

# October 4, 2022

## 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 4, 2022 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 4, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, 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.

Harrison Helmer, Executive Director of BRIDGES, updated the Commissioners on activities of his organization and those activities of the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership.

Those officials present for their monthly meeting with the Commissioners were Marilyn Hladky and Sherry Schweitzer.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to approve the minutes of the Budget Hearing meeting on September 27, 2022.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to approve the minutes of the regular Commissioners meeting of September 27, 2022.

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

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic gave information about the Four Corners Health Dept., met with a Seward Genealogical Society representative, and reported she researched the Sunny Side Gas Station property.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he received complaints about roads and gravel, received information about a bin in the county right-of-way and questioned handicapped parking in areas around the Justice Center.

Commissioner Culver reported he received calls on road issues.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he worked on details for organizing a tree planting for the tree donated to the County and to be placed at the National Guard Armory on Oct. 17, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. He also went to an Extension Board Meeting.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he has worked with the HR Office about training, participated in an information meeting about Tax Increment Financing (TIF) via Zoom,

attended a luncheon about leadership at Concordia, met with the Treasurer, and attended the Village of Utica meeting.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership Membership Agreement.

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

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership Funding Disbursement Agreement in the amount of \$58,350.00.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to accept the Seward County Treasurer's 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Investment Report.

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

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the resignation from Tera Koetter, Clerk of the District Court effective October 16, 2022.

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

The Commissioners discussed infrastructure grants. They noted that Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) is getting information on grants for Nebraska counties.

The Commissioners briefly discussed projects in the various small communities that have not received Seward County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:02 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:15 a.m.

Donna Hendrickson and Leann Miller representing the Seward Christmas Festival Committee were present to request to use of the Courthouse Square for decorating a Christmas tree in November and having live reindeer and lighting of a Christmas Tree on November 26, 2022 with courthouse public restrooms available on that day and permitting to have the Santa house on the Courthouse property through the holiday season.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the request for use of the Courthouse Square for decorating a Christmas tree in November and having live reindeer and lighting of a Christmas Tree on November 26, 2022 with access to the courthouse public restrooms available on that day and permitting to have the Santa house on the Courthouse property through the holiday season.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:19 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:30 a.m.

Spencer Conradt, E911 Director, was present to discuss the request to use Seward County ARPA funds for a door installation into the E911 Center. Currently there is not a 2<sup>nd</sup> exit from the center and installation of this door would provide for that. Conradt has contacted the State Fire Marshall who has approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> door installation plan.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to approve the request to use Seward County ARPA Funds for a 2<sup>nd</sup> door installation in the E911 Center which was approved by the Nebraska State Fire Marshall in the amount of \$4,884.00.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:36 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 9:45 a.m.

The Commissioners discussed a possible revision for a Declared Emergency Policy. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, led discussion on the options she drafted as

possible changes. The present policy needs to be clarified since an instance happened a few months ago where just the Courthouse was closed due to the City of Seward having water problems. Option 1 would request the employee to use comp time or vacation time for the time the building is closed. Option 2 would give the other employees not affected by the emergency comp time equal to the time the employees were not able to be at work because of the emergency. Many officials stated they were not in favor of having the employees use their comp time or vacation. There was lengthy discussion about fairness, cost, length of emergency, and availability of working remotely. It was decided to not change the current policy.

Maria Hatfield, Detention Center Director, was present to ask the Board to approve two different documents.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the Tek 84 Quote for a whole-body scanner in the amount of \$166,500.00.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to authorize the Chairman to sign Solutions Service Agreement with Encartele for Voice, CID and Broadcast Devices for the Detention Center.

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

Terry Wicht, Highway Supt., was present to give information about a Surplus Property Disposal Request for the Road Dept. A generator was on the list of items that was from a prior contractor and left on county property. That item was taken off the list of surplus items until the County Attorney's Office can research it.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign a Surplus Property Disposal Request for the Road Dept.

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

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on October 11, 2022 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 27, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Set 2022-2023 Levies for Seward County Entities
5. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on October 11, 2022 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 4, 2022
4. Discuss/Action - Claims through the period of September 30, 2022

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

5. Discuss/Action – Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chairman to sign Agreement with BRIDGES
8. Discuss/Action – Appoint a representative to the Rising Stars Leadership Program hosted by the Seward County Chamber & Partnership Dev.
9. Discuss/Action – Meeting on November 8, 2022 – Election Day
10. Discuss/Action – Vacancy of the Clerk of the District Court Position
11. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
12. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
13. Discuss/Action – Agenda for October 18, 2022

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to adjourn at 10:50 a.m.  
Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson