October 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 October 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. 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 October 27, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Darrell Zabrocki, Jonathan Curtis, 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 Curtis and seconded by Pekarek to approve the minutes of October 13, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Curtis, Pekarek, Hain, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her department

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

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to adjourn at 8:41 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Hain, Curtis, 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 10th day of November 2026.

_____ _____
County Clerk Chairperson

October 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 October 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. 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 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic
Members: Raegan Hain, Scott Pekarek, Jonathan Curtis, 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 Hain to approve the minutes of October 20, 2026.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Curtis, Pekarek, Ahmic Motion Carried

Pekarek requested to remove item (b) - Surplus Property Disposal Request for Sheriff's Office from the consent agenda.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Hain to approve the consent agenda consisting of:
a. Utility Permit for Black Hills Energy to Bore along Van Dorn Road East of 224th Road to Bring Service to 710 224th Road in the SW ¼ of Section 31, Township 10 North, Range 4 East of the 6th P.M.

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

Captain Lisa Borges and Deputy Joseph Ernst were present from the Seward County Sheriff's Office to discuss their surplus property disposal request. Deputy Ernst explained the process their department follows to surplus firearms. The firearms need to be removed from the county's inventory, through the surplus property process, before they can be sold.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to approve the surplus property disposal request for the Sheriff's Office.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Curtis, Hain, Ahmic Motion Carried

Megan Forbes, representing Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) was present to request the use of the courthouse lawn for the Christmas Festival on November 28, 2026, and to decorate the Christmas tree on the north side of the courthouse between November 1, 2026, and November 25, 2026, and for the Santa House to be placed on the north side of the courthouse throughout the holiday season.

Moved by Pekarek and seconded by Hain to approve the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP) request to use the courthouse for the Christmas

Festival on November 28, 2026, and to decorate the Christmas tree on the north side of the courthouse between November 1, 2026, and November 25, 2026, and for the Santa House to be placed throughout the holiday season, with restrooms available from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., pending a Certificate of Insurance.
Affirmative Vote: Pekarek, Hain, Curtis, Zabrocki, Ahmic Motion Carried

There is no Veteran of the Month for October 2026. The agenda item was not discussed.

Commissioner Reports:
Commissioner Curtis reported he attended a Visitors Bureau meeting and a Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) meeting.

Commissioner Pekarek reported he worked on obtaining information on the Sheriff's Office surplus property disposal request, traveled roads within the county with Congressman Flood and Commissioner Ahmic, and met with the Zoning Administrator.

Commissioner Ahmic reported she traveled roads within the county with Congressman Flood and Commissioner Pekarek, received several phone calls regarding roads, received calls about the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) project, received the drafted Interlocal Agreement for the water study from The County Attorney's office and passed that along to the Natural Resources Districts.

Commissioner Zabrocki reported he attended a Safety Committee meeting, attended a Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) board meeting and committee meeting, attended a Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assn. (NIRMA) board meeting, attended the NIRMA Self Defense conference, and completed the purchase of a Public Transit/Fleet vehicle.

Moved by Hain and seconded by Zabrocki to open bids for a Hydrogeologic Assessment.
Affirmative Vote: Hain, Zabrocki, Curtis, Pekarek, Ahmic Motion Carried

One bid was received from Spheros Environmental.

Commissioner Reports, continued:

Commissioner Hain reported she met with the Aging Services Program Manager, attended an Aging Advisory Board meeting, had a meeting with the Diversion Director, met with the Executive Director from Four Corners Health Department, and attended a Green Dot Intervention Program presentation.

The Commissioners recessed at 9:45 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

Ahmic asked to wait until the Hydrogeologic Assessment Interlocal Agreement between the county and the Natural Resources Districts is signed before awarding the bid. This item will be brought back at a later date.

Commissioner Hain requested to place an emergency item on the agenda. The Sheriff gave notice to the Commissioners on October 26th that he plans to retire November 5th. Hain contacted the County Attorney's office regarding the process of filling the vacancy. Due to the timing of his retirement, there will not be time for the Commissioners to discuss the process of filling the vacancy in a public meeting prior to the Sheriff's retirement, as the November 3rd meeting is limited because of it being Election Day. Hain noted the nature of the emergency is that once the position is vacated, there will not be an acting Sheriff, and if there is not a plan in place for what will occur, the county will not have an acting Sheriff. Ahmic questioned the nature of the emergency, stating that the discussion needs to take place, but it needs to be done correctly. Hain added the emergency item to the agenda.

Emergency Item Added – Discussion Only – Appointment Process for Seward County Sheriff, Added at 10:02 a.m.

The Commissioners discussed the process of appointment for Sheriff. Armstead noted that the board does not have to wait for the position to be vacant to appoint someone. They can appoint an individual, with the appointment to begin upon the vacancy of the Sheriff. After a lengthy discussion about the various logistics of the situation, it was decided to ask Roxanne Knutson, the Human Resources Director, to join the meeting to offer input.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:18 a.m.
The Commissioners reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Roxanne Knutson, Human Resources Director, was present for the discussion. Armstead noted that, although the Sheriff stated his intention of making a member of his Command Staff the acting Sheriff until the next Sheriff begins their term, it does not apply because the Sheriff's Office does not have a Chief Deputy. Under these particular circumstances, the appointment can happen before the position is vacant. It was decided to hold a special session on November 4th at 11:30 a.m. The preliminary results of the election should be determined by that time, and the individual who wins the election can be appointed to fill the vacancy beginning November 6th. Zabrocki will contact Sheriff Vance, as well as the candidates running for Sheriff, to make sure all are aware of the decision. The County Attorney's Office will draft a contract for the individual to fill the remainder of the Sheriff's term.

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Hain to accept the County Treasurer's Certification of Distress Warrants for the Tax Year 2025, to be collected by the Seward County Sheriff.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Hain, Curtis, Pekarek, Ahmic Motion Carried

Known items on the agenda for Board of Commissioners on November 3, 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 27, 2026
4. Discuss/Action – Claims through October 23, 2026

Other Business Matters to Address When Time Allows

5. Discuss/Action – Agenda for November 10, 2026

9:05 a.m. Discuss/Action – Accept the Resignation of Sheriff Mike Vance

Moved by Zabrocki and seconded by Pekarek to adjourn at 10:51 a.m.
Affirmative Vote: Zabrocki, Pekarek, Curtis, Hain, 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 November 2026.

_____ _____

County Clerk Chairman