

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
August 21, 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 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, 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 Supervisor Patrick J. Liska District #2. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Supr. Borgmann 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 August 7, 2024 meeting as read.

Correspondence reviewed was a Card of Thanks from the Crofton Dam Committee for the Visitor's Promo funds.

The public comment session was opened at 9:45 a.m.

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, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$649,274.40 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of August 5 – 16, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Clerk of District Court July 2024 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to remove the name of former Knox County Deputy Clerk/ARPA Administrator Krista Nix from the County bank accounts as Mrs. Nix has moved to western Nebraska and is no longer employed by Knox County. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on Lease Agreement 65942025 – Addendum #3 between the County of Knox and the Department of Administrative Services, State Building Division acting on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services for office space located in Annex #2. The Addendum would extend the current lease from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2028. County Clerk Fischer will contact the State Building Division to discuss a rent increase.

The public comment session ended at 10:02 a.m. No one from the public spoke during the session.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:03 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:09 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Patrick J. Liska District #2.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on selling surplus equipment at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction at Hartington on September 30. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to adopt Resolution #2024 – 15 declaring two trucks, two tractors, a rotary mower, a blade, a post hole digger, and a trailer from the Road Department and three vehicles from the Sheriff's Department described in the Resolution as surplus property to be sold on September 30, 2024 at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction at Hartington. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2024 – 15

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE
MOBILE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY
AND FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, Knox County owns mobile equipment which has a value of five thousand dollars or more which is not usable by the County and/or obsolete; and

WHEREAS, said mobile equipment consists of the following property:

1. 1992 Ford Tandem Conventional Truck with snowplow and sander
2. 1976 International Hydro 1066 Tractor
3. 1990 Chevrolet 2 Ton Truck
4. 1975 Massey Ferguson Tractor w/loader and fork attachment
5. Three-point rotary mower
6. Three-point blade
7. Post hole digger
8. Dual-Bolster trailer
9. 1998 Chevrolet S Pickup
10. 2000 Ford Explorer Sport Utility Vehicle
11. 2015 Ford Explorer 4 Door Sport Utility Vehicle

WHEREAS, Knox County intends to dispose of said property as surplus pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 23-3115 through competitive bidding on the truck with snowplow and sander and tractor at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 30, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the surplus property listed is being sold "as is" without any warranties, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the mobile equipment and other equipment listed is unusable by Knox County and/or obsolete and is therefore declared surplus property.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Highway Superintendent and the Knox County Clerk be directed to coordinate disposal of said property in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska.

DATED this 21st 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: 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Verdigre North Bridge update; 5.) NEMA representatives will be inspecting nine sites from the 2019 flood on August 29, 2024; 6.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 16** authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION
SIGNING OF THE COUNTY ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE
2024
Resolution No. 2024 – 16

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2115, 39-2119, 39-2120, 29-2121, and 39-2510(2), requires an annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and standards; and

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each county shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include the resolution of the governing body of the county authorizing the signing of the certification.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Knox County is hereby authorized to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance.

Adopted this 21st day of August, 2024 at Center, Nebraska.

County Board Members

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
David L. Pierce /s/

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Borgmann /s/

District #2 Absent
Danny R. Schlote /s/

County Board Member Supr. Pierce
Moved the adoption of said resolution
Member Supr. O'Connor Seconded the Motion
Roll Call: 6 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 1 Absent
Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
(Signature of Clerk)

