

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
May 15, 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, May 15, 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. Mackeprang 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 May 1, 2024 meeting.

Correspondence reviewed was the following: 1.) Knox County Development Agency April 29, 2024 meeting minutes.

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 all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$435,894.66 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Public comment session was held from 9:45 a.m. to 9:58 a.m. Public comment was given by a representative of National Grid Wind Energy, a representative of the Land & Liberty Coalition and Tom Sobotka.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 9:59 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:15 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board with the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the MRJ Engineering proposal for the Verdigre North Federal Aid bridge project bid documents noting such bid documents and a hydraulic study will be furnished within 45 days. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Shaw Bridge update. There is approximately \$752,070 remaining to be paid; 3.) Verdigre North Bridge project update; 4.) Bridge Crew update; 5.) Oil Crew update; 6.) Motorgrader tires were ordered; 7.) FEMA is requesting approximately \$8,100 be returned on the Prischman FEMA bridge project as over \$9,000 was paid to the County for rip rap on the change order and shouldn't have been included in the pay to the County. The refund requested is 90% of the amount paid to the County. The refund needs to be done to progress with the FEMA Category Z administrative fees' payment to the County; 8.) Hwy. Supt. Barta asked the Board if the June 30 wage increase could be given to an employee who was hired on July 10, 2023. Employees are not eligible for a wage increase until their one-year hire date anniversary so the employee will be eligible to receive an increase after July 10, 2024; 9.) Cedar Knox Rural Water is finding water in trenching they did along their water line in the lake area. They are still trying to locate the leak that is causing ponding in that area; 10.) A number of Lazy River Acres residents have expressed concerns as to the flooding and sedimentation.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List from April 29 – May 10, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Commitment Letter with Regier Carr & Monroe, LLP for audit services. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve a Special Designated Liquor License for Lisa's Lindy Country Club for an event June 21 through June 23, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to change the June 12, 2024 Board meeting date to Tuesday, June 11, 2024 due to workshop scheduling. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Sheriff Henery had submitted an Interlocal Enforcement Agreement between the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Cedar County Sheriff's Office that will be on the May 29, 2024 agenda.

A representative from National Grid Wind Energy returned to the meeting to give clarification presented at the public comment session.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 10:54 a.m. so as to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel, as requested by Sheriff Henery. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated that the closed session will be held so as to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 11:13 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska to close at 11:13 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 11:14 a.m. so as to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel, as requested by Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on personnel so as to protect the reputation of individual when discussing personnel. The Board came out of executive session at 11:40 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve a 3.5% increase in wages beginning June 30, 2024 to Appointed Officials Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek, Veteran Service Officer Jones, Weed Superintendent Banks, and Highway Superintendent Barta's base rate for the fiscal year 2024/2025. By roll call. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to reiterate the 3.5% increase to the Category 3 employees starting June 30, 2024 that was approved at the May 1, 2024 meeting with an addition that when another deputy sheriff is hired, to accommodate an increased beginning wage, the current deputies will each receive a one-time \$5,000 annual or prorated increase within the fiscal year 2024/2025 depending on the date within the fiscal year 2024 when the new deputy is hired, and, to accommodate an increased beginning wage, a one-time increase of \$1.00 per hour during the fiscal year 2024/2025 to the part-time deputies, dispatchers/jailors, 911 Coordinator, Administrative Assistant and part-time matron when another dispatcher is hired within the fiscal year 2024/2025, and further noting the full County pay of the 90 Degree Benefits health insurance premiums for eligible employees as well as spouse, child(ren) or family coverage or opt out stipend to the eligible employees who do not enroll in the health insurance benefit. 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. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the March 12 and April 9, 2024 Planning Commission minutes as a report to the Board of Supervisors with the recommendation the Board of Supervisors deny the request to amend the Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) setback from wetlands to 200 ft. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the April 2024 Zoning Permits Report. By roll call. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Discussion was held on possibly hiring a part-time assistant to Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek.

Committee update was given by Supr. Pierce who said he attended the audit of the Crofton Senior Citizen Center by the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging.

Officials' update was given by the following: 1.) County Assessor McManigal said that one of her employees was going to the post office when shooting took place at the gun range that is a short distance west of the Courthouse. Employees recently took Active Shooter training by NIRMA and the employee was startled by the shooting at the gun range. County Assessor McManigal requested that Sheriff Henery send an email memo to the officials as to when the gun range will be in use; 2.) Sheriff Henery said there is State funding for radios.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 105,886.58; Amy Johnson, mileage, 16.08; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, it/phones, 5,112.73; Bloomfield Auto Parts, headlight, 10.28; Bloomfield Pharmacy, meds, 17.80; Bloomfield Tire & Oil LLC, oil change, 86.79; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,793.93; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, subscription, 90.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; Derrick Kinnison, mileage, 35.91; Don Hanzlik, mileage, 67.83; Eakes Office Solutions, paper, 31.65; Election Systems & Software Inc., Primary Election costs, 2,925.00; Elizabeth Doerr, contract labor, 210.00; ESRI Inc., Arc GIS contract, 460.00; Government Forms & Supplies, checks, 101.64; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 1,037.44; Great Plains Communications, tower internet/phone/cable, 1,235.88; gWorks, basic Assessor GIS program, 8,610.00; Hanna LK Jensen, reimburse manual cost, 95.00; Harm & Tulleys Event Center, building rent, 350.00; James Hames, mileage, 132.50; James Scott, mileage, 22.27; Josh Key, mileage, 45.89; Kristine Tramp, mileage, 61.64; LeRoy Buchholz, mileage, 15.07; LeRoy Clausen, mileage, 68.90; Marvin Planning Consultants Inc., contract costs - zoning regs/meeting, 200.00; MIPS Inc., programming, 784.52; N&B Gas Co., propane, 492.00; Nebraska County Attorney's Association, registrations, 1,100.00; North Central Public Power District, tower power/electricity, 2,045.57; Northeast Nebraska News Company, publishing, 1,285.66; O'Neill Shopper, publishing, 61.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 674.23; Platte Valley Communications, repairs, 38.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 101.98; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filters/repairs, 384.42; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,302.94; US Cellular, cell phones, 185.49; US Cellular, cell phones, 359.52; Verdigre Eagle, subscription, 35.00; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 194.78.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 35,958.87; Art's Garbage, garbage, 18.00; Avera Medical Group, drug tests, 50.00; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 77.62; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 184.57; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs, 125.47; Burns Lumber Company, door repair, 1,293.93; CHS, diesel, 1,279.74; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; City of Creighton, water/sewer, 196.85; CMart, gas, 33.35; CMart LLC, gas, 321.70; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,620.48; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 2,359.43; Crane Sales & Service, repairs, 2,319.03; Crofton Lumber, door repair, 254.17; Farmer's Pride, diesel, 9,070.43; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 1,243.62; Great Plains Communications, phone, 401.18; Grossenburg Implement, lease/repairs/oil filter, 4,752.54; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 3,879.23; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Kayton International Inc., repair/oil/filter, 205.62; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 509.56; McCormick Tree Trimming, equipment rental, 699.50; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 35.00; N&B Gas Company, propane, 739.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 66.90; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 315.45; PowerPlan, repairs, 2,348.02; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters/oil, 1,773.39; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,373.23; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Sucha Repair, repairs/oil/filters, 152.10; Truck Center Companies, repairs/filter, 907.84; US Cellular, cell phones, 542.36; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 53,579.88; Verdigre Farm Service, gas/tordon/shop supplies, 4,324.28; Vic's Service, gas, 356.57; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 44.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00; Village of Wausa, water/sewer/garbage, 168.60; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 23,794.64.

**HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND.** Herbst Construction Inc., Shaw bridge, 100,524.15.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 164.44.

**ROD PRES/MOD FUND.** MIPS Inc., computer program, 566.66.

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 3,467.97; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 261.28; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 222.27; US Cellular, cell phones, 61.57.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Brogan Lamml P.C., court appointed attorney, 436.89; Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,100.00; Cople, Rockey, Schlecht, Mason P.C. LLO, court appointed attorney, 503.34; Mark D. Albin, court appointed attorney, 1,057.97.

**KENO FUND.** Applied Connective Technologies LLC, conference room tv, 2,325.00; City of Creighton, keno proceeds, 21.92; gWorks, subscription, 12,654.00.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** City of Norfolk, telephone services, 44.74; Great Plains Communications, phone, 195.12; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICES FUND.** City of Norfolk, telephone services, 104.38; Great Plains Communications, phone, 315.50; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$150,237.92
Road Fund	159,646.65
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	100,524.15
Child Support Fund	164.44
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	566.66
C & C Development Fund	4,013.09
Inheritance Fund	4,098.20
Keno Fund	15,000.92
911 Emergency Fund	534.72
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,107.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$435,894.66</b>

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 11:58 a.m. on May 15, 2024 until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 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

\*\*\*\*\*