

September 21, 2021

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 September 21, 2021 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 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: John Culver
Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Darrell Zabrocki
County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer
Absent: Member Ken Schmieding

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 Vrbka to approve minutes of September 14, 2021.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Vrbka, Ahmic, Culver Motion Carried

Gary Petersen, Terry Wicht and Sherry Schweitzer updated the Commissioners on activities of their offices.

Commissioner Schmieding is present at 9:10 a.m.

Due to illness, the 9:15 item on the agenda pertaining to a BRIDGES contract will be moved to next week.

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Ahmic reported she did some research on ARPA funding, reported information about Region V Services, looked at office inventories, attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, and presented a letter to the Commissioners from the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Vrbka reported he looked at office inventories and gave information about a Norris Public Power District project where the road and its right of way is in question.

Commissioner Culver reported he received and responded to several emails, attended a Solid Waste Management meeting, attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, and looked at office inventories.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he did get reports back from the Extension Board and received phone calls from employees.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended the Visitors Committee meeting, looked at office inventories, and received a phone call about county business.

Ralph Grummert and Joan Shurtliff of the Seward Genealogical Society were present to discuss the First Methodist Cemetery, which is an abandoned cemetery. Mr. Grummert has researched it extensively and is confident that the cemetery was downsized many years ago. Mr. Grummert is requesting that the cemetery be changed to the original size which is about double its current size. Grummert stated the society has had it "witched" by three individuals and they all indicated there were graves in the portion that has been excluded from the current size. He has been in contact with the farmer who owns the area around it and has not had any success in having the farmer donate the land. He is asking the Commissioners to resolve the issue and pay for the land. Grummert would like a fence erected to indicate the size, get the overgrown shrubs under control and mow around the trees. Commissioner Ahmic stated she would be willing to talk to the individual who owns the property and start a conversation with the intent to get the cemetery back to its original size.

Commissioner Zabrocki excused himself from the discussion of the First Methodist Cemetery as he is related to Mr. Grummert.

Carina Sanchez, HR Director, was present to discuss potential changes to the Seward County Overtime Policy. She stated there are two drafts of the proposed changes. Zabrocki stated he would like to pay out comp time so that an employee would not have more than 80 hours. Ahmic stated she thought having an employee have an option to get paid or accumulate their overtime would be appealing for a new employee. Maria Hatfield, Detention Center Director, stated she is having a difficult time retaining staff and an option for employees might help with retention. Since her Dept. is low on staff, making one employee take time off to use up comp time means another employee would *gain* comp time. Zabrocki asked Sanchez to get a report of all comp hours for county staff and the costs involved in paying it out down so that no employee has more than 80 hours. Sherry Leising, Deputy County Treasurer, made comments about those overtime hours that are paid out as straight time. There was discussion about dates for the options, when the new policy would take effect, etc. Sanchez will come back with a final draft and information requested next week.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chairman to sign the Campbell Cleaning Contract for the West Wing.

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

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign the Seward/Saline Solid Waste Management Agency Addendum # 1.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Ahmic to authorize the Chairman to sign the GWorks Contract for the County Clerk/Election Commissioner.

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

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, Vrbka, Schmieding, Culver Motion Carried

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

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

The Commissioners discussed Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. The Commissioners discussed communications they have received from villages and others that may have a project eligible for ARPA funds. They also talked about a Premium Pay option for county employees. Commissioner Ahmic gave information to each Commissioner about other counties in the United States that have used ARPA funds for Premium Pay and gave ideas for the parameters of payment. Hatfield asked what the different parameters were for the ideas of Premium Pay.

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the following inventories:

Aging Services	Assessor	Attorney	Clerk
Commissioners	County Court	Custodian	District Court
District Judge	E-911	Emergency Mgr	Extension Office
Fleet	Hwy Supt	Human Resources	Jail
Pretrial Diversion	Probation	Public Defender	Public Transit
Real Estate	Road Dept	Sheriff	Surveyor
Treasurer	Veterans	Victim Advocate	Weed/Zoning

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

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on September 28, 2021 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 14, 2021
4. Discuss/Action – Set Levies for Seward County Entities
5. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on September 28, 2021 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 21, 2021
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through September 17, 2021

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action - Public/Officials/Boards
6. Commissioners Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act Funds
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for October 4, 2021

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Potential Changes to Overtime Policy of the Seward County Personnel Policy

Moved by Vrbka and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Vrbka, Zabrocki, 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 28th day of September 2021.

County Clerk

Chairperson