

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

County Attorney Knox Jensen 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 February 19, 2025 meeting. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the February 19, 2025 meeting.

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

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Dept. of Environment and Energy letter on Mark Miller Livestock Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation NPDES General Permit for Operations Confining Cattle.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang 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, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$259,662.78 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Clerk of the District Court February 2025 Fee Report. 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. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of February 17 – 28, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried.

Supr. Borgmann arrived at 9:58 a.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 9:59 a.m. There was no public comment given.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess for Board of Equalization at 10:00 a.m.

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

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The gravel bid opening will be held on March 19, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.; 2.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 08** authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Certificate of Completion between the Nebraska Department of Transportation and Knox County on the agreement "Statewide Upgrading Existing STOP Sign Locations of Rural Roads" Program. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

**COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION
 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION – STATEWIDE UPGRADING EXISTING STOP SIGN
 LOCATIONS OF RURAL ROADS**

Knox County
Resolution No. 2025 – 08

Whereas: Knox County and State entered into an agreement "Statewide Upgrading Existing STOP Sign Locations of Rural Roads" (Program Agreement) for installation of STOP and/or STOP Ahead signing devices on county roads (the Project). Agreement Number BM2327 executed on October 2, 2023, and the purchase and installation of STOP and STOP Ahead sign devices. The project purchased the signs, and it is responsibility of the County to install all devices.

Whereas: the Knox County Highway Superintendent has informed the Board that the Project has been completed by the County in accordance with the terms of the Program Agreement.

Whereas: the Program Agreement requires that the County Board certify to State that the Project has been property completed.

Be It Resolved: by the Board of Knox County:

- (1) Installation of STOP and STOP Ahead signing has been completed by the County in accordance with the terms of the Program Agreement.

County Board, Chair is hereby authorized to sign the attached Certificate of Completion between the Nebraska Department of Transportation and the County.

NDOT Project Number: HSIP-STWD(203)

NDOT Control Number: 01063

NDOT Project Description: Statewide Upgrading Existing STOP Sign Locations of Rural Roads

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

The County Board of Knox County

Kevin G. Mlady /s/

James Borgmann /s/

James Sokol, Jr. /s/

David L. Pierce /s/

Martin J. O'Connor /s/

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/

Danny R. Schlote /s/

Board/Council Member Supr. Mackeprang
 Moved the adoption of said resolution
 Member Supr. Pierce Seconded the motion
 Roll Call: 7 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 0 Absent

Attest: (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
Signature of County Clerk

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 3.) Discussion ensued on pickup bids and quotes, new vs. used, state bids and local bids. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to authorize Highway Superintendent Kevin Barta to purchase a pickup with a maximum cost of \$39,500. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 5.) Topkote in Yankton is closing and the owner is selling equipment privately. There are three used oiling rollers for sale and the Board reviewed pictures and information on the rollers, noting that purchasing one would be to replace the old roller in use since the 1970s. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to purchase a used road roller from Topkote of Yankton SD in the amount of \$30,000. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 6.) Reviewed were pictures and information on a truck chassis and utility box to replace the Mechanic's truck. The cost would be approximately \$175,000; 7.) Discussed renting an excavator with mulcher from Jeff Vakoc for trimming trees in County road ditches at a cost of \$300 per hour; 8.) Discussion was held on crack sealing on the Bloomfield South oil road; 9.) Discussed possible bridge projects; 10.) A complaint was received about the Ash Fall intersection. Options to lower the visibility dangers were discussed; 11.) A lot owner adjoining the Center County Yard requested access via the County's driveway as they propose to build a house. County Attorney Knox Jensen said that more information is needed and no action was taken.

Angie O'Connor with Avera met with the Board to discuss the annual on-site wellness program and the 2025 Services Proposal. The basic price will be \$116 per participant this year. Discussion was held on past results and optional testing. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve a 2025 On-site Wellness Health Screening of \$116 per participant for full-time Knox County employees as well as spouses who are enrolled in the 90 Degree Benefits health insurance; to allow a \$75 credit per participant towards additional laboratory testing; that those employees participating shall complete a Wellness Questionnaire through the LiveNOW Portal and if the employees and enrolled spouses do not, they are not eligible to participate; that participating members shall meet with Avera staff in a Health Coaching session to review each participant's results of the Wellness Health Screening; to approve reimbursement to those eligible employees and their spouses who are enrolled in the County's health insurance benefit through 90 Degree Benefits/HealthCare Solutions Group and participate in the onsite Wellness Health Screening and complete all of the requirements for the screening with the reimbursement to be up to \$250 of 2025 deductibles paid between \$250 and \$500. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Abstain District #1. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on training, meetings, Crisis K-9 Therapy Unit and LEOP; 2.) E.M. Taylor discussed with the Board the purchase of a handheld radio for his use that would allow him to communicate with the Sheriff's Office. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to authorize the purchase of a handheld radio to be purchased using the LATCF grant funds. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session at 11:53 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. Zoning Administrator Jelinek was present during the closed session via telephone. 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 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.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve a Special Designated License Application for Lindy Bar & Grill for a special event on April 5, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #2. Motion carried.

County Clerk Fischer discussed with the Board the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund grant. Knox County received \$100,000 through two grant payments and during a discussion after the grant award, it was suggested that the cost of the Flock Safety license plate reader program setup and annual recurring fees be paid from the grant, however, the costs were paid in December 2024 from the Sheriff's function within the General Fund. County Clerk Fischer recommended a journal entry be made crediting the Sheriff's function \$9,450 and transferring the initial Flock Group, Inc. set-up cost of \$9,450 to the Grants function, all within the General Fund. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to authorize County Clerk Joann Fischer to make a journal entry transferring the initial Flock Group, Inc. set-up cost of \$9,450 from the Sheriff's function to the Grants function, all within the General Fund, noting the cost will be paid from the LATCF grant funds received in 2022 and 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 12:06 p.m. so as to protect the reputation of individuals when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as to protect the reputation of individuals when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 12:30 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:30 p.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Legislative bills were discussed.

Officials' update was given by the following: 1.) Presented was the Knox County Sheriff's Office 2024 Year End News Report.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 12:45 p.m. to discuss Courthouse security. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on Courthouse security. The Board came out of closed session 1:30 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 1:30 p.m. the closed session held on Courthouse security. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 104,525.44; Amber Jansen, mileage, 14.00; Applied Connective Technologies, IT/camera battery/Isonas, 657.52; Bomgaars Supply Inc., ladder, 98.98; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Brockhaus Funeral Home Inc., transport, 450.00; Cassie Stark, decal application, 100.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00;

Chad Vanness, mileage, 37.80; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 36.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,974.59; Connie J Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,860.00; DAS State Accounting- Central Finance, radios, 194.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Dollar General, jail supplies, 81.75; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/meals/postage, 5,080.26; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Co., janitorial supplies, 639.39; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,613.93; Jacquelyn E. Meier, prior service, 21.00; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Julie Dather, mileage, 6.30; Justin Avery, mileage, 22.40; Karen Riesberg, prior service, 21.00; Knox County Court, court costs, 257.00; Knox County Sheriff, warrant fees, 140.48; KV Electric LLC, light repair, 102.62; Landmark Surveying, surveyor fees, 247.00; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Legendary Graphics, shirts, 206.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 147.96; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer program, 878.86; Missouri Sedimentation Action, membership, 1,000.00; Monica J. McManigal, prior service, 55.00; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,632.00; NACEB, dues, 100.00; NACO, registrations, 270.00; Nebraska Weed Control Association, registration, 150.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,518.59; NPZA, registration, 235.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 406.65; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,166.50; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 653.06; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 453.71; Rebekah Poppe, mileage, 11.90; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,330.91; Sharla Hanzlik, mileage, 22.40; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 39,039.96; B's Enterprises Inc., signs/misc, 3,726.00; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, ; 62.98; Bomgaars, repairs/tordon/shop tools, 1,697.74; Burns Lumber Company, building materials, 914.00; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,934.56; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,290.00; Diesel Machinery Inc., repairs, 2,155.59; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies, 134.67; Great Plains Communications, phone, 201.53; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 3,103.74; Husker C-Mart, gas, 318.29; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 56.62; N&B Gas Company, propane, 3,742.17; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 423.52; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 471.55; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,578.40; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Des Moines Stamp Mfg. Co., stampers, 323.00; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 167.99; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 168.91.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, rack cards, 955.00.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,770.90; Ajai Ammachathram, reimburse rental car, 94.81; First National Bank Omaha, gas/ leadership meals, 843.26; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.64; Whitetail River Lodge, lodging, 103.35.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,500.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 28.10.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, giveaways, 765.50; 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

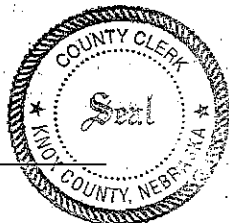
General Fund	\$174,205.10
Road Fund	74,339.51
Child Support Fund	659.90
Visitor's Promo Fund	955.00
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	389.88
C & C Development Fund	2,873.96
Inheritance Fund	4,583.33
Keno Fund	28.10
911 Emergency Fund	1,066.55
911 Wireless Service Fund	561.45
Total	\$259,662.78

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 until Wednesday, March 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
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

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