

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
June 24, 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, June 24, 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, James Sokol, Jr. District #4 Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent were none.

Supr. O'Connor 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 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 June 10, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the June 10, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:40 a.m.

Firemen and EMTs from within Knox County updated the Board on the new paging system. The system is very workable, the mapping is flawless and allows responders to see a street view of houses, the system allows all to see who is responding and pinpoints where other responders are located, notification is available from department to department, it appears that all aspects of the program are working, and the test system has been used by the Bloomfield Fire Department as well as all fire chiefs and rescue unit captains. Discussion was held on costs, administrator will be Emergency Manager Taylor and each department will have administrative accounts, and the transition from US Cellular to T-Mobile. The group asked the Board to consider proceeding with the system. More information will be shared with the Board in the near future.

Courthouse staff honored County Clerk Fischer with a surprise 70th birthday celebration by singing "Happy Birthday" and sharing a delicious cake.

Correspondence reviewed was the U.S. Department of Treasury confirmation letter of closing of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program.

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 all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$893,368.90 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:23 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:23 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:36 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) County/Township Allocation update; 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) A portion of old Hwy 108/County Oil will be closed near the Ash Fall intersection for road construction; 5.) The City of Bloomfield traded a used JD 524 loader to Murphy Tractor. Discussion was held on purchasing the used loader that has 1,400 hours and 1.5 years of warranty remaining to replace a 51-year old loader at the Verdigre Shed. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to purchase a used JD 524 wheel loader with 1,400 hours and 1.5 years of warranty remaining in the amount of \$149,000 from Murphy Tractor of Sioux City, IA and noted Murphy Tractor will service the loader at 1,500 hours. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Monte Kerchal with Pinpoint Engineering gave an update to the Board on the Santee Sioux water line project. Discussed was proposed location of a storage tank, 90% of the easement agreements need to be in place for the grant process, new route for the waterline and an agreement that the County needs to sign approving the waterline intersections with County roads. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve an agreement with the Santee Sioux Nation for eight sites of waterline intersection on County roads. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 6.) Update on the end of fiscal year cash balance and budget remaining; 7.) The Board approved a 70-cent per hour increase for Category 1, 2 and 3 employees. Hwy. Supt. Barta asked if that increase also included the seasonal truck driver and the Board agreed the seasonal truck driver should also receive the increase.

E.M. Mgr./Zoning Admin. Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the March 10, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Discussion was held on the lack of a Conditional Use Permit application being filed. Ashley Laible had filed Zoning Building Permit Application B2633 for moving in a building to be used as a storage building where she lives that had been approved, however, it was found that a dog kenneling/dog run business was there now. A discussion was held with Ms. Laible and a Conditional Use Permit Application that was returned without the landowner's signature which is required. Communication was attempted but no contact has been made. Discussion continued on late fees and possible action; 3.) Emergency Management/Zoning update; 4.) Crisis Therapy K9 Program update.

Annual job evaluations of Appointed Officials and wage increase discussion was held. The Board held a job evaluation of Weed Supt. Steve Banks. After the evaluation, motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve a \$1 per hour increase for Weed Supt. Steve Banks starting with the June 28, 2026 pay period. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 12:00 p.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 12:50 p.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of June 8-19, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve a letter to Civil County Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle/Sunflower Law LLC requesting the renewal of the legal service agreement between Knox County and Sunflower Law LLC and in addition discussion to extend the agreement beyond January 7, 2027. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held with Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle regarding the renewal of the legal services agreement and extension of services beyond January 7, 2027. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve the renewal of Agreement for Legal Services with Sunflower Law, LLC (Danielle Myers-Noelle) for legal services at a rate of \$175 per hour and extension of legal services after January 7, 2027. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board continued with job evaluations of Appointed Officials.

The Board held a job evaluation of Custodian Beth Rudloff. Following the evaluation, motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve a \$2 per hour wage increase beginning with the June 28, 2026 payroll period for Custodian Beth Rudloff. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

