

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska

March 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 Board Courthouse in Center, Nebraska on the date of Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, Kevin G. Mady 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. Borgmann let the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. announced to the public that a copy of the Public Open Meeting Act we 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 acknowledgement 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 March 4, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the March 4, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:53 a.m.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Letter from Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment regarding Dylan Kuhlman Finishing Livestock Animal Feeding Operation application for major modification; 2.) Northeast Nebraska RC&D letter of events held and upcoming.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady that all claims except Claim #26030199, 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.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that Claim #26030199 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning in the amount of \$6,583.50 from the Inheritance Fund, 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, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #5. Motion carried.

Claims totaling \$990,916.76 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:02 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:05 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:09 a.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of March 2 - 13, 2026. 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 February 2026 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The oil bid opening will be held at 10:45 a.m.; 2.) The gravel bid opening will be held in several weeks; 3.) Discussed a company who sells ground rock to Antelope County and a proposal was made to the County where the company would deliver the ground rock to the Niobrara County Yard and Antelope County would then pick up the rock at the Niobrara County Yard. Antelope County would bring their own loader to load their trucks. The Board said it would be agreeable to allow the ground rock be delivered to the Niobrara County Yard for Antelope County to pick up but the County should be compensated in some way; 3.) Discussed selling a surplus pickup at the Hartington Auction on April 13, 2026; 4.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session at 10:18 a.m. to discuss the result of the personnel job interviews and so as not to cause injury to a reputation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to discuss the result of the personnel job interviews and so as not to cause injury to a reputation. The Board came out of closed session at 10:34 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 10:34 a.m. the closed session held on the result of the personnel job interviews. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Jim Kotrous was on the agenda to discuss a request for return of a 5.26-acre tract in Section 34, T30N, R7W (Jefferson Township) that his wife and he had donated in the past but had been compensated for fencing. Mr. Kotrous had talked to Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle and chose not to discuss the matter on this date but will come back at a later date.

The Board reviewed the County Treasurer's report of sale of delinquent taxes with County Treasurer Ebel. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Treasurer's Return of Sale Proceedings to County Clerk. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Committee update was given by Supr. Pierce on the Building and Grounds' Committee discussion on applying for a grant for replacing windows and the HVAC system in the Courthouse.

Legislative update was given by Sheriff Henery.

At 10:45 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised oil bid opening. One bid was received from **Jebro, Inc. of Sioux City IA**. After discussion, motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to accept the bid from **Jebro, Inc. of Sioux City IA** as follows: MC70 - \$4.55 per gallon; MC250 - \$4.14 per gallon; MC3000 - \$3.85 per gallon; CRS - 2 - \$3.40 per gallon delivered to Creighton. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta informed the Board that the mechanic job position had been offered to Evan Larsen of Verdigre and he accepted the offer. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to hire Evan Larsen of Verdigre to fill the mechanic position with a wage of \$38.75 per hour and benefits. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to adopt **Resolution #2026 – 07** to declare a 1999 Dodge Ram pickup as surplus property, to sell the surplus property and for the declaration and sale of an abandoned 2010 Dodge Avenger Sedan, all to be sold at the Annual Spring Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington NE on April 13, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 - 07

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE
MOBILE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY,
FOR THE SALE OF COUNTY SURPLUS PROPERTY,
AND, FOR THE DECLARATION AND SALE
OF ABANDONED 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. 1999 Dodge Ram Pickup (R-04)

WHEREAS, Knox County intends to dispose of said property as surplus pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 23-3115 through competitive bidding on the truck at the Annual Spring Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on April 13, 2026, and

WHEREAS, as per Nebraska Revised Statute 60-1903, the Knox County Sheriff has declared a 2010 Dodge Avenger Sedan, VIN 1B3CC4FB8AN110028, to be abandoned and intends to dispose of said property through competitive bidding at the Annual Spring Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on April 13, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the surplus property listed and the abandoned property listed are 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 BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Knox County Sheriff has declared a 2010 Dodge Avenger Sedan as abandoned property.

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

DATED this 18th day of March 2026.

