

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
May 13, 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, May 13, 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.

Civil County Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle 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 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 29, 2026 meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman O'Connor approved the April 29, 2026 meeting minutes.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m.

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 Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$417,686.67 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor closed the public comment session at 9:57 a.m. No one gave public comments.

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 10:05 a.m. with all members present except Supr. James Sokol, Jr., District #4/Chairman.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of April 27 – May 8, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

Supr. Schlote left the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Clerk of District Court April 2026 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5 and #7. Nays none. Absent Districts #4 and #6. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Bridge Crew update; 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Placing new 911 signs.

Committee updates were as follows: 1.) Supr. Pierce and Supr. Mackeprang gave an update of the Building and Grounds Committee regarding the grant to replace windows. Also discussed were minor repairs; 2.) The Safety Committee met and a NIRMA Assist Grant application will be submitted to help with costs of installing ladders on the roof where the addition and the main building meet; 3.) Supr. Mackeprang said Region IV will hold a meeting on May 20 and he will attend; 4.) County Assessor Beckmann said that a NACO webinar will be held on May 20 regarding destroyed property.

E.M./Z.A./F.A. Taylor presented an Agreement for Storage of Emergency Management Equipment with the City of Crofton for indoor storage of the Emergency Manager Forestry 2006 Ford F-350 Crew Cab and 2013 Forest River Trailer. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle had assisted with drafting the Agreement and reviewed the needed conditions. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve the Agreement for Storage of Emergency Management Equipment between the Knox County Emergency Management Agency-Board of Supervisors and the City of Crofton-Crofton City Council where the City of Crofton would provide indoor storage for the E.M. Forestry 2006 Ford F-350 Crew Cab pickup and the 2013 Forest River Trailer (command trailer). By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5 and #7. Nays none. Absent Districts #4 and #6. Motion carried.

Peoria Township Chairman Tony Kauth met with the Board regarding heavy truck and feeding equipment traffic on Peoria Township roads and a request that the County take over maintenance of four or five miles of Peoria Township roads due to excessive costs. Discussion ensued on court cases; township board members are elected by their respective registered voters in their townships and those boards make their own decisions as to officer positions, how they use their taxes, bank accounts, budgets and maintenance of roads; Peoria Township Board doesn't want to raise taxes and have created a "rainy day" account; at a Supervisors' Board meeting in the past township board members were invited where nearly every township board member attended and they were asked if the township boards wanted to discontinue townships at which the resounding answer was to keep townships and the local control with the exception of one township board member; and Miller Feedlot does apply some gravel and uses a road drag about every three days on some roads. The Dolphin Township Board is addressing the same issues with Mark Miller. The Dolphin Township Board is addressing the same issues with Mark Miller. The Board said the County can't take over a portion of the Peoria Township roads as it would then cause other townships to hand over their troubled miles and the recommendation was to have the Peoria Township Board members talk to Mark Miller for additional materials on the miles affected by semi-trucks and feed equipment. No action was taken by the Board.

Heidi Borg with Congressman Adrian Smith met with the Board with updates from Washington D.C. Discussed were the locations of offices at Grand Island, Scottsbluff and now Nebraska City; the Farm Bill passed; increased exports; E15 access; and assisting with the aftermath of the wildfires in western Nebraska.

SID #2 Board member Mary Hagge was present and asked about a process going forward for vacating and abandoning cul de sacs in the Devils Nest Subdivision/SID #2. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle said that she will be in contact with Attorney Mark Fitzgerald and will report back about the matter.

E.M./Z.A./F.A. Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) A building permit application was submitted earlier this year by Jerry and Rhonda Zuhlke for construction of an ag storage building in the River Haven/River Estates area at the river, however, it is now determined that the building will be a "shouse" because living quarters are shown within the proposed building site plan. Administrator Taylor said that with the change in classification, the first permit is void and now there are additional floodplain requirements because of the classification change. Reviewed was the Zuhlke building permit application file from 2016 when the Zuhlkes' put a house in that area and the lengthy documentation submitted at that time which are required in the present case. FEMA now requires extensive information, additional floodplain construction/elevation and additional permits including a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) that is an official FEMA document that removes a property or structure from a high-risk flood zone (Special Flood Hazard Area). Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle said a new building permit application must be filed by the Zuhlkes which Administrator Taylor has gone over with Mr. and Mrs. Zuhlke. Mr. Zuhlke said that he thought everything was taken care of with the prior zoning administrator and that dirt work could begin which he has done, but it possibly wasn't known to the prior zoning administrator that there was to be potential living quarters in the building as the application was submitted as an ag building only. Discussed further was the need to contact Engineer Ron Nohr and County Surveyor Mike Skroch who will need to be involved to apply through FEMA now that the structure will have living quarters in it. No action was taken by the Board; 2.) Vanessa Clairmont from Knox County Sheriff's Office/911 Dispatch had applied for the Administrative Assistant position, was offered and accepted the position. Administrator Taylor introduced Ms. Clairmont to the Board; 3.) Supr. O'Connor received a complaint that a camper was placed in the Bon Homme Subdivision near Miller Creek Road. A RV pedestal was installed on the lot, and a small storage shed was built. Assessor Beckmann said that her staff had seen the camper and little shed when they were in the area and the shed appears to be currently used as a sleeping area. Also, the cabin is classified as a low-cost cabin because of no amenities to the building. More research will be done on the matter.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 12:09 p.m. to discuss County employee procedures. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5 and #7. Nays none. Absent Districts #4 and #6. Motion carried. Vice-Chairman O'Connor reiterated the closed session will be held on County employee procedures. The Board came out of closed session at 12:35 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 12:35 p.m. the closed session held on County employee procedures. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5 and #7. Nays none. Absent was Districts #4 and #6. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 100,975.97; Antelope County Sheriff, house prisoner, 155.00; Applied Connective Technologies, IT costs, 5,589.27; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 131.98; Center Garage, tire repair, 25.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 117.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,726.58; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 36,349.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/supplies, 3,371.51; Election Systems & Software, print ballots, 3,777.10; ESRI Inc., annual subscription, 550.00; Grager's Grocery, jail food, 348.59; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 2,442.59; Hefner Hardware, adhesive, 6.99; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 389.85; Kari Ebel, mileage, 18.85; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees, 53.52; KV Electric, repair lights, 130.24; Lancaster County Sheriff, mental health costs, 3.51; Landmark Surveying LLC, surveyor fees, 1,585.90; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 143.60; Lois Kumm, jail food, 16.00; Madison County Sheriff, house prisoner, 350.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 47.88; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer program, 859.08; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,015.29; Physician Laboratory Services Inc., autopsy costs, 370.00; Physicians Laboratory P.C., autopsy costs, 221.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 451.82; Plainview News, publishing, 37.40; Postmaster, postage, 2,234.00; Powertech LLC, generator service, 1,400.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,133.90; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 1,435.21; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filters/repairs, 701.58; Reserve Account, postage, 4,000.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,049.59; US Cellular, cell phones, 46.99; US Cellular, cell phones, 346.42; Verdigre Printworks, signature stamp, 42.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 485.60.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 40,484.99; B's Enterprises Inc., blades/signs, 7,624.00; Backus Sand & Gravel, armor coat gravel, 10,678.92; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 5,207.08; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 318.29; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs/shop supplies, 79.53; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 1,066.68; CHS, gas/diesel, 2,313.55; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; City of Creighton, water/sewer, 134.56; Cole Sand & Gravel, gravel, 39,149.84; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,033.03; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 867.74; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 16,952.00; Creighton Plumbing, repairs, 84.20; Farmers Pride, diesel, 9,243.75; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 2,006.40; Grossenburg Implement, filters, 292.23; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 28.97; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/gas, 2,641.03; Jebro Inc., asphalt, 5,079.60; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 181.10; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 2,640.00; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 269.32; Kevin R. Barta, reimburse title/tire fee, 20.00; Krueger Auto LLC, repairs, 63.00; KV Electric, repairs, 3,420.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Linn Post & Pipe Inc., repairs, 28.39; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug tests, 108.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 65.46; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 367.02; Overhead Door Co of Norfolk, repairs, 1,466.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.70; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters/shop supplies, 3,568.62; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,672.73; Retriever LLC, repairs, 1,040.00; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 872.55; Sucha Repair, repairs, 215.51; Two Rivers Irrigation, new lights, 7,175.02; US Cellular, cell phones, 593.38; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 17,813.80; Verdigre Collision Repair/Jeremy Drobny, repairs; 1,244.07; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 73.64; Village of Center, water/sewer, 35.20; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 97.30; Waste Connections of Nebraska Inc., garbage, 72.53; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 8,705.66.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 170.81; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 4.91; Maximus Inc., cost allocation, 1,085.92; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 358.16.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,893.90; Creative Revolution, website, 1,164.38.

ROD PRES/MOD FUND. MIPS INC., computer program, 582.11.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.91; KBRX, advertising, 64.00; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.98.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 3,089.60; Andrew J Marshall, special county attorney, 1,800.00; Five Rule, grant writing, 5,000.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33; Sunflower Law LLC, special county attorney, 5,300.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. B's Enterprises Inc., street signs, 5,491.25; City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.81; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 91.34; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04.

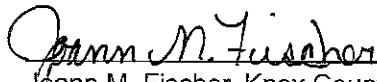
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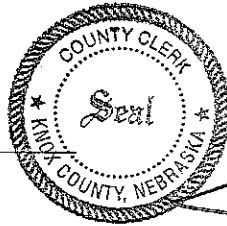
General Fund	\$187,176.31
Road Fund	200,683.87
Child Support Fund	1,700.80
Visitor's Improvement Fund	3,058.28
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	582.11
C & C Development Fund	187.89
Inheritance Fund	17,272.93
911 Emergency Fund	5,993.64
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,030.84
Total	\$417,686.67

Vice-Chairman O'Connor adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:35 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, until Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

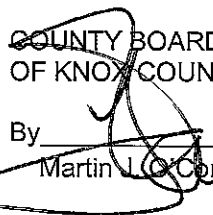
I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board of Supervisors' minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:


Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By 
Martin J. O'Connor, Vice-Chairman