

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
August 5, 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 5, 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.

Supr. Pierce 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 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 July 22, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the July 22, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:41 a.m.

Correspondence reviewed was a copy of a letter and check from Kevin and Patricia Zavadil addressed to Supr. O'Connor and his response letter. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the copy of the Kevin and Patricia Zavadil letter and check sent to Supr. O'Connor and a response letter from Supr. O'Connor thanking the Zavadils' and that the check could not be accepted as the actions taken by Supr. O'Connor were taken as a Knox County Supervisor and in the line of his elected duties therefore the check was sent back. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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 \$474,630.67 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of July 20 – 31, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to change the first meeting date in November from Wednesday, November 11, 2026 which is the Veterans' Day holiday to Thursday, November 12, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 10:18 a.m. to discuss personnel so as not to cause injury to individuals' reputations. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as not to cause injury to individuals' reputations. Present during various times of the closed session were Hwy. Supt. Barta and Road employees. The Board came out of closed session at 11:15 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 11:15 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle updated the Board on the matter of vacation/abandonment of cul de sacs in the SID #2/Devils Nest Subdivision. Discussed were vacations/abandonments done in the past by the SID #2 Board but never recorded in the Knox County Register of Deeds' Office, prior legal advice on how to proceed with the vacation/abandonment but later changed, need to start at the beginning as the prior vacations/abandonments are void, and step by step process as per statutes. More discussion will be held.

E.M./Zoning Administrator Taylor met with the Board on the following: 1.) Christian Bird submitted an Application for Permit to Install Driveway Along County Road as Mr. Bird and his wife are having a building brought into their property for their new business and the driveway needs to be widened by fifty feet temporarily to allow for the truck to make the turn. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve and place on file the Application for Permit to Install Driveway Along County Road submitted by Christian Bird of Verdigre to temporarily widen his driveway by fifty feet to accommodate a truck hauling in a building to the Bird property in Section 11, T30N, R7W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska (Jefferson Twp.). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Sheriff Henery updated the Board on the letter received from Crofton City terminating a law enforcement interlocal agreement with Knox County. A new contract is being discussed.

At 11:55 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened an advertised public hearing on the Santee Sioux Nation DBA Ohiya Casino & Resort Liquor License Manager Change Amendment Application. Teri Erdmann of Crofton is being named the new manager of the Ohiya Casino & Resort. Chairman Sokol, Jr., closed the public hearing at 11:59 a.m. No one was present in opposition. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the Santee Sioux Nation DBA Ohiya Casino & Resort Class I Liquor License Manager Change Amendment Application. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 12:46 p.m. with all members present.

E.M./Zoning Administrator Taylor continued with the following: 2.) Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve Administrative Plat Application P2606 Wendy Zimmerman for a 0.03-acre boundary line adjustment in Lot 4, Block 1, Grandview Estates, Knox County, Nebraska. (Herrick Twp.) By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve Administrative Plat