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 10:30 a.m. to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 11:04 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close the closed session at 11:04 a.m. that was held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Kasey Rossiter with HartelCo updated the Board on the fiber optic project in the lake area. Discussed was Corps permits, subdivisions that still need to have the fiber optic installed and hooking up customers soon.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on a draft of an Application For Permit To Install Pipeline Or Service Line Beneath A County Road with a proposed permit fee of \$20, use of the application, area counties using similar applications, and increasing the proposed fee to \$200. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the Application For Permit To Install Pipeline Or Service Line Beneath A County Road form with a permit fee of \$200. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the August 13, 2024 Planning Commission's Report to Board of Supervisors with recommendations regarding the airport hazard zoning for the Bloomfield Airport Authority and the recommendations, contingent on approval from Southwest Power Pool, to approve the Conditional Use permit #C2401 VRDG, LLC to construct a commercial solar conversion system with conditions. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried; 3.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the minutes of the Planning Commission meetings of April 9, May 14, June 11, and July 9, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried; 4.) Discussed was setting a public hearing for Blue Stem Solar Project Conditional Use

Permit Application. Matt Robinette will attend the September 4, 2024, meeting to give information about the project. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to set a public hearing for Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. on Conditional Use Permit #C2401 VRDG, LLC for construction of a Commercial Solar Conversion System. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 17** that as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, the Board will allocate final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2024/2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2024 – 17

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors has allocated levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority to the Knox County townships, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate a final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2024/2025.

DATED this 21st day of August 2024.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman, District #4

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Absent
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

David L. Pierce /s/
David L. Pierce, District #3

Kevin Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5

Danny R. Schlote /s/
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 18** allocating up to 4.5 cents of levy authority to the Knox County Rural Fire Districts as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443 noting that the Creighton, Verdigre, Niobrara, and Crofton Rural Fire Districts chose levies of 4.5 cents, Bloomfield Rural Fire District chose a levy of 3.5 cents and Wausa Rural Fire District chose 2.5 cents. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2024 – 18

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the allocated amount to the rural fire districts was 4.5 cents, and WHEREAS, the Knox County fire districts belong to the Mutual Fire Organization (MFO), and

WHEREAS, that under legislation in 2018 the fire districts in an MFO had to have one year where the levies were the same for all members and could be different for the next two years, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County rural fire districts were allocated 4.5 cents by the Knox County Board of Supervisors in 2023/2024, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate up to 4.5 cents to the Knox County rural fire districts as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443 for budget year 2024/2025 noting that not all rural fire districts will use the 4.5 cents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Knox County rural fire districts have chosen the following levies: Creighton Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Bloomfield Rural Fire District – 3.5 cents; Verdigre Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Niobrara Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Wausa Rural Fire District – 2.5 cents; and Crofton Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents.

DATED this 21st day of August 2024.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman, District #4

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Absent
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

David L. Pierce /s/
David L. Pierce, District #3

Kevin Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5

Danny R. Schlote /s/
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

As Knox County Ag Society Director Nipp was unable to attend the meeting, County Clerk Fischer shared Mr. Nipp's update on the 2024 Knox County Fair, what projects are being completed and new projects that the Society would like to complete for future fairs. All present at the meeting said the Knox County Fair is one of the best and thanked everyone for

their hard work to make it happen. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 19**, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, to approve a final allocation of levy authority of \$200,000 to the Knox County Ag Society with the breakdown to be \$125,000 for General Expenses (0.004265 levy) and \$75,000 for Capitol Improvement (0.002559 levy) for a total levy of 0.007824 for budget year 2024/2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #4. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2024 – 19

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors reviewed an income and expense report of the Knox County Ag Society and comparable funds allocated to ag societies in neighboring counties, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate \$200,000.00 to the Knox County Ag Society with the breakdown to be \$125,000 for General Expenses (0.004265) and \$75,000 (0.002559) for Capital Improvement for a total levy of 0.007824 for budget year 2024/2025.

DATED this 21st day of August 2024.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman, District #4

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Absent
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

David L. Pierce /s/
David L. Pierce, District #3

Kevin Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5

Danny R. Schlote /s/
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the 2023/2024 Office Inventories. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion on the proposed 2024/2025 Knox County budget.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 11:59 a.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 12:50 p.m. with all members present except for Supervisor Patrick J. Liska District #2.

Discussion continued on the 2024/2025 budget. The Board directed that \$218,777.25 of the purchase of the motorgrader be deducted from the Road Fund and paid from the accrued interest in the Flowage Easement Road Fund as the motorgrader will be used in the Niobrara area, the remainder of the motorgrader cost of \$92,222.75 be paid from the Road Fund, a transfer of \$303,240.92 be made from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund/Flowage Easement Road Fund for the 4th loan payment on the Bloomfield North project, and a transfer of \$200,000 be made from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund to be added to the cash reserve. This will drop the tax asking to \$4,027,728.88 which would be \$84,853.52 more than last year, an estimated levy of 0.137431 which is 0.023840 less than last year.

With the revisions to the 2024/2025 tax request for Knox County, Knox County will not have to participate in the LB 644 Joint Public Hearing. As per the requirements of the Joint Public Hearing, the Board must set the date, time, and location of the 2024 Joint Public Hearing. At this time, it appears that Bloomfield School, Santee School, and Bloomfield City will be participating. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to set the 2024 Joint Public Hearing for Monday, September 23, 2024 beginning at 6:05 p.m. at The Barn At God's Country, 53174 Hwy 84, Center NE 68724. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 109,379.52; Applied Connective Technologies, tower/access point/phone, 1,791.68; Armscor Cartridge Inc., ammo, 194.00; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas, 62.14; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,243.98; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 23,079.76; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 29.47; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 143.28; Dollar General, jail supplies, 94.80; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Co., supplies, 479.60; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 1,458.35; Great Plains Communications, tower internet, 821.12; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 269.90; Joann Fischer, reimburse title fee, 15.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer to road fund, 143,951.92; Kylee Kracht, reimburse meals, 24.53; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 141.99; Manion's Drug Store Inc., meds, 17.80; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 77.25; NACO, registrations, 270.00; Norfolk Daily News, subscription, 266.00; North Central Public Power District, tower electricity, 42.16; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 23.40; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,075.68; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 227.53; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter/battery/wipers; 303.66; Ramada Midtown, lodging, 214.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,481.44; Software Unlimited Corp., software, 2,108.04; Verdigre Printworks, printing, 462.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 40,850.00; Art's Garbage, garbage, 18.00; B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 510.00; Black Hills energy, heating fuel, 99.20; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs, 44.25; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas/propane, 988.99; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, repairs, 32.96; Cedar Knox Public Power District, electricity, 138.85; CHS, diesel/gas/propane, 2,945.24; CMart, gas, 445.21; CMart LLC, gas, 96.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,078.87; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 1,008.05; County of Kox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 10,497.64; Country Market, shop supplies, 19.95; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 213.50; Farmers Pride, diesel, 7,845.06; Gary Becker, sand, 1,200.00; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 9.99; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/gas, 5,928.86; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Jebro Inc., MC250, 49,503.41; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 93.45; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 485.99; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 56.62; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 333.04; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 35.00; Motacek & Sons LLC, power screed, 9,284.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 130.62; Pomp's Tire Service Inc., tires, 4,289.30; Principal Life Insurance Company,

insurance County pays, 403.38; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/shop supplies/filters, 847.25; RDO Truck Centers, repairs, 575.47; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,701.69; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Steffen's Service Station, gas, 794.35; Sucha Repair, repairs, 10.59; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 556.66; Vic's Service LLC, gas/tire repair, 359.09; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 44.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 77.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 25,858.66.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Herbst Construction Inc., payment #6 Shaw Bridge, 161,961.23.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 3,595.74; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 271.06; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2.98; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 22.41; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 230.90.

INHERITANCE FUND. Fitzgerald, Vetter & Temple, court appointed attorney, 3,057.96; Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC, court appointed attorney, 3,811.43.

Totals	
General Fund	\$302,750.00
Road Fund	172,570.69
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	161,961.23
County Wellness Fund	1,000.00
C&C Development Fund	4,123.09
Inheritance Fund	6,869.39
Total	\$649,274.40

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 1:35 p.m. on August 21, 2024 until Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 9:30 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
