

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
December 24, 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 24, 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.

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 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 hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

County Clerk Fischer read the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:43 a.m. The following gave public comment: 1.) Tanner Nelson of Bertrand, Nebraska who recently purchased the Knox County Feeders introduced himself to the Board and informed the Board that he will be renaming the feedlot to Summit Hill Feeders; 2.) Sheriff Henery told the Board that he had submitted a letter and resolution draft to be added to the agenda for this meeting and it wasn't listed on the agenda. County Clerk Fischer responded that Attorney Mark Fahlleson had directed County Clerk Fischer not to add the request to the Board agenda until NIRMA had a chance to review the requested information that Sheriff Henery is seeking. NIRMA didn't have time to review it as they were going to be closed now for three days during this week for the latest Federal proclaimed three-day Christmas holiday. County Clerk Fischer had contacted and informed the Board and Sheriff Henery on Monday afternoon that the request would not be placed on this agenda.

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 \$452,436.16 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

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

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moved the Board recess for Board of Equalization.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipt Revenue List of December 8 – 19, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the 2026 Health Insurance Opt-Out Stipend Affidavits #2026 – 1 through #2026 – 12. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the County Treasurer's Certificate of Pledged Securities. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:07 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) A request was received to reset a culvert north of Lindy; 2.) Bridge Crew update. A Sign Survey is taking place; 3.) The One-and-Six Year Road Hearing will be held February 4, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.; 4.) The Oil Crew has been going out with the patch truck. Also, equipment is being repaired; 5.) Discussed the proposed Santee Sioux Nation rural water line; 6.) Update on the NACO December Conference recently held in Kearney.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session for the review of County Burial Application #3-2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on review of County Burial Application #3-2025. The Board came out of closed session at 10:20 a.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 10:20 a.m. the closed session held on County Burial Application #3-2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve County Burial Application #3-2025. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve the Resolutions by Board of Directors of Depository Banks and Securities. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file NIRMA checks payable to Knox County being Check #17053 in the amount of \$21,372.39 for the settlement agreement on reinstated Knox County employee Heather Kienow and Check #17054 in the amount of \$13,211.14 for the settlement agreement on reinstated Knox County employee Daniel Henery. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to adopt **Resolution #2025 – 44** adding Knox County Civil Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle as a signer to the County Attorney Trust Account at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 44

WHEREAS, the Knox County Attorney's office maintains a Trust Account at the Farmers and Merchant State Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Trust Account is used for fees paid by Knox County business owners for collecting bad checks, repaying business owners for fees and bad check amounts after such amounts are paid to the Trust Account, and occasionally, for receiving and disbursing restitution and STOP Funds; and

WHEREAS, Hanna Knox Jensen, former Knox County Attorney, and John Thomas, former Deputy Knox County Attorney were previously the authorized signers on the Trust Account; and

WHEREAS, the employment of both Hanna Knox Jensen and John Thomas was recently terminated;

WHEREAS, Knox County Board of Supervisors, requests Danielle Myers-Noelle, of Sunflower Law, LLC, be replaced as a signer on the Farmers and Merchants State Bank Trust Account (ACCOUNT #532 902 970), in accordance with her Agreement for Legal Services approved by the Knox County Board of Supervisors on December 18, 2025; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Knox County Board of Supervisors that Danielle Myers-Noelle be added as a signer to the Farmers and Merchant State Bank County Attorney Trust Account.

Dated this 24th day of December 2025.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

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. Schlotz /s/
Danny R. Schlotz, District #6

ATTEST: (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

Extension Educator Hanefeldt met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Schlotz, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to appoint Justin Jensen of Wausa to the Extension Board and to thank outgoing Extension Board member Chad Vanness for his service. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) The University of Nebraska is asking for a Board member to be listed as a point of contact for the Extension Program and Supr. Schlotz volunteered.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Report to Board from the Planning Commission on Westervelt Conservation Easement. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) The Board reviewed the Conservation Easement Application submitted by Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC, owner of a part of the South Half of Section 16, T33N, R7W and US Land Conservancy, LLC, Zachary, Louisiana. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the Conservation Easement Application of Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC for a Conservation Easement over part of their property in the South Half of Section 16, T33N, R7W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4 and #6. Nays Districts #5 and #7. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on recent NACO Conference; 2.) Update on the Jack Lewis Foundation Funding for a grant program that supports law enforcement, fire or EMT departments in Nebraska and Iowa. Noted was that Bloomfield received the Jack Lewis Foundation grant for a new rescue unit. Discussed was a county pledge and possible pledges from rural fire departments to go along with the Jack Lewis Foundation Funding for the purchase of a QTAC UTV fire skid; 3.) NIRMA approved an ASSIST grant for covering 50% of the cost of the window safety exit ladders. An ASSIST grant application was submitted for an AED for the E.M. pickup.

Sheriff Henery met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve adding Sheriff Office Administrative Assistant Charlize Wilmes to the Sheriff's bank accounts at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Center. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlotz to approve an Interlocal Law Enforcement Agreement between the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Boyd County Sheriff's Office. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to go into closed session at 10:56 a.m. to discuss personnel/salaries with elected officials. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on personnel/salaries with elected officials. The Board came out of closed session at 11:45 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlotz, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 11:45 a.m. the closed session held on personnel/salaries with elected officials. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' update was given by Supr. Mlady who said that the NACO Conference was good, especially on the first day of the Conference with the breakout sessions. Supr. Mackeprang apologized that he didn't make it to the Conference due to a scheduled appointment.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to go into closed session at 11:46 a.m. on Courthouse Security. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated that the closed session will be held on Courthouse Security. The Board came out of closed session at 12:48 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:48 p.m. the closed session on Courthouse Security. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 99,810.99; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 24.55; Blue360 Media, law book, 201.81; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,607.23; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 41,479.50; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 26.29; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup/radios, 659.00; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 74.00; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 52.30; Des Moines Stamp Mfg. Co., stampers, 72.15; Doug DeShazer, meeting/mileage, 67.00; Eakes Office Solutions, toner,

342.15; Fairfield Inn & Suites, lodging, 249.90; Farm & Homes Publishers, LTD., plat books, 270.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,211.95; Greg D. Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 58.60; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., generator diesel, 132.05; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 47.40; Joann Fischer, reimbursement of cost of batteries, 11.99; Keith Nielsen, meeting/mileage, 43.90; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 158.50; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 30.68; Monroe Systems for Business, toners, 185.64; N&B Gas Company, heating fuel, 1,020.00; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 64.20; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 453.55; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,229.38; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 100.47; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 6,659.50; Reserve Account, meter postage, 5,000.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,893.95; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 40.40; Steven Banks, reimburse registration, 15.00; Tyler Technologies, vetraspec, 475.94; University of Nebraska, SHOworks renewal, 325.00; Verdigre FFA Alumni, farm & home show table, 60.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 454.75.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 44,619.50; Art's Garbage, garbage, 72.25; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 4,165.20; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 140.17; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 49.81; Bloomfield Auto Parts, oil filter, 16.54; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/grease/meter, 2,330.36; Brian Sandoz, prior service, 18.00; Bruce A. Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 220.40; Choteau Ridge Quarry LLC, gravel, 424.83; CHS, def/diesel, 2,185.89; CMart LLC, gas, 348.90; Cole Sand & Gravel, armor coat gravel, 4,984.62; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,356.26; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 13,464.33; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 14,240.50; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 395.12; Farmers Pride, diesel, 3,777.85; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 2,549.02; Husker C-Mart, gas, 34.62; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Linn Post & Pipe Inc., shop supplies, 23.49; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 121.00; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug/alcohol test, 41.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 174.72; People's Grocery, shop supplies, 26.26; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.52; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,955.05; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 160.55; Scott Grim, prior service, 30.00; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 71.27; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 65,740.84; Verdigre Collision Repair, repairs, 150.00; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/tire repair/repairs/oil/filters/shop supplies, 4,357.77; Vic's Service LLC, battery/gas, 460.30; Village of Center, water/sewer, 38.40; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 17,652.89.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 4.29; Matthew R. Fischer, reimburse monitor, 103.85.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,838.40; Applied Connective Technologies, computer, 1,087.95; KBRX, advertising, 200.00; Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, advertising, 135.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Brogan Lamlli P.C., court appointed attorney, 1,189.83; Elder Law & Estate Planning, special county attorney, 4,075.54; Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, Bartell & Henderson, court appointed attorney, 648.50; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 4,561.25; Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC, court appointed attorney, 9,007.22.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14; OPTK Networks, networking, 456.88.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 91.34; OPTK Networks, networking, 1,066.08.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE HOLDING FUND. Motorola Solutions Inc., maintenance contract, 1,695.50.

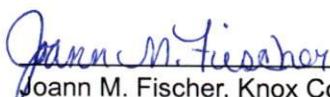
TOTALS

General Fund	\$236,264.93
Road Fund	189,970.46
Child Support Fund	108.14
C & C Development Fund	3,261.35
Inheritance Fund	19,482.34
911 Emergency Fund	496.02
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,157.42
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	1,695.50
Total	\$452,436.16

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, until Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. for a reorganization meeting.

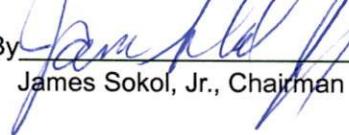
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman