

March 31, 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 31, 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 31, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Scott Pekarek, Ken Schmieding,
Darrell Zabrocki
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.

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, and Trever Trebilcock, Assistant Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on activities of their department.

Tana Fye, the county's contracted Public Defender from FGH Law Office, was present to discuss the need for additional funding to hire an expert witness in a misdemeanor case. The county's contract for Public Defender services does not have the same provisions for misdemeanor cases as felony cases, and states that misdemeanor cases exceeding \$1000 in costs must be approved by the county board. Fye explained what the expert witness(es) was needed for in this particular case but also asked that additional fees be allocated in the future for this situation, in order to not have to come before the board each time. Ahmic noted that the contract, as it stands, was for two years and would likely need to be amended if additional funds are allocated moving forward. She will work with the policy committee to amend the contract from reading not to exceed \$1000 in costs for misdemeanor cases to not to exceed \$5000 in costs for misdemeanor cases must be approved by the county board.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve the increase of \$4000 in additional Public Defender funds for a misdemeanor case, to be paid out of the Public Defender budget.

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the minutes of March 24, 2026.

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

Brandy Johnson, County Clerk, updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Hain reported she visited with the Building & Grounds Superintendent regarding parking at the West Wing for county vehicles, received a call from a constituent, received a reminder for reporting Opioid funds, but noted that none have been spent, has been working on gathering information for the Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP), spoke with the Human Resources Director in regard to potentially adding links to various resources on the county website, and asked the Highway Superintendent follow up on a road in Tamora.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a board member training for Region 5 Systems, attended an exit audit meeting, and worked with the city of Seward regarding a potential payment from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the new water tower.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she worked on Zoning items, had a meeting with the City of Milford, worked with the County Clerk regarding budget and budget preparations, reported that the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) report is due today, but the county has nothing to report as none of the funds have been spent, worked with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) to provide guidance on the county's process for the contracted Public Defender, spoke with the Building & Grounds Superintendent regarding parking at the West Wing for county vehicles, has been targeting short term and ongoing goals in relation to the CSAP, and spent time working on the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Expo.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he followed up with constituents who had called regarding the road by the fairgrounds, will attend an Arbor Day Celebration, will attend a City of Seward Parks & Recreation Board meeting, and will attend an Extension Board meeting.

Commissioner Pekarek reported he spoke with the Detention Center Director regarding camera issues.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to open bids for mowing abandoned cemeteries.

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

One bid was received from Buresh Lawn Care.

Zabrocki led discussion on ARPA payment for the City of Seward's water tower. When the county initially received the ARPA funds, most cities and villages within the county applied for the use of the funds. At that time, \$300,000 was allocated for this project for the city of Seward. The water tower is nearing completion, but some unexpected delays have pushed back the timeline of parts of the project, such as the removal of the old water tower. Because of this timeline, and because the ARPA funds will only remain available through the end of the year, the funds will potentially no longer be available by the time the work is completed. Zabrocki reported that he has worked with the city to acquire a total of all expenses accrued for the work on the water tower to date and proposed reimbursing the city for their costs toward this project with the allocated funds.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the \$300,000 payment to the City of Seward for the construction of the new water tower, using ARPA funds.

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

Martin Schildt from GBE, CPA was present with the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Audit Report. Schildt discussed the schedule of findings, and Sheriff Vance was present to answer questions in relation to the audit findings.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Audit Report as submitted by GBE, CPA, and submit it to the State Auditor's Office and Federal Clearinghouse.

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

Dan Policky was present to request barricades and road closures on April 12, 2026 from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for the Bee Buzz Run. Policky gave information on the event and noted that the Sheriff's Posse will be present to help with traffic.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to approve the request for barricades and road closures on April 12, 2026 from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for the Bee Buzz Run on 238th Road and 252nd Road from Agnew Road to Rock Creek Road, and Agnew Road and Rock Creek Road from 238th Road to 252nd Road.

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

Brian Foral, the county's contracted county surveyor with JEO, was present to discuss the clarification of county owned parcel #800056043. The county owns a piece of property within the City of Milford's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) where there is currently a floodplain issue. Ahmic noted that the challenge with this property is that the property lines of the county owned parcel are unclear. He researched the property but recommended having a title company perform a title search due to the complexity of the search. The city would like to do enforcement with floodplain, but it's unknown which portion of the property belongs to the county. Once a title report has been obtained, the property can be surveyed. The board directed Foral to have a title company perform a property search, to be paid out of the Surveyor budget.

Ahmic led discussion on the budget preparedness process. In an effort to plan for the upcoming budget, she worked with District Court and the County Clerk on an expenditure detail report for departments. The template can be completed to break down what was spent from each budget line, as a way to help departments plan for what they will potentially need to budget for the upcoming year. This will be sent to departments at the same time all other budget forms are sent.

Regnier and Trebilcock were present to give an update on equipment for the newly formed Road Construction Crew. Regnier obtained quotes for a rubber tire packer that mounts to the rear of a motor grader. There was discussion about whether to purchase a used motor grader or using one of the machines the Road Department already has instead. Currently, the Road Department only has one motor grader that's equipped for a packer, and they only have one spare motor grader. In order to keep the spare as a backup for when one of the other machines goes down, purchasing an additional used motor grader would enable them to still have a backup.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to approve the Road Department's request to seek bids for a used motor grader, to be opened on April 21, 2026.

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

Next, Trebilcock reported that their department has had a vacant position on the construction and culvert crew for more than six months, without applicants. They are asking to offer a Tier 1 (\$2000) hiring bonus as a way to potentially receive applicants.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Hain to approve the Road Department request for a Tier 1 Hiring Bonus.

Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Hain, Ahmic

Voting No: Schmieding, Zabrocki

Motion Carried

Ahmic presented a Letter of Engagement with Woods Aitken LLP for legal representation. She noted that it is a generalized letter of engagement, as has been used in the past, that authorizes the county to use their services for legal representation in the future, should they choose to do so.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Zabrocki to authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Engagement with Woods Aitken LLP for Legal Representation.

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

Motion Carried

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on April 7, 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 31, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Claims for the period through March 27, 2026

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action – Public/Organizations/Officials
6. Commissioner Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Quarterly Jail Inspection
8. Discuss/Action – Agenda for April 14, 2026

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Point C Insurance Renewal for the 2026-2027 Year Plan

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Award Abandoned Cemetery Mowing Bid

Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to Sign Contract for Abandoned Cemetery Mowing Bid

9:35 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to Sign Disclosure of Ownership and Control Interest Statement for Public Transit Medicaid Provider Application

9:40 a.m. Discuss/Action – Sheriff’s Office Inventory for FY 2024 – 2025

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to adjourn at 10:50 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, 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 7th day of April, 2026.

County Clerk

Chairman