

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
February 7, 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, February 7, 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, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was Supervisor Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5 Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Deputy County Attorney Jensen 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 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.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting as read.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition update.

The public comment session was held from 9:45 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. There were no public comments.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor that all claims, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee, be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$312,742.59 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of January 22 - February 2, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Clerk of District Court January 2024 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Sheriff Henery met with the Board on the following: 1.) Follow up on the PowerTech invoice for labor on the generator. The company has not responded so if there is not word soon, a request will be made to have someone come to the Board to discuss the charges; 2.) Update on the Lindy tower problems; 3.) Discussed Statewide radio service.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:05 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:23 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The Board reviewed bid tabulations from the bid opening held recently in Lincoln on the Verdigre North Federal Bridge Project. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 01** concurring with the selection of the low bid submitted by contractor Dixon Construction Co., Correctionville, IA for construction of the Verdigre North Federal Bridge and authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the contract(s) with the contractor on behalf of the County when received. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2024 – 01

WHEREAS, there has been signed by the COUNTY OF KNOX on the 26th day of June, 2014, and the State on the 7th day of July, 2014, an agreement providing for the construction of a Federal Aid County Project at the following location: VERDIGRE NORTH, and

WHEREAS, in the above agreement, the County has pledged sufficient funds to finance its share of the cost of the construction of this project identified as BRO-7054(19), and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned agreement provided that the County will pay costs as set forth in the agreement, and

WHEREAS, the State, on behalf of the County received bids for the construction of this project based on the final plans and specifications on February 01, 2024, at which time 5 bid(s) were received for the construction of the proposed work, and

WHEREAS, the following Contractor(s) for the items of work listed has/have been selected as the low bidder(s) to whom the contract(s) should be awarded:

DIXON CONSTRUCTION CO., CORRECTIONVILLE, IA 51016-0047

GRADING, SEEDING BRIDGE AT STATION 6+28.00, GUARDRAIL, GENERAL ITEMS: \$2,433,664.12

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above facts, the KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, by this resolution, takes the following official action:

1. If for any reason the Federal Highway Administration rescinds, limits its obligations, or defers payment of the Federal share of the cost of this project, the County hereby agrees to provide the necessary funds to pay for all costs incurred until and in the event such Federal funds are allowed and paid.
2. The Board hereby concurs in the selection of the above mentioned Contractor(s) for the items of work listed, to whom the contract(s) should be awarded.
3. The Board hereby approves of the final plans and specifications that were used in the bidding process for the project.
4. The Board hereby authorizes the Board Chairperson to sign the contract(s) with the above mentioned Contractor(s) for the above mentioned work on behalf of the County using State's standard contract signing process, including when applicable, an electronic or digital signing process such as DocuSign®.

DATED THIS 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2024

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/

(Chairperson)

Board Member Patrick J. Liska

moved the adoption of said resolution.

Roll Call: 6 yea, 0 nay, 1 absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/

(County Clerk)

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised public hearing at 10:30 a.m. for the One-and-Six Year Road Hearing. Hwy. Supt. Barta presented maps on the bridge and road projects completed in 2023 and future projects, budget review, machinery purchased, and new staff. Township Officers present were Jefferson Township Board member Jim Kotrous, Frankfort Township Board member Duane Guenther, Logan Township Board member Eugene Morrill, Herrick Township Board member Roger Palu, and Spade Township Board member Don Henery. Township Board members discussed problems with old Hwy 108 (Creighton West), truck traffic and the court decision on a township road. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the One-and-Six Year Road Hearing at 11:01 a.m.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 2.) Business band radio quotes from Platte Valley Communications, Inc. and Tri-State Communications, Inc. were reviewed. No action was taken; 3.) Discussion was held on purchasing a motor grader. The purchase will be made in the next fiscal year; 4.) Shed safety inspection results were reviewed; 5.) Reviewed were bridge build options on upgrading two steel truss bridges with multi-beam bridges. The sites are the Knox County/Antelope County line and south of Crofton; 6.) Road employee job evaluations will be held on March 6, 2024 beginning at 1:00 p.m.; 7.) Weight limit signs will be placed; 8.) Equipment breakdowns were discussed; 9.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into closed session at 11:42 a.m. so as not to cause injury to individuals when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to not cause injury to individuals when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 12:10 p.m. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 12:10 p.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) County Clerk Fischer updated the Board on LB1067 that would repeal inheritance tax with a decreasing percentage over the next years ending in 2028. It is proposed there would no longer be inheritance tax collected by the counties in Nebraska. Reviewed was inheritance tax received in Knox County from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2023 and how the Inheritance Fund has been used during that time period. County Clerk Fischer was directed to place in the Board Room a letter of opposition to LB1067 with an inclusion of an alternative revenue to loss of inheritance tax. Any official could sign the letter if they chose to; 2.) Deputy County Attorney Jensen informed the Board that the County will be billed for a recent autopsy. Also, Deputy Jensen drafted and sent a letter and packets to Governor Pillen, Senator DeKay, Director of Nebraska Department of Transportation Vicki Kramer, Nebraska Department of Transportation District 3 Engineer Kevin Domogalla, and Nebraska Game and Parks Director Tim McCoy addressing the deteriorating condition of the Weigand Basin-Miller Creek Recreation Road ("Rec. Road"), a cost estimate for improving the safety of the Rec Road with reference to the 1968 Agreement between the State and the County on this road and a request by the County for financial assistance in the reconstruction of the Rec Road; 3.) County Assessor McManigal discussed proposed legislation; 4.) County Treasurer Ebel informed the Board that the delinquent tax list will be published in the designated Knox County newspapers noting there is approximately \$38,000 to be collected which is the lowest amount in many years. Also, all delinquent personal property distress warrants have been collected by the County Sheriff.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 102,204.74; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 312.50; Bomgaars, supplies, 14.57; Boone County Sheriff, paper fees, 19.40; Carrot-Top Industries, flags, 164.34; CenturyLink, long distance, 1.39; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 55.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,143.23; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance county pays, 43,004.59; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, subscription, 45.00; D&L Tire LLC, tires, 517.98; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 370.80; Ecowater, bottled water, 247.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 2,036.56; Kayton International Inc., skid loader rent, 1,500.00; Kristine Tramp, mileage, 58.96; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance county pays, 295.91; Legendary Graphics, spelling bee trophies, 180.00; Madison County Sheriff, service fees/transport, 70.80; Matthew R. Fischer, reimburse robe cleaning, 30.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 215.74; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program/signature, 1,036.30; Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition, membership, 1,000.00; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,586.20; NACT, dues, 50.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,543.92; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance county pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 155.74; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,718.08; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 80.00; Steven Banks, mileage, 69.68; Superior Turf Management LLC, lawn contract, 1,125.75; US Cellular, cell phones, 184.01; US Cellular, cell phones, 355.58; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 17.34; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 57.93; Washington County Sheriff, paper fees, 19.00; Wintz Funeral Home Inc., county burial, 1,200.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 51,343.10; B's Enterprises Inc., signs/chains, 4,840.00; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 124.15; Bomgaars, shop supplies/shop tools/tordon, 1,091.62; Carhart Lumber Company, shop supplies, 38.88; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; C-Mart, gas, 210.75; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,653.68; Cory Zimmerman, snow removal, 525.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 18,745.32; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 11.98; DWarriner Clearing & Grading LLC, snow removal, 125.00; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 1,660.50; Grossenburg Implement, repairs, 4,896.91; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 5,494.73; John Kauth, reimburse physical, 105.00; Krotter Home & Auto Center, repairs, 118.98; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 113.24; Linn Post & Pipe Inc, shop supplies, 43.20; N&B Gas Company, propane, 3,495.80; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 98.97; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 555.91; K&S Door Co. dba Overhead Door Co., repairs, 116.65; Powerplan, repairs, 514.49; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 806.76; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters, 1,042.07; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 3,284.47; Rick Stewart, snow removal, 270.00; Rose Equipment Inc., repairs, 182.38; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 571.65; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel/haul, 1,540.26; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/supplies, 5,777.71; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.50; Village of Wausa, water/sewer/garbage, 188.45; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel, 284.06.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Eakes Office Solutions, checks, 180.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 167.04; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 164.44; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

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

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 3,548.87; Amy Pavlik, leadership meals, 126.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 261.28; Five Rule LLC, contract, 8,000.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 89.94; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 5.96; Kristin Malek, leadership speaker, 500.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 222.27; US Cellular, cell phones, 81.80.

INHERITANCE FUND. Brogan Lamml P.C., court appointed attorney, 743.94; Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,100.00; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland P.C., court appointed attorney, 797.97; Galyen, Boettcher, Baier P.C. LLO, court appointed attorney, 563.43; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

KENO FUND. City of Creighton, Keno Proceeds, 204.59.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.37; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

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

TOTALS

General Fund	\$177,507.14
Road Fund	112,005.17
Child Support Fund	592.48
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
County Wellness Fund	1,250.00
C & C Development Fund	12,880.94
Inheritance fund	6,288.67
Keno Fund	204.59
911 Emergency Fund	529.23
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,094.49
Total	\$312,742.59

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:38 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 until Wednesday, February 21, 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
