

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
May 28, 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, May 28, 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.

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 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 May 14, 2025 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:55 a.m.

Correspondence reviewed was a copy of a letter from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy regarding Mark Miller/Epic Land and Cattle, LLC - Herzog Feedlot Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation issued permit/modification and renewal of NPDES general permit coverage.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that all claims except Claim #25050218, 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. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote that Claim #25050218 payable to Elder Law Estate Planning in the amount of \$976.50 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.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:06 a.m. No public comments were given.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:06 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:13 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on tractor rentals. Currently the County rents three tractors with two tractors being used to pull road drags and the third tractor is used on the Oil Crew. More discussion will be held this fall; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) Discussed road conditions after the recent rainfall; 5.) A constituent inquired about purchasing a parcel of real estate that the County owns southwest of Verdigre. Also discussed were other parcels the County owns that may be considered for sale. County Attorney Knox Jensen will research the procedure for selling surplus real estate owned by the County; 6.) Sales Representative Ken Beaudette with Murphy Tractor in Sioux City, Iowa and the Board discussed a County motorgrader that had been trucked to Sioux City for repairs and when the motorgrader was brought back, it was noticed by the operator that both front tires had deep cuts on the inside of the tires. It is unclear when the cuts happened or who was responsible. New front tires were put on the machine due to concern they would blow out. Sales Representative Beaudette said Murphy Tractor would work with the County as they are not sure how or when the cuts happened. The Board said the matter could be worked out between Sales Representative Beaudette and Hwy. Supt. Barta.

Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface met with the Board to review the revisions to the Employee Handbook and the Personnel System as recommended by the Employee Handbook and Personnel System Review Committee. Discussion ensued on proposed revisions to funeral leave and inclement weather/emergency closings of the Courthouse, suggestion to eliminate funeral leave and inclement weather/emergency closing paid time and replace with additional PTO, and policies of private businesses for funeral leave. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 18** for the adoption of the additions and revisions to the Knox County Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook as recommended by the Employee Handbook and Personnel System Review Committee. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5 and #7. Nays Districts #2 and #6. Motion carried.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

JOINT RESOLUTION AND)
AGREEMENT FOR REVISIONS TO)
THE KNOX COUNTY PERSONNEL)
SYSTEM AND JOINT EMPLOYEE)
HANDBOOK)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 18

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2010, Resolution No. 2010-18, Knox County, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials, and department heads adopted a Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook which provided employee practices and policies common to all offices and departments; and,

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2012, Resolution No. 2012-19, Knox County, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials, and department heads adopted additions and changes to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook; and,

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2014, Resolution No. 2014-27, Knox County, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials and department heads adopted additions and changes to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook; and,

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2019, Resolution No. 2014-27, Knox County Board of Supervisors appointed an Employee Handbook Review Committee consisting of three elected officials and two employees to review updates and recommend changes to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook; and,

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2019, Resolution No. 2019-34, Knox County, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials and department heads adopted additions and changes to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook; and,

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2022, Resolution No. 2022-16, Knox County, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials and department heads adopted additions and changes to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook; and,

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2023, Resolution No. 2023-11, Knox County, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials and department heads adopted additions and changes to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook to be effective August 1, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2024, the Board of Supervisors accepted the Employee Handbook and Personnel System Review Committee's recommended revisions to the Employee Handbook; and,

WHEREAS, Knox County, the Employee Handbook and Personnel System Review Committee, the Board of Supervisors, the elected officials, and the department heads have worked through some additional issues and revisions to the Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors adopt these additions and revisions to the Knox County Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook.

SEE ATTACHED FOR FULL DETAILS OF ADDITONS AND REVISIONS.

All elected officials, the Highway Superintendent and the Extension Educator will be furnished with copies of the revised pages for the Knox County Personnel System and Joint Employee Handbook.

All other department heads and employees will be furnished with copies of the revised Knox County Employee Handbook.

Dated May 28, 2025, at the Knox County Courthouse, Center, Knox County, Nebraska.

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/ - voted no
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/ - voted no
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

ATTEST: (Seal)

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

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

County Sheriff Henery met with the Board on the following: 1.) Dispatcher Kendra Holtz recently took a position in the County Assessor's Office and her name needs to be removed from the Sheriff Office bank accounts at the Farmers & Merchants State Bank – Center Branch. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to remove former dispatcher Kendra Holtz's name from the Sheriff Office bank accounts at the Farmers & Merchants State Bank – Center Branch as Mrs. Holtz is now working in the County Assessor's Office and to add Sheriff Office Administrative Assistant Justine Wagner to those accounts for the Sheriff's Office. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Deputy Will Blevins resigned from his position as full-time deputy and reclassified as part-time deputy; 3.) Discussed upcoming scheduled jury trials.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of May 12 – May 23, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the 2025 Committees and Appointments and reorganizing advisory committees to subcommittees. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to reorganize the following advisory committees to subcommittees: **Catastrophic Leave Committee** members to be Chairman Sokol, Jr. and Supervisors Mackeprang and O'Connor; **County Machinery Care Committee** members to be Supervisors O'Connor, Mlady and Pierce; **Financing, Banking and Insurance Committee** members to be Supervisors O'Connor, Borgmann and Pierce; **Road and Bridge Committee** members to be Chairman Sokol, Jr. and Supervisors Mlady and Pierce; **American with Disabilities Committee** members to be Supervisors Mackeprang, Mlady and Pierce; and **911 Emergency Service Board** members to be Chairman Sokol, Jr. and Supervisors Borgmann and Pierce; and to add to the 2025 Committees and Appointments County Clerk Fischer as the **Americans with Disabilities Coordinator**. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

County Clerk Fischer presented information on a quote and services from Jill Clay with Regier Carr and Monroe, LLP on preparing the Knox County 2025/2026 budget. Regier Carr and Monroe, LLP have conducted the County's audit for Fiscal Year 2024 so they have the County's fiscal information and with the new restrictions and regulations along with possible changes in the Inheritance Tax, County Clerk Fischer requested the Board to consider the firm to prepare the new budget and future perspectives. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to contract with Regier Carr and Monroe, LLP of Wichita KS for the preparation of the Knox County 2025/2026 budget with a fee range of \$5,500 to \$8,500 with the estimated hours of twenty-eight to forty-two hours depending on the planning, preliminary numbers, balance and preparing analysis reports. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Legislative updates were given.

Committee update was given by Chairman Sokol, Jr. who said the sealed bid opening for the sale of the surplus 2006 Chrysler Town and Country Touring van will be held at the June 11, 2025 meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Officials' updates were given as follows: 1.) County Clerk Fischer handed out information packets to the Board on the upcoming Avera Onsite Wellness on June 18, 2025. Also, Fischer was searching on this date for a grant application to apply for a scrap tire grant in 2026 on the DEE website where she found that Knox County was included on the 2025 tire collections in Cedar County and Pierce County which was not known until now. Knox County residents can take scrap tires to the Hartington Recycling Center in Hartington for the Cedar Tire Collection on June 11 and 12, 2025 and to the Pierce Tire Collection at the Pierce County District 3 Shop in Pierce on July 8, 2025; 2.) Emergency Manager Taylor updated the Board on recent events, the new radio received, continued work on the NEMA/FEMA 2019 flood disaster recovery in Logan and Jefferson Townships, researching 911 address signs, and a reimbursement for helping at the Plum Creek wildfire in western Nebraska last month.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 11:44 a.m. so as to protect the reputation of an individual 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 an individual when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 12:05 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 12:05 p.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor 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 12:24 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 12:24 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 12:25 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 12:26 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. The Board came out of closed session at 12:43 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:43 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, 104,074.41; Amber Jansen, mileage, 37.80; Applied Connective Technologies, update phones, 75.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc, supplies/grounds repair, 370.21; Chad Vanness, mileage, 72.80; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,945.86; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,425.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios/backup, 666.00; Elite Court Reporting Service Inc., court costs, 166.85; Farm & Home Publishers LTD., plat books, 405.00; Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Emergency Manager petty cash, 50.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/postage/supplies/meals, 4,719.87; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply Co., supplies, 602.07; Julie Dather, mileage, 25.20; Justice Data Solutions Inc., software subscription, 3,200.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 128,971.78; K/V Electric LLC, repair light, 102.62; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 144.97; Megan Dufek, mileage, 16.80; Northeast Nebraska County Assessor Association, dues, 25.00; Northeast Community College, CPR training, 120.00; Physicians Laboratory P.C., autopsy, 2,750.00; Postmaster, postage, 1,915.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,143.17; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 1,118.67; Rebekah Poppe, mileage, 18.20; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,282.16; Security Shredding, shredding, 40.00; The Barn at God's Country, rental, 300.00; Tri State Turf & irrigation, sprinkler repair, 225.00; U-Save Pharmacy, meds, 111.04; US Cellular, cell phones, 233.39; Verdigre Printworks, SID envelopes, 500.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 750.80.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 37,327.80; B's Enterprises Inc., culverts/signs/patch, 29,585.00; Bloomfield Auto Parts, shop supplies, 20.15; Bomgaars Supply Inc., repairs/shop supplies/spray/shop tools, 1,267.44; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 232.72; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,803.63; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 3,293.18; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,290.00; Crane Sales & Service, repairs, 2,288.55; Freeman Oil Co. LLC, diesel, 2,137.23; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 4,085.20; Inland Truck Parts & Service, repairs, 1,634.38; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 56.62; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 228.00; Nebraska Association of County Engineers, Highway Superintendents and Surveyors, dues/registration, 160.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 144.68; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,462.84; Riverside Hydraulics Inc., repairs, 304.14; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 712.34; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 47,628.60; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 21,042.37; Yankton Fire & Safety Co. Inc., fire extinguisher inspection, 64.50.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, promo, 400.97.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,751.20; Farmers & Merchants State Bank, petty cash, 100.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/promo, 84.02; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 39.65; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.99.

INHERITANCE FUND. Copple Rockey Schlecht Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 311.50; Elder Law & Estate Planning, special county attorney, 976.50; R&B Husker Valley LLC, right of way, 24,400.00.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 13.86.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 5,048.75; First National Bank Omaha, training, 358.80.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. First National Bank Omaha, training, 837.20.

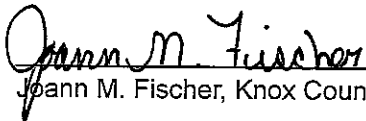
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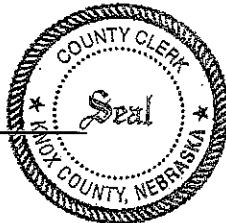
General Fund	\$301,604.67
Road Fund	170,383.31
Visitor's Promo Fund	400.97
C & C Development Fund	2,036.86
Inheritance Fund	25,688.00
Keno Fund	13.86
911 Emergency Fund	5,407.55
911 Wireless Service Fund	837.20
Total	\$506,372.42

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:43 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, until Wednesday, June 11, 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.

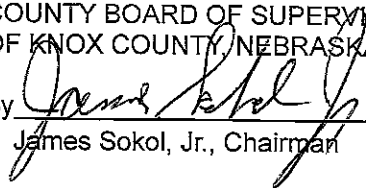
ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By


James Sokol, Jr., Chairman