

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
December 12, 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 Tuesday, December 12, 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. Borgmann 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 November 29, 2023 meeting were approved by Chairman Mackeprang as read.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska that all claims except Claim #23120058, 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. More clarification will be researched on Claim #23120058 and presented at the December 27, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of November 28 through December 8, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to amend the 2024 opt-out stipend to those employees who have opted out of the 90 Degree Benefits Health Insurance benefit from \$375 per month with a breakdown of \$173.08 per pay period in the biweekly payroll process to a flat \$175 per pay period in the biweekly payroll for 2024 and not to be set on a monthly basis. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. 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 10:17 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on the proposal of a bridge replacement program by the Santee Sioux Tribe/BIA to build nine structures within the Santee Sioux reservation boundary at 100% cost to be paid by the BIA. The County would be responsible for maintenance on the new bridges after construction. Federal funds would still need to be allocated to the BIA and the design of the structures would be the BIA's choice. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to recognize that the Santee Sioux Nation is applying for Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Bridge Funding for five new bridges and four existing bridges within the Santee Sioux Reservation, that Knox County currently is responsible for maintenance of the roads and will continue to maintain any new and/or replaced bridges which may be planned to be built on the Santee Sioux Reservation in the near future, and that the Board of Supervisors supports the Santee Sioux Nation in applying for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Bridge Funding for all of the bridges identified in Knox County as well as those bridges which may not be listed on the proposal. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) A preconstruction meeting regarding the Shaw Bridge project will be held at 10:30 a.m. on December 19, 2023 in the Annex #1 Conference Room; 3.) Update on the Bridge Buyback program and Counties awarded funding including Antelope County for a bridge that is located on the Antelope/Knox County line; 4.) Dan Wamberg is cleaning up scrap steel and selling it. The County will receive 40% of the sale funds; 5.) Snow fencing is being placed.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file the November Zoning Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Pierce to reappoint Doug DeShazer, Rob Ganz and Dean Wilken to the Planning Commission for three-year terms. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Jeff Christensen with NENEDD met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed the Knox County reuse loan program. Knox County has been using the Non-Profit Development Organization (NDO) process for several years and there are currently seven "pre-NDO" loans that are still being paid back to the Knox County's Economic Development Fund. After the loan made recently, the remaining amount in the Economic Development Fund is approximately \$40,000 which would not fund a larger loan. NED has proposed to use NED, Inc.'s NDO funds to pay off the Knox County loans which will allow Knox County to have a larger fund sooner to lend to Knox County applicants. As of December 31, 2023, the estimated total payoff of these seven loans combined is approximately \$97,000, making a total of approximately \$140,000 available for future Knox County applicants. All terms would remain the same for the seven loans, Knox County would assign any applicable Deeds of Trust to NED, Inc., there would be amendments to UCC filings from the County to NED, Inc. and if applicable, assignment of any life insurance assignments would be made. The borrowers would have to sign a new promissory note and list personal guaranty as applicable. Currently NENEDD processes and collects the monthly Knox County business loan payments and sends these payments to Knox County so the seven businesses will not see any change in the loan payments made each month. NENEDD staff will contact each business owner regarding this proposed process. After further discussion, motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the refinance of Knox County Reuse Loan Fund loans #6872406, #6872407, #6872408, #6872419, #6872420, #6872423, and #6872424 with NED, Inc.'s NDO funds. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays Districts #1 and #7. Motion carried; 2.) Mr. Christensen presented information on the Affordable Connectivity Program that is a FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

At 11:00 a.m., Chairman Mackeprang opened the advertised public hearing on Conditional Use Permit Application #CU2302 on Verizon Wireless Communications for construction of a cellphone tower in the NE1/4 of Section 11 in Valley Township. Rick Adams with Verizon was present and gave information to the Board about the lease of land near Center for a free-standing 309-foot tower that will have lightning rod at the top. Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek informed the Board that a letter had been sent to the Creighton Airport Authority, that FAA approval has been received, and

that a request was made to change construction to be done in twelve months to twenty-four months. Chairman Mackeprang closed the public hearing at 11:11 a.m. There was no one present in opposition. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve Conditional Use Permit Application #CU2302 on Verizon Wireless Communications to build a Verizon Wireless facility to include a 309-foot self-support lattice tower and associated ground equipment and antennas, and to extend the construction time from twelve months to twenty-four months to allow time to obtain easements and licenses. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the 2024 Printing Report that is as follows: Bloomfield Monitor and Verdigre Eagle to be the legal papers; Creighton News and Crofton Journal to print the Delinquent Tax List; the Niobrara Tribune and Wausa Gazette to print the County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report; and notice of road and bridge projects and improvements will be published in the newspaper nearest to the project or improvement. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Extension Educator Hanefeldt met with the Board for appointments to the Extension Board. Holly Wortmann of District 1 and Kari Nilson of District 7 have term-limited out and appointments are needed to fill these positions. Amber Jansen of Crofton is interested in filling the District 1 position and Ryon Nilson is interested in filling the District 7 position. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Pierce to appoint Amber Jansen to the District 1 position and Ryon Nilson to the District 7 position on the Knox County Extension Board. Discussion was held prior to roll call vote. The discussion was held as it was discovered that Mr. Nilson now lives in Supervisor District 3 because of the redistricting of Supervisor Districts in 2021 after the 2020 census. Supr. Sokol, Jr. rescinded his original motion and made a new motion that Amber Jansen be appointed to the District 1 position on the Knox County Extension Board and further research be made on filling the District 7 position on the Knox County Extension Board. Supr. Pierce seconded the new motion. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Cedar County Public Transit Director Nikki Pinkelman met with the Board for continuance of the public transit contracted services provided by Cedar County for Knox County residents located within the thirty-mile radius of Hartington. A review of ridership, miles traveled and hours were discussed as well as the number of drivers and employees who drive the vans for Cedar County. The 2023 contracted rate for Knox County was \$2,000 per month and the 2024 contracted rate is to be an estimated cost of \$25,200 for a monthly payment of \$2,100 by Knox County to Cedar County. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the 2024 Purchase of Service Contract for transportation services between Cedar County Transit and Knox County with the estimated cost of \$25,200 for a monthly payment of \$2,100 per month to be paid by Knox County during 2024 from the Inheritance Fund to Cedar County. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Clerk of District Court November Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

At the November 29, 2023 meeting, the Board approved to contract with Porter & Company of Sioux City, IA for auditing services, however, since that meeting Porter & Company contacted the Knox County Clerk's Office and said that they would not be able to provide the audit services due to conflicts with staffing. More research will be done to find an auditing company.

