

# September 6, 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 September 6, 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 September 6, 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.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), and Harrison Helmer, Executive Director of BRIDGES, updated the Commissioners on activities of their organizations. Donna Hendrickson was also in attendance to introduce herself as a new member of the SCCDP staff.

Those officials updating the Commissioners on activities of their offices were Ann Dobesh, Marilyn Hladky and Sherry Schweitzer.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Vrbka to approve the minutes of August 30, 2022.

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

### **Commissioners Reports:**

Commissioner Ahmic reported she received a call about a nuisance property, talked to a UNL Representative and helped Assessor with a letter of communication about unreported property.

Commissioner Vrbka said he received complaints about [pivot] water over the road.

Culver reported he had contact with the Assessor, went to a Road Dept. Training session, and received phone calls.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he will have an Extension Board Meeting this week.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he viewed a NIRMA round table event via Zoom and went to a Highway Dept. meeting.

The Commissioners discussed inventories and each took an office inventory, to which they are liaison, to check.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to adopt Resolution No. 3705 in regard to allowing Jones Bank to pledge additional securities.

RESOLUTION NO. 3705 OF THE  
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Jones Bank desires to pledge the following securities as of 09/01/2022:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CUSIP#</u>	<u>AMOUNT PLEDGED</u>
FNMA	3136G4ZT3	\$ 499,750.00
	<b>TOTAL PLEDGED</b>	<b>\$ 499,750.00</b>

WHEREAS: County deposits need to be fully protected. Therefore, let it be resolved, the above pledge by the Jones Bank is approved by this County Board.

Moved by: Vrbka                      Seconded by: Ahmic                      09/06/2022  
Ayes: Darrell J. Zabrocki, Robert Vrbka, Misty Ahmic, Ken Schmieding  
John K. Culver, Chair of the Board  
Attest: Sherry Schweitzer, Seward County Clerk

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

Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, updated the Commissioners on the National Opioid Settlement. She noted that she received an email noting the amount of the settlement for Seward County which was \$4,400.00.

The Commissioners discussed the missile base silo project with UNL. Ahmic stated they are wanting to have an additional contractor, Bockmann Inc, assist with the drying out of the area they are wanting to occupy in order to have the stairs replaced.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to approve Bockmann Inc. to help with the mud and water removal starting Sept 6, 2022.

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

Commissioner Zabrocki led discussion that he had with our liability insurance carrier, namely Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (NIRMA) concerning the Missile Base Project. They suggested acquiring certificates of insurance, a hold harmless agreement and a memo of understanding. Zabrocki said he talked to the County Attorney and she stated she could draft a hold harmless agreement if she is given more information. Drafting a memo of understanding will be difficult in order to make it so that it encompasses the whole project. The Commissioners stated ensuring the County is protected, through all the various steps of the project is the ultimate goal.

Marci Fehlhafer, Executive Director of CASA, was present to discuss leasing part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Courthouse.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign the lease agreement for office space with CASA.

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

Discussion was held about removing the carpet in the leased area of the courthouse. CASA will hire a company to come and remove the carpet if it is in their budget.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Schmieding to removed carpet and anything else needed to accommodate the new offices of CASA.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:25 a.m.  
The Commissioners re-convened at 9:30 a.m.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to open bids for a Box Culvert Project C80 (675) on Old Cheney east of 252<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Bids were received from: General Excavating and Van Kirk Bros Contracting.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to open bids for a Box Culvert Project C80(644) on 252<sup>nd</sup> south of Old Cheney.

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

Bids were received from: General Excavating and Van Kirk Bros Contracting.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Ahmic to accept the County Clerk Fee Report for August 2022 in the amount of \$46,661.87.

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

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to accept the Sheriff Fee and Mileage Reports for August 2022 in the amount of \$1,527.00 and \$1,123.72 respectively.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 9:43 a.m.

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

Ann Dobesh, Extension Agent, was present to discuss the offer from the insurance for the Extension Office van that was damaged in the June hailstorm. She stated the vehicle has 82,000 miles on it and has some rust.

Moved by Ahmic and seconded by Schmieding to approve accepting the offer from the county insurance carrier for the Extension Office Van for a total loss of the vehicle for \$10,112.00 and place the proceeds into the Extension Office Sinking Fund.

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

The Commissioners briefly discussed infrastructure related grants.

The Commissioners briefly discussed some county projects for which American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds may be used.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:52 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:00 a.m.

Spencer Conradt, 911 Director, was present to give information about installing an emergency exit door near his office. Currently, there is only one way to exit the 911 Center and it is to an area that contains quite a lot of electrical utilities. Installing this door would make another exit available for the center. Chairman Culver suggested they contact the State Fire Marshall to ensure the installation of this door is approved by their standards.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:04 a.m.

The Commissioners re-convened at 10:15 a.m.

Sheriff Mike Vance was present to discuss the purchase of the Homeland Security Investigations Criminal Interdiction Task Force -West building and property. He was at the Commissioners meeting last week when he was asked to find answers to two questions. He furnished a letter from the Dept. of Treasury and gave answers to those questions about purchasing it.

1. If the county decides to sell the building, any money above the purchase price would not have to go to the Drug Fund.
2. If the building is retained, it would have to be used by a government entity. Deputy Attorney Armstead had further questions about the information Vance received and will contact the person who informed Vance to get something in writing.

The appraisal of the building was discussed as well as the price of the building.

Moved by Vrbka to purchase the Homeland Security Investigations Criminal Interdiction Task Force-West building and property.

Commissioner Vrbka withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Ahmic stated she felt the issue needed to be tabled since there are many questions about it to which Commissioners Schmieding and Culver agreed. Schmieding asked if a counter offer has been offered.

The Commissioners asked Armstead to clarify any issues she has after receiving information about selling the building if we no longer have a use for it.

On the livestreaming item on the agenda, Armstead said she has had some requests for it. Culver stated he feels that it would possibly disrupt the meeting.

Raegan Hain, a member of the public, stated she would like to see meetings live streamed. Schmieding says he wants to be transparent, but with our website, everyone can follow the agenda and agrees, it can be disruptive. Zabrocki said he watched another county's meeting and would be open to trying it. Ahmic said she can see both sides but would discourage active participation. Vrbka wondered if the technology would be troublesome. Derek Bargmann, Seward City Clerk, gave information on how the City of Seward does it. He stated they make a video and upload it to YouTube. Sheriff Vance said he would not be comfortable with some of his information he gives at meetings being on YouTube.

Moved by Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to not have the meetings live streamed until more information is available.

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

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on September 13, 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 August 23, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

**Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on September 13, 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 September 6, 2022
4. Discuss/Action – Claims through the period of September 2, 2022

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

5. Discuss/Action – Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Missile Silo Project Update
8. Discuss/Action – Infrastructure Related Grants
9. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
10. Discuss/Action – Agenda for September 20, 2022

9:30 a.m.      Discuss/Action – Purchase of "Homeland Security Investigations Criminal Interdiction Task Force – West" Buildings and Property

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 11:06 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

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County Clerk

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Chairperson