

April 14, 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 April 14, 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 Equalization convened on April 14, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
 Scott Pekarek, Darrell Zabrocki, Ken Schmieding
 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 Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to approve the minutes of March 24, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Schmieding, Pekarek, Ahmic Motion Carried

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her department.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on April 28, 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 April 14, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 9:03 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, 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 28th day of April, 2026.

County Clerk

Chairperson

April 14, 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 April 14, 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 April 14, 2026 at 9:03 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.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to approve the minutes of April 7, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Hain, Schmieding, Ahmic Motion Carried

Eric Hofer, Building & Grounds Superintendent, was present for the discussion about a quote from Summit Contracting for covered parking for county owned vehicles at the West Wing building for hail protection. Hain recently learned about HailSens, an early warning hail monitoring system that can detect and alert of incoming hailstorms, through the county's insurance provider, Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA). Initially, the Commissioners asked Hofer to seek a quote for covered parking as a way to lessen the risk of damage to county owned vehicles in the event of a hailstorm, but after a brief discussion regarding the number of hail related claims that have been submitted over the last five years, along with the cost of deductibles and construction, it was decided that this was not cost effective at this time.

Sara Stenger, Detention Center Director, was present, along with Andrew Truslow, Deputy Detention Center Director, to provide an update on the status of the camera system at the Justice Center/Detention Center. There have been issues with various cameras failing at different times throughout the building, for some time now. The county's IT company has helped to get them functional when they go down, but the computer system that runs the current system is outdated and updates are no longer available. Stenger presented a quote obtained in August of 2025 to replace the system in the Justice Center for \$326,000 and noted that the quote she received yesterday for the replacement has gone up to \$339,000, which is expected to keep getting higher. There was a lengthy discussion about the need for operational cameras for safety and security of staff and inmates, as well as how to fund the new camera system. Stenger reported that the Detention Center usually collects around \$35,000 every six months from housing inmates from other counties and suggested that money potentially be put into a fund to save for upgrades in order to avoid funding issues in the future. Hain noted that other offices collect money for various things as well, and that money goes into the General Fund as a way to offset the tax request and suggested the possibility

of budgeting money moving forward as a way to save for future necessary upgrades. At this time, it was decided to have Stenger bring back the latest quote from Accurate Controls to replace the system and establish a plan for setting funds aside to save for upgrades in the future. Stenger will obtain additional information about the viability/warranty of the new system included in the current quote and come back with a plan to proceed.

Shanon Koranda and Cait Park, from Hope Crisis Center, were present to request the use of the courthouse lawn for a lemonade stand on April 30, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during Seward County Gives.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to approve Hope Crisis Center's request to use the Courthouse lawn for a lemonade stand on April 30, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Schmieding, Pekarek, Zabrocki
Abstain: Ahmic

Motion Carried

Hain led discussion on audio/video recording the weekly Commissioner meetings. This has been discussed in the past, but the boardroom didn't have adequate audio/video recording equipment in place to allow for it. The recording equipment was recently upgraded, and the equipment now has the capability of recording both audio and video. The audio portion is currently being utilized, and one camera has been installed. Hain researched other counties that record their meetings, and how they record them, and shared her findings. She also noted that she has been uploading audio recordings for over a year using a program she pays for personally. She provided statistics of how many people have listened to her recordings since she began doing this. Ahmic reported that she has never been asked about recording the meetings, but she has had constituents inquire about conducting meetings in the evenings rather than in the mornings, noting that additional funds would have to be budgeted to pay staff that need to attend the meetings if they were held in the evenings, or somehow find a way to offset their hours worked during the day. There was a brief discussion about whether to livestream through a platform such as Facebook or record the meetings and upload them to a platform such as YouTube. Since all the meetings are already recorded and accessible to the public, uploading the video recordings to YouTube after the meetings would be a way to add the video of the meetings to go along with the audio for constituents to view at their convenience.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to approve audio and video recording of the meetings, and they be uploaded each week within 24 hours of adjournment.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Schmieding, Pekarek, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss a service agreement with Jackson's Heavy Equipment Training, LLC for motor grader operator training. This was discussed at the April 7th meeting, at which time the Commissioners asked Regnier to obtain more information regarding the proposed retainer fee listed in the agreement, as well as the potential for grant funding to fund it. Since that time, he learned through Jodi Gibson, the Local Assistance Division Manager, that there is a grant reimbursement available through the Nebraska Department of Transportation for this training.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to authorize the Chair to sign the service agreement with Jackson's Heavy Equipment Training, LLC, with funding done on a reimbursement basis with the Nebraska Department of Transportation.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Schmieding, Hain, Ahmic

Motion Carried

Next, Regnier presented an Environmental Services Agreement between Seward County and Olsson, Inc. for Nebraska Department of Transportation Project No. BRO-7080(55).

Moved by Hain and seconded by Schmieding to adopt Resolution No. 3928 to authorize the Chair to sign the Environmental Services Agreement between Seward County and Olsson, Inc for Nebraska Department of Transportation Project No. BRO-7080(55).

RESOLUTION
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT-BK2271-002

SEWARD COUNTY
Resolution No. 3928

Whereas: Seward County and Olsson, Inc. have previously executed an Environmental services agreement for a transportation project for which the Local Public Agency (LPA) would like to obtain Federal funds; and

Whereas: Seward County understands that it must continue to strictly follow all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines *applicable* to the funding of this Federal-aid project; and

Whereas: Seward County and Olsson, Inc. wish to enter into a supplemental Environmental services agreement, setting out modifications and/or additional duties and/or funding responsibilities for the Federal-aid project.

Be It Resolved: by the Board of Commissioners of Seward County, Nebraska that:

Misty Ahmic, Chair of the Seward County Board of Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the attached Environmental services Supplemental Agreement No. 2 between Seward County and Olsson, Inc.

NDOT Project Number: BRO-7080(55)
NDOT Control Number: 13521
NDOT Project Description: Beaver Crossing Southeast

Adopted this 14th day of April, 2026 at Seward Nebraska.

The Board of Commissioners of Seward County, Nebraska:
Raegan Hain, Darrell J. Zabrocki, Scott Pekarek, Ken Schmieding,
Misty Ahmic, Chair of the Board

Board/Council Member Hain
Moved the adoption of said resolution
Member Schmieding 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: Hain, Schmieding, Pekarek, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

The Commissioners recessed at 10:20 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Marissa Pfile, Zoning Administrator, and Brandy Johnson, County Clerk, updated the Commissioners on activities of their departments.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioners Pekarek reported he participated in a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA) webinar about inmate search and seizure, helped set up for, and then attended, the Emergency Preparedness Expo.

Commissioner Schmieding reported he will attend a Seward City Tree Board meeting, an Arbor Day celebration, a 4th of July Committee meeting, a Blue Valley Community Action meeting, and candidate night events. He attended the Emergency Preparedness Expo, and an Extension Board meeting.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she worked with the Seward/Saline Solid Waste Management Board and noted that they will be performing a site visit June 17, had a call with Jacob McMeekin from Senator Fischer's office regarding a Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad closure, had a meeting with Human Resources and Commissioner Hain regarding employee evaluations, worked with Soarin Group on camera issues at the Detention Center and stayed in touch with Detention Center Director regarding the camera issues, attended a Milford City Council meeting, attended the Emergency Preparedness Expo, attended a Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant (SS4A) kick off meeting, received an update from Brian Foral, the county's contracted Surveyor, regarding a property outside of Milford that was previously discussed, and participated in interviews for the new Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) President & CEO.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Seward city council meeting, attended an Apache board meeting, attended a Region V board meeting, Region V executive board meeting, had a meeting with Building & Grounds superintendent, started the review process of the E911 director, has started the Sheriff's office inventory check and has reconciled the sheet from the auditor.

Commissioner Hain reported she had a meeting with Human Resources and Commissioner Ahmic, had a call with the Detention Center Director regarding the camera situation at jail, attended an Extension Board meeting, attended the Emergency Preparedness Expo, received information from a case manager regarding Opioid Fund reporting, worked with the Deputy County Attorney on adjustments to the Aging Advisory Board bylaws, and prepared information for the audio/video recording item on the agenda.

Ahmic presented the addendum to the Public Defender contract. Tana Fye, the county's contracted Public Defender from FGH Law Office, was present at the March 31 meeting to request additional funding to hire an expert witness in a misdemeanor case. At that time, there was discussion regarding amending the current contract from stating that misdemeanor cases exceeding \$1000 in costs must be approved by the Board to stating that misdemeanor cases exceeding \$5000 in costs must be approved by the Board. Since that time, Ahmic met with the Policy Board and an addendum to the contract was drafted, noting the changes. Barb Armstead, Deputy County Attorney, stated that her office had not reviewed the amended contract, but noted that there was a difference from the original than the amended version. Ahmic will take the document back to the Policy Board to make the necessary correction, then send it to the County Attorney's office for review before bringing it back to the Board.

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on April 21, 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 April 14, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Claims through April 10, 2026

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action – Public/Organizations/Officials
6. Commissioner Reports
7. Discuss/Action – Agenda for April 28, 2026

9:15 a.m. Discuss/Action – Elaine Menzel/Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) – Update on NACO events and happenings

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open Bids for Used Motor Grader

- 9:40 a.m. Discuss/Action – Carrie Sermeno/Seward District Court Problem Solving Court – Application for Use of Opioid Funds to Attend Rise26 Treatment Court Conference
- 9:45 a.m. Discuss/Action – Carol Albrecht – Request Use of Courthouse Lawn to Hold Farmers Market
- 9:50 a.m. Discuss/Action – Authorize Chair to sign Geo-Commissioners Renewal Contract for Maintenance Services for E911

The Commissioners recessed at 11:07 a.m. to go to the Detention Center for the quarterly jail inspection.

Schmieding is absent at 11:07 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 11:24 to perform the quarterly jail inspection.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to adjourn at 11:44 a.m.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, 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 28th day of April 2026.

County Clerk

Chairman