

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
June 25, 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, June 25, 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. Pierce 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 June 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting as read.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Notice of public hearings to be held on June 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Verdigre Village Clerk's Office regarding a blight study and a general redevelopment plan on a proposed redevelopment Area 2.

The public comment session was opened at 9:45 a.m. Public comments were given by Katina Burkhardt regarding a research paper she is preparing and by Veterans Service Officer Hanvey on a proposed emergency distribution increase.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady that all claims, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee except for Claim #25060192 to Elder Law and Estate Planning, be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that Claim #25060192 payable to Elder Law & Estate Planning in the amount of \$21,698.68 written from the Inheritance Fund, 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 \$862,774.15 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of June 9 – 20, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:03 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:21 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on fracture critical bridge inspections. Currently there are twenty-one fracture critical bridges in Knox County that is forty-one less than in the past. Quotes received for conducting the inspections were: Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc., Lincoln NE - \$21,360.00; and Midwest Engineering, Inc., Lincoln NE - \$22,975.00. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to accept the bid from Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc., Lincoln NE in the amount of \$21,360.00 for inspection in 2025 of twenty-one fracture critical structures in Knox County. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to adopt Resolution #2025 – 20 authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the resolution and submitting it to the State signifying the County's final acceptance of the project construction of NDOR Project #BRO-7054(19), C.N. 31821 – Verdigre North Federal Aid bridge project. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Knox County
Resolution No. 2025 – 20

Whereas: Knox County and State entered into an LPA Program Agreement for State to assist County in the development and construction of an LPA Federal-aid transportation project;

Whereas: The project construction has been tentatively accepted and the State, on LPA's behalf, has recommended that the project is ready for final acceptance;

Whereas: The LPA Program Agreement requires the county to review and formally approve State's recommendation that the project is ready for final acceptance;

Whereas: County has reviewed the State's recommendation and agrees that the project has been constructed according to the plans, specifications and any change order(s) and that the construction is ready for final acceptance.

Whereas: County believes that the traffic control and permanent signs on the project are appropriate, have been properly placed and are acceptable to the County.

Be It Resolved by the County Board of Knox County that:

The Chair, James Sokol, Jr., is hereby authorized to sign the bottom of this resolution and submit it to the State signifying the County's final acceptance of the project construction.

The permanent signing and traffic control on the project are appropriate, have been properly placed and are acceptable to County. The County hereby accepts maintenance of the project and agrees to meet all environmental and other commitments related to the project.

NDOR Project Number: BRO-7054(19)

NDOR Control Number: 31821

NDOR Project Description: Verdigre North

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2025 at Center, Nebraska.

The County Board of Knox County, Nebraska

Kevin G. Mlady /s/

Martin J. O'Connor /s/

James J. Borgmann /s/

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/

James Sokol, Jr. /s/

Danny R. Schlote /s/

David L. Pierce /s/

Board/Council Member Supr. Pierce

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Supr. Mlady Seconded the Motion

Roll Call: 7 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 0 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted

KNOX COUNTY

James Sokol, Jr.

James Sokol, Jr. /s/

Attest: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/

County Clerk Signature

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 3.) Discussed was installing tarps on the County trucks and trailers. It isn't mandatory to tarp the trucks and trailers but Hwy. Supt. Barta said that it may be a good idea. Further discussion was held on rock chips, not all rocks come from the inside of the truck or trailer as there could be rocks on the sides of the box, the number of complaints and the estimated cost at Sioux City Tarp would be \$30,000 to \$32,000. No action was taken; 4.) Bridge Crew update; 5.) Oil Crew update; 6.) Discussed was the request to purchase five acres owned by the County south of Verdigre which was the old Verdigre dump. County Attorney Knox Jensen cautioned the Board on the liability associated with the property. No action was taken and the property will not be sold; 7.) Discussion ensued on the Lazy River Acres road after the recent rainfall; and 8.) Review of the County Township Allocation 2024-2025 report.

The Board and officials reviewed current wages and proposed wage increases for the hourly employees not including those employees who are still in their introductory period or those employees still within their first year of employment. After a discussion, motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve a 5% increase to Categories 1, 2 and 3 employees beginning with the June 29, 2025 pay period not including those employees who are still in their introductory period or those employees still within their first year of employment. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2 and #3. Nays Districts #4, #5, #6 and #7. Motion failed.

Motion by Supr. Schlote to approve a 3.5% increase to Categories 1, 2 and 3 employees beginning with the June 29, 2025 pay period not including those employees who are still in their introductory period or those employees still within their first year of employment. The motion failed due to lack of second.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve a 4% increase to Categories 1, 2 and 3 employees beginning with the June 29, 2025 pay period not including those employees who are still in their introductory period or those employees still within their first year of employment.. Ayes Districts #3, #4 and #7. Nays Districts #1, #2, #5 and #6. Motion failed.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve a 5% increase to Categories 1, 2 and 3 employees beginning with the June 29, 2025 pay period not including those employees who are still in their introductory period or those employees still within their first year of employment. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3 and #4. Nays Districts #5, #6 and #7. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to go into closed session at 11:40 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. Also present during the closed session was Economic Development Director Miller, Development Agency Chair Colette Panning and County Clerk Fischer. The Board came out of closed session at 12:20 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 12:20 p.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the Right of Way/Utility Line Permit #R2502 Great Plains Communications for fiber optic installation east and west of Niobrara. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 21** allocating additional budget authority within the General Fund from the County Jail function to the County Sheriff function and from the Grants function to the County Attorney function, the County Surveyor function and the General Miscellaneous function. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 21

