

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
August 20, 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 20, 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.

County Attorney Knox Jensen 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 minutes of the August 6, 2025 and August 15, 2025 meetings. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the August 6, 2025 meeting and the August 15, 2025 meeting.

Correspondence reviewed was a letter from Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition requesting continued support. The public comment session was opened at 9:59 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce that all claims, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee except for Claim #25080190 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. Mlady that Claim #25080190 payable to Elder Law & Estate Planning in the amount of \$20,487.10 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 \$558,369.79 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

The public comment session was closed at 10:02 a.m.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:12 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on selling a 1991 GMC truck with sander and a roller at an auction in Hartington on September 29, 2025. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2025 - 27** declaring a 1991 GMC truck with sander and a 1973 Seaman Duo tractor roller as surplus property and to sell these items at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 29, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 27

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE MOBILE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, Knox County owns mobile equipment which has a value of five thousand dollars or more which is not usable by the County and/or obsolete; and

WHEREAS, said mobile equipment consists of the following property:

1. 1991 GMC (topkick) Truck with sander, B-03
2. 1973 Seamon Duo Tractor Roller, DP-720, Steel, RA-16

WHEREAS, Knox County intends to dispose of said property as surplus pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 23-3115 through competitive bidding on the truck and tractor roller at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 29, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the surplus property listed is being sold "as is" without any warranties, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the mobile equipment listed is unusable by Knox County and/or obsolete and is therefore declared surplus property.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Highway Superintendent and the Knox County Clerk be directed to coordinate disposal of said property in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska.

DATED this 20th day of August 2025.

ATTEST: (Seal)

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By: James Sokol, Jr. /s/
Chairman

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 2.) Landowners are reminded that roadside mowing needs to be completed one time in September as per statute; 3.) Dolphin Township Board members Dale Van Heek, David Kube and Curt Arens and Peoria Township Board member Neil Guenther met with the Board regarding a water line that was placed in the right-of-way of roads in their respective townships by Plumbing & Electric Services of Hartington under the direction of the Miller Feedlot without the consent of both township boards. Discussion ensued on consequences of placing the

waterline in the right-of-way without permission or permits from the township boards, license violation for Plumbing & Electric Services, liability, boring under 887 RD, type of pipe used, depth of the water line, options to release liability, this being a possible legal matter and communication needed between all parties; 4.) Oil Crew update; 5.) Bridge Crew update; 6.) Office assistant Ranae Gall resigned so ads will be placed for a new assistant; 7.) Bridge Crew employee Tony Zerbe was named substitute Bridge Foreman and will be used when needed in that position; 8.) Discussed Crofton windrow site. More information is needed; 9.) Discussed sink hole; 10.) Discussed cleaning along the Lazy River Acres road.

Jerry Nipp with the Knox County Ag Society met with the Board for the annual designation of levy authority. Mr. Nipp presented a Profit & Loss report, an expense report of the 2025 Knox County Fair and projects for the 2026 Knox County Fair. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to adopt **Resolution 2025 – 28** allocating levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society in the amount of \$214,945.86 with the breakdown to be \$134,341.16 for General Expenses (0.004265 levy) and \$80,604.70 (0.002559 levy) for Capital Improvements for a total levy of 0.006824 for budget year 2025/2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #4. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 28

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and
WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors reviewed an income and expense report of the Knox County Ag Society and comparable funds allocated to ag societies in neighboring counties, and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate \$214,945.85 to the Knox County Ag Society with the breakdown to be \$134,341.16 for General Expenses (0.004265) and \$80,604.69 (0.002559) for Capital Improvement for a total levy of 0.006824 for budget year 2025/2026.
DATED this 20th day of August 2025.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

<u>James Sokol, Jr. /s/</u> James Sokol, Jr., District #4, Chairman	<u>Martin J. O'Connor /s/</u> Martin J. O'Connor, District #1	<u>Kevin G. Mlady /s/</u> Kevin G. Mlady, District #2
<u>David L. Pierce /s/</u> David L. Pierce, District #3	<u>Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/</u> Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5	<u>Danny R. Schlote /s/</u> Danny R. Schlote, District #6
ATTEST: (Seal) <u>Joann M. Fischer /s/</u> Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk	<u>James J. Borgmann /s/</u> James J. Borgmann, District #7	

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Report to Board of Supervisors from the Planning Commission regarding Zoning Regulation Amendment Request #Z2502 to amend the Commercial Corridor District 4.15.06 Height and Lot Requirement Matrix "other permitted uses" and "conditional use permit" lot area (acres) from 3 acres to 1 acre minimum, noting the Planning Commission's recommendation is to amend from 3 acres to 2 acres. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Planning Commission July 8, 2025 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.
Emergency Manager Taylor updated the Board on the Crisis K9 program.
Chief Deputy Dan Henery met with the Board with a request to distribute surplus radios that were taken from the County vehicles since the County uses a different system. The radios are no longer listed on the Sheriff's inventory and the radios do not have a value any longer. Creighton City requested one of the radios to use in a new police cruiser they are purchasing since they still use that type of radio system. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to donate an unused Sheriff vehicle radio to the City of Creighton. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.
Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 29** that as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, the Board will allocate final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2025/2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 29

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and
WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors has allocated levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority to the Knox County townships, and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate a final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2025/2026.
DATED this 20th day of August 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 adopt **Resolution #2025 – 30** allocating up to 4.5 cents of levy authority to the Knox County Rural Fire Districts as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443 noting that the Creighton, Verdigre, Niobrara, and Crofton Rural Fire Districts chose levies of 4.5 cents, Bloomfield Rural Fire District chose a levy of 2.35 cents and Wausa Rural Fire District chose 2.5 cents. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #6. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 - 30

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the allocated amount to the rural fire districts was 4.5 cents, and WHEREAS, the Knox County fire districts belong to the Mutual Fire Organization (MFO), and

WHEREAS, that under legislation in 2018 the fire districts in an MFO had to have one year where the levies were the same for all members and could be different for the next two years, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate up to 4.5 cents to the Knox County rural fire districts as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443 for budget year 2025/2026 noting that not all rural fire districts will use the 4.5 cents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Knox County rural fire districts have chosen the following levies: Creighton Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Bloomfield Rural Fire District – 2.35 cents; Verdigre Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Niobrara Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Wausa Rural Fire District – 2.5 cents; and Crofton Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents.

DATED this 20th day of August 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. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the 2024/2025 Office Inventories. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of August 4 – 15, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

The Knox County Board of reconvened with all members present.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2025/2026 budget. The proposed budget was reduced with a proposed tax of \$5,234,640.06 to \$4,551,340.06 at the August 15, 2025 budget review meeting with County officials. The lowered proposed tax was still not enough to eliminate the need to participate in the 2025 Joint Public Hearing so the Board continued with a budget review. More deductions were made to lower the proposed tax by over \$419,000 and resulting in the elimination of the need to participate in the Joint Public Hearing. The proposed tax would be approximately \$4,132,340.06. More budget discussion will be held at the September 3, 2025 meeting.

Due to budget concerns, motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to eliminate the Deputy County Attorney position effective September 6, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to designate September 22, 2025 at 6:06 p.m. as the date and time for the 2025 Knox County Joint Public Hearing to be held at the Center Community Hall at 207 Main Street, Center NE 68724. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 2:51 p.m. for 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. Supr. Borgmann left the meeting at 3:05 p.m. The Board came out of closed session at 3:40 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 3:40 p.m. the closed session held on Courthouse security issues. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 3:41 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 and #6. Nays none. Absent were Districts #5 & #7. 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 3:50 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 3:50 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 and #6. Nays none. Absent were Districts #5 and #7. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 110,180.68; Antelope County Sheriff, board prisoner, 1,906.75; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas, 26.67; Bomgaars Supply Inc, supplies, 24.99; Christa Beckmann, reimburse supplies, 18.99; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 60.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,409.86; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 34,370.00; Creston Fertilizer Co LLC, weed chemicals, 1,619.73; CVSOAN, registration, 60.00; D&L Tire LLC, tires, 547.52; David A Arens, meeting/mileage, 74.00; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 52.30; Doug DeShazer, meeting/mileage, 67.00; Election Systems & Software Inc., ballots/audio, 855.55; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 568.71; Great Plains Communications, tower internet, 864.82; Greg D Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 58.60; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 47.40; Keith Nielsen, meeting/mileage, 43.90; Knox County Sheriff, transport prisoners, 286.32; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 128,971.78; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 154.22; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 26.79; Madison County Sheriff, board prisoner/service fees, 225.00; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 1,357.10; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 64.20; Norfolk Daily News, subscription, 163.00; North Central Public Power District, tower electricity, 47.11; PIP Marketing, ballot envelopes, 3,116.50; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 25.05; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,143.17; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 410.44; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter, 54.48; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,700.13; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 40.40; Sanne Guns & Ammo/Repair, battery/installation; 349.99; Software Unlimited Corp., computer program, 2,318.84; U-Save Pharmacy, meds, 16.45; US Cellular, cell phones, 233.23; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 353.04; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 563.89.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 42,687.16; Art's Garbage, garbage, 72.25; B's Enterprises Inc., signs/patch mix, 4,232.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 168.68; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 109.39; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs/oil filter, 192.68; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas, 689.94; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, repairs, 26.22; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 149.69; CHS, def/diesel, 1,791.60; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,213.60; Comfort Inn, lodging, 330.00; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 387.05; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,602.50; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 726.30; Farmers Pride, diesel, 6,757.08; Freeman Oil Co. LLC, diesel, 1,102.00; Herbert Feed & Grains co., diesel, 3,608.05; Husker C-Mart, gas, 75.01; Inland Truck Parts & Service, repairs, 294.18; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 50.18; Jebro Inc., road oil, 45,733.87; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 93.52; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 211.68; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 202.32; Marlene Moeller, sand, 1,200.00; NMC Inc., repairs, 250.59; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil/filter, 2,440.27; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,824.59; Roger Lemke, clay, 600.00; Rose Equipment Inc., repairs, 3,346.00; Sucha Repair, oil/filter, 57.33; US Cellular, cell phones, 593.50; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel; 35,228.70; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/gas/shop supplies, 4,560.85; Verdigre Printworks, timesheets, 630.00; Vic's Service, gas/tire repair, 193.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.25; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 91.75; West Hodson Lumber & Concrete; concrete, 8,873.75; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 30,336.07.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 173.82; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00; Postmaster, postage, 1309.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,851.50; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.95.

INHERITANCE FUND. Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland, court appointed attorney, 1,811.17; Elder Law & Estate Planning, special county attorney, 20,487.10; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 7,728.40.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14.

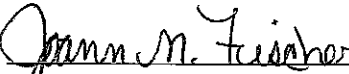
911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 91.34.

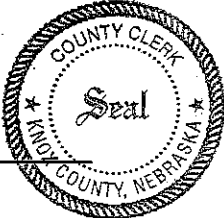
TOTAL	
General Fund	\$307,478.60
Road Fund	217,256.77
Child Support Fund	1,563.82
C & C Development Fund	1,913.45
Inheritance Fund	30,026.67
911 Emergency Fund	39.14
911 Wireless Service Fund	91.34
Total	\$558,369.79

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:50 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, until Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for a special meeting and until Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

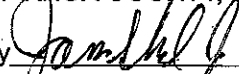
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman