

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
March 6, 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, March 6, 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.

Supr. Pierce 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 February 21, 2024 meeting as read.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska 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 \$288,322.36 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

The public comment session was held from 9:50 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. Supr. Mackeprang informed the Board that the City of Bloomfield is drafting a contact list for emergencies, activities, road closures, alerts and other items to be shared with businesses and other constitutes in the community.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:00 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:13 a.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Clerk of District Court February 2024 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of February 17 through March 1, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on contracting for annual audit services. At the November 29, 2023 meeting, the Board approved a contract with Porter & Company of Sioux City IA for auditing services, however, since then 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. Research was done and Regier Carr & Monroe of Wichita, Kansas was interested in taking Knox County as a client. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve a three-year contract with Regier Carr & Monroe, LLC of Wichita, Kansas for annual audit services beginning the year ending June 30, 2024 with a proposed fee of \$17,000-\$22,000 for the financial statement audit the first year, \$18,000-\$23,000 for the second year and \$18,500-\$23,500 for the third year with additional costs for a single audit and CSLFRF Alternative Compliance Exam if needed. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed purchasing a power screed; 2.) Trucks hauling rock from South Dakota to ~~wind-public power~~ towers in Holt County are still traveling on Knox County roads. Conditions of the roads are holding up to the truck traffic; 3.) Discussed steel products for three small bridge projects; 4.) Discussed replacing a small bridge with culverts; 5.) A NIRMA safety training will be held on March 13 for Road employees; 6.) The truck for District 1 is nearing completion; 7.) The weight limit signs will be taken down as the frost is out of the ground; 8.) Shaw Bridge update. Discussion was held on payment options; 9.) Discussed was a joint bridge project with Antelope County. Each county will pay approximately \$231,000 towards the project with the remainder of the funding to come from the Highway Bridge Buyback Program. Antelope County will take the lead on this project. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 03** for an interlocal agreement between Antelope County and Knox County to replace County Line bridge #C000220220 that is located approximately 0.9 miles west of the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 870. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2024 – 03

WHEREAS: Antelope County, Nebraska and Knox County, Nebraska desire to replace the county line bridge number C000220220. The site is located approximately 0.9 miles west of the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 870.

WHEREAS: Antelope County has secured up to \$193,548.00 from the County Bridge Match Program (CBMP) through the State of Nebraska for its replacement. Antelope County has entered into a programming agreement with the State of Nebraska that outlines the conditions of obtaining the funding. These funds will be put toward the cost of replacing the bridge with a new structure. The remaining costs of designing, permitting, and constructing a new bridge will be split equally between Antelope and Knox Counties.

WHEREAS: the two counties will split the costs of Preliminary Engineering, Permitting, Construction and Construction Engineering. Each County will pay half of all invoices and contracts associated with the project. Once all expenses have been paid, Antelope County will submit a reimbursement request to the State of Nebraska for reimbursement of funds under the County Bridge Match Program and all reimbursed funds will be split equally between the two Counties.

WHEREAS: Any additional right-of-way required for construction will be obtained by the County in which the needed land is located at the sole expense of that County.

BE IT RESOLVED: That Antelope County, Nebraska is hereby requested to act for Knox, Nebraska and to program for construction, have design plans prepared, and obtain necessary permits for replacement of structure C000220220.

and which includes Preliminary Engineering, permit preparation, and construction engineering the ESTIMATED costs of such improvement:

Preliminary Engineering	\$ 40,000
Permit Preparation	\$ 6,000
Bridge and Road Construction	\$600,000
Construction Engineering	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Estimated Total Cost to Be split by the Counties	\$656,000
Estimated CBMP Reimbursement to be split by the Counties	\$193,548

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the Antelope County Board is authorized to sign any document in furtherance of this agreement on behalf of Knox County and Antelope County and that both entities hereby approve the contemplated construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That sufficient funds of Antelope County and Knox County are now, or will be, available and are hereby pledged in the amount and at the required time to proceed in the 2024-2025 fiscal year or after for project construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Antelope County, Nebraska is responsible for approximately \$328,000 of project costs and is entitled to up to \$96,774 in reimbursement from the CBMP. That Knox County, Nebraska is responsible for approximately \$328,000 of project costs and is entitled to up to \$96,774 in reimbursement from the CBMP. Final actual costs for each county will be determined upon completion of construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Antelope County secure the services of JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for Preliminary Engineering, permit preparation, and Construction Engineering Services.

Adopted this 5th day of March, 2024, at Neligh, Nebraska.

ATTEST:
Lisa Payne /s/
County Clerk

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
Charles Henery /s/
Chairman

BOARD MEMBER Jacob
2nd By: Dittrich
Moved the adoption of said resolution.
Roll Call: 4 Yea 0 Nay 1 Absent
Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

Adoption this 6th day of March, 2024, at Center, Nebraska.

ATTEST: (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
County Clerk

THE BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS
KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA
James Sokol, Jr. /s/
Chairman

BOARD MEMBER Supr. Pierce
Seconded by Supr. Borgmann
Roll Call: 7 Yea 0 Nay
Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface presented the Employee Handbook and Personnel System Review Committee's recommended revisions to the Employee Handbook. Revisions were recommended to the sections of Compensation and Hours of Work, Uniform Allowance, inclement weather, emergency closings and holidays for the Sheriff's Office and Jail, PTO for deputy sheriffs, benefits, PTO policy for regular full time employees and regular full-time deputy sheriffs, annual cash out of PTO hours, holidays, and receipts of handbooks and revisions. Discussion was held on classification status of appointed officials' positions and how to manage PTO for salaried exempt positions. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Liska to accept the Employee Handbook and Personnel System Review Committee's recommended revisions of March 6, 2024 to the Employee Handbook through the Receipt section of the revisions, and, more discussion will be held on Classification Status for Appointed Officials' Positions and on how PTO should be handled for Salaried Exempt positions. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Clerk of District Court Fischer showed the Board larger signs for Courtroom protocol that will be placed in the Courthouse, replacing many small one-page notices that lined the walls in the hallway near the Courtroom.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2402 Brent Arens for a lot split of Lot 1, Block 1, White Tail Ridge Subdivision. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Legislative update was given by County Clerk Fischer regarding LB1067 on the inheritance tax measure. The Legislature will adjourn April 18, 2024 and discussion on the floor continues on LB1067.

Committee updates were given by the following: 1.) Supr. Pierce represents Knox County on the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging Board where compliance evaluations were made and followed up on the Santee Nutrition Center and Crofton Golden Age Senior Center. Findings were discussed.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) County Clerk Fischer updated the Board on upcoming NIRMA Active Shooter training for employees. Also discussed was beginning work on the preliminary 2024/2025 budget, revenue and expenditure concerns, and options; 2.) County Treasurer Ebel informed the Board that there are only fifteen parcels that did not sell at the recent public tax sale. The remaining parcels are now open for private sale.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 11:57 a.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. for Road employees job evaluations.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 100,718.19; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 5,051.73; Bomgaars, supplies, 12.52; Bonnie R Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Center Garage, battery, 434.00; CenturyLink, long distance, 1.39; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 60.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,398.32; Connie Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 43,004.59; 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, paper, 569.90; Ecowater, bottled water, 221.00; Elections Systems & Software Inc., layout, 16.89; Elizabeth Doerr, contract labor, 110.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/postage/meals/lodging, 3,338.39; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Co., supplies, 577.29; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,522.00; Jacquelyn E Maier, prior service, 21.00; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; John Thomas, reimburse court costs, 164.48; Karen Riesberg, prior service, 21.00; Kristine Tramp, mileage, 132.66; KV Electric LLC, tower repairs, 100.00; Landmark Surveying, survey fees, 1,805.60; 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, 38.86; MIPS, computer program, 961.30; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,121.11; One Office Solution, postcards, 301.35; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 11.85; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 184.05; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,930.26; Stonacek Funeral Chapel, autopsy, 492.00; The Scarlet Hotel, lodging, 107.00; Tri-State Turf & Irrigation, sprinkler contract, 565.00; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, program renewal, 225.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 516.00; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 35,214.74; B's Enterprises Inc., posts/asphalt patch, 8,473.00; Bomgaars, shop supplies/shop tools/t-posts/ice melt, 5,627.77; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,559.57; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 18,745.32; First National Bank Omaha; shop tools/meals, 2,770.77; Great Plains Communications, phone, 402.57; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/oil/filter, 2,279.57; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 1,943.46; Ken Kuhlman, snow removal, 1,487.50; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance county pays, 113.24; Love Signs, emblem, 215.95; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 75.00; Nebraska Association of County Engineers, Highway Superintendents and Surveyors, registration/dues, 160.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 266.99; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 428.99; Omaha Slings Inc., repairs, 1,570.34; K&S Door Co. dba Overhead Door Co., repairs, 420.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 806.76; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,322.99; Rick Stewart, snow removal, 936.32; Steffen's Service Station, gas/diesel, 543.43; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 167.04; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 164.44.

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

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 3,486.92; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 262.73; First National Bank Omaha, leadership/postage/meals/registration, 1,533.81; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 89.94; 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, 223.55; Stacy Miller, reimburse props, 71.97; Verdigre Bakery, meals, 131.98.

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

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Equature DSS Corporation, contract, 2,097.30; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.37; 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.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE HOLDING FUND. Equature DSS Corporation, contract, 4,893.70.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$181,277.24
Road Fund	87,424.03
Child Support Fund	331.48
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
County Wellness Fund	250.00
C & C Development Fund	5,851.68
Inheritance Fund	4,183.33
911 Emergency Fund	2,626.53
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,094.49
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	4,893.70
Total	\$288,322.36

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:50 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 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
