

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
March 20, 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 20, 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 Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding. Supr. O'Connor 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.

The minutes of the March 6, 2024 meeting were read and approved by Chairman Sokol, Jr. with the correction that trucks were hauling rock to public power towers instead of wind towers.

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 Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$694,352.03 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

The public comment session was held from 9:48 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. A question about when a wind project is officially considered to be started was discussed.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of March 2 through March 15, 2024 was placed on file. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:15 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed irrigation lines in a right-of-way; 2.) Verdigre North Bridge update; 3.) Shaw Bridge update; 4.) Discussion on new culverts being put in; 5.) Oil crew has been out pulling areas up; 6.) Patch truck storage tank issues; 7.) New driveway requests; 8.) Fuel contract proposals were discussed from two vendors.

The gravel bid opening was held at 10:30 a.m. Knox County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and further reserves the right to accept any bid that best serves the County's needs. The Board accepted all gravel bids as submitted. Bids received were as follows: FOR BOTH COUNTY ROAD AND CO./TWP. ALLOCATION GRAVEL: **Bazile Aggregate LLC, Plainview NE** – County haul gravel (pit price/per cubic yard) – State Spec (Class A) Road gravel, \$21.73; Mud Rock, \$25.15; **Emme Sand & Gravel Inc., O'Neill NE** – County haul gravel (pit price per cubic yard) – State Spec (Class A) \$18.56; Armor Coat \$18.56; Gravel per yard/delivered price – ALL STATE SPEC (CLASS A) Logan Twp., \$27.70; East Raymond Twp., \$33.10; West Raymond Twp., \$31.25; Walnut Grove Twp., \$26.20; Washington Twp., \$26.40; Western Twp., \$29.40; **Spud Construction Inc.-Sand & Gravel LLC, Clearwater NE** – County haul gravel (pit price/per ton), Ewing Pit – Road Gravel 3/8" x 1" screened rock \$23.95; Road Gravel \$14.95; Armor Coat Gravel \$14.95; Spud Mix \$15.95; Mud Rock \$15.95; Wash Sand \$4.00; Bank Run Sand \$4.00; Bank Run Clay \$4.00; Oakdale Pit – Road Gravel 3/8" x 1" screened rock \$25.95; Road Gravel \$16.95; Armor Coat Gravel \$16.95; Spud Mix \$17.95; Mud Rock \$17.95; Wash Sand \$6.00; Bank Run Sand \$6.00; Bank Run Clay \$6.00; **Cole Sand & Gravel, O'Neill NE** – County haul gravel (pit price per cubic yard) – State Spec (Class A) \$16.85; Mud Rock, \$25.00; Armor Coat \$18.25; **Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, Orchard NE** – County haul gravel (pit price/per yard) – State Spec (Class A) \$14.50; Bank Run \$8.00; Gravel per yard/delivered price for State Spec. (Class A): Addison Twp., \$20.00; Bohemia Twp., \$22.00; Central Twp., \$20.25; Cleveland Twp., \$22.00; Columbia Twp., \$22.50; Creighton Twp., \$20.50; Dolphin Twp., \$21.50; Dowling Twp., \$22.00; Eastern Twp., \$20.50; Frankfort Twp., \$22.50; Harrison Twp., \$19.75; Herrick Twp., \$21.50; Hill Twp., \$19.50; Lincoln Twp., \$24.00; Miller Twp., \$22.00; Morton Twp., \$19.75; Niobrara Twp., \$19.00; North Frankfort Twp., \$25.00; Peoria Twp., \$19.00; East Raymond \$20.00; West Raymond \$22.00; Spade Twp., \$19.25; Sparta Twp., \$19.00; Union Twp., \$18.75; Valley Twp., \$19.00; Verdigre Twp., \$20.00; **Vakoc Excavating LLC, Verdigre NE** – County haul gravel (pit price/per yard), State Spec (Class A) \$14.25; Bank Run \$8.00; Armor Coat \$14.75; Gravel per yard/delivered price – ALL STATE SPEC (CLASS A) – Bohemia Twp., \$17.50; Central Twp., \$22.00; Cleveland Twp., \$23.00; Creighton Twp., \$19.50; Jefferson Twp., \$18.50; Logan Twp., \$19.35; Miller Twp., \$19.35; Morton Twp., \$22.00; Niobrara Twp., \$19.50; Peoria Twp., \$22.00; East Raymond Twp., \$23.50; West Raymond Twp., \$23.50; Spade Twp., \$19.00; Sparta Twp., \$19.00; Union Twp., \$20.50; Valley Twp., 19.50; Verdigre Twp. \$19.00; Walnut Grove Twp., \$21.20; Washington Twp., \$20.80; Western Twp., \$21.70.

After discussion, motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept all gravel bids as submitted. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 9.) Potential small bridge projects to be paid for using the federal bridge funds; 10.) The truck for District 1 should be delivered soon.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the County Treasurer's Return of Sale Proceedings on Delinquent Taxes certifying that that on March 4, 2024 all delinquent real estate taxes were offered for public auction, that the public tax sale is now closed and the private tax sale will begin and continue from day to day until all said land has been offered. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Angie O'Connor with Avera met with the Board to discuss the annual on-site wellness program and the 2024 Services Proposal. The basic price will be \$112 per participant this year. Discussion was held on past results and optional testing. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve a 2024 On-site Wellness Health Screening for all Knox County employees and spouses who are enrolled in the 90 Degree Benefits health insurance at a cost of \$112 per participant; to allow a \$75 credit per participant towards additional laboratory testing; that those employees participating

shall complete a Wellness Questionnaire through the LiveNOW Portal and if the employees and enrolled spouses do not, they are not eligible to participate; that participating members shall meet with Avera staff in a Health Coaching session to review each participant's results of the Wellness Health Screening; to approve reimbursement to those eligible employees who are enrolled in the County's health insurance benefit through 90 Degree Benefits/HealthCare Solutions Group and participate in the onsite Wellness Health Screening and complete all of the requirements for the screening with the reimbursement to be up to \$250 of 2024 deductibles paid between \$250 and \$500. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Abstain District #1. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Sr. Office Clerk Surface presented a restructured Great Plains contract that will eliminate five fax lines and convert two lines to e-Fax. The contract will reduce monthly costs by approximately \$153 per month for the next 53 months. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska to accept the restructured Great Plains contract. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were given by Economic Development Director Harvey and Visit Knox County Director Miller concerning upcoming community meetings. During the last year, secret shoppers were sent out to each community. They shopped, ate, stayed overnight, and took in local community attractions. The first impression reports will be given at the upcoming meetings. Visit Knox County Director Miller presented new rack cards that were purchased with a state tourism grant. Miller also noted that a bus tour will be coming to Knox County in June.

At 11:30, Deputy County Attorney Jensen presented a Road Agreement where the County would work with the Santee Sioux Tribe to reopen a one-half mile portion of road between the Southwest Quarter of Section 2 and the Northwest Quarter of Section 11 in Township 32 North, Range 4 West of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. The County will carry out the purchase of the four-acre ROW from the Owner. The Council and the County will split the sale price of the four-acre ROW, and the costs associated with the sale. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to present the Road Agreement drafted by Deputy County Attorney Jensen to the Santee Sioux Tribal Council to start the process of reopening the one-half mile portion of road. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Deputy County Attorney Jensen gave an update concerning an estimate to improve the Rec Road. Jensen has been in contact with Senator DeKay who plans to have a meeting with the Department of Transportation as well as members of the Nebraska Game and Parks.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek presented a new Proposed Fee Schedule. Jelinek worked with other Counties in Nebraska to align Knox County's zoning fee prices. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Liska to accept the Proposed Fee Schedule effective March 20, 2024. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Legislative updates were given by Deputy County Clerk Nix regarding LB938 on the competitive bidding process and Jelinek on LB399 that would transfer permitting rights for renewable energy projects from the county to the state.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 11:55 a.m. so to discuss public safety matters. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried. The Board came out of closed session at 12:10 p.m. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:10 p.m. the closed session held on public safety. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 98,470.87; Center Garage, tire repair, 25.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,226.20; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 19.09; Crowne Plaza Kearney, lodging, 434.85; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; Dollar General, jail supplies, 37.10; Eakes Office Solutions, paper/supplies, 921.69; GiGi Larsen, election help, 144.12; Gragert's Grocery, jail food/jail supplies/training food, 1,117.13; Great Plains Communications, tower internet/phone/cable/internet, 1,197.13; Independent Pest Management, pest control, 75.00; Jane Wilmes, election help, 156.82; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, paint/supplies/freezer, 1,207.95; Knox County Court, cases pending/dismissed, 157.00; Knox County Sheriff, paper service fees, 187.50; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 143,951.92; KV Electric, lights, 1,000.00; Lois Kumm, jail food, 32.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; Midwest Special Services Inc., transport fees, 340.00; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 893.71; N&B Gas Co., propane, 1,476.00; NACO, registrations, 200.00; North Central Public Power District, tower power/light, 73.31; Northeast Nebraska News Company, publishing, 391.44; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 816.76; Platte Valley Communications, tower repairs, 704.25; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 594.84; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,755.09; Sanford Health, autopsy, 3,356.00; Sucha Repair, tires, 780.00; University of Nebraska, computer, 2,795.02; US Cellular, cell phones, 185.62; US Cellular, cell phones, 359.92; Verdigre Eagle, publishing/supplies, 1,094.88; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 77.22; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 524.00.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 35,378.79; Art's Garbage, garbage, 18.00; B's Enterprises, Inc., signs/posts, 2,725.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 95.81; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 208.48; Bloomfield Auto Parts, shop supplies/filters/oil, 295.15; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas, 839.92; Cedar Knox PPD, electricity, 282.88; Center Garage, tires/belt rims, 120.00; CHS, diesel, 1,705.83; City of Creighton, water/sewer, 148.73; CMart, gas, 162.60; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,574.95; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 775.24; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 535.99; Crowne Plaza Kearney, lodging, 289.90; Farmer's Pride, diesel/propane, 1,480.90; Frevert Excavating LLC, snow removal, 740.00; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 95.12; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 284.80; J&K Auto, gas, 74.25; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 94.38; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 296.69; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 221.74; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 159.45; N&B Gas Company, propane, 3,066.80; Northeast Association of Co. Engineer/Hwy Supt/Surveyors, dues/registration, 160.00; Pease General Store, shop supplies, 65.13; Power Plan, repairs, 1,014.41; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters/shop supplies, 2,370.06; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,332.36; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 702.45; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Schaefer Grain & Feed Co., road salt, 4,615.80; Sucha Repair, repairs, 15.13; US Cellular, cell phones, 780.74; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 11.18; Verdigre Farm Service, gas/diesel/shop supplies, 2,232.88; Vic's Service, gas/shop supplies, 331.62; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00; Quill, office supplies, 260.05.

**COUNTY WELLNESS FUND.** Name Redacted, deductible reimbursement, 250.00; Name Redacted, deductible reimbursement, 250.00; Name Redacted, deductible reimbursement, 250.00; Name Redacted, deductible reimbursement, 63.70.

**COVID ARPA FUND.** Herbst Construction Inc., Verdel Northwest, 345,478.95.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.** NENEDD, admin fees, 1,083.75.

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 3,481.28; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 262.30; Creative Revolution, email upgrade, 48.44; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 223.17; US Cellular, cell phones, 52.74; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 56.00.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland, court appointed attorney, 2,114.82; Mark D. Albin, court appointed attorney, 752.50; Moyer, Moyer & Lafleur, court appointed attorney, 343.90.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** City of Norfolk, telephone services, 44.74.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICES FUND.** City of Norfolk, telephone services, 104.38.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$273,471.31
Road Fund	65,759.90
Child Support Fund	341.05
County Wellness Fund	813.70
Covid ARPA Fund	345,478.95
Economic Development Fund	1,083.75
C & C Development Fund	4,043.03
Inheritance Fund	3,211.22
911 Emergency Fund	44.74
911 Wireless Service Fund	104.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$694,352.03</b>

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:10 p.m. on March 20, 2024 until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 for a regular meeting.

I, Krista Nix, Knox County Deputy 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Krista Nix, Knox County Deputy Clerk

James Sokol, Jr., Chairman

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