

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
December 10, 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, December 10, 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.

Office Clerk Sierra Schreier 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 hereinafter shown were taken during the convened meeting that was opened to the attendance of the public.

County Clerk Fischer was at an appointment and in her absence, Office Clerk Sierra Schreier read the minutes of the November 26, 2025 meeting. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the November 26, 2025 meeting.

County Clerk Fischer arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m. Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle gave comment on her acceptance of the Knox County Attorney position and the subsequent declination of the position before being sworn in on December 4. Ms. Myers-Noelle said the declination had nothing to do with the Board or any other official/employee but she had found out that she would have to give up her guardian ad litem cases which she felt she couldn't do plus family requirements would not allow her the necessary time at this time. The Board thanked her for her consideration.

Correspondence reviewed was an email from Cedar County Transit Manager Nikki Pinkelman regarding budget cuts from Nebraska Department of Transportation and other issues that will affect the 2026 Cedar County public transit fares and costs.

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 all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$473,418.88 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of November 24 – December 5, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board and Officials discussed 2026 holidays. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to set the 2026 holidays as follows: New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 19; Presidents' Day – Monday, February 16; Memorial Day – Monday, May 25; Independence Day – Friday, July 3 as July 4, falls on a Saturday; Labor Day – Monday, September 7; Columbus Day/Indigenous Persons' Day – Monday, October 12; Veterans' Day – Wednesday, November 11; Thanksgiving Holiday – Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27; and Christmas Holiday – Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays District #5. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:06 a.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:07 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:11 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) In 2002, Jim and Judy Kotrous donated to Knox County 5.26 acres in the NE1/4 of Section 35 in Jefferson Township for the Verdigre Southwest BRO-7054(10) bridge project and the property had not been used so Jim Kotrous would like to have the property returned as it was property his grandfather had owned and would like to keep it in the family. Discussion ensued on the bridge project, land use, and process of selling/deeding real estate owned by the County. More research will be needed; 2.) Update on the County Bridge Match Program and associated with that was an update of the Antelope/Knox County line bridge that is being constructed now; 3.) Survey of rusted culverts along the Rec Road was done; 4.) Update on the old 108 asphalt project; 5.) Equipment repairs discussion; 6.) "Headache" rack installed on a truck; 7.) Update on tractors; 8.) The patch truck has been working on County oiled roads; 9.) A recent wildfire outside of Center required help from the County to pull out a fire truck; 10.) Weight limits of County roads and bridges are being evaluated; 11.) Bridge inspections have been completed.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to reappoint Highway Superintendent Kevin R. Barta, License #S-1109, Class A, employee of Knox County, with a beginning date of January 1, 2026 and to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 43** authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent Form for Determining Incentive Payment in Calendar Year 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION SIGNING OF THE YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT 2025

**Resolution No. 2025 – 43**

**Whereas:** State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2302, and 39-2501 through 39-2505 detail the requirements that must be met in order for a county to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment; and

**Whereas:** The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each county must annually certify (by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year) the appointment(s) of the County Highway Superintendent(s) to the NDOT using the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form; and

**Whereas:** The NDOT requires that such certification shall also include a copy of the documentation of the county highway superintendent's appointment, i.e., meeting minutes showing the appointment of the County Highway Superintendent by their name as it appears on their License (if applicable), their License Number (if applicable) and Class of License (if applicable), the type of appointment, i.e., employed or under contract (consultant, or interlocal agreement with another county and/or incorporated municipality), and the beginning date of the appointment; and

**Whereas:** The NDOT also requires that such Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include a copy of a resolution of the County Board authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form by the County Board Chairperson.

**Be it resolved** that the County Board Chairperson of Knox County is hereby authorized to sign the attached Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form(s).

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025 at Center, Nebraska.

County Board Members

Kevin Mackeprang /s/

Danny R. Schlote /s/

David L. Pierce /s/

James Sokol, Jr. /s/

Martin J. O'Connor /s/

James Borgmann /s/

Kevin G. Mlady /s/

County Board Member Supr. Pierce

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Supr. Schlote Seconded the Motion

Roll Call: 7 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 0 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted

Attest: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/

(Signature of Clerk) Knox County Clerk

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion ensued on the McGill Lazy A-Z Subdivision. The subdivision had been owned by Keith and Eva McGill and individuals rented lots for riverside homes. With the passing of Mr. and Mrs. McGill, a 30-acre tract is being sold and the individuals with leases will need to purchase their leased lots. Discussion was held on lot size, setbacks and possibility of amending zoning regulations. More discussion will be held in the future; 2.) The Planning Commission was asking a Supervisor to attend the Planning Commission meetings. Planning Commission member Jim Kotrous said the Planning Commission feels there isn't a good line of communication with the Board and thought it would help if a Board member attended the meetings. Several Board members and Chairman Sokol, Jr. said Zoning Administrator Jelinek keeps the Board very well updated and there is communication between the Planning Commission and the Board; 3.) Update on a recent Planning Commission meeting; 4.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the November Zoning Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on First Net/AT&T Cell Booster for the Courthouse Campus that would create a 4G LTE cell signal allowing more reliable indoor cellular coverage and more consistent data speeds and support; 2.) Discussed radios and antennas for the pickup and response trailer. Tri-State Communications, Inc. of South Sioux City quoted \$2,654 for installation of warning lights and antennas and Platte Valley Communications quoted \$738.38 for radios for the response trailer. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the quote from **Tri-State Communications, Inc. of South Sioux City, NE** for the installation of lights and radio for the F350 pickup and antennas onto the response trailer in the amount of \$2,654.00 and to approve the quote from **Platte Valley Communications of Kearney, NE** for radio cables and assembly kit for the response trailer in the amount of \$738.38 with both costs to be paid from the LATCF Grant. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Update on Crisis Therapy K9 Program; 4.) E.M. Taylor requested a closed session for his annual evaluation. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 11:27 a.m. so as not to cause injury of the reputation of an individual when discussing job evaluation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as not to cause injury of the reputation of an individual when discussing job evaluation. The Board came out of closed session at 11:46 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 11:46 a.m. the closed session held on the annual job evaluation of Emergency Manager Taylor. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve a wage increase for Emergency Manager Austin Taylor to \$2,000 per pay period beginning the next two-week pay period that will start December 14, 2025 noting that E.M. Taylor is now a certified Emergency Manager. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Committee update was given by Supr. Mackeprang on a Region 4 meeting he attended recently.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moved the Board recess at 12:00 p.m. to attend the Knox County Employee Christmas Potluck Dinner that took place in the hallway on the first floor.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with all members present.

The Board is required to set the elected officials' salaries for 2027-2030 by January 15, 2026. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. to discuss salaries with elected officials. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session be held to discuss salaries with elected officials. 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 to discuss elected officials' salaries for 2027-2030. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. No action was taken.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 123,656.33; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, it costs, 5,332.18; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 123.89; Bloomfield Bakery, sheriff meals, 53.25; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, drug test, 100.00; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 9,469.03; Connie J. Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 31,072.50; Daniel Henery, settlement - reimburse insurance premiums, 1,322.24; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Dave Schneider, witness fees/mileage, 49.40; David McCardle, witness fees/mileage, 37.50; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 879.19; Ecowater, bottled water, 156.00; Gary D. Marshall, prior service, 12.00; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 151.50; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,230.99; Heather Kienow, settlement - reimburse insurance premiums, 1,372.39; Herbert Feed and Grain Co, diesel, 132.05; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Julie K. Rayer, prior service, 12.00; Kirah Reese, witness fees/mileage, 37.50; K/V Electric, repair lights, 232.86; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 145.82; Loffler, copier agreement, 97.94; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00; MIPS Inc., computer programs, 1,042.45; Monica J. McManigal, prior service, 15.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,756.65; O'Neill Shopper, publishing, 15.00; Pitney Bowes, meter ink, 448.15; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,073.18; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 1,700.79; R.S. Technologies Inc., computer program, 500.00; Region 4 Behavioral Health System; quarterly bill, 6,659.50; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 8,790.72; Security Shredding, shredding, 120.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 166.33; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 39,586.25; B's Enterprises Inc., blades/signs, 6,986.00; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 13,929.20; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, drug test, 100.00; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 395.12; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; Clark's Rentals Inc., equipment rental; 500.00; Cole Sand & Gravel, gravel, 5,038.91; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,971.89; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,602.50; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 21.57; Dixon Construction Co., Antelope/Knox Bridge, 110,532.62; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.92; Grossenburg Implement, equipment rental/oil/filter/repairs, 18,137.45; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 2,864.44; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 50.18; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 115.05; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 5,353.50; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 1,193.87; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug tests, 36.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 181.70; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 347.36; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.94; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/shop supplies/oil, 1,424.83; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,615.32; Santee utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Schreier's Lumber Company, shop supplies, 211.44; Tauber Plumbing Inc., equipment rental, 3,151.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 594.10; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00; Village of Wausa, water/sewer, 122.60; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 3,736.38.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 168.55; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 173.82; Matthew R. Fischer, reimburse monitor, 132.38; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

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

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 1,838.40; Amy Pavlik, food for speed dating, 322.25; Beth Rudloff, leadership meals, 570.00; DeLynn Minarik, DJ for speed dating, 300.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 61.78; KKYA-FM, advertising, 351.58; KNEN-FM, advertising, 216.00; US Cellular, cell phone, 62.00.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,500.00; Copple Rockey Schlecht Mason PC LLO, settlement - attorney fees & costs, 10,000.00; Elite Court Reporting Service Inc., court reporting, 834.66; NIRMA, deductible payment, 5,000.00; Rodney W Smith, public defender, 2,083.37; Stratton Delay Carlson Stover PC, settlement - attorney fees & costs, 11,888.90; Sunflower Law LLC, special county attorney, 3,145.83.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.88.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND.** City of Norfolk, networking, 91.34; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46.

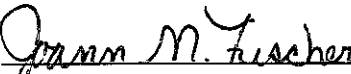
TOTALS

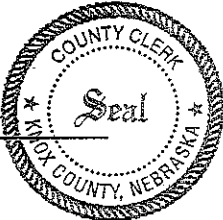
General Fund	\$198,789.93
Road Fund	233,727.87
Child Support Fund	555.75
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	398.74
C & C Development Fund	3,722.01
Inheritance Fund	35,452.76
911 Emergency Fund	274.02
911 Wireless Service Fund	497.80
Total	\$473,418.88

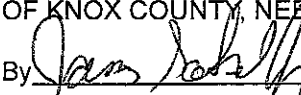
Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 1:17 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, until Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

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