

October 31, 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 31, 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 31, 2023 at 9:00 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.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023.

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

Terry Wicht, Highway Supt. and Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk updated the Commissioners on activities of their departments/offices.

The Board talked about the agenda item "Clarification of the Commissioners' Intent regarding the Motion for Uploading of Audio Recordings to the Seward County Website on April 25, 2023." Commissioner Hain led discussion of the subject and stated the motion made on that day was to have one month of audio recordings uploaded to the County website for a period of one month and then they would be removed upon uploading the next week's recording, but the motion did not say that. The motion said, "to add Commissioner meeting voice recordings to the county website for a period of one month and that will be done by Human Resources." A lengthy discussion was held about the context of the discussion and intent of the motion. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney gave her legal opinion of the issue. Each Commissioner stated their thoughts on the subject. Because it was on the agenda as "Discussion Only" and no absolute consensus was arrived at, the Commissioners went to the next item on the agenda.

The next item on the agenda was "Designate Seward County Employees who will Record and Provide Commissioner Meeting Audio Recordings to the Human Resources Department for Uploading to the County Website." Hain said she would volunteer to record the meeting in addition to the County Clerk's recording and then give her recording to HR to put on the county website. Some Commissioners voiced concern about having two recordings of the meeting. Hain said she wants greater information and transparency for the public. Commissioners Zabrocki, Schmieding and Culver said they have never been asked by the public about wanting audio recordings. County Clerk Sherry Schweitzer stated that the minutes have been posted on the county website for 10-15 years and if anybody wants to listen to the recordings, all they have

to do is contact her. No action was taken at this time. The subject will be on the agenda for next week.

The Commissioners considered a Purchase Agreement with Murphy Tractor. It was discovered the agreement did not have correct information on it. The Commissioners decided that the information should be corrected, and the item will be put on the agenda at a later date.

Jake Zlatkovsky, County Treasurer and Sherry Leising, Deputy County Treasurer were present to give information about the Distress Warrant items on the agenda.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to accept the County Treasurer's Certification of Distress Warrants for Tax Year 2022 to be collected by the Seward County Sheriff.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Ahmic, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to adopt Resolution No. 3785 in regard to allowing First Bank of Utica to replace an Irrevocable Letter of Credit.

RESOLUTION NO. 3785 OF THE
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, First Bank of Utica replaced an irrevocable letter of credit, number 76935, which expired 10/04/23 with a new irrevocable letter of credit, number 82651, in the amount of 3,000,000.00. The effective date is 10/05/23 and the expiration date is 10/04/24.

WHEREAS, County funds will continue to be fully covered.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Seward County Board approves the irrevocable letter of credit replacement.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2023.

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

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

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Hain to accept the County Treasurer's 1st Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

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

Maria Hatfield, Detention Center Director gave information about a quote from Soarin' Group for a replacement of the computer in the EOC Room in the Justice Center. Currently, the computer in the podium is connected by an outlet/wiring in the floor. Whenever the podium gets moved, the wires get unplugged which causes problems. She said the computer needs to be replaced and that Soarin' Group will change the wiring so the connecting issue can be resolved. She also mentioned the bulb of the projector in the room needs to be replaced at a cost of \$376.06.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to approve the request for funding for the two quotes from Soarin' Group for replacement of IT items in the EOC room at the Justice Center: 1. in the amount of \$957.00 and the other in the amount of \$376.06 to be paid out of the IT budget in the General Fund.

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

Roxanne Knutson, HR Director joined Hatfield on the request for an employee due to a change in employment status. The employee did ask to go part time previously and now she is asking to go back to full time.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to approve the request for the pay exemption for employee # 120021 due to a change in employment status and that they be started at a full-time wage of \$24.40/hour.

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

Knutson introduced Brandy Hafer as the recommended candidate for the new Public Transit Director. Commissioner Ahmic gave information about her.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Ahmic to accept the request to accept Brandy Hafer as the new Public Transit Director with an annual wage of \$48,000 with a start date of Nov. 6, 2023.

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

Commissioner Ahmic led discussion on the new arrangement of desks at the West Wing. She stated due to the change in offices, the Veterans Service Office will be at the front of the office along with Aging Services. Public Transit will then be towards the back of the room. Due to these changes, a new desk is needed for the Veteran's Service Office for the Admin Asst. The budget for the Veteran's Service Office is small and did not plan for this expense. Marissa Pfile, Veteran's Service Officer Assistant presented a quote from Eakes on a desk which would work.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the Veterans Service Office the request to purchase a desk not to exceed \$2,200 to be paid out of Inheritance Funds.

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

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SEND) meeting, an E911 meeting, a meeting with the Building & Grounds Supt. about the chimes and a meeting with HR. He also dealt with a personnel issue.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he had a Visitor's Committee meeting and will have a Region V meeting in Lincoln and an Extension Board meeting in the near future. He also spoke to the Building & Grounds Supt. and constituents in his area.

Commissioner Culver reported he received calls about zoning and about a bridge that was damaged by a car accident, attended the 911 Board meeting, checked into communication equipment for motor graders, visited the Sheriff's Office Building addition, checked roads and received various correspondences.

Commissioner Hain reported she participated in an opioid abuse webinar, met with Road Dept. about the snow removal plan, met with a Village of Staplehurst trustee, met with a representative of Nebraska Dept. Environment and Energy, helped with the county surplus sale, had a follow-up meeting in regard to a program for inmates who are released from the Detention Center, is continuing to try to find Aging Service Board members, and worked on a presentation for a meeting with Senator Ben Hansen.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she received calls from possible candidates for Highway Supt. and calls wanting information about zoning, gave information about communications with constituents whose road name may change, and gave information about the changing of phone systems with Allo. She also gave information on the Lumin installation for E911, Safe Street and Roads Grant(s), went to York County about car use for the District Judge Bailiff, gave information about the Veterans Service Officer and his Assistant's test results, Operation Greenlight, the Public Transit audit, and mentioned email problems that she has encountered.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Hain to authorize the Chairman sign the Surplus Property Disposal Request from Public Transit.

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

During discussion on the Infrastructure Related Grants, Commissioner Ahmic stated the Commissioner Webpage now lists the projects they are working on. Commissioner Hain stated that she will participate in a meeting via Zoom in regard to the grants and is trying to get letters of support for a grant.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on MONDAY November 6, 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 October 31, 2023
5. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through October 27, 2023

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Audio Recordings on County Website
8. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
9. Discuss/Action – Agenda for November 14, 2023

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Highway Supt. Interview Process

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn the County Board of Commissioners Oct 31, 2023 meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, 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 6th day of November 2023.

County Clerk

Chairperson