

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
April 30, 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, April 30, 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, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was none. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. 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 and Crofton Journal newspapers, as shown by the Affidavits 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 April 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting.

Correspondence reviewed was a letter from the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District thanking Knox County for continued support of regional economic development efforts in Northeast Nebraska.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:50 a.m. Herrick Township Board Chairman Roger Palu discussed the minimum maintenance road that will be shared between Cedar Ridge (Travis Barney) and the proposed subdivision of Heaven Ridge. There was an agreement between Herrick Township and Mr. Barney where the Cedar Ridge Homeowners' Association would maintain the road, the agreement stays in place, this will be a matter between the two subdivisions as to maintenance, and Herrick Township will not be maintaining the road.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:04 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce that all claims except Claim #25040297, 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. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady that Claim #25040297 payable to Elder Law Estate Planning in the amount of \$4,504.50 paid from the Inheritance Fund, 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 \$422,903.57 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:05 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:14 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed were Bloomfield North oil road complaints of speeding, sharp drop offs, shouldering, loud trucks, accessing the highway from driveways, and dirt piles at the intersection of the Bloomfield North oil road and Highway 12; 2.) Discussion was held on removing the concrete bridge on 534 Avenue north of Highway 12 ("Allen Leader" bridge) from the 9-Bridge Package Application submitted to the Federal Government by the BIA/Santee Tribe for replacement and that the bridge built during the WPA days be replaced by the County with a culvert and full headwalls. The current bridge only drains 325 acres and a culvert will work in that area. The replacement with a culvert may have a lower project cost and would be done sooner as the BIA/Santee Tribe are still waiting for funds. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to remove Project Name 0000A13382B1211, ID #A13B1211 ("Allen Leader" bridge) from the TTP Bridge Program Certification Checklist submitted by the Santee Sioux Nation and the bridge to be replaced by the County Bridge crew with a culvert and headwalls. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) The Board reviewed a quote from Murphy Tractor in Sioux City, Iowa for a used 2022 John Deere 210G excavator in the amount of \$219,000. Discussion ensued on equipment rent paid in the past years and future commitments such as a motorgrader, a mechanic's truck and a shed. No action was taken; 3.) Bridge crew update; 4.) Discussed Old 108 Grant Process, overlay and milling, Knox County's share would be approximately \$3.37 million, the preliminary engineering would be paid by the Nebraska Department of Transportation, the grant process may take up to six years, and whether an application for engineering should be submitted. The Board said to proceed with the application as there is no cost for the application process; 5.) County Attorney Knox Jensen informed the Board that Randy Koch with R & B Husker Valley, LLC signed the Agreement – Sale of Real Estate for the reopening of a one-half mile portion of 893 RD (Platted Road #719) being a 66-foot wide (approximately four acres) right of way located between the NW1/4 of Section 11 and the SW1/4 of Section 2, all in T32N, R4W. Discussed was the process to pay R & B Husker Valley, LLC for the one-half mile 66-foot wide right of way, preparation of a deed from R & B Husker Valley, LLC to the County of Knox, working with Santee Sioux Nation, and the one-half mile 66-foot wide right of way would continue to be a County road with the Santee Sioux Nation agreeing to maintain the right-of-way and reimburse one-half of the cost for purchasing the right-of-way.

Economic Development Director Stacy Miller informed the Board that she had talked to Auditor Jill Clay about establishing a petty cash bank account as many event companies require registration fees be deposited into an account that later are paid to the event companies. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 12** establishing a petty cash bank account at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Center Branch in the amount of \$100 for the registration fees to be paid into for the events under the direction of event companies and under the co-hosting with the Economic Development/Visit Knox County Director. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 12

WHEREAS §23-106(2) Nebraska Revised Statute authorizes the County Board to establish a petty cash fund and set the amount of money to be carried in such fund; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Director/Visit Knox County Director schedules and holds events that require registration fees by the groups and companies hosting the events, and

WHEREAS, many of the event companies also require the registration fees be deposited into an account that later are paid to the event companies, and

WHEREAS, Knox County's contracted auditor, Regier Carr & Monroe, LLP has recommended a petty cash checking account be created for such registration fees, and

WHEREAS, many of the Knox County accounts are at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Center Branch, and

WHEREAS, Economic Development Director/Visit Knox County Director requests establishment of a petty cash fund in the amount of \$100 for the purpose of having an account for participants of scheduled events by companies requiring an account for the registration fees to be paid to for the event and under the co-hosting with the Economic Development/Visit Knox County Director, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a petty cash checking account will be established at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Center Branch in the amount of \$100 for the registration fees to be paid into for the events under the direction of event companies and under the co-hosting with the Economic Development/Visit Knox County Director/Visit Knox County Director, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the petty cash checking account is being established under the recommendation to the Economic Development/Visit Knox County Director by the Knox County's contracted auditor, Regier Carr & Monroe, LLP.

Dated this 30th day of April 2025.

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

Kevin G. Mlady /s/
Kevin G. Mlady, 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

A Zoom meeting was held with Auditor Jill Clay with Regier Carr & Monroe, LLP to review the Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statement for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Discussion was held on responsibility of management, creation of a master list of accounts and grants, best practices and that Knox County complied with all material respects during the period ending June 30, 2024. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Knox County, Nebraska Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statement June 30, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Justin Niewohner with Applied Connective Technology met with the Board to address the Board's request to install a separate surveillance camera and server in the Boardroom so there is limited access. Mr. Niewohner said it is something that can be done and another technician that is more experienced with the equipment can make the installation.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Receipts Revenue list of April 14 – 25, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Legislative and Committee updates were given.

Officials' updates were as follows: 1.) County Attorney Knox Jensen had been asked by the Board about Board appointed advisory committees and whether those committees were subject to the Open Meeting Act to which County Attorney Knox Jensen clarified that those committees comprised of only Board members are subcommittees which are not public bodies under the Open Meetings Act, unless specific conditions apply, however, the advisory committees comprised of Board members and other officials/department heads or employees are public bodies and must comply with the Open Meeting Act which includes publishing a public notice and taking minutes of the committee meeting; 2.) Emergency Manager Taylor gave an update on visits he has made to area schools where discussion was held on the issue that there are no regulations on video games.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 12:10 p.m. for lunch.

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

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 13** approving the Knox County Clerk's predesignated list of potential Grievance Board members. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 13

WHEREAS, the Knox County Employee Handbook adopted on August 1, 2023, with revisions on March 6, 2024, sets forth certain protocols for which the formation of a Grievance Board may become necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Employee Handbook states that the County Clerk shall create the predesignated list of potential Grievance Board members; and

WHEREAS, the Grievance Board members may be called to serve in the event that a matter or matters arise prompting the need for a Grievance Board; and

THEREFORE, the County Clerk has created the following predesignated list of potential Grievance Board members for Knox County:

Steven Banks
Kevin Barta
Christa Beckmann
James Borgmann
Lori Ebel
Joann Fischer
Matthew Fischer
Kelly Harvey
Don Henery
Kelsy Jelinek
Kevin Mackeprang
Kevin Mlady
Martin O'Connor
David Pierce
Dan Schlote
Michael Skroch
James Sokol, Jr.
Austin Taylor

Adopted at Center, Nebraska, this 30th day of April, 2025.

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

Kevin G. Mlady /s/
Kevin G. Mlady, 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

The review of Employee Handbook revisions recommended by the Employee Handbook Committee was tabled as per direction of County Attorney Knox Jensen. The Employee Handbook Committee will meet again after publishing a meeting notice and then bring the revisions to the Board at the May 28, 2025 meeting.

Emergency Manager Taylor updated the Board on the following: 1.) Update on the Crisis K9 project; 2.) The truck and command trailer will be picked up at West Point.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 1:14 p.m. so as not to cause injury to reputations of individuals while 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 not cause injury to reputations of individuals while discussing personnel. Present during various times of the closed session were County Clerk Fischer, Senior Office Manager Surface, County Assessor Beckmann, Emergency Manager Taylor and Zoning Administrator Jelinek. The Board came out of closed session at 2:10 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close the closed session held on personnel at 2:10 p.m. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into closed session at 2:10 p.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 the closed session at 2:47 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 2:47 p.m. the closed session held on Courthouse security issues. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into closed session at 2:47 p.m. on pending litigation namely the North Fork Wind, LLC, v Knox County, etal lawsuit. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on pending litigation namely the North Fork Wind, LLC, v Knox County, etal lawsuit. Motion carried. Zoning Administrator Jelinek was present during the closed session. The Board came out of closed session at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 3:00 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.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 104,909.05; Amber Jansen, mileage, 37.80; Applied Connective Technologies, computers, 1,888.00; Blue 360 Media, law books, 195.30; Carrot-Top Industries Inc., flags, 189.96; Chad Vanness, mileage, 36.40; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 38.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,161.80; Crystal Soucek, meals, 22.24; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 194.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 316.46; ESRI Inc., GIS, 460.00; Farm & Home Publishers LTD., plat books, 270.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/postage/supplies/meals, 6,627.31; Julie Dather, mileage, 25.20; Kelsy Jelinek, mileage, 23.52; Kirby Hofer, reimburse building permit fees, 120.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 128,971.78; Landmark Surveying LLC, survey fees, 766.00; NACO, registrations, 400.00; NIRMA, CPR/AED training, 513.00; NENEDD, dues, 925.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 463.52; Rebekah Poppe, mileage, 18.20; Reserve Account, meter postage, 1,769.04; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,349.70; Sanne Guns & Ammo/Repair, install lights etc., 6,725.00; Sharla Hanzlik, mileage,

30.80; The Barn at God's Country, rental, 200.00; University of Nebraska, salary, 17,494.25; Verdigre Printworks, notary stamp, 42.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 504.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 38,842.03; B's Enterprises inc., signs/patch, 4,952.50; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 137.66; Bomgaars Supply Inc., repairs/shop supplies/seed, 1,810.18; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 240.17; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,971.43; First National Bank Omaha, supplies/repairs, 1,000.09; Inland Truck Parts & Service, repairs, 1,061.35; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 2,245.25; Kevin R Barta, reimburse title fee, 15.00; Laflan Medical Clinic, drug test, 255.00; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 108.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 178.75; People's grocery, shop supplies, 4.99; Pro-Crane Service LLC, equipment rental, 5,885.25; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,565.07; Roger Lemke, clay, 900.00; Steffen's Service Station, gas, 322.80; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 26,238.59.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Commercial Hotel, lodging, 80.00; First national Bank Omaha, promo, 181.34; Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association, registration, 50.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,751.20; Amy Pavlik, meals, 522.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/lodging/registration/food, 858.92; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 160.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman LLP, special county attorney, 497.27; Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 572.50; Bloomfield Public Library, annual cost sharing, 5,000.00; Copple Rockey Schlecht Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 234.00; Creighton Public Library, annual cost sharing, 5,000.00; Eastern Township Library, annual cost sharing, 5,000.00; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland, court appointed attorney, 693.50; Elder Law & Estate Planning, special county attorney, 4,504.50; Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC, court appointed attorney, 317.30; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 2,522.00; Lincoln Township Library, annual cost sharing, 5,000.00; Niobrara Public Library, annual cost sharing, 5,000.00; Verdigre Public Library, annual cost sharing, 5,000.00.

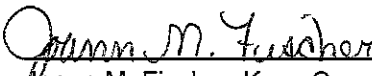
TOTALS

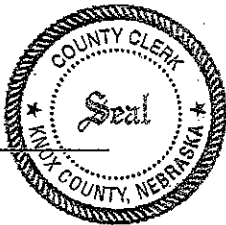
General Fund	290,224.93
Road Fund	89,734.11
Visitor's Promo Fund	311.34
C & C Development Fund	3,292.12
Inheritance Fund	39,341.07
Total	\$422,903.57

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, until Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

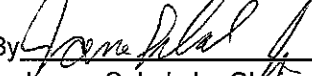
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman