

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska

June 11, 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 Tuesday, June 11, 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 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 May 29, 2024 meeting as read.

The public comment session was held from 9:45 a.m. to 9:58 a.m. Public comment was given by Stephanie Stueckrath and representatives from National Grid Renewable Wind.

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 \$435,894.66 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

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

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

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed federal, state and soft match funds that will pay for the Center West bridge project; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) The Santee Sioux Tribe is applying for funding for upgrading nine bridges on the Santee Sioux reservation.

Heather Stacken with Avera Creighton Hospital Transportation met with the Board to discuss a grant she is working on to be submitted to the Nebraska Public Service Commission. As part of the grant process, Knox County and the City of Creighton each need to submit a Letter of Recommendation stating that these two entities do not contribute funds to the Avera public transit. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign a Letter of Recommendation to the Nebraska Public Service Commission noting that while there is no funding from Knox County, the Knox County Board of Supervisors supports and approves of the public transit service that Avera Creighton Hospital Transportation provides. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 5.) Discussion was held on purchasing a used motorgrader; 6.) Mark Keck with the Frankfort Township Board was present and informed the Board that there is no longer a request for an easement on Road 732 so the Township Board will begin the process to vacate and abandon a portion of Road 732; 7.) Scott Jordan was present and asked the Board how far back a fence needs to be from a road. Mr. Jordan operates a township motorgrader and said that a landowner has placed a fence in the road right of way causing safety concerns when meeting traffic on the road. The Board directed him to speak to the township board and their attorney.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List from May 27 through June 7, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that married couples working for Knox County receiving the County health insurance benefit and covered by the family/spouse coverage are not entitled to an opt out stipend for either party as the County now pays the health insurance premiums of enrolled employees and their spouses, child(ren) or family. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve the Maximus Service Agreement that is effective from June 1, 2024 through December 31, 2029. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

County Attorney Thomas met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on the North Fork Wind project and representation by County Attorney Thomas to eliminate any conflicts of interest. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to have County Attorney Thomas direct and represent the Board in the North Fork Wind Project to offset any conflict of interest. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) The Board reviewed proposals from Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather and from Domina Law Group for potential claims by the County against the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Swanson Road in the Lazy River Acres. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Chairman Sokol, Jr. to approve the Domina Law Group proposal for representing Knox County for consideration of potential claims by Knox County against the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on the Swanson Road in the Lazy River Acres area. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Matt Robinette and Kyle Alpers with BlueStem updated the Board on a proposed solar renewal energy project in western Knox County and a small area in Holt County.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Zoning May Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2406 for the Crofton Community Fire Protection for a lot split in the E1/2W1/2S1/2SW1/4 in Section 14, T33N, R2W. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Committee update was given by Chairman Sokol, Jr. who informed the Board that parking in the new building should begin soon. Also, a safety maintenance workshop was held by NIRMA for area county maintenance workers.

Officials' update was given by the following: 1.) Hwy. Supt. Barta discussed with the Board the calculation used as a basis for the County/Township allocation distribution; 2.) Supr. Mackeprang gave an update on the recent North Central District Health Department meeting.

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, 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, 8,610.00; Hanna LK Jensen, reimburse manual, 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., 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; Copple, 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
Total	\$435,894.66

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:12 p.m. on June 11, 2024 until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 21, 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
