

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
January 10, 2024  
9:30 a.m.

A reorganizational 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, January 10, 2024 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.

County Clerk Fischer 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 Bloomfield Monitor 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 December 20 and 27, 2023 meetings were read and approved by Chairman Mackeprang.

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 \$306,052.75 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Knox County Board of Supervisors recess at 9:55 a.m. on January 10, 2024.

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

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin D. Mackeprang, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

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The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 9:55 a.m., as provided by Sec. 23-156, Sec. 23-272, 23-274 Revised Statutes of Nebraska 1943.

Chairman Mackeprang appointed County Clerk Fischer as Temporary Chairperson of the Knox County Board of Supervisors due to the reorganization process.

Temporary Chairperson/County Clerk Fischer called for nominations three times from the floor for the 2024 Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors. Supr. Mackeprang nominated Supr. Sokol, Jr.; Supr. Liska nominated Supr. O'Connor.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann that nominations cease for the 2024 Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors and that votes be cast for the position. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Votes were cast by the Board members and were: Supr. Sokol, Jr. – 4 and Supr. O'Connor – 3. Supr. Sokol, Jr. assumed the duties of the 2024 Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. called for nominations three times from the floor for the 2024 Vice-Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors. Supr. Liska nominated Supr. O'Connor.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that nominations cease, rules be suspended and to cast a unanimous ballot for Supr. O'Connor for Vice-Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors for 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Supr. O'Connor assumed the duties of the Vice-Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors for 2024.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. announced the 2024 Committees as follows: **CATASTROPHIC LEAVE COMMITTEE** – the recipient employee’s department head, Chairman James Sokol, Jr., Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang, County Clerk Joann Fischer, Sheriff Don Henery, Highway Superintendent Kevin Barta and an Outside Employee - Road Department; **CLAIMS COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Danny Schlote, James Sokol, Jr. and Patrick Liska; **COUNTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE** – Supervisors in Respective Districts; **COUNTY MACHINERY CARE COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, Patrick Liska, David Pierce, and Highway Superintendent Kevin Barta; **COURTHOUSE & GROUNDS COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Kevin Mackeprang, David Pierce, and James Sokol, Jr., County Clerk Joann Fischer, Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface, and Custodian Beth Rudloff; **COURTHOUSE SECURITY COMMITTEE** – Sheriff Don Henery, County Attorney John Thomas, Deputy County Attorney Hanna Knox Jensen and Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek; **COURTHOUSE SUPPLY APPROVAL OFFICER** – County Clerk Joann Fischer; **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK & PERSONNEL SYSTEM REVIEW COMMITTEE (Created 6/27/2019)** – Chairman James Sokol, Jr., Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang, County Clerk Joann Fischer, Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix, Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface, Deputy County Attorney Hanna Knox Jensen, Sheriff Don Henery, Mechanic Jeremy Crosley, Hwy. Supt. Office Manager Katie Fritz, County Assessor Monica McManigal and County Treasurer Lori Ebel; **FINANCING, BANKING & INSURANCE COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, James Borgmann and David Pierce, and County Treasurer Lori Ebel; **PRINTING COMMITTEE** – Supervisors James Sokol, Jr., James Borgmann and Patrick Liska; **PURCHASING COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, James Borgmann and Kevin Mackeprang; **ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE** – Supervisors James Sokol, Jr., Patrick Liska and David Pierce, and Highway Superintendent Kevin Barta; **SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Danny Schlote and Patrick Liska; Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek and County Clerk Joann Fischer – Co-Coordinator; Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta; Road employees Mike Beckman, Mike Jelinek and Chris Rohrer; Custodian Beth Rudloff, Sheriff Don Henery; and Katie Fritz-Secretary; **SAFETY COORDINATORS** – Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek and County Clerk Joann Fischer; **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE (ADA)** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang, Highway Superintendent Kevin Barta; and County Clerk Joann M. Fischer – Coordinator; **BLOOMFIELD AIRPORT JOINT ZONING BOARD** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang; **CREIGHTON AIRPORT JOINT ZONING BOARD (Created 5/14/1992)** – Supervisor James Borgmann; **GOLDENROD REGIONAL HOUSING AGENCY** – Supervisor James Sokol, Jr.; **HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) COORDINATOR** – County Clerk Joann M. Fischer and Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix; **KNOX COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY** – Supervisors James Borgmann and Kevin Mackeprang; **KNOX COUNTY**

**VISITORS' COMMITTEE** – Supervisor Martin O'Connor; **MISSOURI SEDIMENTATION ACTION COALITION BOARD** – Mark Simpson; **911 EMERGENCY SERVICE BOARD** – Supervisors James Borgmann, Patrick Liska and David Pierce, and Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek; **NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang and Spirited Citizen Jean Henes (reappointed 1/10/2024); **NORTHEAST NEBRASKA AREA AGENCY ON AGING** – Supervisor David Pierce; **NORTHEAST NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (NENEDD) BOARD** – Supervisor James Borgmann and Mike Crosley; **NORTHEAST NEBRASKA RC&D** – Supervisors James Sokol, Jr. and Kevin Mackeprang; **NORTHSTAR SERVICES BOARD** – Supervisor Danny Schlote; **RECREATION RIVER COOPERATING AGENCY** – Supervisor Martin O'Connor; **REGION IV MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE DISTRICT** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang; **REGION IV MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang; **STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (SLFRF)** – Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to authorize County Treasurer Ebel to invest all funds of the County for the calendar year 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board acknowledged that the current salary of Veterans' Service Officer Gary Jones was set at \$24.50 per hour and was set in June 2023.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to designate all 2024 Notices of Meeting be posted on the Knox County Website being [www.co.knox.ne.us](http://www.co.knox.ne.us); the Notice of Meeting for the first regular meeting of each month be published in the Bloomfield Monitor newspaper; the Notice of Meeting for the second regular meeting of each month be published in the Verdigre Eagle newspaper; and, the Notice of Meeting for the third regular meeting of each month and special meeting/quorum meeting notices will be published in both the Bloomfield Monitor and Verdigre Eagle. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:28 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:57 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) NIRMA will be conducting a safety training on March 13 and CPR training on May 31, 2024; 2.) New signs have been placed on the County sheds in Niobrara and Crofton; 3.) Update on Shaw Bridge; 4.) Discussion was held on the Crofton Rec Road and an estimate of approximately \$13.5 million to add turn lanes and resurfacing. Deputy County Attorney Jensen updated the Board on the County Attorney's Office sending packets to Nebraska Congressman Smith, State Senator DeKay and the Nebraska Game and Parks referencing the agreement between the State and Knox County regarding who will pay for repairs, upgrade and maintenance.

Economic Development Director Hanvey and Bobbi Pettit and Lowell Schroeder with FIVE RULE Rural Planning met with the Board regarding planning and consultant services, recruiting grants and projects for Knox County communities, conducting studies, and community development. The cost would be approximately \$64,000. The Board took no action.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to approve Tony and Amy Hoffman dba CJ's at the Lake as a Nebraska Cooperative Government lottery sales outlet within Knox County and falls under Knox County's KENO. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List from December 26, 2023 through January 8, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Semi-Annual Report by the Knox County Treasurer of Collections, Disbursements and Balances for Six Months ending December 31, 2023, and further certifying that there were no unpaid claims against Knox County as of December 31, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Clerk of District Court December 2023 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Knox County Credit Card Accounts Report dated January 1, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on requesting a transfer from the County's 90 Degree Benefits' health insurance claim checking account to the County Wellness Fund. Premiums are deposited into the checking account and due to low health claims, there is an excess at this time that can be transferred back to Knox County. The transferred amount will be deposited with the County Treasurer to be placed in the County Wellness Fund and further invested in an interest-bearing account with NPAIT. The transferred amount can be used for future premiums, for "laser" employee deductibles and/or can be transferred back to the checking account if there are large claims in the future. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to authorize a transfer of \$400,000 from the 90 Degree Benefits' health insurance claims/County of Knox Employee Benefit Account and such transfer to be deposited with the Knox County Treasurer to be deposited into the County Wellness Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Extension Educator Hanefeldt met with the Board to discuss filling the District 7 position on the Extension Board. Megan Dufek of Creighton is interested in the position and lives in Supervisor District 7. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to appoint Megan Dufek to the Knox County Extension Board. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected October 1 through December 31, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept and place on file the Knox County Credit Card Accounts report as of January 1, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to set the 2024 mileage rate at the IRS mileage rates being 67 cents per mile and County Sheriff paper serving mileage rate at 70 cents per mile. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the December 2023 Permits reports and the Annual 2023 Permits report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) Supr. O'Connor updated the Board on a recent session attended at the December 2023 NACO Conference in Kearney that covered meeting protocol. Public comment should be a designated time and listed on the meeting agenda. Beginning at the next meeting, a public comment section will be added to the meeting agenda from 9:45 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. Also, it was suggested that if a department head wants to discuss personnel in closed session, the employee(s) should be present to ask them if they want the discussion held in open session or closed session; 2.) County Deputy Attorney Jensen informed the Board that the County Attorney's Office has an intern on Fridays who is a student at Bloomfield High School; 3.) Sheriff Henery presented the Knox County Sheriff's Office 2023 Year End News Report.

Legislative update was given by Sheriff Henery regarding bills including LB996 that says cities and villages can be charged for prisoner costs.

**GENERAL FUND.** Adjusted Salaries, 100,282.70; Applied Connective Technologies, IT/Phone, 5,006.93; Bloomfield Pharmacy, meds, 9.80; Blue360 Media, law books, 184.45; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 25.20; CenturyLink, long distance, 1.39; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 298.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,159.19; Cmart LLC, gas, 76.68; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance county pays, 42,963.51; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 1,294.85; First National Bank Omaha, gas/car wash; 65.79; Gragert's, jail food, 704.70; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/internet at Lindy tower, 2,753.17; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning, quarterly bill, 3,420.00; Hefner Hardware, keys, 16.95; Kathy Wagner, reimburse insurance, 87.11; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 29.81; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance county pays, 295.91; Loffler, copier agreement, 355.03; Madison County Sheriff, service fees, 29.65; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 72.04; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program/statements/checks. 1,128.98; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 89.14; N&B Gas Company, propane, 985.60; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,104.14; Northeast Nebraska News Co., publishing, 218.38; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 108.00; Platte Valley Communications, tower repairs, 1,195.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance county pays, 2,241.00; Postmaster, postage, 1,047.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 205.77; R&K Motor Parts, brakes, 53.99; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,724.49; Sanne Repair, repairs, 9,861.91; US Cellular, cell phones, 355.50; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 201.18; Verizon, hot spot, 40.01; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 516.00.

**ROAD FUND.** Adjusted Salaries, 44,960.36; B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 720.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 81.85; Bohemian One stop, gas, 645.83; Bomgaars, shop supplies/snow fence/tordon/ice melt, 4,898.61; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; City of Creighton, water/sewer/garbage, 134.21; C-Mart, gas, 369.33; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,163.28; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 747.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 18,745.32; Farmer's Pride, diesel, 4,444.77; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 1,755.00; Great Plains Communications, phone, 196.92; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 2,442.55; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies/ice melt, 607.91; Kayton International Inc., hydraulic oil, 120.87; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 138.60; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 113.24; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,724.80; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 69.97; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 394.29; K&S Door Co. dba Overhead Door Co., repairs, 238.00; Powerplan, repairs, 723.77; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 806.76; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/tools/filters, 3,700.59; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,849.33; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 468.22; Scott Grim, reimburse insurance, 8.62; State of Nebraska Motor Fuels Division, diesel tax, 1,945.00; Sucha Repair, tire repair/oxygen/acetylene, 704.36; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/tordon/supplies, 3,625.06; Village of Center, water/sewer, 38.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 115.61; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 164.44; Matthew Fischer, mileage, 235.80; Postmaster, postage, 396.00.

**VISITOR'S PROMO FUND.** Salaries, 1,605.54; Rowan Productions, video, 200.00.

**ROD PRES/MOD FUND.** MIPS INC., computer program, 389.88.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.** NENEDD, admin fees, 825.24.

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 1,936.07; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 137.90; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 89.92; 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.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,100.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.36; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND.** Great Plains Communication, phone/internet, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$192,249.45
Road Fund	101,735.67
Child Support Fund	911.85
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,805.54
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
Economic Development Fund	825.24
C & C Development Fund	2,328.08
Inheritance Fund	4,183.33
911 Emergency Fund	529.22
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,094.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$306,052.75</b>

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:19 p.m. on January 10, 2024 until Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman

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