

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
November 1, 2023
9:30 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Knox County Board of Supervisors was held in the Boardroom at the Knox County Courthouse in Center, Nebraska on the date of Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Patrick J. Liska District #2, David L. Pierce District #3, James Sokol, Jr. District #4, Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was Supervisor Martin J. O'Connor District #1. Chairman Mackeprang presiding.

Supr. Sokol, Jr. led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mackeprang announced to the public that a copy of the Public Open Meeting Act was posted in the Boardroom.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Niobrara Tribune newspaper, as shown by the Affidavit of Publication attached to these minutes.

Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to all members and a copy of their acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

The minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were approved by Chairman Mackeprang as read.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) News article of Distinguished Service Award given to Megan Hanefeldt, 4-H Youth Development Educator in Knox and Cedar counties; 2.) Letters from Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy on Herzog Feedlot and Mark Miller Livestock Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that all claims except Claim #2023110088, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee, be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$508,731.15 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of October 17 – 30, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Liska to adopt **Resolution #2023 – 30** for Amendment and Addendum to NIRMA/NIRMA II Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreements extending Knox County’s participation in NIRMA and NIRMA II for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 and that the Resolution serves as an amendment and addendum to previous Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreements with NIRMA/NIRMA II. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #2023 – 30
FOR AMENDMENT AND ADDENDUM TO
NIRMA/NIRMA II INTERGOVERNMENTAL/INTERNLOCAL AGREEMENTS**

WHEREAS, Knox County has previously entered into intergovernmental/interlocal Agreements with various other Nebraska Counties and other public agencies to form and participate in the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) and the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association II (NIRMA II) as authorized by the intergovernmental Risk Management Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §44-4301 et seq.) and the Nebraska Interlocal Cooperation Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-801 et seq.), and

WHEREAS, Counties and other Public Agencies as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §44-4303 are allowed to participate in said cooperative undertakings, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that proper risk management requires the spreading of risk so as to minimize fluctuation in insurance needs and that benefits can be derived through the pooling of insurance purchasing by local government, and

WHEREAS, NIRMA and NIRMA II have provided coverages to the County in a cost-effective way which meet and exceed that provided by standard insurance carriers, and

WHEREAS, NIRMA and NIRMA II provide risk management services such as loss prevention, safety, audits and assessments, claims and litigation management, and coverages tailored to address loss exposures counties and other related public entities face not economically available from other sources, and

WHEREAS, these coverages and risk management services are essential for the continued effective and efficient use of county taxpayer dollars, and

WHEREAS, the current Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreements will expire on June 30, 2024, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Knox County Board hereby:

1. Extends its commitment to participate in NIRMA and NIRMA II for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027, and
2. Declares that the Resolution shall serve as an amendment and addendum to the previous Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreements entered into by the County Board, said Intergovernmental/Interlocal Agreements readopted by and incorporated herein by this reference as amended.

After motion duly made by member Supr. Pierce and seconded by member Supr. Liska, the following members voted by roll call vote as follows in regard to adoption of said Resolution: Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7.

The following members voted against the same: None

The following members were absent or not voting: District #1

PASSED AND APPROVED this 1st day of November, 2023.

Attest: (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
County Clerk

Knox County Board
By: Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Chairperson/Presiding Officer

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file the County Treasurer’s Report of Distress Warrants issued to the County Sheriff for collection of delinquent personal property taxes Delinquent 2022 and Prior

Personal Property/Mobile Homes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on an accounts payable claim from Deputy County Attorney Jensen for reimbursement of registration fees, parking fees and mileage. The mileage rate on the claim was 65.5 cents per mile. The Knox County Employee Handbook says that use of a personal vehicle if a county vehicle is available would receive reimbursement at the GSA rate that is now 22 cents per mile. Deputy County Attorney Jensen told the Board that the deadline had passed for her to reserve a discounted hotel room at a hotel in Omaha where she was attending a seminar so she stayed with her sister in Gretna, noting that the mileage was a lesser rate than what the hotel charge would have been. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to allow mileage reimbursement of 536.5 miles at 65.5 cents per mile for a total of \$351.41 for Deputy County Attorney Hanna Jensen. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 10:03 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:26 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Martin J. O'Connor District #1.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Liska to reappoint Highway Superintendent Kevin R. Barta, License #S-1109, Class A, employee of Knox County, with a beginning date of January 1, 2024 and to adopt **Resolution #2023 – 31** authorizing Chairman Mackeprang to sign the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent Form For Determining Incentive Payment in Calendar Year 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
SIGNING OF THE
YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
2023**

Resolution No. 2023 – 31

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2302, and 39-2501 through 39-2505 detail the requirements that must be met in order for a county to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment; and

