

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska

March 4, 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, March 4, 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, Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent was Supervisor James Sokol, Jr. District #4/Chairman. Vice-Chairman O'Connor presiding.

Supr. Schlote led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor 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 Niobrara Tribune 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 read the minutes of the February 18, 2026 meeting. Vice-Chairman O'Connor approved the minutes of the February 18, 2026 meeting with the correction that the Road employees' job evaluations were held in open session.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor opened the public comment session at 9:46 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 Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$322,971.93 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of February 16 – 27, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to acknowledge and accept the resignation of Peoria Township Clerk Ricky Jessen and the appointment of Seth Pokorny as the Peoria Township Clerk. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Surety Bond of Peoria Township Clerk Seth Pokorny. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Treasurer's Report of Collections of Delinquent Personal Property Taxes FY 2024 and Prior. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Sheriff's Report on Collection of Taxes from October 30, 2025 – February 25, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor called again for public comments. Supr. Schlote made public comment by asking Supr. Mackeprang about his residence as there are complaints that he is not residing in his district. Supr. Mackeprang responded that he has a post office box registered to his address of 119 Cherry Street in Bloomfield. He said that he is married, his wife maintains her residence and he continues to maintain his residence. If there are any changes, Supr. Mackeprang said he would give notice and resign. In addition, he said that no one has talked to him or asked him about his residence and he would entertain and encourage people to talk to him. Supr. Schlote said that he had heard that Supr. Mackeprang's nephew was moving into the house at 119 Cherry Street to which Supr. Mackeprang responded that the house is a three-bedroom house, the nephew is not living in the house and won't be at this time.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected October 1 – December 31, 2025 that had been presented on January 21, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor closed the public comment session at 9:57 a.m.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor moves the Board recess at 9:57 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:21 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor James Sokol, Jr., District #4/Chairman.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The Board reviewed the quote from Bader's Highway & Street of Norfolk NE for sealing cracks on several County oil roads. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve a quote from Bader's Highway & Street of Norfolk NE in the amount of \$28,873.00 for sealing transverse and random cracks on Bloomfield North County oil road and eight miles of Old Highway 121. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 2.) Discussion was held on purchasing a used tractor for use with the Oil Crew to pull a soil mixer and/or a road drag. Quotes reviewed were: 2013 JD6150R, 5,333 hours, \$74,000; 2012 JD6170R, 8,111 hours, \$70,000; Late 1980's JD4840, +9,000 hours, \$26,000; and Late 1980's JD4440, +8,500 hours, \$29,500 which is now sold. Noted was that the three available tractors are two-wheel drive tractors. Supr. Pierce test-drove all the tractors available. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to purchase a used 2013 JD6150R in the amount of \$74,000 from Moeller Equipment of Creighton. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) The Northeast Spring auction in Hartington will be held in April and the County has a pickup that is surplus equipment; 5.) Discussed replacing two fracture critical truss bridges; and 6.) Interviews of applicants for the mechanic's position will be held.

Deputy Sheriff Dan Dufek met with the Board to request consideration of funeral leave without the use of paid time off (PTO) for the time he attended his uncle's funeral. The Employee Handbook addresses funeral leave for

immediate family members of regular full-time employees, however, an uncle is not listed as an immediate family member. Also, the Employee Handbook addresses regular full-time employees who attend the funeral of an individual not listed on the funeral leave where the employee must use PTO or they may personally appear before the Board of Supervisors to request funeral leave of up to twenty-four hours per occurrence without the use of PTO and such funeral leave may be granted only at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors at a regularly scheduled board meeting. Deputy Dufek requested twenty-four hours of PTO be considered funeral leave. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to grant to Deputy Sheriff Dan Dufek twenty-four hours of funeral leave for attending an uncle's funeral with twenty-four hours to be classified as funeral leave and not as PTO. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Knox County Burial fee which has been limited to \$1,200 per cremation only for county burials in Knox County. No other funds can be added to the funeral service and the Knox County funds are the "last resort". If family of the deceased are capable of paying any or all costs, then Knox County will not approve any County Burial funds. Greg, Braxton and Brady Brockhaus and Tray Van Metre with Brockhaus Funeral Homes reviewed with the Board neighboring counties' burial fees and noted that Knox County's fee has not increased for over twenty-five years. The cost of cremation and other costs associated with a burial has increased throughout the years noting that if Knox County had increased by a percentage throughout the years like some of the other counties, the county's burial fee would be appropriately \$3,400 today which is only cremation, no flowers, etc. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to increase the Knox County Burial fee from \$1,200 to \$3,500 with a 3% increase yearly and to create a contract that will be reviewed in five years. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Planning Commission December 9, 2025 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Recommendation to Board of Supervisors from the Planning Commission regarding Conditional Use Permit #CU2601 Lindy Area Inc., on a storage container in VAD. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #2. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 3.) Planning Commission member Keith Nielsen had submitted his resignation effective December 15, 2025 and a recommendation was made to appoint Seth Pokorny to complete Keith Nielsen's term. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to accept the resignation of Planning Commission member Keith Nielsen and to appoint Seth Pokorny to fill Keith Nielsen's unexpired term on the Planning Commission. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 4.) Zoning Administrator Kelsy Jelinek submitted her resignation with her last day to be March 19, 2026 and she asked that the Zoning Administrator emails be sent to Knox County Clerk Joann Fischer until the Zoning Administrator position is filled. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to accept the resignation of Zoning Administrator Kelsy Jelinek effective March 19, 2026 with the Zoning emails to be directed to Knox County Clerk Joann Fischer, the Board expressed their appreciation for a commendable job she has done for Knox County, and wished her well in her new endeavor. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Jon Sahagan with Santee Fire/EMS presented information on the current paging system used by the County and an introduction of the Two-Tone Paging program that is being tested to see how it functions and potentially implementing the new system. Discussed how the current system works, how the Santee system works, needing a back-up system, the State system, testing all departments, and installing one unit for the testing to see if it will work before implementing it County-wide. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve setting up one Two-Tone Paging system for testing by Platte Valley Communications of Kearney in the amount of \$2,726.00. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 2.) Michael Foods donated \$5,000 towards the drone project and a proposal of adding \$2,755.00 as the County's portion and applying for a balance of \$10,000 from the Jack Lewis Safety Foundation was discussed. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to send a letter to the Jack Lewis Safety Foundation where the Board of Supervisors formally expresses their strong support for the development and implementation of a drone program for the Knox County Emergency Management Agency and the Board of Supervisors requests consideration of support for this initiative and an investment in this program that is an investment in the safety and resilience of Knox County's residents. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 3.) The Tri-County (Antelope, Holt and Knox) Hazard Mitigation Plan Update has been prioritized for a Local Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program where they will provide a 50%/50% cost share with the funds the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency have available. The plan needs to be updated every five years for the counties to receive FEMA/NEMA reimbursement dollars if there is a disaster and grants require this plan as well. Region 11 Emergency Manager Bobbi Risor has assisted with the grant in the past and is applying for the grant in behalf of the three counties. E.M. Risor is applying for an estimated \$100,000 for updating the plan with 50% of the cost to be split between the three counties, the Antelope County Commissioners have approved the application process, Knox County would be the fiscal agent and Holt County would host all of the open meetings. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Update process and to approve applying for a grant from NEMA for an estimated \$100,000 cost for updating the plan with 50% of the cost to be split between Antelope, Holt and Knox Counties and 50% to be awarded through the grant. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried; 4.) E.M. Office update.

A Building and Grounds Committee update was given by Supr. Mackeprang and Supr. Pierce.

Legislative update was held on LB663 that was approved and affects the approval of conditional use permits by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors as well as implementing required training.

Officials' update was given by County Treasurer Ebel who updated the Board of the recent delinquent tax sale.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 107,171.77; Applied Connective Technologies, IT, 5,102.43; Austin Taylor, reimburse gas, 36.19; Bomgaars, supplies, 39.97; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 225.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,188.80; Connie

J. Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 39,637.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 187.00; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 74.00; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 52.30; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Doug DeShazer, meeting/mileage, 67.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies/vacuum, 1,770.99; Ecowater, bottled water, 441.50; Egan Supply Co., supplies, 124.96; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/meals/postage, 3,658.80; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,230.55; Greg Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 58.60; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 47.40; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, meeting/mileage, 45.00; Knox County Court, filing fees/cases dismissed, 415.00; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 152.16; Loffler, copier contract, 147.83; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; MIPS Inc., computer programs, 1,042.45; Monica J. McManigal, prior service, 15.00; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,100.50; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 64.20; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,317.55; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,183.21; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 633.15; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,556.07; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 40.40; Verdigre Eagle, publishing 280.50; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 462.80; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 37,471.54; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, drug test, 150.00, Bomgaars, shop supplies/shop tools, 1,015.67; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 308.96; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,807.43; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 13,664.00; Fairfield Inn & Suites, lodging, 154.95; First National Bank Omaha, shop tools/meals, 635.02; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.79; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/grease, 903.52; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/gas/supplies, 3,457.16; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 189.01; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 247.83; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 57.06; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineering fees, 21,360.00; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug/alcohol tests, 113.00; N&B Gas Co., heating fuel, 2,681.50; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 316.69; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 425.90; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 419.05; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,471.04; Verdigre Collision Repair, repairs, 1,216.23; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.80; Village of Wausa, water/sewer, 122.60.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 168.56; Postmaster, postage, 479.80.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 1,989.14; Southeast South Dakota Tourism Assn, design charge, 38.00; Stacy Miller, reimburse Verdigre Bucks, 20.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Creative Revolution, email upgrade, 43.96; Village of Niobrara, improvement grant, 7,500.00.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals, 410.19; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.91.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,750.00; Copple Rockey Schlecht Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 737.50; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 5,125.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33; Sunflower Law LLC, special county attorney, 7,000.00.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 14.74.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Equature DSS Corporation, server maintenance, 2,097.30; First National Bank Omaha, equipment, 225.29; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.81; Motorola Solutions Inc., maintenance, 3,398.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; Motorola Solutions Inc., maintenance, 7,929.73; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE HOLDING FUND. Equature DSS Corporation, server maintenance, 4,893.70.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$183,732.08
Road Fund	90,471.75
Child Support Fund	648.36
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,047.14
Visitor's Improvement Fund	7,543.96
ROD Prés/Mod Fund	398.74
C & C Development Fund	472.10
Inheritance Fund	17695.83
Keno Fund	14.74
911 Emergency Fund	6,184.30
911 Wireless Service Fund	8,869.23
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	4,893.70
Total	\$322,971.93

Vice-Chairman O'Connor adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 11:54 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, until Wednesday, March 18, 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
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By *Martin J. O'Connor*
Martin J. O'Connor, Vice-Chairman