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA
By: James Sokol, Jr. /s/
Chairman

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened at 10:57 a.m. a public hearing on a Class C liquor license application for The Current, LLC for the location of 89702 Rayder Swanson RD, Niobrara NE. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 10:59 a.m. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve a Class C liquor license application for The Current, LLC for the location of 89702 Rayder Swanson RD, Niobrara NE (Raymond Township). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the February 24, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes. 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 February Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) At 11:02 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised public hearing on Conditional Use Permit Application #CU2601 for Lindy Area, Inc. on a storage container in VAD. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 11:03 a.m. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to adopt **Resolution #2026 – 08** approving Conditional Use Permit #CU2601 to keep a storage container used for commercial storage purposes onsite at the Lindy Country Club in the unincorporated Village of Lindy, Knox County, Nebraska (Hill Township). By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 – 08

WHEREAS, Lindy Area Inc. has applied for Conditional Use Permit #CU2601 to keep a storage container used for commercial storage purposes onsite at Lindy Country Club on Blk 1 Lots 7-9 in the unincorporated Village of Lindy in Hill Township, Knox County, Nebraska

WHEREAS, the Knox County Planning Commission has given public notice and held a public hearing on February 10, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Knox County Planning Commission has found that the application complies with the Knox County Zoning Regulations, and hereby makes a recommendation to approve the permit with the following conditions:

1. The use shall not include any activity involving the use or storage of flammable, or explosive material unless protected by adequate fire-fighting suppression equipment and by such safety devices as are normally used in the hauling of any such material.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Conditional Use Permit #CU2601 for Lindy Area Inc. be approved.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2026.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Abstain
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

Zoning Administrator Jelinek continued with the following: 4.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Planning Commission Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the application for a regulation amendment #Z2601 from East River Road, LLC to amend Sec. 4.12 RAR – River Area Residential 4.12.06 Height and Lot Requirement Matrix by adding "3) On all new, existing and previously platted subdivisions the minimum lot size shall be 1/2 acre." By roll vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 5.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Planning Commission Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the application for a Replat #P2601 "Final Plat of Riverpoint Bay Subdivision, 2nd Filing" by Riverpoint Bay, LLC in Sections 15 and 22, T33N, R2W North Frankfort Township, Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 6.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Planning Commission Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding possible corrections, amendments or clarifications to P.145 Sec. 8.04 Recreational Vehicle Parks and Section 4.19 LA – Lake Area Overlay District 4.19.05 Special Criteria – distance Recreational Vehicle Parks shall be located from any existing residential development – consideration will be taken for all sites; Sec.6.03 Scheduled of Minimum Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements Matrix and Section 8.04 Recreational Vehicle Parks – minimum off-street parking spaces per each individual recreational vehicle, trailer, camp site – consideration will be taken for all zones; and Strike #11-F – No porches, lean-tos, or additions shall be constructed onto any of these recreational dwellings. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 7.) Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Planning Commission Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the application for a Conditional Use Permit #CU2602 from Ryan Flenniken for a campground in VAD – Village Area Development in Section 25, T33N, R8W in Verdel, Raymond Township, Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Zoning Administrator Jelinek informed the Board that Mr. Flennikan has now withdrawn his application as the Planning Commission recommended denial of the conditional use permit; 8.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2602 Ken and Lisa Delp for a boundary line adjustment of part of Lot 1, Riverview Estates 1st Addition in Section 17, T33N, R7W, Raymond Township, Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 9.) Zoning Administrator Jelinek had submitted her resignation with her last day to be March 19, 2026. Discussion was held on combining the Emergency Management Office and the Zoning Office again. E.M. Taylor had expressed his interest in handling both positions. Also, with cooperation from Knox County Clerk Fischer, Office Clerk Allison Smith would work one-half time at her current position in the Clerk's Office and one-half time in the Zoning Office as an interim Zoning Assistant. The combination of the two offices and sharing an assistant will save tax dollars as E.M. Taylor and Office Clerk Smith are already employees and receiving benefits. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to combine the Emergency Management Office and the Zoning Office with Emergency Manager Taylor to hold the positions of Emergency Manger and Zoning/Floodplain Administrator with a combined salaried wage of \$72,800 (based off \$35 per hour x 2,080 hours). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Weed Supt. Banks presented his report from the Department of Agriculture regarding the annual review. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Reports and Requirements Summary of the annual review of the work of the Knox County Weed Superintendent. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Economic Development Director Miller and Judith Stanton with Grant Administration & Consulting, LLC met with the Board to discuss potential grants for use of Missouri River dredged sedimentation. One option presented was for the County to apply for a grant and use the dollars to purchase and operate dredging equipment to remove and haul the sand. Another option was towards economic development to have a manufacturing company utilize the sand such as company in South Dakota. Discussion ensued as to who owns the sand such as the Corps of Engineers, wetlands in the area, scenic river classification of the Niobrara River, the County would not purchase or operate dredging equipment nor purchasing the equipment and leasing it to contractors, required matching funds when receiving a grant, and working with the Corps of Engineers. Further discussion was held on extending the contract with Mrs. Stanton for more grant research. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to extend the contract with Judith Stanton/Grant Administration & Consulting, LLC for forty hours at \$80 per hour for a total of \$3,200.00 to be paid from the Flowage Easement Road Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moved the Board recess for lunch at 12:02 p.m.

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

Employee Gabrielle Swanson met with the Board to request consideration of twenty-four hours of funeral leave without the use of paid time off (PTO) for the time she will attend a step-grandfather's funeral in another state. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to grant employee Gabrielle Swanson twenty-four hours of funeral leave for attending a step-grandfather's funeral with the leave to be classified as funeral leave and not as PTO. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session at 1:08 p.m. to protect public interest to receive legal advice regarding litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to protect public interest to receive legal advice regarding litigation. Legal advice was given by Attorney David Begley and Attorney Mark Fahleson. The Board came out of closed session at 2:32 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 2:32 p.m. the closed session held on receiving legal advice regarding litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays one. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 106,315.61; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, IT/fobs, 345.04; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 125.45; Bloomfield Pharmacy, meds, 17.90; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,122.81; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 38,569.50; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 39.82; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 74.00; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 52.30; Gragert's Grocery, jail food, 845.19; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,190.11; Greg Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 58.60; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 47.40; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 148.99; Lois Kumm, jail food, 44.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; Nebraska State Patrol, mach licenses, 569.50; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 64.20; North Central Public Power District, tower electricity, 60.95; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 414.10; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,158.08; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filters, 85.84; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 6,659.50; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,460.29; Robert D Larsen, meeting/mileage, 37.60; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 40.40; Seth Pokorny, meeting/mileage, 43.20; US Cellular, cell phones, 109.32; US Cellular, cell phones, 408.47, Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 391.80.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 38,364.98; Avera Medical Group Hartington, drug test, 25.00; Backus Sand & Gravel, gravel, 7,870.00; Bauer Built Inc., tires/repair, 809.30; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 62.48; Bloomfield Auto Parts, shop supplies, 42.27; Bohemian One Stop LLC, gas, 401.74; Brian Sandoz, prior service, 18.00; Bruce A. Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; CHS, diesel, 561.22; City of Creighton, water/sewer, 132.16; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,875.79; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 13,664.00; Dixon Construction, Antelope/Knox bridge, 162,193.70; Farmers Pride, diesel, 3,801.14; Freeman Oil LLC, diesel, 1,446.90; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 18.01; Husker C-Mart, gas, 249.66; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 50.18; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 206.63; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 7,043.75; JH Tree Removal, equipment rental, 4,800.00; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 2,649.60; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 57.06; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 105.50; Mainelli Wagner & Associate Inc., engineer fees, 13,059.70; Marc Mastslir, prior service, 21.00; Moeller Equipment, tractor, 74,000.00; Murphy Tractor & Equipment CO., partial payment for motorgrader, 255,094.00; NMC Inc., repairs, 93.20; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 99.33; Platte Valley Communications, radio, 976.03; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 418.88; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,531.31; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters/tools, 3,522.78; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 154.06; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 130.00; Schaefer Grain & Feed Co., road salt, 2,377.20; Schreier's Lumber Company, posts, 495.45; Scott Grim, prior service, 30.00; Sucha Repair, oxygen/acetylene, 165.45; US Cellular, cell phones, 594.10; Vic's Service, shop supplies/grease, 102.11; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.00; Waste Connections of Nebraska Inc., garbage, 80.25.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., partial payment for motorgrader, 134,748.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Creative Revolution, website maintenance, 298.35; Omaha Publications, guides, 975.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,872.53.

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

INHERITANCE FUND. Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 6,583.50; Stratton DeLay Carlson Stover PC, court appointed attorney, 1,100.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14; Geo Comm Inc., mapping services, 2,646.54.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 91.34; Geo Comm Inc., mapping services, 6,175.26.

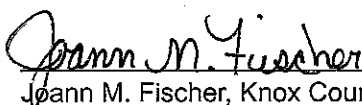
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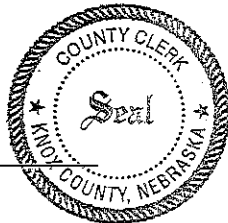
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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$234,667.68 |
| Road Fund | 601,576.42 |
| Flowage Easement Road Fund | 134,748.00 |
| Child Support Fund | 81.00 |
| Visitor's Promo Fund | 1,273.35 |
| Visitor's Improvement Fund | 1,872.53 |
| C&C Development Fund | 62.00 |
| Inheritance Fund | 7,683.50 |
| 911 Emergency Fund | 2,685.68 |
| 911 Wireless Service Fund | 6,266.60 |
| Total | \$990,916.76 |

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:32 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, until Wednesday, April 1, 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