

October 17, 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 October 17, 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 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver

Members: Misty Ahmic, Raegan Hain, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki

Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson

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 the October 10, 2023 meeting.

Affirmative Vote: Schmieding, Zabrocki, Hain, Culver,

Abstain: Ahmic

Motion Carried

Those officials who gave reports on their offices/departments were Terry Wicht, Highway Superintendent and Eric Hofer, Building & Grounds Superintendent.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported that he continues to monitor the E911 Department while it is without a Director, has worked with Human Resources to schedule interviews for the E911 Director, attended a 4th of July Committee Meeting, attended a Historical Society meeting, and worked with Soarin Group to move forward with updating panic buttons for county offices.

Commissioner Schmieding reported that he attended an Extension Board meeting, will attend a Visitors Committee meeting and inspected roads.

Commissioner Culver reported he worked on reviewing the safety committee manual, dealt with constituent calls regarding zoning, and will be attending several meetings in the upcoming weeks.

Commissioner Hain reported she met with the Detention Center Director, secured a couple new members to serve on the Aging Advisory Board, but is still looking for people to serve, attended the Beaver Crossing Village Board meeting, where she gave them an update on funding, met with the County Attorney, visited with the Milford Senior Center Director, received the new logos for county vehicles and reached out to Mustang Graphics for the use of the logos, attended the snow training class put on by the Road Department, received an email from a constituent regarding roads, inspected road conditions, called several producers in search of letters of support, and received contact information with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy regarding water and sewer infrastructure.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she also had several calls from constituents regarding zoning items, worked with ALLO on the County's phone transition, worked with the new Veterans Service Officer, received calls about Highway Superintendent position vacancy, and reminded everyone about CASA's Scare at the Fair event.

Terry Wicht, Highway Superintendent and Jeff Fleischman, Road Department Foreman were present to discuss requesting the use of funds from the Inheritance Fund for the purchase of one, or possibly two, new motor graders. Wicht stated that after reviewing his Road budget, there will be enough to pay for a new truck and pup trailer, as well as half of a new motor grader. He also plans to purchase a new sign truck out of the Special Road budget. Wicht and Fleischman presented various options regarding trading in older motor graders or selling them at auction to help with the cost of purchasing new ones. Their request from Inheritance funds is \$28,425.00 for one, or \$350,185.00 for two, as the cost of each new motor grader is \$350,760.00. Currently, the Road Department has twenty motor graders, with sixteen operators. Culver stated that he would prefer to pay for one new machine but does not see a need to purchase new motor graders just because the current ones are getting older. Zabrocki stated that he would prefer to have fewer spare motor graders and either trade or auction three or four off to alleviate some expense for the purchase of new ones before the old machines become problematic. After much discussion, Ahmic asked that Wicht and Fleischman get a list of pricing options for new machines and bring it back to the board.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to open the bids for the Milford East Paving Project C-80(691)

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

Bids were received from: Pavers, Inc. and Constructors, Inc.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:51 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 9:54 a.m.

Jeanne Wiemer from the Seward Arts Council was present to request placing artwork from local Seward County artists in the Justice Center as a collaboration between the Arts Council and the County. They would like to place three to six pieces of art in the Justice Center for one year at a time. If the artwork was for sale, they would keep an inventory and the artists themselves would be responsible for selling it. Once the pieces are in place, the Arts Council would create a press release announcing the collaboration. Culver stated that he is opposed to this because he doesn't feel that the Justice Center is the appropriate place for this, and it could potentially damage the walls.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to approve the Seward Art Council's request to place artwork from Seward County artists in the Justice Center beginning in January 2024 to be displayed for one year at a time, with the Art Council to return with a recommendation for the next artist, with images.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic, Zabrocki

Voting No: Culver

Motion Carried

Dale Dishman, NextLink representative, was present to discuss an application for the Seward County Right of Way for construction of new underground fiber optic line from Pleasant Dale to Milford. Terry Wicht spoke of his concern that this project would go down Sunrise Road, and any projects on paved roads must not take place in the Right of Way, and NextLink would be liable for any damages to the road. Dishman reported that they can adjust the designs to account for the Highway Superintendent recommendations. Ahmic said she would like to see the designs modified and brought back before the permit is approved. NextLink will modify their designs and submit to the highway department to be brought back to the Commissioners.

Dan Kovar, Veterans Service Committee Chairman and Ray Foreman, Veterans Service Officer, were present for the re-appointing James Deremer and Marvin Schulz to the Seward County Veterans Service Committee item on the agenda. Hain asked about the current process for soliciting members to serve on this board. Kovar stated that the

county is divided into five sections, with representatives from each section. Ahmic reported that she was sent a letter by the VFW stating that they had a recommendation to appoint someone to the committee. Ahmic had previously asked that this be tabled so the nominations discussion can take place at the next Veterans Committee meeting before being brought to the Commissioners. Culver stated that he feels the Commissioners owe it to the veterans of the county to re-appoint these members who have already been serving. Ahmic would like to review the statutes at the Veterans Committee meeting before making a decision, Hain said she feels that it is imperative to follow the proper procedures and that this is the time to do that.

Moved by Culver and seconded by Schmieding to re-appoint James Deremer and Marvin Schulz to the Veterans Service Committee.

Affirmative Vote: Culver, Schmieding

Voting No: Zabrocki, Hain, Ahmic

Motion Failed

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to authorize the chairman to sign two surplus property disposal requests transferring property from Emergency Management to the Zoning & Weeds Department and placing other items to be sold at the County Surplus Sale scheduled to be held later this month.

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

Motion Carried

Ahmic presented a video from the University of Nebraska Lincoln to provide insight on the re-imaging of the missile silo.

The next agenda item was the clarification of the Commissioners' intent regarding the motion for uploading audio recordings to the Seward County website. Culver asked that this be tabled due to County Clerk, Sherry Schweitzer being absent, as this task would directly affect her. Hain stated that she would like to discuss this item, as the audio recordings have not been updated on the website since July. This item will be added to the agenda when Schweitzer can be present.

During the Infrastructure Related Grants discussion, Hain reported that she had received an email from Mainelli Wagner Engineering. As part of the infrastructure package, they're trying to find ways to add in more recreational uses for the bridges, such as pedestrian walkways and bikeways. The engineering costs for that would be significant though. Hain has reached out to several producers and farmers recently.

During the Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds item, Ahmic reported that the Village of Pleasant Dale has submitted two invoices for their previously approved drinking water project.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on October 24, 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 October 10, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on October 24, 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 17, 2023
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through October 13, 2023

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for October 31, 2023

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Award bid for Milford East Paving Project C-80(591)

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by to adjourn the October 17, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Ahmic, Schmieding, 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 24th day of October 2023.

County Clerk

Chairperson