence of the jail administrator, he could not answer all questions. Commissioner Ahmic will reach out to Hatfield to get answers to questions and report next week.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended an Aging Services meeting, the Seward City Council meeting, the Highway Supt. interviews, did administrative work at the 911 Center and met with the new 911 Director. He also attended a NDEE infrastructure meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he has a meeting today with the Visitors Committee. He called on some area constituents about any concerns they have and participated in the Highway Supt. interviews.

Commissioner Culver reported he checked on roads and road projects, participated in interviews for Highway Supt. and will have a special 911 meeting this week. He also dealt with various emails. He attended the event with NDEE.

Commissioner Ahmic gave updates about Allo and the phone system. She worked on Public Defender and Board of Adjustment subjects and worked with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) on a Transportation Working Group. She also participated in the Highway Supt. interviews, received calls about roads, had meetings with the Road Dept. and HR and attended the event with NDEE.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adopt Resolution No. 3789 in regard to transferring \$225,000.00 to the Debt Service Fund.

**RESOLUTION #3789 OF THE
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Seward County Board of Commissioners ("Board") is the ultimate budgeting authority for Seward County;

WHEREAS, the Seward County Treasurer is the entity responsible for overseeing and monitoring accounting funds for the county in order to pay financial obligations;

WHEREAS, Seward County Debt Services is a fund in Seward County;

WHEREAS, reconciliation of the Debt Services Fund has revealed that revenues will not meet expenditures as required and budgeted;

WHEREAS, the Board has the authority to transfer monetary proceeds from various funds, including the Inheritance Tax fund, to Seward County funds in order to meet financial obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Seward County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Seward County Treasurer to transfer \$225,000.00 from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the Seward County Debt Service Fund to meet obligations.

Dated this 28th day of November 2023.

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

Absent: Hain

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic, Culver

Motion Carried

The Commissioners also discussed appointing members to the Seward County Board of Adjustment. Currently, the Board of Adjustment does not have any members. Commissioner Ahmic stated there needs to be 5 members with 1 alternate on the Board. Suggestions for the Board were Jon Propst, Eric Landkamer, Kent Fickel, Stephanie Luebbe, Ryan Stutzman, Adam Hladky and Phil Hargus.

Zabrocki thanked Commissioner Ahmic for her work on the subject.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to appoint Jon Propst, Eric Landkamer, Kent Fickel, Stephanie Luebbe, Ryan Stutzman, Adam Hladky and Phil Hargus to the Seward County Board of Adjustment.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, Culver

Motion Carried

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion on the Public Defender position subject on the agenda. Ahmic said she was able to obtain an employment contract of another county that has a contracted Public Defender. Ahmic stated she talked with NACO and said other counties are having the same problem. Contracted attorney vs. employee was discussed. If an individual/firm were contracted, they would not be an employee. A policy Board would need to be created if the attorney were contracted. It was decided to hold a hearing to cease having an *elected* public defender and seek a contracted individual/firm for 2025.

During the Infrastructure Related Grants subject on the agenda, Ahmic reported the Streets and Roads Grant representatives continue to contact her about details.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on December 5, 2023 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action – Public/Officials/Boards
4. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of November 28, 2023
5. Discuss/Action – Claims through the period of November 24, 2023

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for December 12, 2023

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Meter and Electricity for Siren Pole at Seward Interchange

9:30 a.m. Public Hearing – Amend the Seward County Zoning Regulations Consistent with the Seward County Comprehensive Plan
Discuss/Action – Res.-Seward County Zoning Regulations Consistent with the Seward County Comprehensive Plan

10:00 a.m. Public Hearing – Add Group Rate to Public Transit Fares

Discuss/Action – Res. - Add Group Rate to Public Transit Fares

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn at 12:27 pm

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, 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 5th day of December 2023.

County Clerk

Chairman