

October 29, 2024

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 29, 2024 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 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic

Members: Raegan Hain, John Culver, 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.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- a. Minutes of October 22, 2024
- b. Surplus Property Disposal Request for Sheriff's Office
- c. Windstream to plow (928 ft) along Waverly Rd & bore under 182nd Road in the NE ¼ of Section 16 & NW ¼ of Section 15, Township 11 North, Range 4 East of the 6th p.m. to replace a broken fiber line and to remove the Temporary cable

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

Motion Carried

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) meeting where he is a Board member and a BRIDGES meeting. He also attended the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) Conference and noted he was re-elected as a Board member during the conference.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended a Polio Plus meeting, a Fair Board event showing the new 4-H & FFA Exhibit, met with the Building & Grounds Supt., and will have a Region V and Visitors Committee meeting in November.

Ken Meyer was recognized as the Veteran of the Month. He gave information about his time in the Air Force and that he joined the Army National Guard afterward. He also noted he does a lot of volunteer work like organizing the Military Honor Guard for different activities in Seward.

Commissioners Reports (Cont.):

Commissioner Ahmic reported she spent time working on a document for broadband and updated everyone about broadband grants, gave information about possible legislation adopted by Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) to pursue in the next Legislative Session, worked on the Bridge Investment Project (BIP) grant and had planned but was unable to go to the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) because of illness.

Jon Regnier, Highway Supt., was present to give information about the public survey of renaming 420th road. A majority of the votes were for Soldier Road. Commissioner Hain stated she had received input from residents about the cost of having to change an address especially if there is a business there. The Commissioners noted other signs have been stolen too. After discussion, it was decided that there needs to be more thought into changing the name and will step back and re-evaluate the problem of having signs stolen.

Danielle Smith of the Well Being Initiative was present to answer questions about their application for funding from the Seward County Opioid Fund. She explained they are already providing support at the County Jail with opioid addiction and with available funding, may open a facility in Seward. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, asked questions about the use of the funds.

Scott Gropp of Gropp Law and Mediation in Wilbur was present and informed the Board about the laws of contracting with law firms for public defender services. He, along with other attorneys, have worked together to draw up a contract that the Seward County Commissioners will need to sign, in light of the fact that the Public Defender position is no longer an elected position in Seward County. His firm is currently contracted with Saline and Jefferson County. The possible contract will be reviewed by the County Attorney's Office and will be put on a future agenda.

Roxanne Knutson, HR Director, was present to request that Seward County increase the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) limit for 2025. IRS has allowed up to \$3,300.00 for the year 2025.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to increase the Flexible Spending Account limit for Seward County to \$3,300 for 2025.

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

Marilyn Hladky, Assessor, presented her 3 Year Plan of Assessment that is required of her office.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to accept the Seward County Assessor's Plan of Assessment for Tax Years 2025, 2026 and 2027.

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

Commissioners Reports (Cont.):

Commissioner Culver reported he attended a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting and a 911 Board meeting.

Commissioner Hain reported she worked on the Bridge Investment Project (BIP) grant, attended the Aging Advisory Board, worked with Mustang Graphics for vehicle logos, has been in discussion with the Staplehurst Village Board about various subjects and will contact a local senator about possible legislation.

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion about an RFP for a grant writer for Seward County. Funding would come from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Due to many grants being made available, the Commissioners feel that applying, submitting data for the grants and the administration of the grants is more than what the Commissioners themselves can do. Also, having someone full-time would enable more grant applications.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the RFP for the Seward County Grant Writer and open up acceptance for applications for three weeks to close on November 22, 2024.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the request of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) for permission to use the Courthouse Lawn for the Christmas Festival on November 30, 2024 with restrooms available from

8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the Santa House available on Thursdays 6-8 pm and Sundays in December.

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with Schneider Geospatial LLC for document Access Report Module in the amount of \$512.00 for Year 1 and \$768.00 for Year 2.

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Culver that we accept the revised letter to the villages and cities and ask that they be submitted.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Culver to accept the County Treasurer's Certification of Distress Warrants for Tax Year 2023 to be collected by the Seward County Sheriff.

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

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on November 5, 2024 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 29, 2024
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through October 25, 2024
5. Discuss/Action – Agenda for November 12, 2024

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 11:17 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Culver, Ahmic 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 November 2024.

County Clerk

Chairperson