

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
July 8, 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, July 8, 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 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 June 24, 2026 meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman O'Connor approved the June 24, 2026 meeting minutes.

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

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, Washington D.C., stating that Knox County is receiving a Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payment of \$54,385.

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 was District #4. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$376,968.58 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to adopt **Resolution #2026 – 12** for the transfer of funds through the claims process from the General Fund to the Road Fund in the amount of \$60,655.21 each in July and in August to cover incurred expenses in the Road Fund until the 2026/2027 budget is set. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 - 12

WHEREAS, due to Section 39-1904 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the 2026-2027 County Road budget does not include a property tax dollar request, and

WHEREAS, the 2026-2027 Knox County budget will not be adopted until September 2027, and

WHEREAS, transfers are needed from the Knox County General Fund to the Knox County Road Fund until the 2026-2027 budget is adopted to cover incurred expenses for July and August, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Knox County Board of Supervisors that the Knox County Clerk is hereby directed to transfer through the claims process \$60,655.21 in July 2026 and \$60,655.21 in August 2026 from the Knox County General Fund to the Knox County Road Fund to cover the incurred expenses for July and August, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the total transfer from the Knox County General Fund to the Knox County Road Fund that will be adopted in the 2026/2027 Knox County Budget will be reduced by the \$121,310.42 and the remaining balance of the 2026/2027 total transfer to be prorated accordingly from September 2026 through June 2027.

Dated this 8th day of July 2026.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Absent
James Sokol, Jr., District #4, Chairman

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

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

Vice-Chairman O'Connor closed the public comment session at 10:00 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor moves the Board recess at 10:00 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:44 a.m. with all members present except Supr. James Sokol, Jr., District #4/Chairman.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to authorize Vice-Chairman O'Connor to sign MRJ Engineering Proposals #MRJ-02-2026 in the amount of \$14,420 for a Superstructure Replacement and Abutment Retrofitting bridge project to replace the existing 20-foot wide steel truss bridge ("Blunck" bridge) with a 28-foot 6-inch wide by 71-foot long bridge in the SE1/4 of Section 30, T30N, R4W (Central Township) and #MRJ-03-2026 in the amount of \$13,590 for a Superstructure Replacement and Abutment Retrofitting bridge project to replace the 16-foot wide steel truss bridge ("Fuchtmann" bridge) with a 24-foot 6-inch by 61-foot long

bridge in the SW1/4 of Section 27, T29N, R5W (Creighton Township). By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) Inspection of eight bridges will be done in July; 5.) A recent storm caused twenty-seven power poles to go down west of Center requiring a portion of 528 Avenue to be closed. The road is now open; 6.) Vice-Chairman O'Connor updated the Board on the mixing strip at Crofton where now the area is being looked at to build houses. The perpetual agreement between Knox County and the City of Crofton for the mixing strip is that the City would need to find an alternative strip. Vice-Chairman O'Connor spoke to one of the Crofton Councilmembers and said the Council should attend a Board meeting to discuss the matter further; 7.) Hwy. Supt. Barta continues putting up new 911 road signs. The State intersections are completed and County intersections are being done now. The cost of the signs is approximately \$100 per intersection.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor opened at 10:58 a.m. the advertised public hearing on the Stockyard 14 Liquor License Amendment Application. The public hearing was closed at 11:05 a.m. No one was present in opposition. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the Amended Liquor License Application of an addition to the licensed area of Stockyard 14. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 11:20 a.m. for the job evaluation of Economic Development Director Stacy Miller. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried. Vice-Chairman O'Connor reiterated the closed session will be held on the job evaluation of Economic Development Director Stacy Miller. Also present during the closed session was Development Agency President Colette Panning and Director Stacy Miller. County Clerk Fischer was present for a short time. The Board came out of session at 11:20 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 11:20 a.m. the closed session held on the job evaluation of Economic Development Director Stacy Miller. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

The Development Agency recommended the wage increase to \$25 per hour for Director Stacy Miller as she is holding the positions of Economic Development Director and Visit Knox County Director. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to accept the recommendation of the Development Agency to increase the wage for Economic Development Director Stacy Miller to \$25 per hour. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the interlocal agreement for economic development. The agreement was adopted in 2001 and no changes have been made since then. The County contributes \$25,000 each budget year to be used towards the Director's salary plus benefits and office space.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the 2026/2027 NIRMA Agreements on Crime Coverage, Worker's Compensation Coverage, Liability Package and Property Package Coverage. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to table placing on file the NIRMA Certificates of Liability Insurance until the next meeting so more information can be obtained on the coverage. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the County Treasurer's Certificate of Pledged Securities report as of June 30, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the County Treasurer's Summary of Uncollected Taxes as of June 30, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report of Collections, Disbursements and Balances for Six Months ending June 30, 2026 and that there were no unpaid claims against Knox County as of June 30, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

