

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
February 19, 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 19, 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, Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5 and Danny R. Schlote District #6. Absent was Supervisor James J. Borgmann District #7. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Supervisor Mackeprang 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 Crofton Journal 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 February 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the February 5, 2025 meeting.

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

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote that all claims except Claims #25020141 and #25020205, 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, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang that Claim #25020141 payable to Kevin Mlady in the amount of \$293.44, 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 and #6. Nays none. Abstain District #2. Absent District #7. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady that Claim #25020205 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning in the amount of \$3,690.00, 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 and #6. Nays none. Abstain District #5. Absent District #7. Motion carried.

Claims totaling \$399,411.60 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of February 3 – 14, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent District #7. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Sheriff's Report on Collection of Taxes from October 30, 2024 to February 7, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent District #7. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Knox County Treasurer's Report of Collections of Delinquent Personal Property Taxes FY 2023 & Prior. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent District #7. Motion carried.

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

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:13 a.m. with all members present. Supervisor James J. Borgmann District #7 arrived at 10:06 a.m. during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 07** announcing that Knox County did hold a Public Road Hearing on January 22, 2025 pursuant to Section 10 of LB 1302 and that the Knox County Board of Supervisors adopted the construction plans as compiled by Knox County Highway Superintendent, Kevin R. Barta. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 07

In pursuant with Section 10 of LB 1302, Knox County did hold its Public Road Hearing on January 22, 2025. Enclosed under separate cover is a One Year Map and Six Year Map with current project listings and future listings, also proof of publication. The Knox County Board of Supervisors wishes to adopt these construction plans as compiled by Knox County Highway Superintendent, Kevin R. Barta, at this time.

KNOX COUTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Kevin G. Mlady /s/
Kevin G. Mlady, District #2

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

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

Kevin D. 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

Passed and approved this 19th day of February, 2025.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 2.) A walk-in door in the old Assessor's shed needs to be replaced; 3.) Discussed County Yard pickups. A number of pickups have over 250,000 miles on them and several have safety concerns. Hwy. Supt. Barta checked the State bid for cost comparisons to replace a pickup and will research the matter further; 4.) A Creighton Yard motorgrader was taken to Norfolk for repairs; 5.) The Stop Sign program is nearing completion.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Planning Commission November 12, 2024 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on the Crisis K9 Therapy Unit program. A letter of support is needed for the grant application process. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to issue a letter of support from the Knox County Board of Supervisors for the Crisis K9 Therapy Unit program grant application process. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Knox County participates in the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Programs and is part of a twelve-county emergency management region. The Board is required to appoint a representative annually to this region. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to appoint Knox County Emergency Manager Austin Taylor as the Knox County representative to the Emergency Management Regional group known as the NORTHEAST REGION. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials gave legislative updates.

Committee updates were given by the following: 1.) Emergency Manager Taylor gave an update on the Safety Committee meeting held before the Board meeting; 2.) Chairman Sokol, Jr. gave an update on a Building and Grounds matter of a battery in the Sheriff's vault that needed to be fixed.

Officials' update was given by County Clerk Fischer regarding the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund grant. Delegation of funds needs to be discussed so required reporting can be done. Also, the new audit company staff were at the Courthouse the past week to do the annual audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024.

Extension Educator Hanefeldt presented the Knox County Extension programming and financial summaries for 2024. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the 2024 Knox County Extension programming and financial summaries report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session at 11:16 a.m. to discuss Courthouse Security issues. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on Courthouse Security issues. The Board came out of closed session at 11:35 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 11:35 a.m. the closed session held on Courthouse Security. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Supervisor Mackeprang left the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into closed session at 11:36 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 11:57 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 11:57 a.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. Mackeprang returned to the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with all members present.

The Board held Road employee job evaluations.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 104,076.20; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 4,986.29; Brockhaus Funeral Home Inc., county burial, 1,200.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,936.51; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,860.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 54.57; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 288.00; D&L Tire LLC, tires, 2,066.12; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 74.00; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 52.30; Doug DeShazer, meeting/mileage, 67.00; Eakes Office Solutions, tax receipt paper, 541.04; Elite Court Reporting, court reporting, 304.15; Grafix Shoppe, graphics, 407.91; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 754.82; Great Plains Communications, tower internet, 827.01; Greg D. Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 58.60; Hefner Hardware, timer, 16.99; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, repairs, 20.15; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 47.40; Keith Nielsen, meeting/mileage, 43.90; Kevin G. Mlady, mileage, 293.44; Knox County Register of Deeds, recording, 20.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 128,971.78; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 147.95; Midwest Special Services Inc., transport, 484.30; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 64.20; North Central Public Power District, tower power, 78.10; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 563.53; Powertech LLC, tower generator repair, 285.63; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,166.50; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 251.20; R&K Motor Parts, battery/oil/filter, 210.97; Rader Feed & Supply LLC, ice melt, 797.50; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,339.67; Robert D. Larsen, meeting/mileage, 37.60; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 40.40; The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, lodging, 110.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 710.45; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 762.67; Verdigre Printworks, envelopes/cards, 272.00; Vic's Service LLC, tire, 122.78; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 488.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 38,087.25; Art's Garbage, garbage, 20.00; Avera Medical Group Hartington, drug test, 50.00; B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 288.00; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 32.74; Bloomfield Auto Parts, oil/filter/repairs, 113.77; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas/propane, 509.09; Carhart Lumber Company, shop supplies, 198.52; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 336.59; CHS, diesel/propane, 1,791.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,861.72; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 567.57; County of Kox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,290.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 422.66; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 44.55; Farmers Pride, diesel, 1,303.00; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 2,410.80; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 262.28; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 3,187.25; Kaiser Appliance & Refrigeration, repairs, 156.46; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 581.00; Linn Post & Pipe Inc., repairs, 253.30; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 56.62; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 343.08; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 36.00; Nuss Truck & Equipment, repairs, 211.32; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 9.35; Powerplan, repairs, 2,654.27; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters/supplies, 3,297.05; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,514.13; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Schaefer Grain & Feed Co., road salt, 4,609.50; Steffen's Service Station, gas, 449.02; Sucha Repair, repairs/filters, 136.53; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 9.77; Verdigre Farm Service, gas/diesel, 2,806.58; Vic's Service LLC, gas/tires, 935.04; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Creative Revolution, QR code, 25.00; Knox County Ag Society, promo grant, 1,500.00; Southeast South Dakota Tourism Assn, advertising, 75.00; Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, visitors guide, 465.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,814.91; Legendary Graphics LLC, plaque, 17.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 468.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 336.70; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 3,690.00; Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, court appointed attorney, 3,471.76.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 44.74; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Platte valley Communications, recorder audio, 605.00.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 104.38; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04.

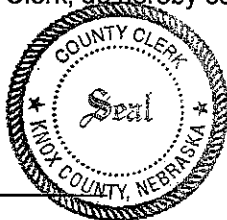
TOTALS

General Fund	301,373.63
Road Fund	84,578.00
Child Support Fund	81.00
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,065.00
C & C Development Fund	2,299.91
Inheritance Fund	7,498.46
911 Emergency Fund	878.18
911 Wireless Service Fund	637.42
Total	\$399,411.60

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:40 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 until Wednesday, March 5, 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
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

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