

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
August 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, August 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, Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5, Danny R. Schlote District #6, and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was none. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Supr. Schlote 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 July 24, 2024 meeting as read.

Correspondence reviewed was the following: 1.) MSAC letter requesting maintaining annual membership contribution in 2025 and the pledged amount of \$3,100 for Phase 3; 2.) Probation District Seven review letter of 2024-2025 budget request; 3.) Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice report of full compliance of the Knox County Jail after inspection was completed.

The public comment session was held from 9:45 a.m. Public comment was given by Matt Woolery with National Grid Renewables.

Officials' update was given by Economic Development Director Harvey who informed the Board that a \$1.2 million housing project for Verdigre and Niobrara was approved by the State of Nebraska due to flood impact.

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 \$352,081.19 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of July 19 through August 2, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the updated County of Knox Title VI Implementation Plan. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Certificate of Death of Township Officer of former Raymond Township Clerk Neil Peed and the appointment of Ward Adema as the Raymond Township Clerk. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The public comment session closed at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The 2023/2024 Hwy. Supt. Office inventory was reviewed and signed; 2.) Weigand Bridge update. The east side approach settled and will be repaired by Thrasher Foundation Repair as this approach is still under warranty, however, the County will need to pay for the west approach which also settled. It will cost approximately \$3,200 for use of the hydro-jack that will be used to fix that approach.

Jack and Lisa Janak met with the Board regarding the condition of a portion of 882 Road in Bohemia Township. They said the road has had little grading and little gravel making access to their property treacherous and hindering their farming operation, especially when it rains or snows. Also, they were confused as to maintenance of the road as they were attempting to maintain the road themselves but had conflicting direction. Bohemia Township Chairman Wendell Rohrer was present and explained that money has been spent on putting rock and concrete in that area plus snow removal to assist getting the Janak's tractor out. Discussion was also held on cutting trees in the ditches, the soil type in that area that causes the road to be very slick when it rains, the sides of the road very high in some areas and deep gullies in others, portions of the road very narrow and budget constraints. Supr. Pierce said he will visit the area and see if there could be a compromise made between the Bohemia Township Board and the Janaks.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 3.) The advertised bid opening was held at 11:02 a.m. for steel products for the Knox/Antelope County Line Bridge project. Bids received were: **Hubsker Steel Company, Columbus NE** - \$203,585.00 with estimated delivery date of November 18, 2024; **Oden Enterprises, Inc., Wahoo NE** - No Bid. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to accept the bid from **Hubsker Steel Company, Columbus NE** in the amount of \$203,585.00 for steel products for the Knox/Antelope County Line Bridge Project. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4.) Bridge Crew update; 5.) Oil Crew update; 6.) A 1992 Ford Tandem Conventional Truck with snowplow and sander, a 1976 International Hydro 1066 tractor and a 1990 Chevrolet 2-ton truck will be sold as surplus property at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 30, 2024; 7.) Discussion was held on selling overhead hoists. Sealed bids will be taken until 11:15 a.m. on September 4, 2024 for the sale of overhead hoists located at the Bloomfield, Crofton, Verdigre and Wausa County shops; 8.) The Spade Township Board submitted a letter requesting that a one-mile portion of Platted Road #446 (529 Avenue) located between Sections 29 and 30 in Spade Township be reclassified from Local classification to Minimum Maintenance classification. A public hearing will be held to address the request at the Knox County Board of Supervisors' meeting on September 4, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.; 9.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to accept the report brought by Knox County Highway Superintendent Barta for the vacation and abandonment of a .24-mile portion of Platted Road #732 located in the NW1/4NE1/4 beginning at Station Table 2853 and extending approximately 1,250 feet eastward in Section 19, T33N, R2W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Absent was none. Motion carried; 10.) Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce that **Resolution #2024 - 13** be adopted setting a public hearing date for Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. for the vacation/abandonment of a .24-mile portion of Platted Road #732 located in the NW1/4NE1/4 of Section 19, T33N, R2W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska, said resolution to be published in the Crofton Journal newspaper on August 15, 22 and 29, 2024, and a copy of said Resolution be sent by certified mail to current

the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.; AND, between the NE1/4 of Section 4, T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., and the SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 34 and the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 33, in T33N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., all in Knox County Nebraska, be vacated and abandoned.

Passed, approved and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

ATTEST: (Seal)

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Joann M. Fischer /s/  
Knox County Clerk

By: James Sokol, Jr. /s/  
Chairman

Veteran Service Officer Gary Jones met with the Board to formally submit his resignation as of December 27, 2024. The Veteran Service Committee will review applications submitted, hold interviews and plan to name a person to fill the position in December, however, the new person will be training in the office during the next several months to become certified. The Board thanked Veteran Service Officer Jones for his dedication to Knox County and all veterans he has assisted.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the July Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2406 Joan Stewart for a 5-acre tract split in the SE1/4SW1/4 of Section 14 and a 2.30-acre tract split in the NE1/4NW1/4 of Section 23, all in T33N, R3W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2407 Terry and Sandra Heimes for a 5.72-acre tract in the NW1/4NE1/4 of Section 19, T33N, R2W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4.) Discussed the proposed solar project west of Verdigre; 5.) A meeting with the local fire chiefs will be held to discuss a task force regarding mutual aid to other counties.

Committee update was given by Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix who informed the Board that the ARPA Fund has now been spent and that the ARPA Committee can be dissolved.

Officials' update was given by Sheriff Henery who said that he had hired a new deputy on this date who can start in two weeks. Also, Sheriff Henery updated the Board on the recent special Legislative session and the work being done by the NACO's Sheriff's Association regarding the possibility of a cap on tax asking and exemptions to the cap for law enforcement costs.

The Board began the preliminary 2024-2025 Knox County budget review with officials. Extension Educator Hanefeldt and County Assessor Beckmann reviewed with the Board their preliminary budget requests.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 12:00 p.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened in the Basement Conference Room at 12:45 p.m. with all members present.

The Board reviewed preliminary budgets with County Treasurer Ebel, Hwy. Supt. Barta, and Deputy County Attorney Jensen.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 1:50 p.m. to attend the retirement party for County Assessor Monical McManigal being held in the Boardroom. A plaque/clock was presented to Mrs. McManigal on behalf of Knox County and appreciation was expressed for her many years of service.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 2:05 p.m. with all members present.

The Board continued with the review of preliminary budgets with Economic Development Director Hanvey and Visit Knox County Director Stacy Miller, Veterans Service Officer Jones, Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek, Clerk of District Court Clerk Fischer, County Clerk Fischer, and Sheriff Henery. Also reviewed were the budget pages for the Noxious Weed and the County Court.

Supervisor O'Connor left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Discussion continued on Sheriff Henery's budgets and possibly purchasing a used patrol vehicle. Preliminary budgets were reduced by \$367,950. Further examination will be made at the August 21, 2024 meeting.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 103,868.09; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 4,531.83; Bomgaars Supply Inc., jail supplies, 9.99; Centec Cast Metal Products, grave markers, 766.84; Center Garage, batteries, 308.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 110.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,808.62; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 23,980.92; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 3,987.28; D&L Tire LLC, tires, 1,103.96; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier contract/paper/supplies, 2,459.19; Ecowater, bottled water, 357.50; First National Bank Omaha, postage/gas/supplies, 238.48; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,950.61; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees, 2.00; Kristine Tramp, mileage, 17.42; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 142.00; Madison County Treasurer, probation expense, 7,476.44; MIPS Inc., programs, 878.86; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,601.57; Northeast Nebraska News, publishing, 145.20; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 1,644.43; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,075.68; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 226.12; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,174.75; Tri State Turf& Irrigation, sprinkler repair, 218.70; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Showorks program, 499.50; US Cellular, cell phones, 185.65; US Cellular, cell phones, 464.94; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 165.71.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 40,972.00; B'S Enterprises Inc., signs/patch mix/coveralls, 6,806.50; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 189.94; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 90.22; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/tools, 1,183.50; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,088.21; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 10,497.68; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 87.14; Great Plains Communications, phone, 201.04; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/filters, 6,048.39; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 3,188.44; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 7,230.00; Jebro Inc., mc3000 oil, 47,515.23; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 4,661.70; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 56.62; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug tests/forms, 81.25; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 38.79; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 285.81; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 403.38; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,709.92; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 75.15; US Cellular, cell phones, 542.91; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 5,675.45; Verdigre Farm Service, shop supplies/gas/diesel/grass seed, 4,517.65; Village of Wausa, water/sewer/garbage, 122.60; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 13,712.23.

adjoining landowners namely Terry and Sandra Heimes; Travis and Robyn Barney; Kenneth Jansen; Christopher Jansen, Trustee of the Del Jansen Family Protection Trust; Melvin Jansen; Phyllis A. Jansen; and Charlotte F. Jansen. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION #2024 – 13**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 39-1722, Nebraska Revised Statutes (Re-issue of 2004) the County Board of Supervisors of Knox County, Nebraska, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024 directed the County Highway Superintendent to make a study of the use of a portion of a platted Frankfort Township road described as follows:

A 24-mile portion of Platted Road #732 located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW1/4NE1/4) beginning at Station Table 2853 and extending approximately 1,250 feet eastward in Section 19, Township 33 North, Range 2 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent must conduct a study of vacating and abandoning the above-mentioned portion of Platted Road #732 in Frankfort Township, Knox County, Nebraska

**WHEREAS**, on August 7, 2024, County Highway Superintendent did file his report in writing as to such road, containing a recommendation that said portion of Platted Road #732 in Frankfort Township be vacated and abandoned, and

**BE IT, THEREFORE RESOLVED**, by the County Board of Supervisors of Knox County that a public hearing be had as provided in Section 39-1724, Nebraska Revised Statutes (Re-issue of 2004), in the Supervisors' Meeting Room in the Courthouse at Center, Nebraska on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024 at the hour of 10:30 A.M. for the purpose of determining if a .24-mile portion of Platted Road #732 located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW1/4NE1/4) beginning at Station Table 2853 and extending approximately 1,250 feet eastward in Section 19, Township 33 North, Range 2 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska be vacated and abandoned.