A job evaluation was held with Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator/Floodplain Administrator Austin Taylor. After the evaluation concluded, motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve a 1.5% salary increase beginning with the June 28, 2026 payroll period for Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator/Floodplain Administrator Austin Taylor. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board conducted a job evaluation of Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta. After the evaluation, motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve a 2% increase on the base wage for Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta beginning with the June 28, 2026 payroll period. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The final job evaluation of the meeting was held with Veterans Service Officer Kelly Hanvey. At the conclusion of the evaluation, motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve the wage increase to \$24.00 per hour for Veterans Service Officer Kelly Hanvey beginning with the June 28, 2026 payroll period. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Civil County Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle requested the Board table action until the July 8, 2026 meeting regarding the Ponca Tribe/Knox County Memorandum of Agreement for law enforcement as the Ponca Tribal Council is reviewing the agreement draft. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to table action on the proposed law enforcement Ponca Tribe/Knox County Memorandum of Agreement until the Board meeting on July 8, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Committee updates were given by the following: 1.) Supr. Pierce informed the Board that the executive director of the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging will be retiring and an employee "in house" will be taking that position; 2.) the Building and Grounds Committee received word that the County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$95,000 for installing windows in the Courthouse.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 105,046.71; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 125.40; Bazile Creek Power Sports, mower blades, 198.96; Bomgaars, supplies, 240.61; CLA, mop rental, 30.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,038.78; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 36,925.50; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 45.40; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 77.50; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 54.25; First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals/postage/supplies, 6,188.43; Greg Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 61.00; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, spray head, 11.99; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 49.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; Lancaster County Sheriff, paper fees, 19.51; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 151.05; Loffler, copier/agreement, 2,434.27; Lois Kumm, jail food, 8.00; Madison County Clerk, judges expenses, 412.94; Madison County Sheriff, paper fees, 30.84; MIPS Inc., computer programs, 859.08; Moody Motor Company, pickup/repairs, 48,042.22; NACO, registration, 75.00; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 67.00; NIRMA, insurance premiums, 104,910.00; Pengad Inc., office supplies, 22.18; Physicians Laboratory Inc., autopsy costs, 5,800.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 64.24; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,182.72; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 269.00; R&K Motor Parts, mower belt, 91.15; Reserve Account, meter postage, 1,000.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,326.52; Robert D. Larsen, meeting/mileage, 38.50; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 41.50; Secretary of State Elections Division, confirmation postcards, 60.00; Seth Pokorny, meeting/mileage, 46.00; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, salary, 17,078.43; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 5,008.51; Verdigre Printworks, envelopes, 504.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 546.13; Wayne County Clerk, judges expenses, 3,378.82.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 43,551.55; B's Enterprises Inc., signs/culverts/patch material, 21,182.50; Backus Sand & Gravel, gravel, 9,468.76; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 6,685.12; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 57.92; Bloomfield Auto Parts, oil/filters, 64.43; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 992.09; Bomgaars, shop tools/shop supplies/oil/grease/spray/filter, 1,444.97; Brian Sandoz, prior service, 18.00; Bruce Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, mower blades, 111.66; Cedar Knox Public Power District, electricity, 150.18; CHS, diesel, 2,237.22; CMart LLC, gas, 646.44; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,270.33; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 545.80; Country Market. Shop supplies, 24.84; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 15,308.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 671.09; Diesel Machinery Inc., repairs, 4,326.50; Farmers Pride, diesel, 6,084.32; First National Bank Omaha, misc./repairs/meals, 1,736.08; Husker C-Mart, gas, 279.08; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 51.68; Jebro Inc., asphaltic, 78,870.35; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 369.30; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 128.10; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 142.36; NIRMA, insurance premiums, 120,682.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.52; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil filter/shop supplies, 3,351.54; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,879.72; Rose Equipment Inc., repairs, 68.51; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Scott Grim, prior service, 30.00; TB&K Construction Inc., equipment rental, 900.00; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 90.92; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 28,243.77; Verdigre Eagle,

publishing, 79.24; Vic's Service, tires/tire repair, 872.76; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Wausa, water/sewer, 122.60; Waste Connections of Nebraska Inc., garbage, 138.15; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel, 47,908.88.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Dixon Construction Co., Antelope/Knox Bridge, 40,237.46.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 5.28; First National Bank Omaha, lodging, 599.80.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, meals/cardstock, 106.95; Harm & Tulleys Event Center, promo grant, 300.00; Stacy Miller, reimburse meals, 52.97.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Harley Stark, contract payment, 650.00; Village of Winnetoon, improvement grant, 5,000.00.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 1,914.23; First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals/fee, 197.19; Herbert Feed & Grain, gas, 10.04; Stacy Miller, reimburse padlocks, 14.99.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,750.00; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland, court appointed attorney, 684.10; Fitzgerald, Vetter & Temple, court appointed attorney, 521.60; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 5,587.50; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 6,606.00; Stratton Law Group PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 3,243.60; Thomas & Jensen Law Office, court appointed attorney, 550.00.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, chairs, 896.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14; First National Bank Omaha, fair supplies, 1038.24.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 91.34.

TOTALS

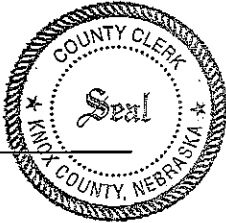
General Fund	417,216.35
Road Fund	404,474.01
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	40,237.46
Child Support Fund	605.08
Visitor's Promo Fund	459.92
Visitor's Improvement Fund	5,650.00
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	582.11
C&C Development Fund	2,136.45
Inheritance Fund	19,942.80
Keno Fund	896.00
911 Emergency Fund	1,077.38
911 Wireless Service Fund	91.34
Total	\$893,368.90

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, until Wednesday, July 8, 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