WHEREAS, due to unforeseen circumstances, expenditures exceed budget authority allocated for the County Sheriff function, County Attorney function, the County Surveyor function and the General Miscellaneous function within the General Fund Budget in the total amount of fifty-six thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine dollars (\$56,949.00), and

WHEREAS, budget authority in the Grants function, also an office function of the General Fund Budget, is adequate to allow for transfers to meet current fiscal year expenditures, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that an additional thirty-three thousand, six hundred and seventeen dollars (\$33,617.00) of budget authority is hereby allocated to the County Sheriff function from the County Jail function; AND, from the Grants function one thousand, seven hundred and twenty-one dollars (\$1,721.00) of budget authority is hereby allocated to the County Attorney function; four thousand, eight hundred and forty-four dollars (\$4,844.00) of budget authority is hereby allocated to the County Surveyor function; and sixteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-seven dollars (\$16,767.00) of budget authority is hereby allocated to the General Miscellaneous function, all within the General Fund Budget.

Dated this 25th day of June 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

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on a grant being submitted for a new side by side; 2.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to accept a used 2014 Yamaha Viking UTV for \$800 and a 2014 D & K Utility Trailer for \$100 from the Nebraska Forestry Service. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Update on the Hyper Reach notification program as well as other events.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) County Attorney Knox Jensen gave update on court cases. Also, an invoice will be sent to the Santee Sioux Nation for reimbursement of one-half of the cost of purchasing approximately four acres to reopen a portion of a Hill Township road; and 2.) County Clerk Fischer informed the Board that fifty-one people participated in the 2025 Avera Onsite Wellness. Also, there will be a NIRMA Reasonable Suspicion online seminar on July 14.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 12:43 p.m. on 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 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 1:00 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 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 1:00 p.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 1:15 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 1:15 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, 105,379.26; Antelope County Sheriff, house inmate, 5,878.47; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, prisoner medical treatment, 150.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc, supplies, 15.98; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,041.56; Connie J. Janecek, prior service, 15.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 45.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios/backup, 666.00; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Great Plains Reporting, transcripts, 770.40; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 128,971.78; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 157.39; Loffler, copier contract, 370.60; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 102.20; MIPS Inc., computer programs, 19,208.04; Monica J McManigal, prior service, 15.00; NIRMA, liability/workers comp, 44,117.00; Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services, board prisoner, 1,753.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,166.50; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 307.70; Reserve Account, meter postage, 3,250.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,422.33; Rixtine Recognition, shirts, 234.01; University of Nebraska-Lincoln AEM Business center, salary, 3,714.95; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 41,678.85; Art's Garbage, garbage, 20.00; B's Enterprises inc., culverts, 40,228.73; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 6,487.02; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 54.42; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs/filter/oil, 289.51;

Bomgaars Supply Inc., grease/shop supplies/spray/shop tools, 779.08; Bruce Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 149.10; CHS, def/diesel, 2,039.14; C-Mart LLC, gas, 496.01; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,136.49; Country Market, shop supplies, 18.75; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,290.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 496.85; Farmers Pride, diesel, 4,589.99; First National Bank Omaha, safety signs, 1,388.84; Freeman Oil Co. LLC, diesel, 1,300.50; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 143.03; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 7,480.00; Husker C-Mart, gas, 219.09; James Carlson, sand, 1,500.00; Jebro Inc., road oil, 124,778.74; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 1,537.40; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 466.41; Kristel Mackeprang, gravel, 450.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 288.01; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Mike Beckman, CDL renewal, 60.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 142.82; NIRMA, workman's comp/liability/insurance, 112,580.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,756.55; Riverside Hydraulics Inc., repairs, 276.73; Rory Liska, CDL renewal, 60.00; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Scott Grim, prior service, 60.00; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 93.49; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 29,750.33; Verdigre Farm Service, shop supplies/gas/diesel/tordon, 2,051.01; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 39,807.99.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Eakes Office Solutions, copier contract, 68.02; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 173.82; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 218.86.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Nebraska Travel Association, dues, 400.00.

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. Salaries, 1,830.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,935.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,808.34; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 210.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland P.C., court appointed attorney, 1,908.19; Elder Law & Estate Planning, special county attorney, 21,698.68; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 8,672.00; Stratton, Delay, Doe, Carlson P.C. LLO, court appointed attorney, 7,224.24.

KENO FUND. Centec Cast metal Products, grave markers, 1,363.28; First National Bank Omaha, gas, 180.00; Nebraska Forest Service, utv/trailer/truck/command trailer, 1,575.00.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Motorola Solutions Inc., maintenance contract, 7,552.12.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE HOLDING FUND. Motorola Solutions Inc., maintenance contract, 3,236.63.

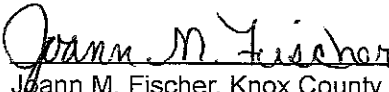
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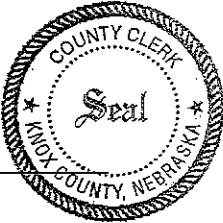
General Fund	\$331,944.92
Road Fund	440,605.05
Child Support Fund	460.70
Visitor's Promo Fund	400.00
County Wellness Fund	35,765.00
C & C Development Fund	2,018.34
Inheritance Fund	39,503.11
Keno Fund	3,118.28
911 Wireless Service Fund	7,552.12
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	3,236.63
Total	\$862,774.15

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, until Wednesday, July 9, 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