

November 18, 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 9:00 a.m. on November 18, 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 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Darrell Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding, Scott Pekarek
County Clerk: Brandy Johnson
Absent: Member: Raegan Hain

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 Pekarek to approve the minutes of November 4, 2025.

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

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

- a. Sheriff Fee & Mileage Report for September 2025 - \$1,429.00 and \$872.70
- b. Clerk of District Court Fee Report for October 2025 - \$4,079.45
- c. County Clerk Fee Report for October 2025 - \$32,042.83
- d. Utility Permit for Windstream Nebraska to bore in the right-of-way at 224th & Yankee Hill Road in the SE ¼ of Section 24 and the NE ¼ of Section 25, Township 9 North, Range 3 East of the 6th p.m.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Schmieding to approve claims for a period through November 7, 2025.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH NOVEMBER 7, 2025			
ADOBE, INC	\$287.88	NE ASSN OF CO OFFICIALS	\$3,636.76
ADVANCED CORR HLTHCARE	\$7,949.00	NE EQUIPMENT INC	\$365.50
ALLO COMMUNICATIONS	\$4,990.91	NE PUBLIC POWER DIST	\$49.31
AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$22,330.37	NEBRASKA.GOV	\$115.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$51.30	NEXTLINK AIS	\$51.07
BLUE RIVER ELECTRIC LLC	\$2,254.09	NMC, LLC	\$7,645.14
BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HEALTH	\$360.00	NORRIS PUB POWER DIST	\$1,119.21
BRENNAN, NIELSEN LAW	\$243.75	NUSS, CHANDRA	\$281.25
BURESH LAWN CARE LLC	\$700.00	ONESOURCE	\$451.50
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYS	\$1,591.98	OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	\$85.71
CENTURY BUSINESS PROD	\$163.71	PAC N SAVE	\$26.57
CIDNET	\$2,437.16	PAPER TIGER SHREDDING	\$35.00
CITY OF SEWARD	\$16,429.90	PETTY CASH FUND	\$107.40
CLERK OF THE DIST COURT	\$503.00	PHYSICIANS LAB SERV	\$2,875.00
CROUCH'S HARDWARE	\$547.21	POWERPLAN	\$3,083.26
CULLIGAN	\$175.00	QUADIENT LEASING USA	\$231.00

CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF	\$18.50	RDO TRUCK CENTERS	\$724.19
DALE JOHNSON ENT, INC	\$15,003.61	RIXSTINE TROPHY CO	\$116.95
DIAMOND DRUGS, INC	\$589.93	RJ KOOL	\$2,174.06
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	\$676.59	ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH	\$1,241.10
EMILY MANNING	\$212.40	RR DONNELLEY	\$176.14
EQUIFAX WORKFORCE	\$187.80	RUMERY LAWN	\$103.04
FARMERS COOPERATIVE	\$8,461.57	RX SERVICES LLC	\$46.08
FASTENAL COMPANY	\$831.82	SAPP BROS PETROLEUM	\$17,489.60
FEHLHAFERS INC	\$150.00	SAUNDERS CO SHERIFF	\$55.96
FGH LAW OFFICE, LLC	\$9,857.56	SECURITY EQUIPMENT INC	\$386.68
FLAGSHIP PUBLISHING INC	\$526.50	SEW BLUE RIVER HIST DIST	\$1,000.00
GALLS LLC	\$149.99	SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	\$102.71
GBE CPA	\$10,500.00	SEWARD CO SHRF UNCOLL FEES	\$452.00
GRAHAM TIRE LINCOLN	\$1,566.96	SEWARD LUMBER	\$113.30
GUARDIAN RFID	\$6,696.00	SHIFFERMILLER LAW OFFICE	\$2,482.25
H & S PLUMBING	\$214.50	SOARIN GROUP, LLC	\$6,538.25
HAMPTON INN	\$449.85	SE NEB TOURISM COUNCIL	\$200.00
HD SUPPLY	\$495.68	SOUTHWEST GRAVEL PROD	\$2,725.86
HOMETOWN LEASING	\$82.88	SPORTS EXPRESS	\$140.20
HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT SERV	\$50.19	SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	\$2,185.27
INDOFF INC	\$529.90	TEK84	\$11,225.00
INTL ASSOC ASSESS OFFICER	\$255.00	THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	\$1,228.54
JAMES ENTERPRISE, INC	\$719.76	TRINITY SERVICES GROUP	\$8,760.87
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$395.16	US BANK EQUIPMENT FINANCE	\$281.30
JOHNSON SAND AND GRAVEL	\$44,936.98	VALENTINO'S SEWARD	\$211.90
JONES BANK (FICA)	\$22,418.32	VERIZON CONNECT NWF	\$661.53
KERFORD LIMESTONE CO	\$12,693.81	VILLAGE OF GARLAND	\$58.92
KOLTERMAN, CLARK	\$35.00	VISA	\$2,892.65
LANCASTER CO SHERIFF	\$67.30	WALL, ROBERT	\$187.50
LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	\$94.67	WATER ENGINEERING	\$220.50
LANGUAGELINC INTERP	\$100.80	WELLBEING INITIATIVE	\$625.00
LEE'S REFRIGERATION	\$724.06	WELLS FARGO FINAN LEAS	\$230.66
LIBERTY HOUSE	\$41.75	WESTERN OIL II LLC	\$82.11
MAINELLI WAGNER & ASSOC	\$28,575.70	SALARIES	\$316,497.60
MEDICAL ENTERPRISES	\$36.00	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:	
MEMORIAL CLINIC	\$108.00	AMERITAS DENTAL	
MIDWEST AUTO PARTS	\$532.19	AMERITAS VISION	
MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE	\$2,090.23	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE	
MIDWEST INFRASTRUCTURE	\$175,019.63	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN	
MIPS INC	\$2,500.94	POINT C	
MORROW, POPPE	\$1,802.50	LPL FINANCIAL	

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Schmieding, Pekarek, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Marilyn Hladky, Assessor, Wendy Elston, County Attorney, and Mike Vance, Sheriff, updated the Commissioners on activities of their departments.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Region 5 meeting, an APACE meeting, and had a meeting with the Sheriff, Commissioner Pekarek, and Nesbitt & Associates.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she attended the Milford City Council meeting, worked on an Emergency Preparedness event, received a call regarding a wind project that was meant for Seward County, Kansas, worked with the Sheriff and Roads Department regarding accident reporting, had a meeting with the IT vendor and noted that the Sheriff's server will need to be replaced, worked on solid waste management membership and bylaws, and noted that a HUD reimbursement for 420th Road engineering had been received. She attended a Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) personnel committee meeting, an SCCDP Executive Committee meeting, an SCCDP board meeting, attended an Extension Office community gathering, participated in a Zoom meeting with Four Corners Health Department along with Commissioner Hain, reported that the featured artist in the Justice Center will be changing, has been working in the Zoning office while the Zoning Administrator is on leave, attended a Planning Commission meeting, worked with Brian Jackson Training regarding road department training, worked on facility items and met with Jeff Ray from JEO Consulting along with Commissioner Pekarek.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended an Extension Board dinner, will attend a Blue Valley Community Action meeting and a Visitors Bureau meeting, and met with constituents in his district.

Commissioner Pekarek reported he worked with Commissioner Ahmic on Zoning items, had a meeting with the Sheriff, Commissioner Zabrocki and Nesbitt & Associates, attended a CASA Zoom meeting, and attended a Planning Commission meeting.

Highway Superintendent, Jon Regnier and Assistant Highway Superintendent, Trever Trebilcock were present to discuss changing the classification of the half mile stretch of 182nd Road north of Agnew Road from "Minimum Maintenance" to "Local." Regnier reported that the work has already been completed.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to adopt Resolution No. 3904 in regard to changing the classification of 182nd Road north of Agnew Road from "Minimum Maintenance" to "Local."

RESOLUTION NO. 3904 OF THE
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the roadway located in Seward County described as follows: 182nd Road starting at the SW Corner of Section 10, Township 12, Range 4E, and at SE corner of Section 9, Township 12, Range 4E thence North approximately 2,640 feet, currently has a State Functional Classification of "Minimum Maintenance" as classified by the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the functional classification of "Minimum Maintenance" roads consist of (a) roads used occasionally by a limited number of people as alternative access roads for areas served primarily by local, collector, or arterial roads or (b) roads which are the principal access roads to agricultural lands for farm machinery and which are not primarily used by passenger or commercial vehicles;

WHEREAS, Seward County plans to make improvements to this roadway in the future to allow for use by passenger or commercial vehicles in order to provide access to a residence;

WHEREAS, since the roadway will be used by passenger and/or commercial vehicles, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-2013, the appropriate functional classification should be "Local"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Commissioners of Seward County, Nebraska, respectfully request the Nebraska Department of Transportation change the functional classification and designate said segment of roadway to be functionally classified as "Local."

Dated this 18th day of November, 2025.

Moved by: Zabrocki Seconded by: Pekarek
Ayes: Scott Pekarek, Ken Schmieding, Darrell J. Zabrocki,
Misty Ahmic, Chairperson, Board of Commissioners
Attest: Brandy M. Johnson, Seward County Clerk

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

The next discussion was regarding the Road Department budget and funding options for equipment purchases. The budget was adopted with \$41,425.00 less in the Equipment line than was requested. The Equipment line is already over the adopted budget amount with more equipment purchases expected to be made before the end of the fiscal year. Ahmic noted that the budget could be opened and funds added, if necessary, but after a brief discussion, it was decided to wait until closer to the end of the fiscal year to see what funds are left in the budget before making a decision.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:22 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Devin Oddenino and Gary Petersen, members of the Safety Committee, were present to discuss the purchase of four AED devices to replace expired devices in county buildings. They presented a quote from LifeGuard MD, Inc in the amount of \$4,685.40, which includes a credit for trading in the old devices. The Safety Committee budget doesn't have enough funds to cover the purchase, but the Emergency Manager Grant Fund can be used for the purchase.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Zabrocki to allow the Safety Committee to purchase four AED devices to replace the expired devices in the amount of \$4,685.40 to be paid out of the Emergency Manager Grant Fund.

Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Pekarek led discussion on the Zoning Office update. Currently, the Zoning Administrator is on maternity leave and the part time employee in the office has resigned. Ahmic has been filling in at the office, but it is not staffed at all times. Pekarek reached out to Marvin Planning and JEO to see if they'd be available to assist until the Administrator returns. He proposed bringing in Jeff Ray, a Planning Department Manager, as a support person for the office. He also questioned compensation options to fund this. Pekarek reported that Ray currently has 8 hours of availability per week. There was discussion about the possibility of Ray continuing to consult with the Zoning Administrator once she returns, as a way to alleviate some of the Zoning related work currently being done by the County Attorney's office. Ahmic noted that Commissioners, as liaisons, occasionally have to step into various roles and fill in when departments need additional coverage. She added that she would rather use funds for consulting support with Ray after the Zoning Administrator returns. This discussion was suspended for the time being to begin the 9:45 item discussion.

Sheriff Vance was present for the discussion regarding signing the 2024-2025 Equitable Sharing Agreement & Certification (ESAC) for the Sheriff's Office. During the November 4th meeting, Blair Yoder, the Senior Operations Manager for the Sheriff's Office informed the Commissioners that the online portal used to submit the ESAC was down, so although she had made the previously requested changes to the form, they were not reflected until the portal was restored. It was decided at that time to bring this item back once the portal was restored.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chair to sign the 2024-2025 Equitable Sharing Agreement & Certification (ESAC) for the Sheriff's Office.

Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Next, the Commissioners discussed the Purchase Order Policy for the Sheriff's Office Forfeiture Funds. Pekarek created a Purchase Order document to be used when purchases are made using Forfeiture Funds, and Zabrocki created a Purchase Order policy. Pekarek and Zabrocki, along with the Sheriff and his staff, have reviewed this and all agree that the document will be sufficient. A Forfeiture Asset Committee will be formed, consisting of two members from the Sheriff's Office, (the Sheriff and one member he chooses) two commissioners, (Zabrocki and Pekarek) and the County Attorney. The Sheriff will complete the purchase order form, they'll meet once a month and review the requests, and once they're approved, they'll be submitted as claims. Zabrocki will continue working with the County Attorney to complete this and then bring it back to the board for approval, after the final report is received from Nesbitt & Associates.

Brandy Hafer, Public Transit Director, was present to discuss the update on Public Transit grant funding. Public Transit receives 80% federal grant funding, 10% state funding, and is 10% funded by the county. She was previously asked to cut 30% of her funding request and was told that the Nebraska Department of Transportation would let her know by November 1st how much of that 30% Public Transit would be receiving back. She has since been informed that they will not be receiving any of the 30% back that was previously cut. Hafer noted that her average operating expense is around \$29,108.50/month. State funds remaining for fiscal year 2026 are \$31,243.00 and

federal funds remaining are \$100,854.00. It is expected that by February or March, there will not be any more reimbursements coming from federal and state funding. She has looked into becoming Medicaid provided, noting that the rate of being denied is minimal. Ahmic stated that different options for operating Public Transit need to be explored, as to not pass the operating expenses onto the taxpayers since Public Transit was to be 80%-90% state/federally funded when it became a county department. There was discussion about ways to potentially cut various costs, such as not having drivers come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays since those are slower days. Zabrocki will work with Hafer to work toward a solution.

The Commissioners resumed the Zoning Office Update discussion. The current office hours are significantly cut right now as Ahmic is only able to be there a few times a week while the Administrator is on leave. Pekarek reiterated that he thought it would be beneficial to either hire a consultant or compensate Ahmic for her work. The lack of a part-time employee will leave a small amount of money in the Zoning budget that could potentially be used to pay a consultant. Zabrocki stated that he would rather spend the money to pay Commissioner Ahmic for her time than pay a consultant. After the discussion, it was decided to continue with Ahmic working in the Zoning office as she is available for the next few weeks before a decision is made. Pekarek will speak with Jeff Ray to see if his services could be utilized in the form of 40 hours between now and the end of the fiscal year if needed.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on November 25, 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 October 28, 2025
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on November 25, 2025 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

5. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
6. Pledge of Allegiance
7. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of November 18, 2025

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

1. Discuss/Action - Public/Organizations/Officials
2. Commissioner Reports
3. Discuss/Action – Approve Sheriff's Department Inventory
4. Discuss/Action – Agenda for December 2, 2025

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Veteran of the Month

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to adjourn 10:35 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, 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 25th day of November 2025.

County Clerk

Chairperson