

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
December 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 Wednesday, December 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.

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.

County Clerk Fischer read the November 27, 2024 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the November 27, 2024 meeting.

Correspondence reviewed was a letter from the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs certifying that Kelly Hanvey is eligible for the Knox County Veterans Service Officer position.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska that all claims, except Claim #24120124 payable to Abrahams, Kaslow & Gassman, 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. Mackeprang, that Claim #24120124 payable from the Inheritance Fund to Abrahams, Kaslow & Gassmann in the amount of \$2,132.00, 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.

A full list of claims totaling \$331,281.47 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

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

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the November 25 – December 6, 2024 Receipts Revenue List. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Official Bond and Oath of Herrick Township Clerk Cynthia Overhue. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Comprehensive Community Planning Team Memorandum of Understanding between Madison County and Knox County. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the job offer extended to and accepted by Austin Taylor for the Knox County Emergency Manager position at the November 27, 2024 meeting. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve the appointment of Austin Taylor as the Knox County Emergency Manager effective December 23, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:01 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:08 a.m. with all members present.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:09 a.m. No one gave public comment.

Sheriff Henery, Deputy County Attorney Jensen, and the Board discussed a tort claim filed by James Wright in the amount of \$545.14 for medical costs associated with being cleared to be placed in the Knox County jail. Motion by Supr. Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang directing Sheriff Henery to work with Avera to receive Medicaid rates on the claim filed by James Wright for medical costs associated with being cleared to be placed in the Knox County jail and for Knox County to pay the Medicaid rates to Avera Patient Financial Services on the claim of James Wright. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the 2025 Printing Report as follows: Legal papers – Creighton News and Crofton Journal; Printing of Delinquent Tax List – Niobrara Tribune and Wausa Gazette; Printing of County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report – Bloomfield Monitor and Verdigre Eagle; and notices of road work and bridge and improvements to be published in the newspaper nearest to the project or improvement. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Bridge Crew update; 2.) Discussed leasing four tractors for the Oil Crew from Grossenberg Implement in Bloomfield. The cost would be \$25 per hour; 3.) The bid date for the Center West bridge project is December 12, 2024; 4.) Requests have been made for more signs for Amish traffic on Highway 13; 5.) A meeting with Attorney David Domina regarding the Lazy River Acres area will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at noon; 6.) Discussed was the reopening of a portion of 538 Avenue (Platted Road #720) in Hill Township. Deputy County Attorney Jensen is drafting a purchase agreement, and the process will proceed.

Committee update was given by Supr. Pierce on the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging (NENAAA) Fiscal Year 2024 report. In fiscal year 2024, NENAAA provided services in Knox County with expenditures of \$162,683 and Knox County's assessment was \$6,906. Knox County provided 10,214 congregate and home-delivered meals and there were 830 total contacts of Care Management and the Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver Program in Knox County.

Officials' update was given by the following: 1.) Sheriff Henery informed the Board that the new pickup is here so the used pickup will be given to the Road Department. Also, he is still attempting to fill dispatcher/jailor positions; 2.) Deputy County Attorney Jensen updated the Board on a recent death of an infant that statutorily required an autopsy; 3.) Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek said Cuming County Emergency Manager Jeff McGill left that position. McGill was the Northeast District representative on the NRIN Board so with his exit there will now be an opening on the

NRIN Board; 4.) Supr. Mackeprang updated the Board on recent CPA classes that Deputy County Attorney Jensen and he have attended. One of the new implementations was the sales tax exemption on the purchase of diapers in Nebraska.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the November Permit Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) The December Planning Commission meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be January 14, 2025; 3.) Discussed the gWorks program; 4.) Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised public hearing at 10:45 a.m. for Conditional Use Permit Application #CU2402 Brenna Pahl for the upgrade from Family Home 1 Daycare to Family Home 2 Daycare with a max capacity of twelve children at 405 Bazile Washington ST, Creighton NE (Bazile Mills). Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 10:49 a.m. No one was present in opposition. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2024 – 37** approving Conditional Use Permit Application #CU2402 Brenna Pahl to upgrade from Family Home I Daycare to Family Home II Daycare located at Lot 6, Block 4 Acre Tract in Section 4, T29N, R5W, Village of Bazile Mills, contingent that Mrs. Pahl meet all requirements of the State of Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION #2024 – 37**

**WHEREAS**, Brenna Pahl has applied for Conditional Use Permit #CU2402 to upgrade from Family Home I Daycare to Family Home II Daycare on the following described real estate:

The property is located in Knox County at LOT 6, BLOCK 4 ACRE TRACT 4-29-5, VILLAGE OF BAZILE MILLS, CREIGHTON, NEBRASKA 68729.

**WHEREAS**, the Knox County Planning Commission has given public notice and held a public hearing on November 12, 2024, and December 11, 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, the Knox County Planning Commission has found that the application complies with the Knox County Zoning Regulations, and hereby makes a recommendation to approve the permit with the following conditions:

1. Applicant meets all requirements of the State of Nebraska.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** that the Brenna Pahl's Conditional Use Permit #CU2402 be approved.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024.

#### KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

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

Patrick J. Liska /s/  
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

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

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

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

ATTEST: (Seal)  
Joann M. Fischer /s/  
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

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

Cedar County Transit Manager Nikki Pinkelman met with the Board regarding a 2025 Purchase of Service Contract for transportation services between Cedar County and Knox County. Review was made of the Knox County Rider Statistics comparison between 2023 and 2024. The service is beneficial to Knox County residents who live thirty miles from Hartington. State and Federal governments do not dictate rates, so the trip rates are set by local boards. Medicaid pays for many trips and Manager Pinkelman collaborates with the people who qualify for the Medicaid-paid trips. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the Purchase of Service Contract for Transportation Services between Cedar County Transit and the Knox County Board of Supervisors for affordable transit service assistance from Cedar County Transit from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 with monthly costs to Knox County in the amount of \$2,500 to cover operating costs for public transit services to Knox County. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Liska to go into closed session at 11:21 a.m. on pending litigation namely the North Fork Wind, LLC, etal v Knox County, etal lawsuit. 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 pending litigation namely the North Fork Wind, LLC, etal v Knox County, etal lawsuit. The Board came out of closed session at 12:10 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Liska to close at 12:10 p.m. the closed session held on pending litigation namely the North Fork wind, LLC, etal v Knox County, etal lawsuit. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Supr. Liska left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 103,946.37; Antelope County Sheriff, house inmate, 1,350.00; Bloomfield Pharmacy, medication, 14.80; Blue360 media, law books, 195.30; Bomgaars, supplies, 66.43; Bonnie R Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Chad Vanness, mileage, 34.84; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 30.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,950.64; Connie J Janecek, prior service, 15.00; Cornhusker State Industries; award, 39.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 24,431.45; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Diane L Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Don Henery, mileage, 64.40; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/janitor supplies/paper, 881.90; Ecowater, bottled water, 273.00; Gary D Marshall, prior service, 12.00; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 626.68; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,613.72; Hampton Inn, lodging, 139.00; Hanna LK Jensen, mileage, 268.94; Jacquelyn E Meier, prior service, 21.00; James F Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Joann Fischer, reimburse title fees, 20.00; Julie Dather, mileage, 24.12; Julie K. Rayer, prior service, 12.00; Karen Riesberg, prior service, 21.00; Kristine Tramp, mileage, 34.84; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 144.98; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Megan Dufek, mileage, 16.08; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 17.42; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer program, 878.86; Moody Motor Company, truck, 48,900.00; NACO, dues, 450.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,940.35; Pitzer Digital,

publishing/subscription, 64.00; Pocket Press, law books, 259.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,098.09; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 230.70; Rebekah Poppe, mileage, 17.42; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,336.78; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 200.00; Sharla Hanzlik, mileage, 29.48; US Cellular, cell phones, 185.75; US Cellular, cell phones, 150.20; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 104.00; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 108.51; Vic's Service LLC, assessor tire, 169.99; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 468.00; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 37,955.26; Avera Medical Group, drug test, 50.00; B's Enterprises Inc., grader blades, 2,520.00; Bauer Built Inc., tire repair, 175.00; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 197.57; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 38.02; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 382.30; Bomgaars, repairs/oil filters/shop tools/snow fence, 1,683.65; CHS, gas/diesel, 894.60; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; Cmart, gas, 216.94; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,857.39; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 4,139.7580; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 10,497.68; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 12.22; Crofton Lumber, repairs, 14.97; Farmers Pride, propane/diesel/def/tote, 5,363.62; Great Plains Communications, phone, 201.40; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/filters, 3,837.55; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 550.00; J&K Auto, gas, 92.00; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 129.55; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 8,104.20; Lawson Products, repairs, 328.04; LCL Truck Equipment Inc., repairs, 4,587.07; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 56.62; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 272.50; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug/alcohol test, 75.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 49.28; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 300.01; Powerplan, repairs, 411.44; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 403.38; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters, 1,250.88; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,506.28; Riverside Hydraulics Inc., repairs, 667.80; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 130.00; Spencer Quarries Inc., red rock, 911.53; Sucha Repair, filters/oil/flood lights/weld rod, 1,032.29; US Cellular, cell phones, 543.24; Verdigre Farm Service, gas/diesel, 4,682.64; Vic's Service LLC, gas/tire repair, 575.06; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 44.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00; Walton Electronics, cable, 12.95; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 14,483.69.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 169.51; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 168.91; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00.

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

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

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 1,751.20; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 62.02; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.65.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman LLP, special county attorney, 2,132.00; Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,100.00; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 1,149.21; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.37.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.56; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

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

**TOTALS**

General Fund	\$205,626.89
Road Fund	113,381.92
Child Support Fund	419.42
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
County Wellness Fund	500.00
C & C Development Fund	1,874.87
Inheritance Fund	7,464.58
911 Emergency Fund	529.42
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,094.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$331,281.47</b>

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:11 p.m. on December 11, 2024 until Monday, December 23, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

The Knox County Employee Potluck Christmas dinner was held on December 11, 2024 at noon and Chairman Sokol, Jr. and Supervisors Borgmann, O'Connor, Pierce, and Schlote attended the lunch. No County business took place.

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:

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman