

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
November 29, 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 29, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, 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 none. Chairman Mackeprang presiding.

Supr. Schlote 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 and Wausa Gazette newspapers, as shown by the Affidavits 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.

Chairman Mackeprang approved the minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting as read.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) A copy of the August 9, 2023 meeting newspaper minutes of the Board of Supervisors that was delivered by a constituent to the Knox County Clerk's Office. The copy was marked to make notice of the section regarding mowing of roadsides along with a reference to an individual.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. that all claims, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee, be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$362,292.96 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the November 14 – 27, 2023 Receipts Revenue List. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on finding an auditor to conduct the future County annual audits. The State Auditor's Office who had been conducting the Knox County audits notified a large number of counties that they would not be providing audit services any longer. Deputy County Clerk Nix had contacted independent CPA companies from a list provided by NACO and only Porter & Company, P.C. of Sioux City, IA submitted a quote for audit services. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to approve the quote from Porter & Company, P.C. of Sioux City IA for a three-year contract for audit services with the costs to be FY 2023 \$16,750 plus \$4,750 for a single Federal audit if needed; FY2024 \$17,625 plus \$5,000 for a single Federal audit; and FY2025 \$18,500 plus \$5,250 for a single Federal audit. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 10:05 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:10 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Jonathan Voelker with Nebraska Game and Parks requested the County help with blading a new road that the Game and Parks is adding in the lake area. The Board said that the Nebraska Game and Parks would have to hire an independent company for maintenance of their new road; 2.) Discussion was held on County property. It was noted that a survey should be done on the right-of-way on the Weigand road as there are approximately eight rows of corn planted in the right-of-way. Also discussed was surveying an area north of Center and auctioning excess real estate; 3.) Discussed issues with the sander and truck at the Center Yard; 4.) Rip rap was placed in an area west of Center; 5.) The Verdigre North bridge project will be let February 1, 2024; 6.) A culvert issue had been resolved; 7.) The new truck for the Crofton Yard will be built in December; 8.) Culverts were ordered for the shoe fly for the Shaw bridge project; 9.) Word was received that the BIA would pay 100% of bridge and culvert projects on the Santee Sioux reservation. Hwy. Supt. Barta has nine possible projects and will be meeting with Land Management Director Mike Crosley to discuss the projects; 10.) Bridge project updates.

Economic Development Director Hanvey met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed ag-tourism and costs to host tours. Clint Miller of Verdigre hosted the Leadership Class by taking the class members on a covered-wagon tour and submitted a bill of \$15 per person. As Mr. Miller is the spouse of Visit Knox County Director Miller, Deputy County Attorney Jensen said there was no issue with nepotism, and she suggested the Board review the bill. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to allow submission of a claim by Clint Miller of Verdigre for an agriculture tour at \$15 per person for twelve people totaling \$180.00 to be paid from the C & C Development Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Jeff Christensen with NENEDD will be at the December 12, 2023 meeting to discuss a buy-out proposal by NED, Inc. of older reuse loans; 3.) A professional services agreement by Five Rule Rural Planning was reviewed and consideration of the agreement will be held at the December 12, 2023 meeting.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Planning Commission meeting. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2317 for R. Jeremy and Teresa Schaaf on a zoning lot combination of Lots 669 and 2625, Block 3, Devils Nest Subdivision. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) The terms of Rob Ganz, Doug DeShazer and Dean Wilken on the Planning Commission will expire soon. The members are interested in remaining on the Planning Commission; 4.) The County will be reimbursed 71.25% of Emergency Manager Jelinek's salary from the State as she is now certified.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Pierce to authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign the Title 2 of the CFR, Part 200 Certificate of Cost Allocation Plan with Maximus Consulting. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska to authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the County Attorneys of Madison and Knox Counties designating the Madison County Attorney's Office as the official applicant and lead county for the Nebraska Crime Commission's 2024-2025 Community-Based Juvenile Services Grant application for Madison and Knox Counties. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

