

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
February 5, 2025
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, February 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, Kevin G. Mlady District #2, David L. Pierce District #3, James Sokol, Jr. District #4, Danny R. Schlote District #6, and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was Supervisor Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

County Clerk Fischer 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 Creighton News 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 minutes of the January 22, January 27 and January 30, 2025 meetings. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the January 22, January 27 and January 30, 2025 meetings.

Correspondence reviewed was the following: 1.) Department of the Army Corps of Engineers invitation of a 2025 inter-agency meeting to be held on March 18, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center; 2.) Email response from State Senator Barry DeKay regarding EID rules and regulations.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:47 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce 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, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried. A full list of claims totaling \$296,728.92 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Clerk of District Court January 2025 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve adding Deputy County Clerk Denise Burman to the Knox County Clerk, Knox County Register of Deeds, and County of Knox checking accounts at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to acknowledge and place on file the resignation of Dowling Township Treasurer Scott Hauger, the reassignment of Jody McFarland from Dowling Township Chairman to Dowling Township Treasurer and the appointment of Robert Bengston as the Dowling Township Chairman. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:01 a.m. No one gave public comment.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:10 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Surety Bond of Dowling Township Treasurer Jody McFarland. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 06** authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Preliminary Engineering Services Supplemental Agreement No. 2 between Knox County and Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc. on NDOT Project #BRO-7054(22), Control #32313 Center West bridge project. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT
BK1942-002

KNOX COUNTY
Resolution No. 2025 – 06

Whereas: Knox County and Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc. have previously executed a Preliminary Engineering services agreement for a transportation project for which the Local Public Agency (LPA) would like to obtain Federal funds, and

Whereas: Knox County understands that it must continue to strictly follow all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines applicable to the funding of this Federal-aid project; and

Whereas: Knox County and Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc. wish to enter into a supplemental Preliminary Engineering services agreement, setting out modifications and/or additional duties and/or funding responsibilities for the Federal-aid project.

Be It Resolved: by the Board of Supervisors of Knox County, Nebraska that:

James Sokol, Chair of the Knox County Board of Supervisors, is hereby authorized to sign the attached Preliminary Engineering services Supplemental Agreement No. 2 between Knox County and Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc.

NDOT Project Number: BRO-7054(22)

NDOT Control Number: 32313

NDOT Project Description: Center West

Adopted this 5th day of February, 2025 at Center, Nebraska.

The Board of Supervisors of Knox County, Nebraska.

Kevin G. Mlady/s/
James Sokol, Jr. /s/

Danny Schlote/s/
James Borgmann /s/

Martin J. O'Connor /s/

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

Board/Council 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 County Clerk

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 2.) Road employee job evaluations will be held at 1:00 p.m. on February 19, 2025; 3.) Update on the Stop Sign grant; 4.) Road employees are cutting trees along County roadways; 5.) Oil Crew update. Patching has been done west of Verdigre. Employees are building sign trailers; 6.) A bridge investment program and possible projects were discussed; 7.) Discussed new sign regulations.

Veterans Service Officer Hanvey met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed the need for a volunteer driver to take a veteran to Sioux City for a clinic visit. VSO Hanvey is not able to drive the veteran so Joshua Key volunteered to drive the veteran to Sioux City. The Board had discussed the issue with former VSO Jones on March 9, 2023 and said the current Employee Handbook allows a volunteer to drive a County vehicle to transport a veteran to a medical visit. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve volunteer veteran Joshua Key to drive a County vehicle to transport a veteran to Sioux City for a medical appointment on February 14, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried; 2.) Discussed County Government Day. More consideration will be made in the future.

Sheriff Henery informed the Board that a person who is involved in a relationship with a full-time deputy applied for a dispatcher/jailor position. Concerns were discussed, past employees who were married teams working in the Sheriff's Office at the same time, the applicant would not be working in the same area as the deputy, the applicant has good working skills, Sheriff Henery's wanting transparency in the matter and the discretion of the hire would be Sheriff Henery's.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following; 1.) Update on upcoming trainings and events; 2.) E.M. Taylor presented information about Crisis Canines, the implementation of Crisis Response Therapy Dog teams, providing Peer Support and Animal Assisted Crisis Response within communities to support the mental health affected by, and responding to, crises and disasters with this work being noticed as one of the fastest growing therapy programs. Discussion was held on donations have been acknowledged including the donation of the crisis dog, budget and costs that would be covered by donations and matched donations, and the application process for the program. A Zoom presentation was given by Byron Jimmerson and Tammi Matshka. County Attorney Knox Jensen and the Board discussed the policy that is being reviewed. The Board gave E.M. Taylor permission to continue researching the project, funding, and the application process.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2501 Keith and Diana Eckmann on a boundary adjustment on a five-acre tract in the SE1/4SW1/4 of Section 14, T31N, R5W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2502 Lorene Kinnison, etal on a five-acre tract split in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 1, T29N, R8W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried; 3.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2503 Dan Ashburn for a lot split of Lot 1A, Replat of Lot 1, Riverview Estates, a subdivision located in Government Lot 1, Section 17, T33N, R7W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried; 4.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2504 Calvin Krupicka for a 5.02-acre tract split in the E1/2NW1/4 of Section 5, T31N, R6W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried; 5.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the January 2025 Permit Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of January 20 – 31, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 11:26 a.m. for review of County Burial Application #1-2025. 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 on review of County Burial Application #1-2025. The Board came out of closed session at 11:33 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 11:33 a.m. the closed session held on County Burial Application #1-2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Chairman Sokol, Jr. to approve County Burial Application #1-2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays District #2. Absent District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 11:35 a.m. for Courthouse security issues. 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 Courthouse security issues. The Board came out of closed session at 11:57 a.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 11:57 a.m. the closed session held on Courthouse security issues. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 11:57 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 12:18 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:18 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.

Legislative bills were discussed.

Committee update was given by Chairman Sokol, Jr. on the inspection of the roofs of the Courthouse and new addition.

Officials' update was given by Emergency Manager Taylor and County Clerk Fischer on a recent meeting they took part in with Jefferson Twp. Chairman Jim Kotrous, Logan Twp. Clerk Eugene Morrill and contractor Layne Pahl along via telephone NEMA staff regarding the 2019 disaster projects that are nearing completion.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 102,137.07; Brockhaus Funeral Home Inc., transport, 700.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 72.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,780.64; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,860.00; Crowne Plaza Kearney, lodging, 149.95; DAS State Accounting- Central Finance, radios, 194.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Des Moines Stamp Mfg. Co., stampers, 83.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/janitor supplies, 1,083.89; Ecowater, bottled water, 364.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/meals/postage, 4,254.79; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,616.76; Landmark Surveying, surveyor fees, 914.00; Legendary Graphics, spelling bee trophies, 156.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 142.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer program, 878.86; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,431.00; NACO, handbook, 100.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,576.84; Northeast Weed Management Area, dues, 100.00; Physician Laboratory Services Inc., autopsy costs, 411.00; Physicians Laboratory P.C., autopsy costs, 2,750.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 274.50; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,096.51; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 1,914.30; Reserve Account, meter postage, 10,000.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,224.84; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 120.00; Steven Banks, reimburse dues, 10.00; Superior Turf Management LLC, lawn contract, 1,125.75; University of Nebraska – Lincoln AEM Business Center, salary, 15,437.10; US Cellular, cell phones, 246.11; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 480.00; William J Blevins, reimburse gas, 33.64.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 36,271.28; American Textile Mills Inc., shop towels, 857.16; Bauer Built Inc., tire repair, 1,147.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 96.11; Bomgaars, repairs/oil /shop tools/shop supplies/tool box/spray, 2,375.83; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,802.01; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,290.00; First National Bank Omaha, laptop/meal/misc, 3,679.56; Freeman Oil Company, diesel, 891.90; Great Plains Communications, phone, 201.53; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/filters, 575.45; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 387.70; Husker C-Mart, gas, 220.46; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 336.59; Laflan Medical Clinic, drug test, 85.00; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 1,733.63; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 56.62; Medical Enterprises Inc, drug/alcohol test, 77.00; N&B Gas Company, propane, 2,750.70; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 363.87; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 519.01; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 9.98; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,465.76 ; Ronald Bourn, gravel/haul, 1,200.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 546.87; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Village of Wausa, water/sewer, 122.60.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 168.74; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 168.91.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,771.33; First National Bank Omaha, gas/postage, 38.63; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.97; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.98.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 992.79; Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,500.00; Copple Rockey Schlecht Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 297.96; Galyen, Boettcher, Baier, court appointed attorney, 1,150.06; Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC, court appointed attorney, 9,416.15; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

KENO FUND. City of Creighton, lottery proceeds, 746.15; First National Bank Omaha, AED/accessories, 2,079.99.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.63; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

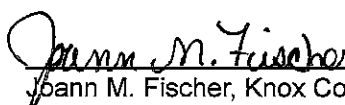
TOTALS

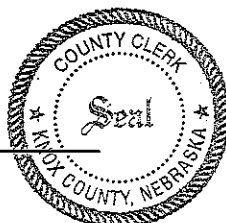
General Fund	\$200,296.65
Road Fund	73,641.90
Child Support Fund	337.65
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
C & C Development Fund	1,933.91
Inheritance Fund	16,440.29
Keno Fund	2,826.14
911 Emergency Fund	301.05
911 Wireless Service Fund	561.45
Total	\$296,728.92

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:28 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 until Wednesday, February 19, 2025 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, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman