

October 7, 2025
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 October 7, 2025 in the Commissioner’s room at the Seward County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Courthouse bulletin board, on the Commissioner’s Room door, on the Seward County website: sewardcountyne.gov and published in the Seward County Independent and the Milford Times. 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 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Darrell Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding, Scott Pekarek
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 Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to approve the minutes of September 30, 2025.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Abstain: Pekarek

Voting No: Hain Motion Carried

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

a. Clerk of the District Court Fee Report for September 2025 in the amount of \$6,228.21

b. County Clerk Fee Report for September 2025 in the amount of \$32,303.54

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve claims for the period through September 26, 2025.

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

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

ADP INC	SE	\$3,025.70	ST OF NE DAS COMMUN	SE	\$537.60
AMAZON CAPITAL SERV	SE	\$74.84	SVEHLA LAW OFFICES	SE	\$1,125.00
AMERITAS LIFE INS	FE	\$23,489.75	THAYER CO SHERIFF	SE	\$53.04
BENCHMARK GOVT SOL	SE	\$82.65	US BANK EQUIP FINANCE	EQ	\$167.99
BOB BARKER CO	SU	\$284.17	VANGUARD APPRAISALS	SE	\$21,075.00
CAMPBELL CLEANING	SE	\$4,975.00	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	SE	\$2,014.83
CAPITAL BUS SYS	SE	\$45.32	VIRTUAL IMPRESSIONS	SE	\$36.00
CENTURY BUSINESS PROD	SU	\$122.39	VISA	FE	\$48.38
CRETE AREA MED CNTR	SE	\$37.27	WOODS & AITKEN	SE	\$728.00
CROUCH'S FARM	SU	\$82.15	911 CUSTOM	SE	\$1,430.00
DISTRICT 5 PROBATION	SE	\$36,216.78	BEATRICE CONCRETE	SE	\$1,196.00
DIVERSIFIED DRUG TEST	SE	\$55.00	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	\$155.07
E 911	SE	\$64,209.19	HEARTLAND TIRES	EQ	\$1,254.75
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SU	\$189.45	JAMES ENTERPRISE	SE	\$18,856.76
FGH LAW OFFICE	SE	\$4,807.70	KERFORD LIMESTONE CO	SU	\$21,978.12
SIDNEY FREY	SE	\$1,174.95	MAINELLI WAGNER	SE	\$38,493.80
HERPOLSHEIMERS	EQ	\$738.18	NEBR TRUCK REPAIR	SE	\$435.30
HOMETOWN LEASING	EQ	\$332.29	OVERHEAD DOOR CO	SE	\$1,000.00

JONES BANK (FICA)	FE	\$23,682.42	SAPP BROS PETROLEUM	SU	\$37,903.62
LATITUDE SIGNAGE	SU	\$194.00	SEWARD CO CLERK	FE	\$34.00
LEE'S REFRIGERATION	SE	\$72.00	SEWARD ELECTRONICS	SE	\$133.76
MEMORIAL CLINIC	SE	\$1,687.25	TIMOTHY STARA	SE	\$5,392.00
MID-AMERICAN INS GRP	FE	\$46,394.17	GARY STARA	SE	\$5,392.00
SPORTS EXPRESS	SU	\$25.00	VILLAGE OF UTICA	UT	\$53.72
MIDWEST SPECIAL SERV	SE	\$2,831.15	DALE JOHNSON ENT	SU	\$14,195.63
MIPS INC	SE	\$340.00	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	SU	\$6,811.00
NE ASSNCO OFFICIALS	FE	\$160.00	SOUTHWEST GRAVEL	SU	\$4,548.10
NE HLTH & HUMAN SERV	SE	\$1,241.46	PREMIER OUTDOOR SERV	SE	\$7,365.00
NE PUBLIC HLTH ENV LB	SE	\$105.00	NE RURAL RADIO ASSOC	FE	\$399.00
NORRIS PUB POWER DIST	UT	\$282.91	SUMMIT FOOD SERV	SE	\$1,415.00
OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	SU	\$223.32	SALARIES		\$332,792.15
POINT C HEALTH	FE	\$110.00	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:		
POLLACK AND BALL	SE	\$1,825.00	AMERTIAS DENTAL		
PPCT MGMT SYS	SE	\$236.17	AMERITAS VISION		
QUADIENT	SU	\$37.00	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE		
SEWARD CO CHAMBER	SE	\$2,680.00	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN		
SEW CO HLTH CLM FND	FE	\$111,613.04	POINT C		
SEW CO PUB TRANSIT	SE	\$68.00	LPL FINANCIAL		
SEWARD CO ROAD FND	FE	\$500,000.00			

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), updated the Commissioners on activities of his organization.

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on activities of his department. Wendy Elston, County Attorney, updated the Commissioners on activities of her department.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Pekarek had nothing to report.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he will attend a Visitors Bureau meeting and a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting and made several calls to constituents in his district.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she followed up on an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) audit, did work on IT storage issues for E911, participated in invited testimony at the Nebraska State Capitol regarding unfunded mandates, attended a retirement reception for County Clerk Sherry Schweitzer, received constituent feedback regarding road conditions, and worked on the environmental review.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a claims committee meeting, a Human Resources roundtable meeting, and had some phone calls with representatives for different things all with Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA), and attended a retirement reception for County Clerk, Sherry Schweitzer.

Commissioner Hain reported she spoke with Tom Nielsen of Soarin Group regarding the updated quote for audio/visual equipment for the Commissioners' room, met with the Highway Superintendent, has been working with Carrie Gottschalk with UNL Extension, followed up with the Deputy County Clerk regarding a claims question, and passed some road concerns on to the Highway Superintendent.

The Commissioners discussed appointing the Seward County Clerk to finish the term ending January 7th, 2027. Three applicants were interviewed for the vacant position. Each member of the board gave their feedback on the applicants interviewed.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to appoint Brandy Johnson as the Seward County Clerk to fulfill the remainder of the term through January 7, 2027.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Pekarek, Hain, Ahmic Motion Carried

Sheriff Mike Vance and Captain Brad Melby were present for the discussion regarding an audit of the Sheriff's Office inventory. Previously, Tom Nesbitt and Matthew Sutter of Nesbitt & Associates presented a review of an independent audit their company performed for the Seward County Drug Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds. During this review, it was noted that many expenses lacked clear linkage to drug

enforcement/education. It was recommended at that time that an audit of the inventory be done. Hain stated that she had not requested a quote from Nesbitt & Associates to perform this service, but after much discussion, it was decided to reach out to them for clarification and to see if they could come back before the board. The creation of a Purchase Order (PO) Committee was also discussed, with Sheriff Vance reporting that he has reached out to Lancaster County for a copy of their Purchase Order policy. This item was tabled at this time and will be brought back.

Eric Hofer, Building & Grounds Superintendent, presented three quotes for sandblasting and painting the spiral emergency staircase at the Courthouse. Quotes were received from Allen Blasting & Coating, Inc. in the amount of \$77,192.00, Lindner Painting, Inc. in the amount of \$41,580.00, and Wissmann Enterprises Inc. for \$14,232.00. Ahmic asked what fund this would be paid from, to which Hofer suggested the Commissioners Courthouse Sinking fund. The building was recently power washed, and it was noted at that time that some areas would eventually require tuckpointing, which could also be paid for from this fund. Wendy Elston, County Attorney, suggested Hofer inquire about a contract for the sandblasting and painting work.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Hain to accept the proposed quote from Wissmann Enterprises for sandblasting and painting of the courthouse emergency staircase for the quoted amount of \$14,232 to be paid out of the Commissioners Courthouse Sinking Fund.
Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Roxanne Knutson, Human Resources Director, presented two contracts for the Employee Appreciation event to be held January 24, 2025. The first was with The Depot Event Venue in the amount of \$500.00, with a \$250.00 damage deposit. Ahmic stated that she wants to see as much of the allowed Employee Appreciation event costs to go towards the employees as possible.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chair to sign The Depot rental agreement for \$500.00 with a \$250.00 damage deposit.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Pekarek Motion Carried
Voting No: Ahmic

The next contract was with Fun Pianos for event entertainment in the amount of \$1,990.00. This vendor was used for an Employee Appreciation event in the past, and because of that, agreed to give Seward County their service for the same amount as the previous time for being a returning customer.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the chair to sign the Fun Pianos contract in the amount of \$1,990.00.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 10:00 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

Sheriff Vance and Captain Melby were present for the discussion of a resolution setting the number of deputies and compensation for the Sheriff's Office. At the August 26th Commissioner meeting, a motion was passed to set the number of sworn deputies for the Seward County Sheriff's office to 18 deputies. Legal counsel advised at that time that a resolution should be passed as the result of that motion to clarify what had been done. Sheriff Vance stated that he currently employees 19 sworn deputies and doesn't want to have to lay someone off. Ahmic noted that the budget is, and already has, been set by the Commissioners. After much discussion regarding how the number of deputies and compensation should be set, it was decided to table this item at the current time, and the County Attorney will review it.

Elston led discussion on the appeal of the Pine Creek Poultry LLC Livestock Feeding Operation conditional use permit decision made by the Commissioners on August 26, 2025. An appeal has been filed regarding the board's decision, so now the District Court will review that decision. Paperwork has been filed with the County Clerk's Office and District Court to request a transcript and bill of exceptions. Once it's accepted, the court will set a hearing date and various deadlines.

Hain presented a quote from Soarin Group for upgraded audio/visual equipment for the Commissioners room. This has been discussed previously, and Hain was asked to get more specific information regarding various equipment items listed within the quote. Originally, the quote for this upgrade was \$5000.00, but has since been dropped to \$500.00. The new software is called OBS Studio and does not require payment. Hain stated that once the software is installed, Soarin Group will include training on how to run both the software as well as the equipment.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to approve the quote from Soarin Group for upgraded audio/visual equipment for the Commissioners room in the amount of \$500 to be paid out of the Commissioner Sinking Fund.

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

The resolution directing the Historical Society's request for a tax levy to be placed on the ballot for the next General Election was not discussed, as the verbiage placed on the agenda stated it was for the Historical Society, but should have stated that it was for the Seward Blue River Historical District. The correct item will be placed on next week's agenda.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on October 14, 2025 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 23, 2025
4. Discuss/Action – Res.– Set Levies for the Taxing Entities of Seward County
5. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on October 14, 2025 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 7, 2025

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

4. Discuss/Action - Public/Organizations/Officials
5. Commissioner Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to Sign Letter of Appointment for Brandy Johnson to Serve as Seward County Clerk to Fill the Term Ending January 7, 2027
7. Discuss/Action – Agenda for October 21, 2025

9:15 am – Discuss/Action – Res.– Directing the Seward Blue River Historical District's Request for a Tax Levy to be Placed on the Ballot for the Next General Election

9:30 am – Discuss/Action – Res.– Set the Number of Sworn Deputies for the Sheriff's Office and Set the Compensation

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 10:44 a.m.

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

State of Nebraska)
County of Seward) ss.

I, Brandy Johnson, 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 14th day of October 2025.

County Clerk

Chairperson