North Central District Health Department had contacted County Clerk Fischer about reappointment of Jean Henes of Creighton as a "Spirited Citizen" to represent Knox County on the NCDHD Board of Directors. Chairman Mackeprang will contact NCDHD to see if the appointment can be made at the Board's reorganizational meeting in January 2024.

County Clerk Fischer and Deputy County Clerk Nix asked for clarification of the proposed 2024 Christmas Eve holiday. Depending on if the holiday begins at noon or if it is classified as one-half day which would begin at 12:30 p.m. would affect the number of hours worked and hours designated as holiday. The Board said the Courthouse will close at noon on December 24, 2024, making it 3.5 hours of working hours and 4.5 hours of holiday.

Committee update was given by Deputy County Clerk Nix who informed the Board that a scrap tire grant has been awarded for 2024 and the scrap tire collection will be held at the Center Yard on June 19, 2024.

Officials' update was given by County Clerk Fischer who informed the Board that there may be a special school bond election in the near future.

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

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 11:50 a.m. to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the closed session will be held so as to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual. The Board came out of closed session at 12:03 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to close at 12:03 p.m. the closed session held so as to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 103,836.40; Applied Connective Technologies, IT/Phone, 4,942.93; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Centec Cast Metal Products, grave markers, 745.15; CenturyLink, long distance, 1.39; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 50.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,452.64; Connie J Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 42,963.50; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 27.00; CVSOAN, dues, 100.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 161.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 474.69; Ecowater, bottled water, 292.50; Elizabeth Doerr, contract labor, 90.00; Gary D. Marshall, prior service, 12.00; Gragert's, jail food, 854.39; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/internet at Lindy tower, 2,747.83; Jacquelyn E. Meier, prior service, 21.00; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; JEO Consulting Group Inc., hazard mitigation, 591.50; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; John Thomas, postage, 17.60; Julie K. Rayer, prior service, 12.00; Karen Riesberg, prior service, 21.00; Kristine Kumm, mileage, 11.80; KV Electric LLC, tower/radio repairs, 802.24; **Landmark Surveying, survey fees, 5,000.00; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance county pays, 295.91; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 106.12; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program, 961.30; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 268.38; Nance County Clerk, ballot envelopes, 244.40; Nebraska Secretary of State-Notary Division, notary renewal, 30.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,928.06; Northeast Nebraska News Co., publishing, 319.62; Pitney Bowes, meter supplies, 365.16; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 76.00; Platte Valley Communications, tower repairs, 4,830.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance county pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 375.74; R&K Motor Parts, filter/oil/starter, 680.58; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,945.15; Region 4 Behavioral Health Systems, quarterly bill, 6,638.00; Region IV Inc., quarterly bill, 2,521.50;

US Cellular, cell phones, 183.98; US Cellular, cell phones, 394.92; Verizon, hot spot, 40.01; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

ROAD FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 41,117.71; B's Enterprises Inc., culverts/lath, 53,430.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 81.91; Brian Dather, repairs, 80.00; Bruce Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; CHS Wausa, diesel/def, 1,767.42; City of Bloomfield, water, 28.00; C-Mart, gas, 147.58; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,872.98; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 19,715.32; Farmer's Pride, diesel/propane, 4,729.77; Graham Tire Norfolk, tires, 1,097.60; Great Plains Communications, phone, 196.70; Grossenburg Implement, filters/repairs/def, 2,640.29; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 114.97; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 4,414.04; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 91.59; Kayton International Inc., lease/repairs, 5,022.56; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 88.75; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 431.48; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Michael Kucera, cdl renewal, 60.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 119.20; N&B Gas Company, propane, 539.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 58.42; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 346.75; Powerplan, repairs, 909.68; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 851.58; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 1,348.65; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,591.51; US Cellular, cell phones, 617.70; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/gas/supplies/oil, 5,048.78; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 77.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 4,023.10.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 115.57; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 164.44; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 1,712.19; Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association, advertising, 904.00.

ROD PRES/MOD FUND. MIPS INC., computer program, 275.39.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 1395.45.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,948.57; Clint Miller, leadership, 180.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 138.85; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 89.88; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance county pays, 5.96; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance county pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 113.41; US Cellular, cell phones, 122.32; Verdigre Eagle, subscription, 35.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 964.55; Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,000.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.37.

KENO FUND. Arts Garbage Service, deer dumpsters, 466.50.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, phone/networking, 44.74; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.36; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, phone/networking, 104.38; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04.

TOTALS

General Fund	**\$201,459.49
Road Fund	154,772.29
Child Support Fund	361.01
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,616.19
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	275.39
County Wellness Fund	250.00
Economic Development Fund	1,395.45
C & C Development Fund	2,678.81
Inheritance fund	5,047.92
Keno Fund	466.50
911 Emergency Fund	507.54
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,043.88
Total	\$370,874.47
**Less disallowed Claim	-\$5,000.00

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:03 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 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
