

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
November 27, 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, November 27, 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.

Supervisor 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 newspapers, 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.

County Clerk Fischer read the minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska that all claims except Claim #24110223 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning, 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.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote that Claim #24110223 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning in the amount of \$2,646.00, 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. Abstain District #5. Motion carried.

Claims totaling \$401,664.39 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of November 11 – 22, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to accept the resignation of Herrick Township Treasurer Kathleen Peschel and the appointment of Cynthia Overhue as Herrick Township Treasurer. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board and officials discussed 2025 proposed holidays. After a discussion, motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska to set the 2025 Holidays/Courthouse closings as follows: New Year's Day January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 20; Presidents' Day February 17; Memorial Day May 26; Independence Day July 4; Labor Day September 1; Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day October 13; Veterans' Day November 11; Thanksgiving November 27; Thanksgiving Friday November 28; Christmas December 25; and day after Christmas December 26, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:07 a.m. No one gave public comment.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:08 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:17 a.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 10:17 a.m. so as to not cause injury to individuals' reputations when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Also present were County Clerk Fischer and Hwy. Supt. Barta. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as not to cause injury to individuals' reputations when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 10:42 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 10:42 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Bridge Crew update; 2.) Snow fence is being put up; 3.) Discussed roadside mowing; 4.) Oil Crew update; 5.) Reviewed report of the number of loads of asphaltic oil purchased from 2020 through 2024.

The sealed bid opening for the sale of a 500-gallon fuel barrel located at the Verdigre County Yard was held at 11:00 a.m. One bid was received and was from Bohemia Township in the amount of \$250. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to accept the sealed bid from Bohemia Township in the amount of \$250 for a 500-gallon fuel barrel located at the Verdigre County Yard. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed selling radio or giving excess equipment to local fire departments; 2.) Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2415 Chad Walvoord for a boundary adjustment between two parcels in the E1/2SW1/4NE1/4 of Section 18, T33N, R4W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2414 Leslie Huttman for a boundary line adjustment in the S1/2NE1/4 of Section 27, T32N, R3W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2413 Andy Doerr for a 5.01-acre tract split in the NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 14, T29N, R5W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 5.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Planning Commission's Report to Board of Supervisors recommending the approval of Conditional Use Permit #CU2402 Brenna Pahl to change her daycare application from Family Child Care Home I to Family Child Care Home II noting the public hearing will be held during the Board of Supervisors' meeting on December 11, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 6.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Planning Commission's August 13, 2024 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 7.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to reappoint Jim Kotrous, Neil Claussen and Robert Larsen to the Planning Commission for additional three-year terms. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 8.)

Update on Riverpoint Bay Subdivision and a possible replat; 9.) Update on Safety Committee meeting held before the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) Sheriff Henery discussed an upcoming cybersecurity training to be held in Ainsworth, job applicants' interviews are taking place, and Crofton City has hired a police officer; 2.) County Clerk Fischer updated the Board on the ballot initiatives that were voted in and when they go into effect. Also discussed was the overturned labor law that was to take place on January 1, 2025; 3.) Supr. Mackeprang informed the Board that the Region IV meetings will not conflict with the Board meetings as they will be held on opposite Wednesdays to the Board meetings. Also, the North Central District Health Department meetings are being held via Zoom for the time being because the District's office building is being renovated. Updated information was given regarding the recent Economic Development meeting that Supervisors Mackeprang and Borgmann attended; 4.) County Treasurer Ebel said that tax notices will be mailed in the coming week.

Supervisor Mackeprang left the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into closed session regarding the North Fork pending litigation at 11:26 a.m. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on the North Fork pending litigation. 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 the North Fork pending litigation. 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 for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. and Supervisors Liska and Borgmann left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Supervisor Mackeprang returned to the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with Supervisors O'Connor, Mackeprang, Schlote and Pierce present. Absent were Chairman Sokol, Jr. and Supervisors Borgmann and Liska. Vice-Chairman O'Connor presiding.

In-person interviews of the Knox County Emergency Manager position applicants Donna Hays of Creighton, Jamie Novacek of Verdigre and Austin Taylor of Osceola, Iowa were held. After a discussion, motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to offer the position of Knox County Emergency Manager to Austin Taylor of Osceola, Iowa. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent Districts #2, #4 and #7. Motion carried. Mr. Taylor accepted the job offer with a starting date of December 23, 2024.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 103,106.12; Applied Connective Technologies, access points, 403.22; B&H Publishing Inc., publishing, 177.60; Cassie Stark, decals, 100.00; Clerk of District Court, filing fees, 224.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,897.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 24,431.36; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 41.46; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup/radios, 633.00; David A Arens, meeting/mileage, 71.90; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 51.13; Dollar General, jail food/jail supplies, 105.25; Egan Supply Co., janitor supplies, 40.32; Fairfield Inn & Suites, lodging, 123.95; First National Bank Omaha, gas/lodging/jail food/postage/election supplies, 6,850.36; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Co., supplies, 582.06; GiGi Larsen, election help, 639.27; Greg D Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 57.16; Jane Wilmes, election help, 662.72; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 46.44; Keith Nielsen, meeting/mileage, 43.09; Knox County Court, pending/dismissed cases, 698.00; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees, 302.90; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 128,971.78; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 144.97; MIPS Inc., programming, 878.86; NACO, registrations, 1670.00; Nebraska Weed Control Association, dues, 235.00; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 62.52; NIRMA, registration, 75.00; Norfolk Area Shopper, publishing, 154.50; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 18.45; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,098.09; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 77.39; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter, 244.22; RR Donnelley, gun certificates, 114.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,282.89; Robert D. Larsen, meeting/mileage, 37.06; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 39.74; Secretary of State Elections Division, id cards, 20.00; Steven Banks, reimburse registration, 10.00; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 1,700.86; Verdigre PrintWorks, envelopes, 1,267.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 38,890.14; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 195.72; Bloomfield Auto Parts, filters/repairs, 82.44; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, tire repair, 50.00; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 123.12; CHS, gas/diesel, 1,190.86; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,928.93; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 10,497.64; D&L Tire LLC, tires/tire repair, 1,125.46; First National Bank Omaha, lodging/meal/queries, 260.98; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/tank, 2,620.00; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 156.32; Joel S. Suhr, clay, 450.00; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 2,098.04; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 56.62; MRJ Engineering, engineer fees, 24,750.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 149.53; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 403.38; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters, 498.38; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,569.41; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Steffen's Service Station, gas, 588.51; Straight-line Striping Inc., centerline striping, 9,133.20; Titan Machinery Inc., repairs, 62.05; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 514.95; Vakoc Excavating LLC, sand, 1,200.00; Vic's Service LLC, gas, 101.00; Village of Wausa, water/sewer, 122.60.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 168.91; MIPS Inc., jury list, 325.00.

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

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. David Huigens, reimburse deductible, 250.00; Heather Kienow, reimburse deductible, 250.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 337.50.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,890.33; Comfort Inn, lodging, 175.77; First National Bank Omaha, leadership/gas, 320.18; NEDA, dues, 150.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 110.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 384.75; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 2,646.00; Fitzgerald, Vetter & Temple, court appointed attorney, 522.50.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 18.85; J&J Sanitation, deer dumpsters, 520.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, battery/ink/certification, 923.48.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. First National Bank Omaha, certification, 24.50.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$291,391.46
Road Fund	100,865.28
Child Support Fund	493.91
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
County Wellness Fund	500.00
Economic Development Fund	337.50
C & C Development Fund	2,646.28
Inheritance Fund	3,553.25
Keno Fund	538.85
911 Emergency Fund	923.48
911 Wireless Service Fund	24.50
Total	\$401,664.39

Vice-Chairman O'Connor adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 until Wednesday, December 11, 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

By _____
Martin J. O'Connor, Vice-Chairman

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