

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
February 18, 2026
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, February 18, 2026 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. O'Connor 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 Wausa Gazette 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 February 4, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the February 4, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce 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.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 9:55 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of February 1 - 13, 2026. 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 Clerk of District Court January 2026 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moved the Board recess for Board of Equalization at 10:00 a.m.

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.) Road employee evaluations will be held on this date at 1:00 p.m.; 2.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2026 - 06** announcing that Knox County did hold a Public Road Hearing on February 4, 2026 pursuant to Section 10 of LB 1302 and that the Knox County Board of Supervisors adopted the construction plans as compiled by Knox County Highway Superintendent, Kevin R. Barta. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 - 06

In pursuant with Section 10 of LB 1302, Knox County did hold its Public Road Hearing on February 4, 2026. Enclosed under separate cover is a One Year Map and Six Year Map with current project listings and future listings, also proof of publication. The Knox County Board of Supervisors wishes to adopt these construction plans as compiled by Knox County Highway Superintendent, Kevin R. Barta, at this time.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

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

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5

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

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

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

Passed and approved this 18th day of February, 2026.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 3.) A request for the County to blade the gravel streets in the Village of Niobrara was received. Discussed was that Niobrara Village should contact a private contractor as the Board does not want to take away the private companies' opportunities; 4.) Bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. for the Santee Sioux South Bridge Project; 5.) Discussed was repair to damaged gravel roads by Five Star Energy Services of Waukesha WI when they were installing fiber optic cable for Great Plains Communications. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Settlement and Release Agreement with Five Star Energy Services of Waukesha WI in the amount of \$1,912.69 due to Knox County for repairs/gravel to damaged gravel roads when the company was installing fiber optic cable for Great Plains Communications. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 6.) After the recent Safety Inspection of County Sheds, it was noted that an upgrade of the LED lights in the Crofton County Shed should be made. A quote of \$3,100.00 from K V Electric, LLC of Wausa was received and will make the necessary repairs/changes; 7.) Discussion was held on purchasing a used tractor. Viewed was a used JD 6150 MFD with 8,100 hours. Also discussed was a used JD 6150 MFD that is being viewed. No action was taken; 8.) The new dump truck has not been delivered yet and the new motorgrader for District #7 will be delivered in a week; 9.) Discussed was repairing transverse and random cracks on the Bloomfield North and South County oil roads. Bader's Highway & Street of Norfolk had an estimate of \$28,873.00. The matter will be placed on the March 4, 2026 agenda.

Economic Development Director Miller met with the Board on the following: 1.) The Board reviewed applications for Visitor's Improvement funds and the recommendations from the Visitor's Committee. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the following Visitor's Improvement project applications as per the recommendations of the Visitors' Committee: Village of Niobrara \$7,500; Village of Verdigre \$10,000; Village of Wausa \$10,000; City of Bloomfield \$10,000; City of Crofton \$10,000; Creighton Public Library \$5,000; City of Creighton \$5,000; Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area \$10,000; and Village of Winnetoon \$5,000. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Discussion ensued regarding contracting a summer intern. Director Miller said in the past approximately \$3,000 was spent for brochures and racks but she didn't think they got their money's worth, so she contemplated implementing a summer intern such as a college student from May through August for 150 hours at \$20 per hour. The intern could video happenings and locations to promote Knox County. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle had drafted a contract, but she voiced that the contract needs to be revised with additional information that was learned as more discussion has been made. Further discussion will be held in the future; 3.) Update of Economic Development and Visit Knox County.

At 11:07 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised bid for material for the Santee South Bridge Project Bridge 35-36W1. One bid was received from **Husker Steel, LLC, Columbus NE** in the amount of \$116,516.52. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to accept the bid from **Husker Steel, LLC, Columbus NE** in the amount of \$116,516.52 for material for the Knox County Bridge 35-36W1 Santee South Bridge Project. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 11:07 a.m. to protect the public interest to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to protect the public interest to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation. The Board came out of closed session at 11:31 a.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 11:31 a.m. the closed session held to protect the public interest to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on fire skids. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to have the Board sign a letter to the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Wildland Fire's commitment to supporting rural emergency response agencies and protecting communities across the country with the supply of fire skids for local fire departments. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve and authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign an Agreement For Use Of Emergency Management Equipment between the Knox County Emergency Management Agency, the Knox County Board of Supervisors, and the Fire/EMS Department of Knox County cities or villages that would allow the Fire/EMS Department so to borrow specific Emergency Management equipment such as the Yamaha Viking UTV and the D & K Utility Trailer plus the Ford F-350 Cab truck and the Forest River Command Trailer. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Discussion was held on funding and grants for purchasing a drone for public safety.

Committee update was given by Chairman Sokol, Jr. regarding the Building and Grounds meeting where it was noted several new furnaces were required to be installed.

Legislative updates covered bills affecting County government.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 11:56 a.m. for lunch.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 12:55 p.m. with all members present except Supervisor Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5.

Road employee job evaluations were held.

****February 18, 2026 Supervisors' minutes corrected after reading at the March 4, 2026 – correction was noted that the Road Employee job evaluations were held in open session.**

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 109,295.63; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 125.07; Avera Medical Group, drug test, 282.00; Bloomfield Pharmacy, meds, 59.00; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 55.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,340.55; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 40,790.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 1,401.87; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/supplies, 1,426.93; Grager's Grocery, jail food, 997.83; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,218.11; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., repairs/furnace, 8,774.00; Kari Ebel, mileage, 18.86; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; K/V Electric

LLC, repair light, 130.24; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 158.50; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 23.90; Madison County Sheriff, house prisoner, 50.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 29.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; Moody Motor Company, oil change/wiper blades, 162.20; NACO, registrations, 240.00; Nebraska Weed Control Association, registration, 150.00; Norfolk Daily News, subscription, 163.00; North Central Public Power District, tower electricity, 76.02; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 640.84; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,232.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 18.59; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,605.55; US Cellular, cell phones, 109.32; US Cellular, cell phones, 346.52; Verdigre Printworks, envelopes, 1,787.50.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 38,924.92; A-OX Welding Supply LLC, shop supplies, 51.60; B's Enterprises Inc., blades/signs, 2,264.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 66.94; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 66.36; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas/propane, 216.11; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, tire repair, 34.55; CHS, diesel/heating fuel, 1,507.40; C-Mart LLC, gas, 347.70; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,918.66; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 13,664.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 460.23; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 56.99; Farmers Pride, diesel/propane, 1,514.12; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., gas/diesel/tordon/shop supplies, 856.57; Husker C-Mart, gas, 297.19; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 50.18; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 431.40; John Kauth, reimburse DOT physical, 110.00; Kayton International Inc., repairs/equipment rental, 3,307.64; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 513.88; Lafan Medical Clinic, drug tests, 200.00; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 180.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 57.06; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 319.47; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug kits, 6.25; N&B Gas Company, heating fuel, 2,775.15; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 418.88; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,569.12; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters, 1,745.52; US Cellular, cell phones, 594.10; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel/haul, 12,514.80; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 94.45; Waste Connections of Nebraska Inc., garbage, 80.25.

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

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 1,845.29; Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, visitor guides, 465.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. US Cellular, cell phone, 62.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit contract, 2,750.00; Galyen, Boettcher Baier PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 649.20; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 5,275.00.

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

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

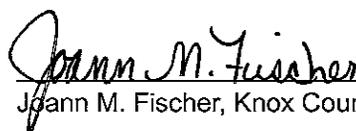
TOTALS

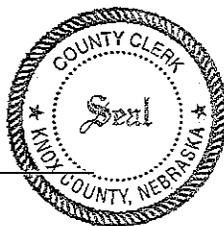
General Fund	\$246,875.74
Road Fund	89,264.99
Child Support Fund	254.82
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,310.29
C&C Development Fund	62.00
Inheritance Fund	8,674.20
911 Emergency Fund	39.14
911 Wireless Service Fund	91.34
Total	\$347,572.52

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:20 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, until Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

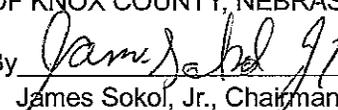
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman