

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
January 24, 2024
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, January 24, 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 Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Deputy County Clerk Nix led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. 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 Verdigre Eagle 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.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting as read.

The public comment session was opened at 9:45 a.m. Present was Casey Rossiter with Hartelco of Hartington who thanked the Board members for their support and informed the Board that the State approved a grant for Hartelco in the amount of \$7 million for putting in fiber optic line and to provide internet service in the lake area. They are also working on another grant that could provide service to Kohles Acres and Crofton City plus other spots in the lake area. People not in the grant area are welcome to call Hartelco to see if service can be provided to their homes. The Board congratulated Hartelco for being awarded the grant and look forward to their service.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann 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 \$417,798.36 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:08 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Equalization reconvened at 10:21 a.m. with all members present.

Sheriff Henery discussed with the Board an invoice received from PowerTech for repairs on the 911 generator. The repairs were to fill the generator with coolant after they had replaced a water pump and did not completely fill the necessary amount of coolant causing the generator to quit shortly after the electricity went out due to an accident. Sheriff Henery asked the Board if they wanted a representative from PowerTech to attend a future meeting to discuss the billing. The Board said they would appreciate a representative to attend so they can discuss the invoice and matter with them.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List from January 8 – 19, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to acknowledge the resignation of Leroy Buchholz of Creighton from the Knox County Veterans' Service Committee, to thank Mr. Buchholz for his many years of service, and to appoint Joshua Key of Creighton to fill the unexpired term of Leroy Buchholz on the Knox County Veterans' Service Committee. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board and Officials discussed introduced legislation.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened at 10:49 a.m. the advertised public hearing on a Class C Liquor License application for Lisa Chase-Fowler dba Fowlers Lindy Country Club.

Economic Development Director Hanvey and Bloomfield City Administrator Colette Panning met with the Board on the Five Rule Rural Planning Professional Services Agreement. Discussion was held on expectations of the agreement and services, cost, dues paid annually to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, and terms. Director Hanvey said that she is proposing entering into a six-month agreement with Five Rule Rural Planning with a cost of \$16,000 to be paid from the C & C Development Fund. The Board said that the Development Agency Board should be reviewing this agreement and proposal and making the decision on the services/agreement. No action was taken.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the open public hearing at 11:00 a.m. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve a Class C Liquor License application for Lisa Chase-Fowler dba Fowlers Lindy Country Club. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Weed Supt. Banks met with the Board on the following: 1.) Review of annual weed reports due to the State. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the annual Noxious Weed reports and to place them on file. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Weed Supt. Banks received a grant for Knox County for spraying phragmites in the Lazy River Acres area; 3.) As the Weed Dept. pickup is parked in the back of the Wausa County shed for the winter and is blocked in, Weed Supt. Banks drove his personal vehicle to two meetings and requested mileage reimbursement. The Board approved mileage reimbursement to Weed Supt. Banks and that Weed Supt. Banks should submit an invoice.

Supr. O'Connor discussed with the Board and Officials specialized drugs prescribed through the County's health insurance. Some of the specialized drugs are shipped from other counties through International RX and may require to be kept at a specific temperature which may be a challenge if it takes a long time before it is received. Supr. O'Connor said that there is an option to request the specialized drugs not come from a foreign country. Also, another challenge for employees who are veterans and are covered or had been covered by the County's health insurance is the Federal Government attempting a "claw back" or reimbursement by the County's health insurance company for medical costs paid by the Veterans Affairs currently and for past years.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion ensued on emergency operations and safety concerns regarding the recent snowstorms and frigid temperatures. Some road employees started out to open roads at 3:00 a.m. and others did not return to their respective sheds until 1:00 a.m. Further discussion was held on communication needed when they start out, breakdowns and when other problems arise while out on the treacherous roads, installing CB or business band radios in the motor graders as cell service is sketchy in areas throughout Knox County, and implementing safety measures. Research will be done on radios and costs; 2.) County Shed safety inspections will be conducted on Friday, January 26, 2024; 3.) The new Crofton Truck should be ready in February; 4.) February 7, 2024 will be the bid

opening for construction of the Verdigre North bridge; 5.) Update on the Shaw Bridge project; 6.) Discussed was purchasing a new motor grader.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) County Treasurer Ebel asked when the new motor grader would be purchased as she needs to make arrangements so the funds would be available; 2.) County Clerk Fischer said that February through April are months where there are low revenues and the first half of the 2023 taxes are not due until May 1 that are deposited into the General Fund, so officials with budgets within the General Fund need to keep their expenses low especially during those months; 3.) ARPA Administrator/Deputy County Clerk Nix updated the Board on the cybersecurity grant that Applied Connective Technologies is assisting with; 4.) Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek submitted a "Notice of Interest" for a grant to replace the 911 backup generator. Also, free COVID tests are available in her office.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 11:56 a.m. for review of County Burial request #1-2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held for review of County Burial request #1-2024. The Board came out of closed session at 12:02 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:02 p.m. the closed session on review of County Burial request #1-2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve County Burial request #1-2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 93,471.75; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 37.00; Creighton FCCLA, booth reservation, 40.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,337.14; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, election printing/notices/Board proceedings, 1,040.45; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup/radios, 633.00; Des Moines Stamp Mfg. Co., date stamp, 41.00; Dollar General, jail supplies, 115.65; F & M State Bank, research fee/safe deposit rent, 303.00; First National Bank Omaha, postage/gas/mileage/office supplies/jail supplies/dues/external hard drive, 3,349.58; JEO Consulting Group, Inc., hazard mitigation plan, 714.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees/paper service fees, 57.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 143,951.92; KV Electric, LLC, replace emergency light, 134.51; Madison County Sheriff, processing, 6.00; MOCIC, dues, 100.00; Northeast Weed Management Area, dues, 100.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 567.76; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,834.11; RR Donnelley, gun applications, 125.52; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, contract services, 14,129.44; US Cellular, cellphone, 183.98; Verdigre Eagle, supplies/publishing, 1,334.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 488.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 43,512.32; Art's Garbage, garbage, 18.00; B's Enterprises, Inc., signs, 288.75; Rodney J. Coutts dba Bazile Creek Power Sports, chainsaw fuel/bar oil/ chain/file kit, 112.29; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 56.09; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs & filters, 698.32; Bruce A. Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; Carlson Home & Auto Inc., tire repairs, 238.05; Cedar Knox PPD, electricity, 279.09; CHS, diesel, 1,414.25; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,342.89; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 317.80; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 62.56; First National Bank Omaha, gas, 79.94; Freeman Oil Co., LLC, diesel, 1,462.50; Grossenburg Implement, repairs, filters & shop supplies, 5,301.47; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 2,471.60; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 112.47; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., fracture critical bridge inspections, 38,630.00; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 172.82; RDO Truck Centers, repairs, 3,358.22; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 3,008.58; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Schaefer Grain & Feed Co., road salt, 4,567.50; Scott Grim, prior service, 30.00; Spencer Quarries Inc., red rock, 1,056.44; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 53.54; US Cellular, cellphone, 548.56; Victor Janak dba Vic's Service, LLC, gas, 221.22; Village of Center, water/sewer, 38.00; Kreg W. Mitteis dba Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 991.58.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. John Prouty Construction, Inc., dirt contract, 22,699.76.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00; NE Clerks of District Court Assn., dues, 50.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 1,632.16; Discover Northeast Nebraska, promotion/advertising, 900.00.

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, wellness test, 30.00; Name Redacted, deductible reimbursement, 250.00; Name Redacted, deductible reimbursement, 250.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. Northeast NE Economic Dev. District, services/mileage, 163.16.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Adjusted salaries, 1,774.27; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 137.90; First National Bank Omaha, supplies, 423.44; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 113.41; US Cellular, cellphone, 58.81.

KENO FUND. Art's Garbage Service, deer dumpsters, 311.00; J&J Sanitation, deer dumpsters, 457.15.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, telephone services, 89.48.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, telephone services, 208.76.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$275,559.21
Road Fund	112,608.85
Flowage Easement Road Fund	22,699.76
Child Support Fund	131.00
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,532.16
County Wellness Fund	530.00
Economic Development Fund	163.16
C & C Development Fund	2,507.83
Keno Fund	768.15
911 Emergency Fund	89.48
911 Wireless Service Fund	208.76
Total	\$417,798.36

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:07 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 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
