

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
August 6, 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, August 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors 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 Supr. Martin J. O'Connor District #1. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Emergency Manager Taylor 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 July 23, 2025 meeting. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the July 23, 2025 meeting.

Correspondence reviewed was the following: 1.) Miles of Smiles information from the North Central District Health Department; 2.) District Seven Probation Year End Review and budget request for 2025-2026.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann 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 #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$323,677.19 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:56 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of July 21 – August 1, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

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

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:12 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Martin J. O'Connor District #1.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:12 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on the recent heavy rainfall and flooding; 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Discussed adding a "headache" rack to truck; 5.) Reviewed were engineering proposals for the Lost Creek Culvert replacement with a single span concrete deck slab bridge within the Santee Sioux Reservation Boundary. Proposals received were: **Mainelli Wagner & Associates, Inc., Lincoln NE** - \$23,900; and **MRJ Engineering, Columbus NE** - \$12,920 plus \$2,400 for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit. Discussed was the possible letting process and the project is on a County road. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to accept the low bid proposal from **MRJ Engineering, Columbus NE** in the amount of \$12,920 for engineering the Lost Creek Culvert replacement project with a single span bridge 28 ft. x 4 inches wide by 25 ft. long plus \$2,400 for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineering Permit. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to adopt **Resolution #2025 - 25** authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION
SIGNING OF THE COUNTY ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE
2025

Resolution No. 2025 - 25

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2115, 39-2119, 39-2120, 39-2121, and 39-2510(2), requires an annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and standards; and
Whereas: State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each county shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include the resolution of the governing body of the county authorizing the signing of the certification.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Knox County is hereby authorized to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance.

Adopted this 6th day of August, 2025 at Center, Nebraska.

County Board Members

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Danny R. Schlote /s/

Kevin G. Mlady /s/
David L. Pierce /s/
James J. Borgmann /s/

District #1 Absent

County Board Member Supr.

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Supr. Seconded the Motion

Roll Call: 6 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 1 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
(Signature of Clerk)

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to accept the resignation of Sparta Township Chairman Evan Larsen and the appointment of Scott D. Ravenkamp as the Sparta Township Chairman. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Supr. Borgmann was asked if the County would contribute to the City of Creighton to be used towards the cost for recycling glass. Reviewed was a copy of the Antelope County/City of Neligh interlocal agreement in the amount of \$1,000 per month to help defray the cost of recyclable materials. The Board requested more information regarding hauling and equipment as well as asking Lynn Yule with the City of Creighton to give a presentation.

Economic Development Director Miller met with the Board on the following: 1.) The Board reviewed an application from the Village of Niobrara for a distribution from the Visitor's Improvement Fund for the cost of a market feasibility study of a Niobrara Hotel project. Also present were Matt Moody, Niobrara Village Clerk Mona Weatherwax and Candace Schmidt. Phase One request is \$2,500 from the Visitor's Improvement Fund with the Village of Niobrara, Niobrara Development Corporation and the Ponca Tribe each contributing matching funds in the amount of \$1,666.67. Should it be determined that it is feasible to continue to Phase Two of the study, the Village of Niobrara would make a second request for funding in the amount of \$7,500. Discussion ensued on estimated impact of a new hotel, the proposed new Ponca Tribe museum, the push of tourism, local events and the change of the "Star Wars" project. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve a \$2,500 distribution from the Visitor's Improvement Fund to the Village of Niobrara for a market feasibility study for the pursuit of a new hotel project. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried; 2.) Reviewed was an application from the Niobrara State Park requesting \$10,000 from the Visitor's Improvement Fund for a project to become a designated Dark Sky Park, a distinction that will position it as a regional destination for astronomy tourism, outdoor recreation and environmental education. The funds would be used for replacing light fixtures throughout the park with dark sky-compliant lighting. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve a \$10,000 distribution from the Visitor's Improvement Fund to the Niobrara State Park for a Dark Sky Park project. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) At 11:00 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised public hearing on Conditional Use Permit #CU2501 submitted by 3A, LLC. The application is to add thirty sites to Wolf Run RV Resort in the lake area. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 11:07 a.m. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to adopt **Resolution #2025 - 26** approving Conditional Use Permit #CU2501 3A, LLC for the addition of thirty sites to the Wolf Run RV Resort on part of the NE1/4NE1/4 of Section 19, T33N, R2W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 26

WHEREAS, 3A, LLC has applied for Conditional Use Permit #CU2501 to add 30 sites to Wolf Run RV Resort on part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 33 North, Range 2 West of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska.

WHEREAS, the Knox County Planning Commission has given public notice and held a public hearing on July 8, 2025. WHEREAS, the Knox County Planning Commission has found that the application complies with the Knox County Zoning Regulations, and hereby makes a recommendation to approve the permit with the following conditions:

1. Each campsite shall be plainly marked with a map of such numbers provided to the Zoning Administrator.
2. Directional signs shall be installed indicating where sections of lot numbers can be found.
3. Each campsite shall have two parking stalls.
4. All access drives and parking areas shall be surfaced with gravel, asphalt or other material to free the site of mud.
5. The campground shall be compliant with all Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and Nebraska Health & Human Services standards.
6. All campers shall be licensed and road ready.
7. All amenities (such as porches, screened patios, decks, built-in grills/pizza ovens, and similar items) require a zoning permit.
8. These conditions of a approval will supersede all previous resolutions for Wolf Run RV Resort and apply to the entire resort.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Aschoff Conditional Use Permit #CU2501 for 3A, LLC Resort be approved.
Dated this 6th day of August, 2025.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., District #4, Chairman

Absent
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

Zoning Administrator Jelinek continued with the following: 2.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the July Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried; 3.) Discussed cattle shades being placed in the Miller Feedlots, required building permits, permanent structures, concrete directing water and roof runoff to the adjoining property and possibly requiring gutters be placed on the shades to direct the runoff water back onto Miller's property.

Katrina Burkhardt met with the Board to discuss Nebraska Revised Statutes 23-104.04 and 23-104.05 for the creation of a Commission on status of women, telecommunications interest, being an aggrieved person, direct current, and a research proposal on phenomenological experiences, and emergency management in Nebraska. The Board will take the matter into consideration.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) The EMPG application for reimbursement was reviewed. New changes are being implemented so the Chairman may need to participate in some of the exercises; 2.) Discussed was an interlocal agreement for cooperative development and use of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN), a resolution and equipment comprised of microwave and other methods of data communications. The Board took no action; 3.) Quotes are being searched for replacing a laptop. The Board reviewed a quote from Applied Connective Technology. No action was taken; 4. Update on events.

Officials' update was given by Sheriff Henery who informed the Board that the interlocal agreements with several towns are increasing.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moved the Board recess at 11:58 a.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with all members present except Supervisor Martin J. O'Connor District #1.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. to discuss Courthouse security. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr., reiterated the closed session will be held on Courthouse security. The Board came out closed session at 1:30 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 1:30 p.m. the closed session held on Courthouse security. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to hold a budget review on Friday, August 15, 2025 starting at 8:30 a.m. and to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 starting at 9:00 a.m. for Courthouse security. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #1. Motion carried.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 1:40 p.m. on pending litigation namely the North Fork Wind, LLC, etal v Knox County, etal lawsuit. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #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 2:00 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 2:00 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 #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 106,379.14; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 5,106.03; Bloomfield Auto Parts, supplies, 107.46; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 207.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,119.79; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 34,765.00; Creston Fertilizer Co. Inc., weed chemicals, 1,441.08; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 1,652.58; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/supplies, 1,589.17; Ecowater, bottled water, 429.00; Election Systems & Software Inc., Crofton School bond election; 690.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals/postage/supplies, 4,143.46; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,609.38; Independent Pest Management LLC, pest control, 1,330.00; Kari Ebel, mileage, 36.40; Lancaster County Sheriff, service fees, 6.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 157.39; Lois Kumm, jail food, 16.00; Mark D. Albin, mental health board, 650.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer programs, 883.45; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 120.25; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,599.37; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 240.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,166.50; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 145.05; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,511.98; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 100.00; Sucha Repair, repairs, 186.33; US Cellular, cell phones, 104.84; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 1,066.40; Yankton Fire & Safety Co Inc., fire extinguisher inspection, 488.50.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 43,429.60; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 5,050.15; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,270.38; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,602.50; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 44.04; Freeman Oil Co. LLC, diesel, 1,278.00; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.60; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/filters, 436.18; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 5,228.86; Jebro Inc., road oil, 47,381.36; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 524.25; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 60.23; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 47.81; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 284.05; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,874.75; Roger's Auto Repair, repairs, 27.00; Sucha Repair, oxygen/acetylene, 581.22; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Yankton Fire & Safety Co Inc., fire extinguisher inspection, 70.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 170.62.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, meals, 76.20; Verdigre Improvement Club, promo grant, 1,000.00; Winnetoon BBQ, promo grant, 500.00.

ROD PRES./MOD. FUND. MIPS Inc., computer program, 398.74.

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. Name Redacted, reimburse deductible, 250.00; Name Redacted, reimburse deductible, 250.00; Name Redacted, reimburse deductible, 250.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,857.70; First National Bank Omaha, gas/leadership/promo, 284.05; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 62.06.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit contract, 2,500.00; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 2,545.50; Rodney W Smith, public defender, 2,083.33.

KENO FUND. North Central District Health Department, Miles of Smiles, 2,270.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, office supplies, 36.49; Great Plains Communications, phone, 234.58; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

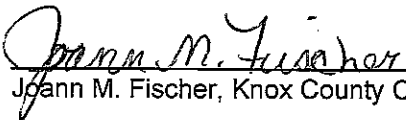
911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

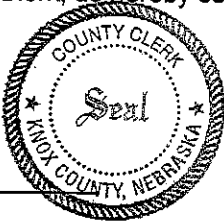
TOTAL	
General Fund	\$183,625.65
Road Fund	123,892.92
Child Support Fund	170.62
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,576.20
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	398.74
County Wellness Fund	750.00
C & C Development Fund	2,203.81
Inheritance Fund	7,128.83
Keno Fund	2,270.00
911 Emergency Fund	565.93
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,094.49
Total	\$323,677.19

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, until Friday, August 15, 2025 for budget review and Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

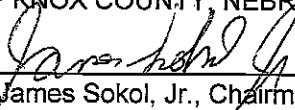
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman