

# October 3, 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 8:30 a.m. on October 3, 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 October 3, 2023 at 8:30 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.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), updated the Commissioners on activities of his organization.

Those officials updating the Commissioners on activities of their offices/departments were: Ann Dobesh, Sandy Shaw, Gary Petersen & Sherry Schweitzer.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023.

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

Motion Carried

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he had a meeting with the Building & Grounds Supt. in regard to the AC/humidity problem in the Detention Center and the surplus property sale, a meeting with the interim 911 Director, a BRIDGES meeting, a Seward City Council special budget meeting, and a meeting about the courthouse silhouette lighting. He participated in interviews for the Public Transit Director and completed the document for SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SENDDD). He will be going to the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) conference in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he had a meeting with the Building & Grounds Supt., talked with a Region V representative, attended a Visitors Committee meeting and checked roads.

Commissioner Culver reported he also visited with a Region V representative, attended the Seward/Saline Solid Waste Agency meeting, a Blue Valley Community Action meeting, met with a constituent about zoning regulations, checked on a road project south of Milford, talked with the courts about the Public Defender position, dealt with a vendor invoice and attended a Consumption Tax Informational Seminar.

Commissioner Hain reported she is continuing to work on obtaining members for an Aging Services Advisory Board, contacted Farmers Coop about paying for product for dusty roads, attended the Epic Consumption Tax presentation, attended the Staplehurst

Village Board meeting, met with HR and Aging Partners representatives, met with the County Clerk about setting levies, participated on a call with Senator Fischer's staff, shared information about broadband, will meet with the jail personnel in regard to programming. She also voiced appreciation to the Road Dept. in regard to a road problem in her district.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with Allo, contacted Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) about possible legislation about public officials and employees on private land, participated in Senator Fischer's call, sat in on interviews for Public Transit Director, spent time with constituents about a road project south of Milford, and finished the NACO Institute of Excellence class.

Roxanne Knutson, HR Director, was present to discuss the job posting of the Highway Supt. position in light of the current Highway Supt. announcing his retirement effective the end of December 2023. Commissioner Ahmic stated she had contacted NACO about other counties that had a similar opening for that position. She said some counties have multiple interviews with a candidate so all Board members can meet them. The job description, which was updated this past year, was discussed.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to post the job opening for the Seward County Highway Supt. effective Oct 3, 2023 using the current job description.

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

Eric Hofer, Building & Grounds Supt., was present to discuss the surplus property sale on October 27, 2023. Offices had priced the items and the Commissioners gave Hofer the authority to accept less than what was priced.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic that we move forward with the Seward County surplus property sale on October 27, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 pm to be held at the Seward County Weed Dept. Building.

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

Brett Baker, a resident of Seward County who lives along East Seward St., was present to discuss the East Seward Road Project. He stated communication has been lacking now that the project is near the end. He gave a handout of the emails and pictures from him and other property owners that were sent to the City of Seward. The Commissioners suggested that since this was a city project, he should speak to the Seward City Council.

The Board of Commissioners recessed at 10:20 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners re-convened at 10:30 a.m.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Blue Valley Community Action in the amount of \$14,149.

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

The Commissioners discussed the LB644 public hearing. Commissioner Hain led discussion about the hearing that took place on September 20, 2023. The hearing, which was held due to the passage of legislation at the Nebraska Legislature, was very disorderly. Brandy Johnson, Deputy County Clerk, who moderated the hearing, said that others she had talked to thought changes were warranted. Discussion was had about trying to educate people about the reason for the hearing, timing of the hearing, etc. It was decided that a small group be formed to list the problems and possible solutions and meet with Senator Ben Hansen's staff in the near future.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chairman sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) organization in the amount of \$41,500.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman sign the Memorandum of Agreement for Hope Crisis Center in the amount of \$18,011.  
Affirmative Vote: Ahmic, Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman sign the Public Membership Agreement with Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) in the amount of \$60,100.

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

Moved by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman sign the Funding Disbursement Agreement with Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) in the amount of \$60,100.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to authorize the Chairman sign the agreement with BRIDGES in the amount of \$12,500.00.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman sign the Certificate of Cost Allocation Plan with Maximus.

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to accept the Joint Public Hearing Report from the County Clerk.

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

During the Infrastructure Related Grants item on the agenda, Commissioners Ahmic and Hain stated they are still attempting to get letters of support and working on grant applications. Ahmic also stated they have completed information for the Commissioners page on the county website.

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on October 10, 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 September 26, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Res. – Set Levies for Seward County Taxing Entities
5. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on October 10, 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 October 3, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the Period through September 29, 2023

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

1. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
2. Commissioners Reports
3. Discuss/Action – Signage for the West Wing Building
4. Discuss/Action – Authorize the Chairman sign MOU for Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND) District (SEND)
5. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
6. Discuss/Action – Jail Inspection
7. Discuss/Action – Agenda for October 17, 2023

- 9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Matt Kasik/Region V – Authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement with Region V
- 9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize Emergency Manager Director to apply for the 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant and to submit Reimbursement Documentation Reports.
- 10:00 a.m. Discuss/Action – Jon Hempel – Property Line Dispute – Request Seward County to pay for Survey to Identify new Property Line

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adjourn the meeting of October 3, 2023 at 11:44 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic, Hain, 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

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County Clerk

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Chairperson