

October 20, 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 October 20, 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 October 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Darrell Zabrocki, Jonathan Curtis,
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 October 13, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Curtis, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Curtis to approve claims through October 9, 2026.

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2026

ALLO COMMUNIC	\$3,809.04	VERIZON WIRELESS SERV	\$80.08
AMAZON CAPITAL SERV	\$49.39	VISA	\$1,842.91
AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$18,108.28	VOLZKE FUNERAL HOME	\$75.00
BEL-CON REFUSE	\$24.00	WESTERN OIL II	\$42.63
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$1,122.08	ALL STAR GLASS	\$400.00
BLUE RIVER ELECTRIC	\$136.15	ALLO COMMUNIC	\$119.97
BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH	\$120.00	AMERITAS LIFE INS	\$5,157.79
BLUE VALLEY COMM ACTION	\$7,500.00	BEATRICE CONCRETE	\$10,653.02
BRYAN MEDICAL CENTER	\$29.49	BEAVER HARDWARE	\$82.35
BURESH LAWN CARE	\$700.00	CHEMSEARCH	\$2,558.20
CENTURY BUSINESS PROD	\$128.97	CROUCH'S HARDWARE	\$333.52
CHARTER COMMUNIC	\$86.78	DALE JOHNSON ENT	\$23,768.24
CITY OF SEWARD	\$14,795.50	FARMERS COOP	\$3,131.49
CLERK OF DIST COURT	\$396.00	FASTENAL	\$443.42
CROUCH'S HARDWARE	\$61.94	FREDS AUTO ELECTRIC	\$254.00
CROWNE PLAZA KEARNEY	\$464.85	G & P DEVEL LANDFILL	\$28.96
CULLIGAN	\$89.85	HTR INC/KLUTE TRUCK EQ	\$1,039.00
CUMMINS SALES	\$707.48	J R WELDING INC	\$455.00
DIAMOND DRUGS	\$945.38	JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL	\$54,713.33
DIVERSIFIED SAFETY	\$95.00	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$5,435.30
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	\$342.95	MEDICAL ENT	\$186.25
ELECTION SYS & SFTWR	\$3,680.11	MEMORIAL CLINIC	\$345.00
ELITE VEHICLE OUTFITTERS	\$647.14	MIDWEST AUTO PARTS	\$160.34
FARMERS COOP	\$9,195.56	NE EQUIPMENT	\$863.25
FEHLHAFERS	\$51.13	NE WEED CONTROL ASSN	\$235.00
FGH LAW OFFICE	\$4,872.90	NEXTLINK AIS	\$51.07
FIRST WIRELESS	\$1,025.00	NMC, LLC	\$1,235.07
GALLS LLC	\$147.00	OREILLY AUTOM	\$55.92
GBE CPA	\$8,500.00	PAC N SAVE	\$13.58

GREAT PLAINS COMMUNIC	\$629.89	POWERPLAN	\$1,514.78
GREAT PLAINS UNIFORMS	\$539.72	RDO TRUCK CNTRS	\$1,917.50
HOMETOWN LEASING	\$348.35	SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	\$312.00
IHS PHARMACY	\$252.80	UTICA PARTS & SERV	\$25.60
INTRNTL ASSN OF ASSESSING	\$255.00	VERIZON CONNECT NWF	\$687.49
JEFFERSON CO SHERIFF	\$19.00	VILLAGE OF GARLAND	\$56.35
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$267.40	VISA	\$81.04
JONES BANK (FICA)	\$17,582.95	AMERITAS LIFE INS	\$153.79
KEARNEY INVEST CORP	\$139.95	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$167.16
KOTIK & MCCLURE, ATTYS	\$1,852.50	CREATIVE PROD SOURC	\$190.96
LANCASTER CO SHERIFF	\$50.53	AMERITAS LIFE INS	\$176.46
LAUBER FUNERAL SERVICE	\$811.00	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$169.13
LEE'S REFRIGERATION	\$469.90	AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP	\$31.59
MADISON CO SHERIFF	\$30.84	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$23.94
MANDINA MOTORS	\$968.41	MARVIN PLANNING	\$500.00
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	\$719.28	AMERITAS LIFE INS	\$1,707.66
MIDWEST SPECIAL SERV	\$2,325.70	APCO INTL	\$401.00
NE ASSN CNTY OFFICIALS	\$3,435.88	CHARTER COMMUNIC	\$51.96
NE EMERG MED PC	\$318.51	CITY OF SEWARD	\$237.94
NEBRASKA.GOV	\$6.00	EAKES OFFICE PLUS	\$329.94
NORFOLK LODGE	\$660.00	FIBER PLATFORM	\$327.00
NORRIS PUBLIC POWER	\$689.63	HOMETOWN LEASING	\$76.25
NORTHEAST NE JUVENIL SERV	\$426.25	JONES BANK (FICA)	\$1,797.88
ONESOURCE	\$118.00	NATL EMERG NMBR ASSN	\$150.00
PAPER TIGER SHREDDING	\$38.00	NORRIS PUBLIC POWER	\$279.00
PETTY CASH FUND	\$13.90	SOARIN GROUP	\$288.00
POLLACK AND BALL	\$4,387.50	ALLO COMMUNIC	\$607.63
QUILL CORP	\$973.78	CENTRALSQUARE TECH	\$13,514.70
SANDRA SCHATZ, PHD	\$465.00	GEOCOMM INC	\$5,408.16
SEC OF STATE - ELECTIONS	\$40.00	BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH	\$240.00
SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	\$112.05	BOB BARKER CO	\$142.32
SEWARD SHERIFF UNCOL FEES	\$190.00	CHARTER COMMUNIC	\$232.07
SEWARD LUMBER	\$34.18	CIDNET	\$3,034.66
SHIFFERMILLER LAW	\$6,262.50	SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT	\$65.00
SITE ONE LANDSCAPE	\$150.84	SUMMIT FOOD SERV	\$1,043.59
SOARIN GROUP	\$10,027.25	SALARIES	\$358,549.06
ST OF NE DAS ST ACCNTNG	\$596.50	GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO:	
SUNSET LAW ENFORC	\$2,137.16	AMERITAS DENTAL	
SVEHLA LAW OFFICES	\$237.50	AMERITAS VISION	
THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	\$1,289.98	COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE	
THYSSENKRUPP ELEVATOR	\$1,487.00	MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN	
TRANSUNION RISK	\$1,165.00	POINT C	
TRINITY SERVICES GRP	\$4,264.93	LPL FINANCIAL	
UNMC	\$650.00		

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

Motion Carried

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

Jalisa Gruhn, Public Transit Director, was present to discuss a potential purchase contract from Meyer Automotive for the purchase of a fleet vehicle. Gruhn requested direction from the Commissioners at the October 13th meeting and was advised at that time to work with Zabrocki to find a potential vehicle and have legal counsel review a purchase contract. Zabrocki and Gruhn found a vehicle at Meyer Automotive that is similar to the one being replaced. Ahmic noted that the vehicle will be a Fleet/Public Transit vehicle, and Public Transit will be able to utilize it when it is not in use by the Bailiff.

Moved to Zabrocki and seconded by Curtis to accept the Purchase Agreement from Meyer Automotive for the purchase of a 2015 Chevrolet Impala, to be used as a county Fleet/Public Transit vehicle, in the amount of \$11,995.00, to be paid from the Miscellaneous line in the Miscellaneous General budget.

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

Motion Carried

Sara Stenger, Detention Center Director, and Andrew Truslow, Deputy Detention Center Director, were present to discuss potentially amending the current Detention Center staffing structure. The Detention Center currently operates on a "Panama Schedule",

which consists of four teams, two day-teams and two night-teams, with three Sergeants accommodating all four shifts. Stenger reported that they are seeing that it is necessary to have more supervision on all shifts, especially due to the fact that nine of the Correction Officers have only been employed for less than a year. Her goal is to have four Sergeants, rather than three, as a way to reduce errors, have more supervision and more guidance on the evening shifts. Stenger proposed hiring internally for a Sergeant position. There is one vacant position that would not be filled but would remain as a part-time position to fill in as needed to cover for staff when they have to be gone. There was a brief discussion regarding budgeting moving forward, with Ahmic noting that she would be in favor of proceeding with the proposed plan, if the vacant position were to be changed to part time, at 29 hours per week, for the remainder of the 2026-2027 fiscal year, as it would not change the Detention Center's budget. The vacant position will be re-evaluated during the next fiscal year budget time.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Curtis to promote one current Detention Center Officer to Sergeant and move the current vacant Detention Center position to part-time, at 29 hours per week.

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

Motion Carried

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Hain reported she had several meetings postponed from last week to this week, she received several phone calls and messages about roads, and continues to direct individuals to the Road Department when they contact her regarding road conditions, followed up with the Highway Superintendent about a message that was sent to Commissioners regarding schools creating alternate pick-up and drop off locations due to road conditions, and noted that he is in frequent contact with the Transportation Directors at those schools.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he spent time working with the Public Transit Director, attended a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA) Cyber Security training, attended a SouthEast Nebraska Development District (SEND) board meeting, attended a SEND Executive board meeting, spoke with a constituent regarding a road issue and provided the Highway Superintendent with the information, and noted that he will be out of town the rest of the week for meetings.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she spoke with state and federal officials to do more looking into what happened during the flooding event, reached out to other Commissioners in the Southeast District regarding the flooding event, met with representatives from the City of Milford and the consultants that have been working on the city's water main project, will meet with Deputy County Attorney Barb Armstead regarding the water main project and potential use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, received several calls regarding road conditions and encouraged individuals to call the Road Department with those concerns, received a call about a salvage yard that was discussed in a Public Hearing during a Commissioner meeting earlier this year, and noted that the County Attorney's Office is following up on that, contacted the Natural Resources Districts regarding the upcoming water study interlocal agreement and funding, had a conversation with the County's contracted Public Defender, spoke with the Milford School Superintendent regarding transportation, attended a Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) Executive Team meeting, met with the Milford fire chief, and will be meeting with Commissioner Pekarek and Congressman Flood.

Commissioner Pekarek reported he met with the Zoning Administrator and County Attorney's Office regarding a Zoning Regulation resolution, drove by the site of the salvage yard Commissioner Ahmic previously discussed, received calls and emails about road conditions, forwarded road condition information on to the Road Department and encouraged people to call the Road Department with their road concerns, met with the Zoning Administrator, inquired about the Cease and Desist process in regard to Zoning Regulations, received a message from an individual regarding school transportation due to road conditions, and followed up with the schools, had a meeting with the Clerk of District Court, met with the Emergency Manager and representatives from Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and went on site visits with them.

Commissioner Curtis reported he spoke with a constituent and representatives from the City of Seward regarding trees near the cemetery, attended a 4th of July Committee meeting, spoke with the City Administrator in regard to potentially having monthly meetings with city and county representatives, received a phone call from Senator Kolterman, met with the Human Resources Director, contacted Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA), and spoke with individuals regarding vacant positions on the Planning Commission.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:18 a.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 10:29 a.m.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to enter into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m. to discuss strategy.

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

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Curtis to come out of Executive Session at 12:18 p.m.

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

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

Known items on the agenda for Board of Equalization on October 27, 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 October 13, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Assessor Information Update

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on October 27, 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 October 20, 2026

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

4. Discuss/Action - Public/Organizations/Officials
5. Commissioner Reports
6. Discuss/Action – Agenda for November 3, 2026

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

9:30 a.m. Discuss/Action – Open Bids for Hydrogeologic Assessment

9:40 a.m. Discuss/Action – Bailiff Request for Use of Opioid Funds for Peer Support Specialist Training for York and Seward Counties Problem Solving Court Mentors

9:50 a.m. Discuss/Action – Award Bid for Hydrogeologic Assessment

Moved by Hain and seconded by Pekarek to adjourn at 12:21 p.m.

Affirmative Vote: Hain, Pekarek, Curtis, Zabrocki, 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 27th day of October 2026

County Clerk

Chairperson