Passed, approved and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

ATTEST: (Seal)

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Joann M. Fischer /s/  
Knox County Clerk

By: James Sokol, Jr. /s/  
Chairman

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 11.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept the report brought by Knox County Highway Superintendent Barta for the vacation and abandonment of a 1.86-mile portion of Platted Roads #432 and #289 located between the SE1/4 and SW1/4 of Section 3; between the SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of Section 3; and, between the NW1/4 of Section 3 and the NE1/4 of Section 4, all in T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.; AND, between the NE1/4 of Section 4, T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., and the SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 34 and the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 33, in T33N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., all in Knox County Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Absent was none. Motion carried; 12.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce that **Resolution #2024 – 14** be adopted setting a public hearing date for Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 10:45 a.m. for the vacation/abandonment of a 1.86-mile portion of Platted Roads #432 and #289 located between the SE1/4 and SW1/4 of Section 3; between the SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of Section 3; and, between the NW1/4 of Section 3 and the NE1/4 of Section 4, all in T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.; AND, between the NE1/4 of Section 4, T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., and the SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 34 and the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 33, in T33N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., all in Knox County Nebraska, said resolution to be published in the Niobrara Tribune newspaper on August 15, 22 and 29, 2024, and a copy of said Resolution be sent by certified mail to current adjoining landowners namely Melvin D. and Jo E. Cameron, Warembourg Nebraska Ranches, LLC, and Wade S. and Michelle J. Lukken. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION #2024 – 14**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 39-1722, Nebraska Revised Statutes (Re-issue of 2004) the County Board of Supervisors of Knox County, Nebraska, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024 directed the County Highway Superintendent to make a study of the use of a portion of platted Raymond Township roads described as follows:

A 1.86-mile portion of Platted Roads #432 and #289 located between the SE1/4 and SW1/4 of Section 3; between the SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of Section 3; and, between the NW1/4 of Section 3 and the NE1/4 of Section 4, all in T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.; AND, between the NE1/4 of Section 4, T32N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., and the SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 34 and the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 33, in T33N, R7W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., all in Knox County Nebraska

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent must conduct a study of vacating and abandoning the above-mentioned portions of Platted Roads #432 and 289 in Raymond Township, Knox County, Nebraska

**WHEREAS**, on August 7, 2024, County Highway Superintendent did file his report in writing as to such road, containing a recommendation that said portions of Platted Roads #432 and 289 in Raymond Township be vacated and abandoned, and

**BE IT, THEREFORE RESOLVED**, by the County Board of Supervisors of Knox County that a public hearing be had as provided in Section 39-1724, Nebraska Revised Statutes (Re-issue of 2004), in the Supervisors' Meeting Room in the Courthouse at Center, Nebraska on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024 at the hour of 10:45 A.M. for the purpose of determining if a 1.86-mile portion of Platted Roads #432 and #289 located between the SE1/4 and SW1/4 of Section 3; between the SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of Section 3; and, between the NW1/4 of Section 3 and the NE1/4 of Section 4, all in T32N, R7W of

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 168.16; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 168.91; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

**VISITOR'S PROMO FUND.** Creighton Area Chamber of Commerce, promo grant, 1,000.00; Crofton's Dam Race, promo grant, 1,000.00.

**ROD PRES/MOD FUND.** MIPS Inc., computer program, 389.88.

**C & C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 3,666.71; Anthony Warrior, leadership meal, 225.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 276.48; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/leadership, 325.97; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 62.06; Joy Boutique, leadership, 171.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 2.98; LJ McElravy, leadership, 282.74; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 22.41; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 235.69; US Cellular, cell phones, 123.24.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,100.00; Copple, Rockey, Schlecht, Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 192.00; Mark D Albin, court appointed attorney, 441.75; North Central District Health Department, miles of smiles, 2,270.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

**KENO FUND.** City of Creighton, keno proceeds, 74.42.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** City of Norfolk, phone, 44.74; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.36; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND.** City of Norfolk, phone, 104.38; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

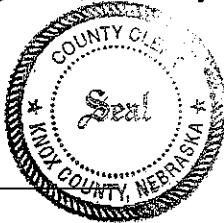
General Fund	\$174,937.88
Road Fund	160,006.75
Child Support Fund	418.07
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,000.00
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
C & C Development Fund	5,394.28
Inheritance Fund	7,087.08
Keno Fund	74.42
911 Emergency Fund	573.96
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,198.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>352,081.19</b>

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 4:34 p.m. on August 7, 2024 until Wednesday, August 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 of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:

*Joann M. Fischer*  
 Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By *James Sokol, Jr.*  
 James Sokol, Jr., Chairman

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