

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska

April 29, 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, April 29, 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.

County Clerk Fischer 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 Niobrara Tribune and Wausa Gazette newspapers, as shown by the Affidavits 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 April 15, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes.

Correspondence reviewed was the following: 1.) Letter from the City of Crofton informing the Board the mixing strip on Knox Avenue in Crofton will be an agenda item for their May 14, 2026 meeting; 2.) Letter from Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice confirming on June 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. they will conduct the annual inspection of the Knox County Jail for the Nebraska Jail Standards Board.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:41 a.m. Jon Sahagan, Director of Santee Sioux Nation Emergency Management, four members of the Bloomfield-Lindy Fire Department and Santee Police Officer James voiced their concern and questioned when the new paging testing would be implemented as the equipment has been received in the County Sheriff's Office. The new system provides a backup, is cellphone based, the page out shows who is responding, and this could free up dispatch. Platte Valley Communications will be coming on May 7 to install the testing equipment.

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

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce that all claims except Claim #26040252, 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 #26040252 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning in the amount of \$9,639.00 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 \$595,892.65 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess for Board of Equalization at 9:58 a.m.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:08 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The Board reviewed pictures of the Antelope/Knox County line CBMP project; 2.) Results of the items sold at the 2026 Hartington Spring Consignment Auction were reviewed; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Peoria Township Board members were scheduled to attend the meeting to discuss heavy traffic use but they were not able to attend this meeting and will reschedule; 5.) The current 911 signs in the County were placed in 1999 and signs along the State system have been replaced as the signs are fading. Signs along the County oil roads will be next to be replaced. It costs approximately \$110 per intersection for the new signage and there are 900 intersections in the County; 6.) Discussed road conditions and holes along the County oil roads; 7.) Road employee Jeremy Crosley has been operating the patch truck.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of April 13 – 24, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to cancel Check #26030145 in the amount of \$6,659.50 payable to Reg 4 Behavioral Health System due to duplicate payment. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board and County Clerk Fischer discussed the Opioid lawsuit reimbursement funds received. Distribution began in 2023 and currently the funds total \$42,814.81 for Knox County and are in the General Fund. Counties must designate the use of the funds and some counties are turning the entire amounts to the Regional Mental Health Services and recently one county designated the funds to be applied to the yearly support payments to their Region. The 2025/2026 costs to Knox County were \$26,638 to Region IV Mental Health Services and \$10,086 to Region IV-ODD for a total of \$36,724. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to apply the Opioid Lawsuit Funds received towards the annual support payments to Region IV Mental Health Services and Region IV-ODD. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Attorney Ryan Cwach met with the Board regarding maintenance of the Kohles Acres entrance road. Complaints continue to be received about the condition of the entrance road and Mr. Cwach asked if the County would consider repairing and maintaining the road. The Board made no comments and no action was taken.

Candace Meredith for NACO updated the Board on recent legislation and upcoming NACO events and meetings.

Monda Kohles met with the Board regarding a recent SID #2 meeting where it was discussed vacating cul de sacs in the Devils Nest Subdivision. There are several people who purchased all lots adjoining several cul de sacs that they would like to vacate so they could be used for building structures. Mrs. Kohles mentioned that one other owner has purchased a substantial number of acres and lots and is considering vacating blocks and roads. Discussion ensued on who is responsible for initiating the vacation and abandonment process. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle said that

there is case law that says the roads may be SID maintained roads in the subdivision but the County still has the jurisdiction to vacate/abandon the roads and streets within the subdivision plus there is a process where the requestor would have to pay the costs for vacation/abandonment. No action was taken by the Board.

Supr. Mackeprang left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 11:30 a.m. so as to protect the public interest to receive legal advice regarding the North Fork Wind litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as to protect the public interest to receive legal advice regarding the North Fork Wind litigation. The Board came out of closed session at 12:10 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 12:10 p.m. the closed session held to protect the public interest to receive legal advice regarding the North Fork Wind litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #5. Motion carried.

Supr. Mackeprang returned to the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session at 12:15 p.m. to review applications received for the Administrative Assistant position in the Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator/Floodplain Administrator Office. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to review applications received for the Administrative Assistant position in the Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator/Floodplain Administrator Office. Also present during the closed session were EM/ZA Taylor, County Clerk Fischer and Senior Office Clerk Surface. The Board came out of closed session at 12:58 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:58 p.m. the closed session held on review of applications received for the Administrative Assistant position in the Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator/Floodplain Administrator Office. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 98,302.88; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, computers, 3,333.00; Bomgaars, supplies, 81.46; Brockhaus Funeral Home Inc., transport, 985.00; Center Garage, tire repair, 25.00; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 50.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 39.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,664.93; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 187.00; Don Henery, reimburse insurance premium, 51.09; Election Systems & Software Inc, election costs, 3,984.21; First National Bank Omaha, supplies/gas/postage/meals, 6,094.77; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 279.90; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees, 2.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; Norfolk Lodge & Suites, lodging, 260.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 466.44; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,828.98; Schumacher Elevator Co., elevator maintenance, 2,981.00, Verdigre Printworks, stampers, 97.50.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 41,053.10; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 58.57; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/grease/oil/tires/spray, 1,616.15; Cedar Knox PPD, electricity, 242.18; Cmart LLC, gas, 453.04; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,140.55; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 402.84; Crowne Plaza Kearney, lodging, 1,019.70; First National Bank Omaha, registration/meals/gas/tarp/binders, 4,782.95; Freeman Oil LLC, diesel, 1,596.00; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., gas/diesel, 11,591.21; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 191.03; Medical Enterprises Inc, alcohol test, 5.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 149.34; Omaha Slings Inc., cable, 1,024.32; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,711.10.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. Truck Center Companies, truck, 284,899.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 173.52; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00; Nebraska Clerks of District Court Assn., registration, 75.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, advertising, 149.90; Flagship Publishing Inc., advertising, 1,300.00; Growing Small Town Nebraska Podcast, advertising, 1,100.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,877.35.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. First National Bank Omaha, gas/ meals/Facebook, 225.62; KBRB, advertising, 150.00; KNLV Radio, advertising, 150.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Bloomfield Public Library, cost sharing, 5,000.00; Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,750.00; Copple Rocky Schlecht Mason PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 605.48; Creighton Public Library, cost sharing, 5,000.00; Eastern Township Library, cost sharing, 5,000.00; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 9,639.00; Lincoln Township Library, cost sharing, 5,000.00; Niobrara Public Library, cost sharing, 5,000.00; Verdigre Public Library, cost sharing, 5,000.00.

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND. Bob Barker Company, jail jumpsuits, 310.03.

TOTAL

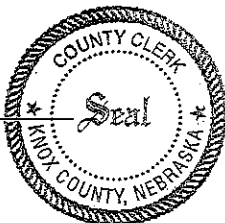
General Fund	\$192,369.37
Road Fund	70,037.08
Flowage Easement Road Fund	284,899.00
Child Support Fund	329.82
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,549.90
Visitor's Improvement Fund	1,877.35
C&C Development Fund	525.62
Inheritance Fund	42,994.48
Sheriff Commissary Fund	310.03
Total	\$595,892.65

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, until Wednesday, May 13, 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 *James Sokol, Jr.*
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman