

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska

August 19, 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, August 19, 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 was none. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Supr. Mackeprang 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 available.

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 acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

County Clerk Fischer read the minutes of the August 5, 2026 meeting were read. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the August 5, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:50 a.m.

Correspondence reviewed were: 1. Letter from Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment regarding issued permit – Modified Construction and Operating for the Ryan and Karen Arens Animal Feeding Operation; 2.) Letter from Nebraska Department of Transportation on Bridge Load Posting Responsibilities and Confirmation Requirements.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady 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 \$437,316.59 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:00 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:00 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:15 a.m. with all members present.

Extension Educator Hanefeldt reviewed with the Board her proposed 2026/2027 Budget Worksheet.

Jon Sahagan with the Santee Rescue Program updated the Board on the WHOSE Responding project. Paramedic Sahagan had talked to former Emergency Manager Austin Taylor regarding the status of the project. Due to miscommunication, Cedar County Emergency Manager Garvin apparently wasn't kept up to date on the project, but Paramedic Sahagan provided contacts for EM Garvin to reach out to about the equipment needed for the WHOSE Responding project. The equipment has now been ordered and Paramedic Sahagan said he will contact EM Garvin for updates.

County Assessor Beckmann reviewed her 2026/2027 Budget worksheets with the Board as she won't be at the budget meeting at the August 26, 2026 special meeting.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the 2025/2026 Office Inventories. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Oil Crew update; 2.) Discussed possibly purchasing a used truck and selling two older dump trucks; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Discussed selling an old pickup at the Hartington Fall Auction; 5.) Discussion will be held at the August 26, 2026 budget workshop meeting on the replacement of the mechanic truck; 6.) Supr. Mlady asked if there was resolve to the Kohles Acres entrance road; 7.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into closed session at 11:24 a.m. to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session is being held to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 11:49 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 11:49 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of August 3-14, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 12:05 p.m. for lunch.

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

The Board reviewed an Administrative Plat Application for Nick and Aliza Stout for a 2.07-acre tract split North Frankfort Township. The Board questioned setbacks between the proposed split boundary lines in conjunction to grain bins on the other side of the tract. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to table action on Administrative Plat Application #P2605 Nick and Aliza Stout for a 2.07-acre lot split in the N1/2NE1/4 of Section 23, T33N, R2W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska (North Frankfort Township). By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #2. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to adopt **Resolution #2026 – 14** to declare a 2016 Ford Explorer to be surplus property and to sell it at the Annual Fall Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 8, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 - 14 **RESOLUTION TO DECLARE** **MOBILE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY** **AND FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, Knox County owns mobile equipment which has a value of seven 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. 2016 Ford Explorer Police 4 Door Sport Utility, VIN 1FM5K8AR1GGC50677

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 Fall Machinery Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 8, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the surplus property listed is 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 THAT 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 19th day of August 2026.

ATTEST: (Seal)

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

By: James Sokol, Jr. /s/
Chairman

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve Application for Permit to Install Pipeline or Service Line Beneath a County Road – Permit #R2601 Christopher Jessen for running irrigation line along with electric line under County Road #894 in the NE1/4N1/2NW1/4 of Section 3, T32N, R4W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska (Hill Township) with the condition that the eight-inch irrigation line must be incased in a larger pipe (10-inch) where it is under the road right-of-way and an additional condition that the line must be bored in under the road. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Piece, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to adopt Resolution #2026 – 15 that as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, the Board will allocate final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2026/2027. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 – 15

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors has allocated levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority to the Knox County townships, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate a final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2026/2027.

DATED this 19th day of August 2026.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
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

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt Resolution #2026 – 16 allocating up to 4.5 cents of levy authority to the Knox County Rural Fire Districts as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443 the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year (tax year 2026). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 - 16

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the allocated amount to the rural fire districts was 4.5 cents, and WHEREAS, the Knox County fire districts belong to the Mutual Fire Organization (MFO), and

WHEREAS, that under legislation in 2018 the fire districts in an MFO had to have one year where the levies were the same for all members and could be different for the next two years, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County rural fire districts were allocated up to 4.5 cents by the Knox County Board of Supervisors for tax years 2024 and 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County rural fire districts chose varying levies for their respective rural fire districts for tax years 2024 and 2025, and

WHEREAS, 2026/2027 Fiscal Year (tax year 2026) will have to be the year that all Knox County rural fire districts must have the same levy, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate 4.5 cents to the Knox County rural fire districts as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443 for budget year 2026-2027 Fiscal Year (tax year 2026).

DATED this 19th day of August 2026.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
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

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to adopt **Resolution #2026-17** transferring all remaining funds in the Crisis Therapy K9 petty cash fund bank account at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Center Branch to the General Fund and to close such account as the Crisis Therapy K9 program is being eliminated. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 - 17

WHEREAS §23-106(2) Nebraska Revised Statute authorizes the County Board to establish a petty cash fund and set the amount of money to be carried in such fund; and

WHEREAS, a petty cash checking account was established at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Center Branch in the amount of \$50 for the Crisis Therapy K9 Program, and

WHEREAS, the Crisis Therapy K9 Program is being eliminated as Emergency Manager Austin Taylor who created the program submitted his letter of resignation on August 3, 2026 and the Board approved the sale of the Crisis K9 dog, Knox, in the amount of \$1,500 to Austin Taylor as he will continue the program in Arkansas where he is relocating, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Knox County Board of Supervisors acknowledges that a petty cash fund will no longer exist in the Knox County Emergency Manager Office, any remaining monies in that petty cash fund are to be turned over to the Knox County Treasurer, and the petty cash fund banking account at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Center Branch is to be closed.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2026.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
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

Discussion was held on options to fill the Zoning Administrator position with an interim person or persons.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 1:44 p.m. for the review of County Burial Application #2026-1. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on the review of County Burial Application #2026-1. The Board came out of closed session at 1:50 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 1:50 p.m. the closed session held on County Burial Application #2026-1. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve County Burial Application #2026-1. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 1:51 p.m. for pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on pending litigation. The Board came out of closed session at 2:17 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 2:17 p.m. the closed session held on pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Committee updates were given by the following: 1.) Building and Grounds Committee said letters were mailed to the bidders at the window replacement bid opening. The grant process is no longer being considered; 2.) Supr. Pierce gave an update from the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging where routine program monitoring took place at the Santee Nutrition Center.

Official update was given by County Assessor Beckmann who informed the Board that the valuation notices have been posted. Knox County's valuation this year is \$3,584,909,122, being \$435,057,701 more than last year.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 105,391.70; Antelope County Sheriff, board prisoner, 2,292.50; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, it costs, 5,459.47; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 125.49; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 59.35; Cassie Stark, sheriff decals, 250.00; Centec Cast Metal Products, grave markers, 1,062.88; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,087.60; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,157.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 34.30; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 275.05; DAS State accounting-Central Finance, backup/radios, 659.00; Grager's Grocery, jail food, 267.99; Great Plains Communications, tower internet, 74.33; Knox County Court, cases pending or bound over, 105.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from

General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; Lancaster County Sheriff, paper fees, 20.27; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 134.09; Madison County Sheriff, paper fees, 73.93; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 107.34; NACO, registrations, 180.00; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 27.45; NSA/POAN, registration, 200.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 153.00; Plainview News, publishing, 82.50; Platte Valley Communications, maintenance/repairs, 545.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,059.52; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 463.03; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 92.09; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,402.02; T-Mobile, cell phones, 235.90; Tri State Turf & Irrigation, sprinkler repair, 188.92; Unmanned Vehicle Technologies LLC, drone, 16,178.63; Vic's Service, repair, 25.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 748.39.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 43,891.67; American Textile Mills Inc., shop supplies, 731.76; Asmus Equipment, asphalt tiller, 8,750.00; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 13,347.60; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 225.22; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 57.99; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 695.26; Cedar Knox Public Power District, electricity, 167.57; CHS, diesel/def, 1,275.74; CNH Industrial Accounts, repairs, 558.31; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,296.39; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 1,250.15; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 14,198.00; Dollar General, shop supplies, 14.00; Farmers Pride, diesel, 7,747.62; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., gas/diesel/seed/spray/shop supplies, 9,445.74; Husker C-Mart, gas, 199.01; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 51.68; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 190.32; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 958.03; Kevin R Barta, reimburse meals, 67.36; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 122.29; Krueger Auto LLC, tires, 1,193.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 465.07; Mike Jelinek, mileage, 60.85; Platte Valley Communications, radio, 1,111.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.52; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil/ filter/shop supplies, 3,000.32; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,902.66; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Spencer Quarries Inc., rock, 467.20; Sucha Repair, filters, 22.57; Tauber Lumber & Supply LLC, barricade repair, 184.21; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 156.90; Vakoc Excavating LLC, sand, 1,200.00; Vic's Service LLC, gas/tire repair, 422.71; Village of Center, water/sewer,39.20; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 51.00; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 94.50; Village of Wausa, water/sewer, 122.60; Waste Connections of Nebraska Inc., garbage, 80.25.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Jebro Inc., road oil, 53,588.16.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Max Hollman Tours, tour, 100.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Harley Stark, internship, 920.00; Village of Verdigre, improvement grant, 10,000.

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. Name Redacted, reimburse deductible, 250.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 2,030.75; Collette Panning, reimburse meals, 47.90; Warriors' Palate Catering, meals, 234.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Galyen, Boettcher, Baier, court appointed attorney, 464.35; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 100.50; Rodney W. Smith, reimburse interpreter, 150.00.

KENO FUND. Fluent information Management Systems Inc, paging/call system, 4,000.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 39.14.

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

TOTALS

General Fund	\$245,915.20
Road Fund	119,385.25
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	53,588.16
Visitor's Promo Fund	100.00
Visitor's Improvement Fund	10,920.00
County Wellness Fund	250.00
C&C Development Fund	2,312.65
Inheritance Fund	714.85
Keno Fund	4,000.00
911 Emergency Fund	39.14
911 Wireless Service Fund	91.34
Total	\$437,316.59

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, until Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. for a special budget meeting and until Wednesday, September 2, 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