Whereas: The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each county must annually certify (by December 31st of each year) the appointment of the County Highway Superintendent(s) to the NDOT using the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form; and

Whereas: The NDOT requires that such certification shall also include a copy of the documentation of the county highway superintendent's appointment, i.e., meeting minutes showing the appointment of the County Highway Superintendent by their name as it appears on their License (if applicable), their License Number (if applicable) and Class of License (if applicable), the type of appointment, i.e., employed or under contract (consultant, or interlocal agreement with another county and/or incorporated municipality), and the beginning date of the appointment; and

Whereas: The NDOT also requires that such Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include a copy of a resolution of the County Board authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form by the County Board Chairperson.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Knox County is hereby authorized to sign the attached Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form(s).

Adopted this 1st day of November, 2023 at Center, Nebraska.

County Board Members

Kevin Mackeprang /s/

Danny R. Schlote /s/

David L. Pierce /s/

James Sokol, Jr. /s/

District #1 Absent

James Borgmann /s/

Patrick J. Liska /s/

County Board Member Supr. Pierce

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Supr. Liska Seconded the Motion

Roll Call: 6 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 1 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted

Attest: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/

(Signature of Clerk)

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Bridge Crew update; 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Discussed recent Bridge Match committee meeting. Potential bridge projects were discussed; 4.) Discussed gravel purchased and budgeted; 5.) Winter preparedness of equipment was discussed; 6.) Discussion was held on culverts needed for new driveways; 7.) Equipment repairs were discussed.

The Board and officials discussed 2024 proposed holidays. A survey of 2024 holidays set by other counties was reviewed. After a discussion, motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to set the 2024 holidays/Courthouse closings as follows: New Year's Day January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 15; Presidents' Day February 19; Memorial Day May 27; Independence Day July 4; Labor Day September 2; Columbus Day October 14; Veterans' Day November 11; Thanksgiving November 28; Thanksgiving Friday November 29; close at noon on Christmas Eve December 24; and Christmas December 25. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang opened at 11:09 a.m. the advertised hearing on the reuse loan application of Kerri Koch-Koenig of JKK Veterinary Clinic, P.C. Present were Kerri Koch-Koenig and her husband, Jason Koenig, NENEDD loan specialist Jeff Christensen and new NENEDD director Shannon Stuchlik. The application is for the purchase of the Sunrise Veterinary Hospital in Creighton. Discussion was held on terms and conditions with Tri-County Bank to be the first lien holder and Knox County to be the second lien holder. Chairman Mackeprang closed the public hearing at 11:14 a.m. There was no one present in opposition. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the reuse loan application for Kerri Koch-Koenig of JKK Veterinary Clinic, P.C. in the amount of \$148,000 with a 20-year term at 4.5%

interest and first lien holder to be Tri-County Bank and Knox County as the second lien holder. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. that Claim #2023110088, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee, made payable to NED, Inc. in the amount of \$148,000 be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

NENEDD loan specialist Jeff Christensen introduced to the Board Shannon Stuchlik who is the newly appointed executive director of the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2315 Scott Fiedler for a lot split of Lot 609, Hideaway Acres 6th Addition. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the Visitor's Promo application for Northeast Nebraska RC&D in the amount of \$200 to support the promotional expense of the Knox County Cemetery bus tour that was held in September. By roll call. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the 2022/2023 audit draft and the audit exit conference information.

Officials' update was given by the following: 1.) Sheriff Henery said the water pump in the Courthouse generator is going out and will need to be replaced. Also, the State Patrol Captain was at his office recently and discussed putting a State antenna on the Lindy Tower. Equipment is being placed in the new pickup; 2.) County Clerk Fischer presented information of the changes to the Accounts Payable claim process that will start with the November 15, 2023 meeting. Also, an update was given on the recent Officials' quarterly meeting; 3.) Deputy County Attorney Jensen said that she applied for a NIRMA ASSIST grant to help with the security camera update costs. Also, she recently attended a County Attorney seminar where the TERC commissioners presented a session on TERC hearings.

There was no public comment on agenda items nor on non-agenda items.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into executive session at 11:54 a.m. so as to protect the reputation of individuals when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session will be held so as to protect the reputation of individuals when discussing personnel. The Board came out of executive session at 12:10 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 12:10 p.m. the executive session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

The Board made a quarterly visit to the Knox County Jail as per Nebraska Revised Statute 47-109.

GENERAL FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 104,135.05; Applied Connective Technologies, IT cost, 1,392.98; Center Garage, weed truck brakes, 606.00; CenturyLink, long distance, 1.39; Classic Carpet Care, mop/towel rent, 65.00; CNA Surety, bonds, 80.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,498.46; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 42,922.42; Creston Fertilizer, weed spray, 368.80; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 1,010.10; Crowne Plaza-Kearney, lodging, 243.90; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 161.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier contract, 267.90; Ecowater, bottled water, 188.50; Elizabeth Doerr, contract labor, 250.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/postage/supplies/meals, 5,848.67; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Co., supplies, 741.16; Grafix Shoppe, decals, 377.97; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 2,074.96; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., quarterly bill, 3,420.00; Knox County Court, cases pending etc., 227.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 126.23; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 295.91; Loffler, copier contract, 355.03; NACO, registrations, 2,850.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,815.30; Northeast Nebraska News Company, publishing, 559.32; NPAS Inc., data master part, 230.93; Powertech, Lindy Tower, 2,410.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 328.99; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,979.82; UNL Eastern Nebraska Research & Extension Center, salary, 12,123.51.

ROAD FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 41,921.32; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 38.65; Bomgaars, shop supplies, 980.94; Cedar-Knox PPD, electricity, 100.44; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,934.46; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 19,715.32; First National Bank Omaha, repairs, 568.96; Great Plains Communications, phone, 196.70; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 3,001.86; Jebro Inc., demurrage, 320.00; Laflan Medical Clinic, drug test, 150.00; Larry Pilar, prior service, 21.00; Larry Oleson, clay, 900.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 119.20; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fee, 3,665.29; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 150.00; Mike Jelinek, mileage, 30.13; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 130.79; Norfolk Construction Co. Inc., equipment rental, 1,500.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 284.92; Overhead Door Co. of Norfolk, building repair, 661.50; Pease General Store, shop supplies, 73.11; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 851.58; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,644.04; Roger Lenke, clay, 450.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Steffens Service, gas, 209.02; Vakoc Excavating LLC, sand, 2,400.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 40,083.86.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 157.50.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Applied Connective Technologies, courtroom upgrade, 1,125.00; First National Bank Omaha, zoom subscription, 158.14; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 115.17; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 164.44.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 1,610.38.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. First National Bank Omaha, internet, 86.95.

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. Name redacted, reimburse deductible, 250.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NED Inc., loan, 148,000.00; NENEDD, admin fees, 1,168.75.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 1,948.57; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 138.85; First National Bank Omaha, dues/gas/meals, 834.68; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 89.48; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 5.96; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 113.41; Rita Pitzer, meals/program, 350.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, contract, 2,000.00; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 12,376.22; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 4,166.66.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 11.89; gWorks, clerk tab, 4,500.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Applied Connective Technologies, computer, 1,290.94; City of Norfolk, networking, 44.74; First National Bank Omaha, lodging, 109.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.36; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 104.38; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$202,734.90
Road Fund	124,168.09
Flowage Easement Road Fund	157.50
Child Support Fund	1,562.75
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,610.38
Visitor's Improvement Fund	86.95
County Wellness Fund	250.00
Economic Development Fund	149,168.75
C & C Development Fund	3,525.77
Inheritance Fund	18,542.88
Keno Fund	4,511.89
911 Emergency Fund	1,745.46
911 Wireless Service Fund	665.83
Total	\$508,731.15

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:20 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2023 for a regular meeting.

I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

By _____
Kevin D. Mackeprang, Chairman

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Center, Nebraska
November 1, 2023
10:03 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Knox County Board of Equalization was held in the Boardroom at the Knox County Courthouse in Center, Nebraska on the date of Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 10:03 a.m. Present were Supervisors Patrick J. Liska District #2, David L. Pierce District #3, James Sokol, Jr. District #4, Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was Supervisor Martin J. O'Connor District #1. Chairman Borgmann presiding.

Chairman Borgmann announced to the public that a copy of the Public Open Meeting Act was posted in the Boardroom.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Niobrara Tribune newspaper, as shown by the Affidavit of Publication attached to these minutes.

Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to all members and a copy of their acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

The minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were approved by Chairman Borgmann as read.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file Notices of Rejection of Homestead Exemption Forms 458R. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

County Assessor McManigal met with the Board on the following: 1.) Reviewed Notice of Appeal Case No. 23R 0605 of TERC filing of Shannon and Kyle Hildebrand, Trustees vs. Knox County Board of Equalization; 2.) Discussed with Deputy County Attorney Jensen consequences of persons not filing their personal property schedules; 3.) Staff are inspecting new construction; 4.) Discussion was held on wetlands recently sold in the Lazy River Acres area and what the new owner plans to do with the property.

There was no public comment on agenda items nor on non-agenda items.

Chairman Borgmann adjourned the Knox County Board of Equalization at 10:26 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 for a regular meeting.

I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Equalization minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

By _____
James J. Borgmann, Chairman
