

November 4, 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 November 4, 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 November 4, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Darrell Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding, Scott Pekarek
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 Hain to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to approve claims for the period through October 24, 2025.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH OCTOBER 24,2025					
ADP INC	SE	\$3,068.95	RJ KOOL	SE	\$889.84
ALPHACARD	SE	\$231.99	SACK LUMBER	SU	\$15.99
AMAZON CAPITAL SERV	SE	\$68.10	SEWARD CO PUB TRANSIT	SE	\$50.00
AMERITAS LIFE INS	FE	\$23,399.13	SEWARD CO SHERIFF	SE	\$18.50
BRYAN MED CNTR	SE	\$1,096.76	SOARIN GROUP	SE	\$18,702.75
CAMPBELL CLEANING	SE	\$4,975.00	ST OF NE DAS COMM	SE	\$1,382.40
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYS	SU	\$52.53	TIMECLOCK PLUS	SE	\$53.70
CENTEC CAST METAL PROD	SU	\$882.44	TRINITY SERVICES GRP	SE	\$4,550.40
CENTURY BUSINESS PROD	SU	\$172.70	TRU BY HILTON KEARNEY	TR	\$259.90
CHARTER COMM	UT	\$335.41	UNIVERSITY OF NE	SE	\$13,717.28
COAST TO COAST COMPUTE	SE	\$609.98	URIBE REFUSE SERV	SE	\$156.00
COMFORT INN	TR	\$220.00	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	UT	\$1,575.29
CROWNE PLAZA KEARNEY	TR	\$259.90	VIRTUAL IMPRESSIONS	SE	\$36.00
CULLIGAN	SE	\$122.25	VISA	FE	\$1,579.20
DICKSON LAW GRP	SE	\$1,900.00	911 CUSTOM	SE	\$20.00
DOUGLAS CO COURT	SE	\$4.00	BARCO MUNICIPAL PROD	SU	\$7,373.68
E 911	SE	\$45,440.17	BEATRICE CONCRETE CO	SU	\$10,249.19
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SU	\$1,476.10	BEAVER HARDWARE	SU	\$1,452.28
EGAN SUPPLY CO	SU	\$180.01	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	\$160.48
FARMERS COOP	SU	\$6,854.71	DALE JOHNSON ENT	SU	\$33,656.75
FEHLHAFERS	SE	\$81.25	FASTENAL CO	SU	\$32.92
SIDNEY FREY	SE	\$200.70	JAMES ENTERPRISE	SU	\$10,516.39
GARCIA CLINICAL LAB	SE	\$118.00	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	SU	\$32,484.78
GBE CPA	SE	\$4,803.00	KERFORD LIMESTONE CO	SU	\$8,019.46
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	\$629.89	MEDICAL ENTERPRISES	SU	\$72.00
HAMPTON INN SCTSBLF	TR	\$642.00	MIDWEST PETROL EQUIP	EQ	\$10,754.21
HERPOLSHEIMERS	SE	\$309.73	NE DEPT OF TRANSPORT	SE	\$75.00
HOBSON AUTO & TIRE	SE	\$881.97	NORFOLK LODGE & SUI	TR	\$250.00
KEARNEY INVESTMENT	TR	\$220.00	POMP'S TIRE SERVICE	SE	\$1,686.48

HOMETOWN LEASING	EQ	\$332.29	VILLAGE OF UTICA	UT	\$53.48
IHS PHARMACY	SU	\$72.59	MIDWEST INFRASTRUCT	SE	\$109,644.38
JONES BANK (FICA)	FE	\$23,520.54	SOUTHWEST GRAVEL	SU	\$4,569.47
LEE'S REFRIGERATION	SE	\$626.37	SEW CO HLTH CLM FND	FE	\$244,510.00
LIBERTY LAW GROUP	SE	\$2,170.35	TRANSUNION RISK	FE	\$1,120.00
LIFEGUARD MD, INC	SE	\$277.00	WESTERN OIL II	SU	\$44.00
MEMORIAL CLINIC	SE	\$213.72	APCO INTERNATIONAL	SE	\$851.00
MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE	SE	\$714.80	ST NE DAS ST ACCNTNG	SE	\$115.00
MIDWEST DOOR	SE	\$535.00	ALLO COMMUNICATIONS	UT	\$596.88
MIDWEST SPECIAL SERV	SE	\$4,449.50	CENTRALSQUARE TECH	SE	\$2,232.94
MIPS INC	SE	\$6,575.00	CENTURYLINK	EQ	\$4,600.76
MORROW, POPPE	SE	\$1,490.00	FIBER PLATFORM	SE	\$327.00
NE ASSN CO OFFICIALS	FE	\$7,008.56	LANGUAGE LINE SERV	SE	\$27.28
NE HLTH & HMN SERV	SE	\$90.00	SUMMIT FOOD SERVIC	SE	\$1,810.70
NORRIS PUB POWER DIST	UT	\$517.51	WELLBEING INITIATIVE	SE	\$625.00
OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	SU	\$40.30	SALARIES		\$333,626.69
ORKIN LLC	SE	\$161.00	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:		
OVERHEAD DOOR CO	SE	\$9,000.00	AMERITAS DENTAL		
PAC N SAVE	SU	\$87.55	AMERITAS VISION		
PETTY CASH FUND	SU	\$177.90	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE		
POINT C HEALTH	FE	\$100.00	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN		
QUADIENT	SU	\$2,929.88	POINT C		
REDWOOD TOX LAB	SE	\$181.25	LPL FINANCIAL		
REG PATH SERVICES	SE	\$78.48			

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic
Voting NO: Hain

Motion Carried

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

Matthew Mottaz introduced himself as the new Weed Superintendent and then updated the Commissioners on activities of his department. Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on activities of his department.

Roxanne Knutson, Human Resources Director, presented the Commissioners with the updated IRS Health Flexible Spending Account Limits for 2026. She requested that Seward County increase the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) limit to \$3,400.00 for 2026.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to approve the request for the 2026 IRS Flexible Spending Account contribution limit be increased to \$3,400.00 per Individual.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

Wendy Elston, County Attorney, and Brandy Johnson, County Clerk, updated Commissioners on activities of their departments.

Pat Coldiron and Sherry Leising were present to discuss directing the Seward Blue River Historical District's request for a tax levy to be placed on the ballot for the next General Election. Statute states that "whenever there is a nonprofit county historical association or society organized under the corporation laws of the state, a tax of not more than three-tenths of one cent on each one hundred dollars upon the taxable property in the county may be levied for the purpose of establishing a fund. No initial levy shall be made for such purpose unless the proposition to make such levy is first submitted to a vote of the people of the county at a general election." In order for this issue to be submitted for the November 2026 general election, the county board would need to pass a resolution allowing the question to be placed on the ballot. Coldiron gave a brief history of the Blue River Historical District's mission to preserve and share the history of the Blue River area in Seward County through exhibits, educational programming, archival preservation, and community events. Their request is to seek funding in the levy amount of .003 per \$100 to support the refurbishing of the documented historical Seward County Log Cabin, refurbish and maintain the existing building as an information center and meeting place, establish three informational stations throughout the 5 donated acres, establish a hiking trail and ensure maintenance and sustainability

of the site. Coldiron noted the potential of this project to promote tourism within Seward County.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to adopt Resolution No. 3902 in regard to allowing the Seward Blue River Historical District's request for a tax levy to be placed on the ballot for the next General Election.

RESOLUTION NO. 3902
OF THE SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §23-355.01, a nonprofit county historical organization or society organized under the corporation laws of this state may request a tax levy of not more than three-tenths of one cent on each one hundred dollars upon the taxable value of all the taxable property of the county for the purpose of establishing a fund to be used for the establishment, management, and purchase of exhibits, equipment, and other personal property and real property and maintenance of such nonprofit county historical association or society;

WHEREAS, the Seward Blue River Historical District has requested county funding in the levy amount of .003 per \$100 to support refurbishing of the documented historical Seward County Log Cabin, refurbishing and maintaining the existing 20' x 40' building as an information center and meeting place, establishing three informational stations throughout the 5 acres, establishing the hiking trail, and insuring maintenance and sustainability of the site;

WHEREAS, the Seward Blue River Historical District has requested that the above funding request be placed on the ballot for the next general election for voter approval;

WHEREAS, upon proposal by a nonprofit county historical organization or society of such a tax levy to be submitted to the voters of the county, the proposition for such levy shall be placed on the ballot by the county board at the next general election following receipt of the request;

WHEREAS, the next general election is scheduled for November 3, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Seward County Board of Commissioners do hereby direct the following to be placed on the ballot for the general election on November 3, 2026 to be decided by the voters of Seward County:

Should the County Board of Commissioners of Seward County, Nebraska be authorized to levy an annual tax of not more than three-tenths of one cent on each one hundred dollars upon the taxable value of all the taxable property in the county for the purpose of establishing a fund to be used by the Seward Blue River Historical District for the establishment, management, and purchase of exhibits, equipment, and other personal property and real property and maintenance of such nonprofit county historical association or society, including the construction and improvement of necessary buildings thereupon?

___ YES [a vote "yes" is for authorizing the levy]

___ NO [a vote "no" is against authorizing the levy]

Moved by: Hain

Seconded by: Zabrocki

Ayes: Ken Schmieding, Scott Pekarek, Raegan Hain, Darrell J. Zabrocki, Misty Ahmic, Chair, Board of Commissioners

Attest: Brandy Johnson, Seward County Clerk

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

Motion Carried

Blair Yoder, Senior Operations Manager for the Sheriff's Office, was present to discuss the 2024-2025 Equitable Sharing Agreement & Certification (ESAC) for the Sheriff's Office. Yoder stated that the online portal used to submit the ESAC is currently down, so when she tried to correct/modify it, those changes weren't reflected. Due to the portal being down until at least November 14th, this will be tabled until it can be corrected/modified on the portal.

The contract for Wissmann Enterprises, Inc. for sandblasting and painting the emergency stairway at the Courthouse was presented as previously requested when the bid for the job was approved.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with Wissman Enterprises, Inc. for sandblasting and painting the Courthouse emergency stairway in the amount of \$14,232.00 to be paid using funds from the Commissioners Sinking Fund.

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

Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 9:58 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

Brad Slaughter and Jay Spearman, Managing Directors from Northland Securities, were present to discuss a potential bond for the paving 420th Road project. The Commissioners asked them to come talk about the process of highway allocation bonds, and options in pursuing those bonds. The county has already applied for, and secured, \$3 million in allocations from the federal government for this project. The total cost of the paving project is around \$8 million, but because of the allocations already received, the total needed to complete the project is around \$4,473,000. Because of this, Ahmic stated that the options now are to take the money that has been received and do as much of the project as possible, or bond and pay for the entire project. Hain noted that there is potential to obtain another \$1 million in grant funding, which would bring the total needed down. Slaughter presented amortization schedules outlining potential payment amounts to consider over 5 years, 10 years or 15 years. There was lengthy discussion, with Zabrocki stating that he is not in favor of bonding this project without a vote by constituents. Ahmic presented the option of combining multiple road projects in the potential bond if it were to go on the ballot for taxpayers to vote on, as constituents throughout the entire county would be able to express their opinions. At the end of the discussion, it was decided to bring this back to the agenda at a later date after everyone has had time to consider the options.

Ahmic led discussion on the process for setting elected officials' salaries. Historically, the elected officials would meet and establish their recommendations for their annual salaries, then present that to two members of the board, who then presented the recommendation to the rest of the board to ultimately set the salaries. Ahmic was a member of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) salary study committee this year and stated that while she thinks it is logical for the officials to meet, she didn't know that it was necessary for the officials to give a recommendation when NACO has already conducted a salary study. Zabrocki stated that he would like to see data from all sources, including the elected officials and NACO. Hain suggested all members of the board review the NACO salary study, and the elected officials can still meet to discuss their recommendations.

Jon Regnier and Trever Trebilcock, Assistant Highway Superintendent, were present to discuss options for contracting road work. This has been discussed previously, and at that time, the use of inheritance funds to get roads caught up to the condition they should be in and to finish certain road projects was presented as an option. There was lengthy discussion about options on how to improve and maintain the conditions of county roads. The Road Department has experienced difficulties in obtaining enough material or workers to keep the roads maintained. Ahmic presented the idea of hiring a contracting company to come help but asked the plan to keep the maintenance going

once that has been done. Another option that was suggested was to possibly create a crew of people that only rebuilds roads and fixes them the way they should be fixed. No decisions were made, and Ahmic asked for a meeting between herself, Hain, the Highway Superintendent & Assistant Highway Superintendent to talk about some solutions to establish a plan.

The Year End Certification of the County Highway Superintendent was discussed.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adopt Resolution No. 3903 in regard to authorizing the Chair to sign the year end certification of the County Highway Superintendent.

**RESOLUTION
SIGNING OF THE
YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY
SUPERINTENDENT
2025**

Resolution No. 3903

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2302, and 39-2501 through 39-2505 detail the requirements that must be met in order for a county to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment; and

Whereas: The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each county must annually certify (by December 31st of each year) the appointment(s) of the County Highway Superintendent(s) to the NDOT using the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form; and

Whereas: The NDOT requires that such certification shall also include a copy of the documentation of the county highway superintendent's appointment, i.e., meeting minutes showing the appointment of the County Highway Superintendent by their name as it appears on their License (if applicable), their License Number (if applicable) and Class of License (if applicable), the type of appointment, i.e., employed or under contract (consultant, or interlocal agreement with another county and/or incorporated municipality), and the beginning date of the appointment; and

Whereas: The NDOT also requires that such Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include a copy of a resolution of the County Board authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form by the County Board Chairperson.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Seward County is hereby authorized to sign the attached Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form(s).

Adopted this 4th day of November 2025 at Seward, Nebraska.

*Certification form for dates 01/01/25 – 12/31/25 attached to Resolution

County Board Members

Ayes: Scott Pekarek, Ken Schmieding, Raegan Hain, Darrell J. Zabrocki,
Misty Ahmic

County Board Member Zabrocki

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Hain Seconded the Motion

Roll Call 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained, 0 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed, and billed as adopted

Attest: Brandy M. Johnson, County Clerk

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

Motion Carried

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Pekarek reported he met with staff from the Sheriff's Office, followed up with Nesbitt & Associates regarding the Sheriff's Office inventory, met with the Zoning office staff, met with the EMA Director, met with the Veterans Service Officer, and attended an E911 board meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the Drug Court graduation and a 4-H Awards banquet. He will attend an Extension Office dinner, a Blue Valley Community Action meeting and a Visitors Bureau meeting. He also met with the Building & Grounds Superintendent.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with a group about the ESAC, spoke with the Building & Grounds Superintendent, received several phone calls regarding roads, completed the Planning Commission bylaw update and will present that to the Planning Commission and then the board of Commissioners, had a meeting about the Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP), and attended a Solid Waste Management meeting.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SEND) executive board meeting and an E911 board meeting, met with the Public Transit Director, and met with the Aging Services Director.

Commissioner Hain reported she attended an Ag Delegation luncheon at the library and attended an Aging Advisory Board meeting. She noted that the Aging Services Caregiver Retreat is scheduled for November 12, 2025 and asked the other board members to share the information on that. She spent time reviewing the updated ESAC, visited with Commissioner Pekarek regarding road concerns, received a phone call and email from a reporter, received emails from the County Attorney's office regarding Opioid Settlement correspondence, noting that she had not been receiving that correspondence and that she had authorized the Deputy County Attorney to sign an agreement in regard to that. She also reported that the County will be receiving Opioid Settlement funding, that she received a phone call regarding a hole in the road in Cordova, and reminded the other board members of the Extension Prioritization meeting this Friday, and to please fill out the form if they plan to attend.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on November 18, 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 November 4, 2025

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

4. Discuss/Action - Public/Organizations/Officials
5. Commissioner Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Agenda for November 25, 2025

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 11:55 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 18th day of November 2025.

Seward County Clerk

Chairperson