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

The Board discussed with Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle the Ponca Tribe/Knox County Memorandum of Agreement for law enforcement. Attorney Myers-Noelle said the Ponca Tribe is reviewing the agreement. The Board took no action.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected April 1 through June 30, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Knox County Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statement ending June 30, 2025. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Jean Henes, formerly of Creighton, had been the Knox County "Spirited Citizen" to the North Central District Health Department, but as she has moved out of Knox County, a replacement is needed. Jane Wilmes of Creighton is interested and has completed an Application for Board Membership. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to appoint Jane Wilmes of Creighton as the new Knox County "Spirited Citizen" to the North Central District Health Department. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of June 22 – July 2, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #4. Motion carried.

Senior Office Clerk Surface updated the Board on the Courthouse window replacement grant. Chairman Sokol, Jr. will need to sign the Subaward Agreement between the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment and Knox County for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Discussion was held on timeline and the bids to be received for the bid opening at the July 22, 2026 meeting. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Subaward Agreement between the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment and Knox County for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program for the replacement of windows in the Courthouse. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #4. Motion carried.

EM/ZA Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on the new paging system; 2.) Discussed Hideaway Acres entrance. More research will be made transferring property to townships; 3.) Command Trailer is moved to the Crofton Hall; 4.) Administrative Assistant Vanessa Clairmont submitted her two-week notice of resignation. Discussed was advertising for the position.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 102,207.44; Amber Jansen, mileage, 39.15; Applied Connective Technologies, IT costs, 5,412.63; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,821.53; Comfort Inn, lodging, 139.95; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,637.50; Creston Fertilizer Co Inc., weed chemicals, 2,658.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 36.60; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 1,075.20; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 1,279.84; Ecowater, bottled water, 415.50; Farm & Home Publishers, plat books, 405.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,242.13; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., quarterly contract, 3,420.00; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 239.90; Julie Dather, mileage, 26.10; Justin Jensen, mileage, 39.15; Knox County Economic Development, leadership, 200.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 142.49; Megan Dufek, mileage, 17.40; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS Inc., computer program, 907.08; NACEB, dues, 100.00; Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, annual match, 7,257.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,475.33; Northeast Community College, BLS renewal, 168.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 6,850.86; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,133.91; Rebekah Poppe, mileage, 18.85; Region IV Inc., quarterly bill, 2,521.50; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,148.81; United States Treasury, PCORI fee, 414.72; US Cellular, cell phones, 46.99; US Cellular, cell phones, 346.42.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 43,617.90; B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 525.00; Choteau Ridge Quarry LLC, gravel, 2,615.22; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; Clark's Rentals Inc., equipment rental, 862.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,275.43; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 93.49; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 15,308.00; Dendinger Ag LLC, equipment rental, 1,801.52; Eakes Office Solutions, supplies, 201.58; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 1,910.00; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.62; Grossenburg Implement, oil/filter, 223.45; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/gas, 6,193.38; Jebro Inc., asphaltic, 70,362.60; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 540.00; Mike Jelinek, meals/mileage, 99.24; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 49.48; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 289.33; Omaha Slings Inc., chains, 1,017.15; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.70; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,884.22; State of Nebraska, diesel tax, 1,367.00; Sucha Repair, supplies, 16.03; US Cellular, cell phones, 593.86; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 767.17; Village of Center, water/sewer, 36.80; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 3,907.31.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 168.83; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Growing Small Town Nebraska Podcast, advertising, 116.90.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. City of Creighton, improvement grant, 5,000.00.

ROD PRES/MOD FUND. MIPS Inc., computer program, 588.99.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,883.90; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.91; US Cellular, cell phone, 61.98.

INHERITANCE FUND. Andrew J Marshall, court appointed attorney, 1,400.00; Fitzgerald, Vetter & Temple, court appointed attorney, 2,698.90; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 6,537.50; Liberty Law Group, special county attorney, 62.50; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33; Sunflower Law LLC, special county attorney, 5,625.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.71; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44.

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

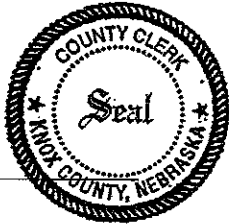
TOTALS	
General Fund	\$189,885.48
Road Fund	159,309.71
Child Support Fund	249.83
Visitor's Promo Fund	116.90
Visitor's Improvement Fund	5,000.00
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	588.99
C & C Development Fund	2,007.79
Inheritance Fund	18,407.23
911 Emergency Fund	463.15
911 Wireless Service Fund	939.50
Total	\$376,968.58

Vice-Chairman O'Connor adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:27 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, until Wednesday, July 22, 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 [Signature]
Martin J. O'Connor, Vice-Chairman