County Clerk Fischer and Deputy County Clerk Nix discussed with the Board the health insurance opt-out stipend that is set at \$375 per month with an annual amount of \$4,500. As payroll is now done on a biweekly basis, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Nix asked the Board for consideration of dividing the opt-out stipend to be paid over the twenty-six pay periods in

the biweekly payroll process instead of twenty-four pay periods. In the biweekly payroll process, there are two months in a year where there are three pay periods instead of two pay periods. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve paying the health insurance opt-out stipend to those eligible employees who have opted out of the County health insurance benefit at each of the twenty-six pay periods in a year in the biweekly payroll process noting that the stipend will remain at \$375 per month for 2024 equating to \$173.08 per pay period. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) Hwy. Supt. Barta discussed land sold for a lagoon north of Crofton and sewer lines in the right-of-way; 2.) Sheriff Henery and County Attorney Thomas informed the Board of issues with Emergency Protective Custody people taken to Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk and the excessive wait time to treat EPC people. Discussion was held on Behavioral Health contracting with Faith Regional for EPC cases, that other sheriffs encountering the same problems are now taking the EPC people directly to Kearney, and options to alleviate the problems.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to go into executive session at 11:42 a.m. to discuss public safety matters. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session will be held to discuss public safety matters. The Board came out of executive session at 11:58 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 11:58 a.m. the executive session held on public safety matters. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 94,808.35; Albin Law Office, mental health board, 185.25; Applied Connective Technologies, computer, 1,094.02; Big John Manufacturing Co. Inc., hose reel, 315.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc., supplies, 158.83; Brite, parts, 138.00; Chad Vanness, mileage, 34.06; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,382.96; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 627.26; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 70.85; Davison County Sheriff's Office, service fees, 3.36; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 50.55; Doug DeShazer, meeting/mileage, 64.30; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/meals/lodging, 3,354.35; Greg D. Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 56.44; Holly Wortmann, mileage, 43.23; Jane Wilmes, election help, 82.66; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 45.96; Joyce Bertschinger, election help, 83.94; Julie Dather, mileage, 23.58; Keith Nielsen, meeting/mileage, 42.69; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 143,951.92; LaQuinta Inn & Suites Kearney, lodging, 314.85; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; Nebraska Weed Control Association, registration, 150.00; Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, audit, 18,498.12; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 61.68; Platte Valley Communications, radio repairs, 742.50; Quill Corporation, supplies, 574.18; Rebekah Poppe, mileage, 17.03; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,784.76; Robert D. Larsen, meeting/mileage, 36.79; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 39.41; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 100.00; Sharla Hanzlik, mileage, 28.82; Tauber Plumbing LLC, toilet, 5,890.69; Tyler Technologies, vetraspec program renewal, 449.00; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 114.50.

ROAD FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 37,723.73; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, computer repair, 99.99; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 98.50; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, drug test, 100.00; Bomgaars, shop supplies, 586.19; Cedar Knox Public Power District, electricity, 124.62; C-Mart LLC, gas, 75.42; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,885.89; First National Bank Omaha, safety clothing/meal/lodging, 2,490.00; Grossenburg Implement, shop supplies/repairs, 818.18; Herbert Feed & Grain, diesel, 3,827.88; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 143.21; Pease General Store, shop supplies/repairs, 26.75; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,510.91; Steffen's Service Station, gas, 289.61; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 15,788.07.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. First National Bank Omaha, office supplies, 1,094.50.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 1,674.29; Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association, advertising, 75.00.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 1,680.17; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 128.53; First National Bank Omaha, gas/postage/leadership, 542.93; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 113.41; Rowan Productions, grant expense, 450.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Galyen, Boettcher, Baier, court appointed attorney, 714.84; Stratton DeLay Doele Carlson & Buettner P.C. LLO, court appointed attorney, 380.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, office supplies, 37.99; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$287,469.99
Road Fund	67,622.95
Child Support Fund	1,094.50
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,749.29
Visitor's Improvement Fund	86.95
C & C Development Fund	2,915.04
Inheritance Fund	1,094.84
911 Emergency Fund	104.41
911 Wireless Service Fund	154.99
Total	\$362,292.96

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 11:59 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 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
