

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
July 9, 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, July 9, 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. 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 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 June 25, 2025 meeting. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the June 25, 2025 meeting.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m. Arron Wetovick gave public comment about a proposal to construct and operate a grocery store on several acres that he purchased near the Wolf Run RV area. Discussed was zoning, driveway access, the project would be economic development and very much needed. Mr. Wetovick will be working with Zoning Administrator Jelinek and the Planning Commission.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Letter regarding sale of National Grid Renewables to Brookfield Asset Management and the new name to be Geronimo Power; 2.) Letter from Secretary of the Interior regarding the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program noting Knox County received \$51,603.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce that all claims except Claim #25070105, 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 #25070105 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning in the amount of \$9,796.50 written 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 \$407,162.96 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:02 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:43 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) A request was received from the Verdigre Fire Board for road salt, gravel and cutting trees along the hill road in the Verdigre Village limits going west out of town. A new fire hall is being built on top of the hill west of Verdigre. Currently the County does put salt on the hill road when the salt truck is going out of town. Discussed trees along the hill road that do not allow the sun to shine on the road. The Board suggested the fire board and the village board work together on the requests; 2.) The Board and Hwy. Supt. Barta reviewed the resolution and agreement of Niobrara East & West County Road Connections Project #S-12-5 (1011, CN 31674) that was submitted to the Board by the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). The Board directed Hwy. Supt. Barta to contact the NDOT regarding Section 5 of the agreement as to responsibilities of the County for the project and those costs; 3.) Oil Crew update. Discussed was a roller that is being sold on Big Iron and a possibility that the County would be interested in it. The matter was tabled; 4.) Bridge Crew update; 5.) Discussed was the Santee Sioux Nation received a Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) of Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program (TTFBP) funds that are available and an invitation to apply pursuant to Public Law 93-638 for contracting of Preliminary Engineering for structure 0000A13382X0003 owned by Knox County and is on the NTTFI route 5442. The funding available is \$65,500. The proposed bridge would be a 22 ft. bridge, and the tribe would have to build it as per grant requirements. Options were discussed. No action was taken; 6.) Equipment repairs; 7.) Update on the "old108" Federal grant. More information is needed as to costs and alternatives; 7.) Hwy. Supt. Barta received a call from Herrick Township Clerk Joyce Woodbury who requested the County grind the asphalt on the Kohles Acres entrance road. County Attorney Knox Jensen received a letter from Attorney Ryan Cwach regarding the entrance road and the letter says the County is responsible for the entrance road, however, research has been done in the past and the County contends it is not responsible for maintenance. It will be reviewed and discussion will be held at the next meeting; 8.) Shed inventories will be presented at the next meeting; 9.) Cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year was nearly \$1,000,000 in the Road Fund.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Zoning June Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2509 Cedar Ridge RV Park LLC for a boundary line adjustment of two tracts in the SW1/4SE1/4 of Section 18, T33N, R2W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2510 John and Jodi Aschoff of a 6.20-acre lot split in the NE1/4NE1/4 of Section 19, T33N, R2W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4.) The website has been updated with the recent changes.

Veterans Service Officer Hanvey met with the Board on the Vet Aid Fund that is for assisting veterans when they have unforeseen circumstances such as assistance with a heating bill or car repair costs. The veteran must complete an application form and contact the Veterans Service Committee member for their area. The matter then goes to the Committee for review. If approved, a check is written to the vendor and not the veteran. The distribution maximum has been \$500 per month for quite some time and the Veterans Service Committee would like to change that to \$750. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the increase of the maximum distribution of \$500 per month to \$750 per month from the Vet Aid Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session as per the request of appointed officials at 11:34 a.m. for job evaluations of appointed officials Veterans Service Officer Hanvey, Weed Supt. Banks, Hwy. Supt. Barta and Zoning Administrator Jelinek. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held as per the request of appointed officials for job evaluation. The Board recessed the closed session at 12:00 p.m.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 12:50 p.m. with all members present and went back into closed session for job evaluations of appointed officials. The Board came out of closed session at 1:13 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 1:13 p.m. the closed session held on job evaluations of appointed officials. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Delois, Shawn, Jesse, and Sharon Warriner met with the Board regarding thistles on the LaVern Warriner property. Also present was Weed Supt. Banks. Discussion was held on spraying needed, lease to renters does not specify spraying but they have done some spraying, complaints need to be directed to the person appointed in charge of operations, past negligent of noxious weed control, drone spraying available, and the family members of LaVern Warriner have been receiving complaints from neighbors of the noxious weeds but the family do not have control of the property so they want the complaints to be directed appropriately and dealt with by the Weed Superintendent. Weed Supt. Banks said that the situation will be monitored as he will be working with the operation person and renter. If the thistles are not sprayed in a timely manner, a 10-day notice will be filed which would implement a forced spray by the County and the costs would be assessed against the real estate taxes of the property owner.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve a 5% wage increase for appointed officials Veterans Service Officer Hanvey, Weed Supt. Banks, and Hwy. Supt. Barta effective June 29, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of June 23 – July 3, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 22** for the transfer of funds through the claims process from the General Fund to the Road Fund in the amount of \$128,971.78 each in July and in August to cover incurred expenses in the Road Fund until the 2025/2026 budget is set. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 22

WHEREAS, due to Section 39-1904 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the 2025-2026 County Road budget does not include a property tax dollar request, and

WHEREAS, the 2025-2026 Knox County budget will not be adopted until September 2024, and

WHEREAS, transfers are needed from the Knox County General Fund to the Knox County Road Fund until the 2025-2026 budget is adopted to cover incurred expenses for July and August, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Board of Supervisors that the Knox County Clerk is hereby directed to transfer through the claims process \$128,971.78 in July 2025 and \$128,971.78 in August 2025 from the Knox County General Fund to the Knox County Road Fund to cover the incurred expenses for July and August, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the total transfer from the Knox County General Fund to the Knox County Road Fund that will be adopted in the 2025/2026 Knox County Budget will be reduced by the \$257,943.56 and the remaining balance of the 2025/2026 total transfer to be prorated accordingly from September 2025 through June 2026.

Dated this 9th day of July 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

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Clerk of the District Court June 2025 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Report by the Knox County Treasurer of Collections, Disbursements and Balances for six months ending June 30, 2025 and that there were no unpaid claims against Knox County as of June 30, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the County Treasurer's Pledged Security Report dated July 3, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected April 1 – June 30, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Regier Carr & Monroe, LLP budget letter. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to appoint Austin Taylor as the primary representative and Kelsy Jelinek as the alternate representative to the Northeast Planning, Exercise, Training (PET) Region. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Update on the Crisis K9 project; 3.) Water was across a county road recently after heavy rainfall.

Knox County is a member of the Northeast Region of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) and two candidates are elected to the NRIN Board of Directors to represent the Northeast Region. The two representatives are Brian Kesting and Michael Frohberg and their position is up for reelection. Both representatives' names appeared on the ballot and the Board of Supervisors cast a vote for each of the Northeast Region representatives with the voted ballot to be emailed to Mark DeKraai, Chief Operating Officer of NRIN.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) County Clerk Fischer informed the Board that the Santee Sioux Nation reimbursed Knox County for one-half of the cost of purchasing a four-acre tract in Hill Township for reopening a portion of a township road; 2.) County Treasurer Ebel submitted a Summary of Uncollected Taxes as of June 30, 2025.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 1:52 p.m. so as not to cause injury to the reputation of an individual when discussing a HIPPA issue. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to not cause injury to the reputation of an individual when discussing a HIPPA issue. County Clerk Fischer was also present. The Board came out of closed session at 2:24 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 2:24 p.m. the closed session held on a HIPPA issue of an individual. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to go into closed session at 2:24 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 closed session at 2:40 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 2:40 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 2:40 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 2:40 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. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on pending litigation namely the North Fork Wind, LLC, v Knox County, etal lawsuit. The Board came out of closed session at 2:50 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 2:50 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, 104,280.46; Antelope County Sheriff, house prisoners, 2,582.50; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 9,875.06; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, repairs, 34.66; Center Garage, haul car, 150.00; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 53.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 114.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,957.43; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,935.00; Creston Fertilizer Co. Inc., weed chemicals, 1,334.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 57.81; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Dodge County Sheriff, service fees, 19.46; Douglas County Sheriff, service fees, 18.55; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/supplies, 1,459.18; Ecowater, bottled water, 409.00; Egan Supply Co, supplies, 17.12; First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals/postage/supplies, 4,388.53; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,620.17; Great Plains Reporting Company, transcript, 184.90; Hagge Glass, repairs, 45.00; Heartland Heating & Air Cond Inc., contract/air conditioning unit, 9,420.00; Knox County Court, cases bound over, 182.00; Knox County Register of Deeds, recording, 10.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 888.04; Lancaster County Sheriff, service fees, 25.46; Landmark Surveying LLC, survey fees, 5,111.40; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 157.39; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer programs, 19,908.12; NACO, dues, 2,478.41; Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, county contribution, 7,257.00; Nebraska Sheriffs' Association, dues, 30.00; NIRMA, insurance, 44,117.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,492.29; Northeast Nebraska RC&D, dues, 2,000.00; Pierce County Sheriff, service fees, 19.50; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 2,108.30; Powertech LLC, generator service agreements, 1,421.50; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,166.50; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 56.09; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter, 77.08; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 6,659.50; Reserve Account, meter postage, 3,250.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,266.80; The Glass Edge Inc., repairs, 2,550.00; United States Treasury, PCORI fee, 281.07; US Cellular, cell phones, 233.39; Verdigre Farm Service, van gas, 48.64; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 748.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 40,805.04; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 247.14; City of Bloomfield, water, 38.00; City of Creighton, water/sewer, 137.44; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,069.66; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,290.00; Dendinger Ag LLC, mowing,

818.25; Dollar General, shop supplies, 10.00; Freeman Oil Co. LLC, diesel, 1,314.00; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.38; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/filters, 1,493.59; Harmony Inn and Suites, lodging, 321.00; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., gas/diesel, 7,366.32; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 50.18; Jebro Inc., demurrage, 80.00; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 406.25; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 60.23; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 46.01; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 290.71; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/shop supplies, 297.78; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,697.59; Schreier's Lumber Company, shop supplies, 44.80; State of Nebraska, Motor Fuels Division, diesel tax, 3,025.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 593.98; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 3,740.65; Verdigre Farm Service, gas/diesel/shop supplies, 3,650.98; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 6,055.27; Yankton Fire & Safety Co. Inc., fire extinguisher inspection, 35.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 168.18; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, flowers, 85.99; Omaha Publications, publishing, 945.00; Shannon Trail Promoters Organization, promo grant, 290.00.

ROD PRES./MOD. FUND. MIPS Inc., computer program, 582.11.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,809.33; First National Bank Omaha, gas, 92.50; Flood Communications, advertising, 1,140.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 61.93; Joy Boutique, leadership, 160.00; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.99.

INHERITANCE FUND. Copple, Rockey, Schlecht Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 945.28; Egley Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland, court appointed attorney, 1,586.46; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 9,796.50, Galyen Boettcher Bier PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 397.18; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 2,656.65; Rodney W Smith, public defender, 2,083.33.

KENO FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit contract, 2,500.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, fair expenses/office supplies, 1,356.75; Great Plains Communications, phone, 234.58; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

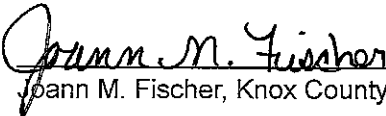
TOTALS

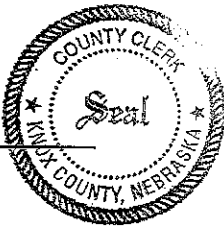
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|---------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$289,077.41 |
| Road Fund | 89,661.44 |
| Child Support Fund | 249.18 |
| Visitor's Promo Fund | 1,320.99 |
| ROD Pres/Mod Fund | 582.11 |
| C & C Development Fund | 3,325.75 |
| Inheritance Fund | 17,465.40 |
| Keno Fund | 2,500.00 |
| 911 Emergency Fund | 1,886.19 |
| 911 Wireless Service Fund | 1,094.49 |
| Total | \$407,162.96 |

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:50 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, until Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

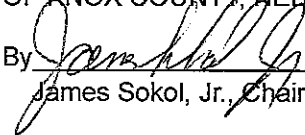
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman