

January 27, 2026

Seward County Board of Equalization

State of Nebraska)
County of Seward) ss.

A regular meeting of the Seward County Board of Equalization was convened in open and public session at 8:30 on January 27, 2026 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 Equalization convened on January 27, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
 Members: Raegan Hain, Darrell Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding,
 Scott Pekarek
 County Clerk: Brandy Johnson
 County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky

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 Hain and seconded by Pekarek to approve the minutes of January 13, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her department.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on February 10, 2026 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of January 27, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Public Hearing – Motor Vehicle Exemption Application for Concordia University for a 2025 Ford Van
5. Discuss/Action – Motor Vehicle Exemption for Concordia University for a 2025 Ford Van
6. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 9:00 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

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 10th day of February, 2026.

County Clerk

Chairperson

January 27, 2026
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 January 27, 2026 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 January 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Scott Pekarek, Ken Schmieding,
Darrell Zabrocki
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 Schmieding and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026.

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

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve claims for the period through January 16, 2026.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2026			
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$52.66	BEATRICE CONCRETE CO	\$11,555.63
AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$16,840.50	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$50.59
BERN'S BODY SHOP	\$75.00	DALE JOHNSON ENT, INC	\$15,081.38
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$3,671.09	EKOS, INC	\$2,148.00
BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH	\$600.00	H & S PLUMBING, HEATING	\$229.87
BRENNAN, NIELSEN LAW	\$4,557.70	HEARTLAND TIRES & TREADS	\$1,233.75
CAMPBELL CLEANING	\$5,070.00	J R WELDING INC	\$43.92
CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCT	\$136.67	JOHNSON SAND AND GRAVEL	\$23,519.11
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$67.71	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$4,131.27
CONNER PSYCH SERVICES	\$465.00	KRIHA FLUID POWER CO INC	\$2.75
CONTINENTAL ALARM	\$2,162.00	LANCASTER CO ENGINEERING	\$21,829.06
CUMING COUNTY SHERIFF	\$52.79	MIDWEST UNLIMITED LLC	\$132.44
DILLON WILLIAMS	\$4,080.00	NE EQUIPMENT INC	\$30.50
E 911	\$45,440.17	NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DIST	\$1,373.00
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	\$1,225.19	SEWARD CO TREASURER	\$10.00
ENGINEERED CONTROLS	\$6,875.00	SEWARD LUMBER	\$23.99
FARMERS COOPERATIVE	\$5,008.95	SHAFFER COMMUNIC	\$387.72
FGH LAW OFFICE, LLC	\$4,807.70	SOUTHWEST GRAVEL	\$8,457.36
GBE CPA	\$13,000.00	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	\$360.33
HELMINK PRINTING	\$253.00	VILLAGE OF GARLAND	\$56.17
HOMETOWN LEASING	\$249.73	VILLAGE OF GOEHNER	\$399.00
INDOFF INC	\$647.88	VISA	\$637.63
JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF	\$58.50	VANGUARD APPRAISALS	\$7,790.00

JONES BANK (FICA)	\$17,989.67	MIPS INC	\$224.29
KEARNEY HOSPITALITY INC	\$624.75	SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND	\$180,000.00
MID ST ORGAN CRIME INFO	\$150.00	AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$150.44
MID-AMERICAN INS GROUP	\$45,173.50	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$170.50
MIDWEST CARD AND ID SOL	\$500.00	MID-AMERICAN INS GROUP	\$473.60
MIPS INC	\$2,276.65	SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND	\$1,097.12
NE ASSN COUNTY OFFICIALS	\$235.00	MELANIE LUEDERS	\$186.40
NE STATE FIRE MARSHAL	\$316.00	FARMERS COOPERATIVE	\$712.00
NEBRASKA.GOV	\$16.00	AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$125.10
NIFCO MECHANICAL SYS	\$4,248.04	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$178.96
NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DIST	\$922.52	AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$1,684.31
OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE INC	\$7.17	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$51.96
PETTY CASH FUND	\$20.00	CULLIGAN	\$301.05
QUADIENT FINANCE USA	\$296.00	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$1,908.89
QUILL CORPORATION	\$224.74	MID-AMERICAN INS GROUP	\$3,628.67
SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND	\$110,280.56	NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DIST	\$500.00
SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	\$6.36	SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND	\$8,494.16
SEW CO SHERIFF UNCOL FEES	\$264.00	SOARIN GROUP, LLC	\$394.00
SEWARD LUMBER	\$134.04	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$222.67
SOARIN GROUP, LLC	\$47.00	PAC N SAVE	\$22.35
SPORTS EXPRESS	\$41.85	SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE	\$1,222.22
ST OF NE DAS ST ACCNTNG	\$618.50	VISA	\$192.35
TCA OUTDOOR POWER	\$265.65	SALARIES	\$320,559.31
THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	\$1,228.55	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:	
TRINITY SERVICES GROUP	\$9,143.91	AMERITAS DENTAL	
VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	\$764.06	AMERITAS VISION	
VISA	\$4,840.50	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE	
WATER ENGINEERING INC	\$220.50	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN	
WELLS FARGO FINAN LEAS	\$230.66	POINT C	
ACKERMAN ENGINEERING	\$55.00	LPL FINANCIAL	
AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$3,645.23		

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

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

- a. List of Delinquent Taxes and Special Assessments for Advertising
- b. Steps of the Tax Sale
- c. Letter of Support to U.S. Dept. of Transportation for the 420th Road Paving Project

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

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on activities of his department.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:12 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 9:15 a.m.

Ray Foreman, Veteran Service Officer, introduced Garry Dittmar as the Veteran of the Month. Dittmar, a Seward County native, graduated high school in 1965 and entered the draft into the Army. When he got out of the Service, he returned to the area and spent 39 years working for a natural gas company. He is the Commander of the Utica American Legion Post and stays involved with the Village of Utica having served on the village board, as a trustee at his church, and even as a part of a co-op that opened a new grocery store in town.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Pekarek reported he met with the Forfeited Asset Committee (FAC), attended an E911 Board meeting, spent time working in the Emergency Management office, attended a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Board meeting, and attended a Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he attended the county's Employee Appreciation dinner, will attend a Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) banquet and reported that he has received some complaints about the road by the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with the Zoning Administrator, had a meeting with Commissioner Hain regarding a potential grant opportunity, spoke with SCCDP regarding a potential grant, received a call from NE Juvenile Services regarding a claim that was previously disallowed by the Board, met with an auditor from Gabriel, Burger & Else CPA (GBE) and Commissioner Hain regarding the annual county audit, worked on the Seward/Saline County Solid Waste Management by-laws, received calls about the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Event, had an SCCDP Personnel Board meeting, gathered letters of support for the 420th road paving project, attended a Planning Commission meeting, and will visit the Emergency Management office with Commissioner Pekarek to go through some inventory items.

Regnier and Trever Trebilcock, Assistant Highway Superintendent, presented the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture (NDA) Noxious Weed/Weed Superintendent Annual Report for 2025.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chair to sign the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture (NDA) Noxious Weed/Weed Superintendent Annual Report for 2025.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Next, Regnier and Trebilcock requested to publish the date and time of the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan Hearing.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to Authorize the Highway Superintendent to publish the date and time for the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan Hearing to be held February 24, 2026 at 9:15 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

Regnier led discussion on dust control on county roads. He noted that his department had applied a dust control product in some places and did not feel like it accomplished what they were hoping to accomplish. Ahmic reported that the feedback she received was that the enzyme itself didn't damage the road, but not being able to properly work the roads because of the product on them led to washboards and the condition of the roads slowed drivers down, although it did help with dust control. After a brief discussion regarding the original dust control product, it was decided that the county is not interested in proceeding with it, as it's not functional because the roads cannot be maintained once the product has been applied. There was discussion about another potential dust control product and two possible spots where the product could be tested. One of the possible test spots has higher speed traffic exiting the highway, and one has a lot of heavy trucks and vehicle traffic. In order to perform a test spot, equipment would have to be rented, or the county could potentially partner with another county that has the proper equipment. Ahmic asked Regnier to reach out to neighboring counties that may have the proper equipment within the next couple weeks.

During the CentralSquare Stakeholders' position regarding terms when adding parties to the Zuercher/CentralSquare interlocal item, Ahmic noted that this was originally brought to the board by the County Attorney's Office in seek of feedback, as the Commissioners oversee the county's budget and the original interlocal agreement has expired, with additional entities wanting to join the interlocal now. Zabrocki, Chair of the E911 Board, reported that their board met last week and discussed this, and noted that the original interlocal agreement has expired and the County Attorney provided an extension to that interlocal agreement. The E911 Board voted in agreement to add Fillmore County to the interlocal agreement, with no buy in fee required, as entities using the software pay Zuercher/CentralSquare directly. A new interlocal agreement needs to be drafted to include Fillmore County as well as all of the other entities that utilize that software. When the Zuercher/CentralSquare interlocal agreement with various entities first began, Seward County was the "host county" for the program, and the cost was handled differently then than it is now. Alan Moore, Saline County Sheriff, Alexis Buresh, representing the Butler County Sheriff's Office, Josh Gillespie, representing the York County Sheriff's Office, Tom Nielsen from Soarin Group, and Maria Scamehorn, E911 Director, all spoke in regard to their respective affiliations with the Zuercher/CentralSquare software interlocal agreement. There was a lengthy discussion about how the initial cost was broken down when the interlocal agreement began in

comparison to how it is handled now, if there was a buy in fee, where those funds would go, how issues with the Zuercher/CentralSquare servers are and will be handled, and what the initial discussion brought to the Commissioners entailed. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, commented that her office drafted the original interlocal agreement and it does not define the process for adding parties, other than that all of the parties need to agree. When the interlocal agreement was coming due, her office communicated some things that needed to be considered in the new agreement. Their office provided an extension to the original interlocal agreement when the original one was expiring, and not all of the entities have returned the extension. They cannot draft a new one until those are all returned. One suggestion she made was to add a steering committee, so there is a more official way for decisions to be made. The County Attorney's office also suggested a potential buy in fee, with a steering committee deciding what to do with those funds. When they heard that not everyone was in agreement with that, she sent an email suggesting an onboarding fee, etc.. seeking direction. They came to the board in seek of direction and understood from them that they wanted an onboarding fee. After much discussion, it was decided that the original interlocal agreement did not formally state a process for bringing on additional entities, and now that it is expired, a new one needs to be drafted after all the current users have returned the signed extension. The committee of stakeholders/users meets regularly and will be meeting on February 11, 2026. They will visit about this at that time and establish a plan for the new interlocal to be drafted.

The agreement with CentralSquare to grant permission and allow access to Fillmore County Sheriff's Department was tabled.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:22 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 10:27 a.m.

Brandy Hafer, Public Transit Director, was present to give an update on Public Transit funding and potential department reduction measures to assist with extending the grant reimbursement. Historically, Public Transit has received both federal and state grant funding to help with operating costs, with the county only funding 10% of their expenditures. Hafer was notified previously that the grant funding would be cut, and funds could potentially not last until the end of the fiscal year. Hafer has been working to cut costs, and find other ways to help with funding, such as becoming Medicaid provided and speaking with representatives from the Legacy Fund of Seward County for assistance. The average operating expense is around \$29,100/month. Ahmic stated that she cares deeply for the people who utilize Public Transit, but her concern is how this could look moving into next year. Without the state and federal funding, the operating costs will be passed on to the taxpayers through a significant increase to the county budget. Hafer has spoken with other counties that are facing the same funding challenges to see what they are doing. Some have raised rates, cut drivers' hours, and temporarily changed their hours/days of operation. After some discussion on possible temporary solutions, it was decided at this time to reduce Public Transit operations to Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, beginning March 1st, 2026. Hafer will work with Human Resources to help how this will affect her staff.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to enter into Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. for personnel, it being necessary to protect the reputation of the individual(s).

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to come out of Executive Session at 12:24 p.m.

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

The Chair stated that personnel was discussed, and no decisions were made.

Commissioner Reports, continued:

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Seward City Council meeting, attended a Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) Board meeting, had a Forfeited Asset Committee (FAC) meeting, attended the Problem Solving Court graduation, had a meeting with the Sheriff, and attended the county's Employee Appreciation party.

Commissioner Hain reported she worked with the Deputy County Attorney Sunflower Grant Writers, and has done a lot of work and correspondence with Misty in preparation for the agreement for the 420th road paving project grant, had a meeting with the Aging Services Program Manager and reported on some of the things they discussed, attended the Seward school bond question and answer session, met with the Highway Superintendent, has been working, along with Ahmic, to reach out to individuals for letters of support for the 420th road paving project, listened to Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Zoom meeting on legislative bills that were introduced, and added that she received a phone call from Congressman Flood, who let her know that the county did receive the \$1 million appropriation for the 420th Road Paving Project.

Hain presented a proposal & contract from Sunflower Grant Writers for writing & submitting the 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant on behalf of Seward County for the 420th Road Paving Project.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to authorize the Chair to sign the contract from Sunflower Grant Writers for writing and submitting the 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant for the 420th Road paving project, to be paid using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds that were set aside specifically for a grant writer.

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

Ahmic presented a brochure that was created by a representative from the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN). The purpose of the brochure is to provide information on agriculture to people who are either moving to the area or new to the area. Ahmic was approached by the representative after recent discussions on poultry barns. She asked the rest of the board for their feedback and welcomed any modifications. Since this is AFAN's document, there is no need to bring it back, as they're only requesting feedback on it at this time.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki enter into Executive Session at 12:44 p.m. to discuss pending litigation.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to come out of Executive Session at 12:52 p.m.

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

The Chair stated that the Executive Session was for pending litigation and no decisions were made.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to authorize the Deputy County Attorney to sign a Letter of Engagement with Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA) for representation for pending litigation.

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

The Commissioners recessed at 12:53 p.m. to go to the Detention Center for the quarterly jail inspection.

Zabrocki and Schmieding are absent at 12:53 p.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 1:10 p.m. to perform the quarterly jail inspection, with Sheriff Vance and Detention Center Director Sara Stenger present.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on February 3, 2026 are as follows:

8:30 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of January 27, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Public/Organizations/Officials

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Commissioner Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Res. – Moratorium Extension on Livestock Feeding Operations
7. Discuss/Action – Agenda for February 10, 2026

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open Bids for Used Motor Grader
9:20 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open Bids for Engineering Consultant for the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant
9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Public Hearing - Allan Hemsath/Hwy 15 Repair in J Precinct in Section 33, Township 10 North, Range 3 East of the 6th P.M.
9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – Request to Approve 80 Hours of Catastrophic Leave for Employee #1537093
10:00 a.m. Discuss/Action – Award Bids for Used Motor Grader

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to adjourn at the Seward County Detention Center at 1:36 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, 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 3rd day of February 2026.

County Clerk

Chairman