

March 17, 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 March 17, 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. 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 March 17, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Deputy County Attorney, Barbara Armstead was present as legal counsel.

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 March 10, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Schmieding, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

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

- a. Clerk of the District Court Fee Report for February 2026 - \$8,857.08
- b. Treasurer's Certification of Tax Sale Held on March 2, 2026

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

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Hain reported she continues to receive emails in regard to Public Transit, met with the Aging Services Director, attended the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District meeting, reviewed information in relation to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), received a call from a constituent regarding Dust Control and road concerns, and received calls and comments regarding election candidates.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he had a Forfeited Asset Committee (FAC) meeting with the Sheriff and staff, and discussed the use of the Sheriff's Office drone, reported on a potential budget issue due to overtime for essential departments, and attended the NACO Southeast District meeting.

Shelby Pedersen, representing Southeast Nebraska CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), was present to give an update on Child Abuse Prevention Month and an update on the program. The Commissioners approved her request to put a display table in the Courthouse entrance, lights in the Courthouse windows, and a display on the Courthouse stairs to raise awareness.

Commissioner Reports, continued:

Commissioner Ahmic reported she met with the Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) committee, had a follow up conversation with an attorney from Woods Aiken Law Firm, worked with the Seward Blue River Historical District & Seward County Historical Society on clarifying their levy requests to be placed on the general election ballot, received a call from Congressman Flood's office regarding grant funding, did a podcast with the Chamber about the upcoming Emergency Preparedness event, reached out to Marvin Planning regarding regulations, had a discussion with a NACO representative regarding ARPA, and attended a Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he will attend a Visitors Bureau meeting, will have a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting via Zoom, and noted that he received calls from constituents regarding streets/roads.

Commissioner Pekarek reported he participated in a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA) webinar, attended a CASA board meeting, and attended a Planning Commission meeting.

Megan Eckles, Emergency Manager, and Captain Borges from the Sheriff's Office, were present to discuss a possible red light permit grant for emergency responders. Emergency responders are not required to have emergency lights on their personal vehicles, but if they choose to do so, they are required to have a vehicle specific red light permit, obtained through the Sheriff's Office. Because the permits are specific to the vehicle and not the individual, some emergency responders have multiple permits. The Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in these permits, so they began charging \$5.00/each for this service, to cover some of the cost of materials. Ahmic reported that she had been asked by a constituent about the potential of using Emergency Management Grant funds to cover this cost, so she brought it before the board for discussion. There was a lengthy discussion about various factors in using the grant funds to cover the cost of some permits, but it was ultimately decided to leave it as it is currently, with the \$5.00 fee for new permits, and no charge to renew existing permits.

Ahmic led discussion on the emergency preparedness guide printing. Previously, she notified the other board members of an emergency preparedness guide that is available to print and could potentially be distributed at the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Event, as well as used by the Emergency Management Director and others. Eckles reported that the cost associated with printing the guide can be paid by the Emergency Management grant funds. She also suggested putting the link to this guide on the website, as well as providing people with a QR code to access it. Ahmic noted that the cost to print them is between \$8.00 - \$9.00, with a minimum of 100 copies. The Commissioners all agreed to proceed with having them printed.

There was a brief discussion about amending Resolution No. 3912 for the Seward County Historical Society and Resolution No. 3902 for the Seward Blue River Historical District's tax levy request to be placed on the general election ballot. Statute states that a nonprofit county historical organization or society organized under the corporation laws of the state can 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. Previously, both the Seward County Historical Society and the Seward Blue River Historical District requested the Commissioners' approval to have issues placed on the general election ballot requesting a levy of three tenths of one cent, and now both wish to amend that request to one tenth of a cent for every one hundred dollars.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to adopt Resolution No. 3924 to amend Resolution No. 3912 for the Seward County Historical Society's tax levy request to be placed on the general election ballot from .003 to .001.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3924 OF THE
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §23-355.01, the Seward County Historical Society and Museum, a nonprofit county historical organization or society organized under the corporation laws of this state, requested 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 be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 General Election;

WHEREAS, the matter properly came before the Seward County Board of Commissioners on January 6, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Seward County Board of Commissioners granted such request by way of Resolution 3912, which orders that the language consistent with the above be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election;

WHEREAS, the Seward County Historical Society and Museum has since limited its request that the tax levy be not more than one-tenth 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Seward County Board of Commissioners do hereby direct the following amended language 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 one-tenth 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 County Historical Society and Museum 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: Schmieding

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

Attest: Brandy M. Johnson, Seward County Clerk

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

Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to adopt Resolution No. 3925 to amend Resolution No. 3902 for the Seward Blue River Historical District's tax levy request to be placed on the general election ballot from .003 to .001.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3925 OF THE
SEWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §23-355.01, the Seward Blue River Historical District, a nonprofit county historical organization or society organized under the corporation laws of this state, requested 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 be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 General Election;

WHEREAS, the matter properly came before the Seward County Board of Commissioners on November 4, 2025;

WHEREAS, the Seward County Board of Commissioners granted such request by way of Resolution 3902, which orders that the language consistent with the above be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election;

WHEREAS, the Seward Blue River Historical District has since limited its request that the tax levy be not more than one-tenth 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Seward County Board of Commissioners do hereby direct the following amended language 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 one-tenth 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: Zabrocki

Seconded by: Pekarek

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

Attest: Brandy M. Johnson, Seward County Clerk

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

Motion Carried

The agenda item authorizing the Chair to sign the Public Transit Title VI Plan was tabled until March 24.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on March 24, 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 March 10, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on March 24, 2026 are as follows:

9:00 a.m.

1. Convene and announce Open Meetings Law
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discuss/Action - Approve minutes of March 17, 2026
4. Discuss/Action - Claims for the period through March 13, 2026

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action - Public/Organizations/Officials
6. Commissioner Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to Sign Title VI Plan for Public Transit
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for March 31, 2026

9:15 a.m. Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit to Upgrade/Modify Equipment to an Existing Wireless Tower in the SW ¼ of Section 22, Township 10 North, Range 2 East of the 6th P.M.

Discuss/Action – Res – Conditional Use Permit to Upgrade/Modify Equipment to an Existing Wireless Tower in the SW ¼ of Section 22, Township 10 North, Range 2 East of the 6th P.M.

9:20 a.m. Discuss/Action – Res – Tidd Subdivision Short Form Plat in the NW ¼ of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 4 East of the 6th P.M.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 10:29 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 24th day of March 2026

County Clerk

Chairperson