Application P2607 David A. Arens for a 5-acre lot split in the SW1/4NW1/4 of Section 32 and the SE1/4NE1/4 of Section 31, all in T33N, R2W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. (Frankfort Twp.) By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4.) Discussion was held on a FEMA issue with the Nebraska Flood Insurance Program in the river area. A Zoom meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6 to discuss issues that need to be resolved; 5.) E.M./Zoning Administrator Austin Taylor submitted his resignation effective after August 14, 2026. Taylor wishes to move back to Arkansas to be with family. The Board thanked EM/Zoning Administrator Taylor for all of his dedication to Knox County. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator/Floodplain Administrator Austin Taylor effective August 14, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Discussion was held on options to fill the two open positions; 6.) EM/ZA Taylor expressed his desire to purchase Knox, the Crisis K9 Therapy dog that he has been training as he wishes to pursue the continuation of the program in Arkansas. Reviewed were the donations received. Modern Woodmen was contacted as they gave a sizable donation and said they agreed with the continuation of the program as they work in Arkansas as well as Nebraska and other states. There is a balance of \$1,498.84 currently in the program and there is a petty cash bank account that balances back to \$50. EM Taylor proposed \$1,500 so there would be approximately \$3,000 to put back to the County. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the sale of Crisis K9 dog, Knox, to Austin Taylor in the amount of \$1,500 with the total to be retained by the County in the amount of nearly \$3,000 and to close the Crisis K9 Therapy program. 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.) Working on 911 signs; 3.) Complaints were received on the "Horseshoe Hill" County road after it rained recently. Gravel was hauled in and put on the road which then prompted complaints that it was too rough along with complaints of excessive truck traffic and overloaded trucks compromising the condition of the road. Discussed was whether weight limit signs could be placed or have the County Sheriff issue warnings for those speeding in this area.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the District #7 Probation Year End Review and Budget Request for 2026/2027. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve the Amended 2026 Printing Report to show the required revisions to the Notice of Meetings as per LB663. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Veterans' Service Officer Harvey met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and Kelly K. Harvey on behalf of the Knox County Veterans Service Office. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Update on the Korean War Veterans Honor Ceremony.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Clerk of the District Court July 2026 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the NIRMA Certificates of Liability Insurance. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2026 - 13** authorizing Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION
SIGNING OF THE COUNTY ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE
2026

Resolution No. 2026 - 13

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2115, 39-2119, 39-2120, 39-2121, and 39-2510(2), requires an annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and standards; and

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each county shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include the resolution of the governing body of the county authorizing the signing of the certification.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Knox County is hereby authorized to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance.

Adopted this 5th day of August, 2026 at Center, Nebraska.

County Board Members

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/	Martin J. O'Connor /s/
David L. Pierce /s/	James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James J. Borgmann /s/	Kevin G. Mlady /s/
Danny R. Schlote /s/	

County Board Member Supr. Pierce

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Supr. Borgmann Seconded the Motion

Roll Call: 7 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 0 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/

(Signature of Clerk)

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 102,332.39; Applied Connective Technologies, computer, 1,081.95; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 98.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,840.37; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,552.00; Creston Fertilizer Co Inc., weed chemicals, 1,057.20; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 42.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance,

teletype, 537.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 1,600.20; Ecowater, bottled water, 381.00; First National Bank Omaha, supplies/postage/meals/lodging/gas, 8,448.85; Government Forms & Supplies, office supplies, 221.13; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 2,386.97; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees; 317.30; Landmark Surveying LLC, surveyor fees, 460.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 140.43; Madison County Treasurer, probation cost, 6,823.62; MIPS Inc., computer program, 907.08; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,933.85; Postmaster, postal permit fees, 780.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,109.25; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,186.72; Sanne Guns/Ammo & Repair, sheriff car equipment, 7,214.85; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 240.00; T-Mobile, cell phones, 54.33; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 264.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 773.37.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 44,632.68; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/pump/spray/grease, 1,505.04; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; CMart LLC, gas, 656.07; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,353.06; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 15,308.00; First National Bank Omaha, repairs, 706.88; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 3,522.80; Gary Becker, sand, 1,200.00; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.91; Grossenburg Implement, oil/filter/repairs, 3,340.99; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/gas, 2,651.28; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 1,060.00; Jebro Inc., asphaltic, 129,392.19; Joel Suhr, clay, 900.00; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 282.26; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 180.81; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 313.17; Powerplan, repairs, 951.06; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.70; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,952.70; Roger Lemke, clay, 420.00; T-Mobile, cell phones, 446.86; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 30,612.60; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 22,252.72.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 168.38; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, meals/lodging, 338.19; Shannon Trail Promoters Organization, Promo Grant, 300.00.

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

COUNTY WELLNESS FUND. Name Redacted, insurance deductible reimbursement, 250.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 2,000.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals/leadership, 363.44; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.91; T-Mobile, cell phone, 50.98.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 1,245.70; Brogan Lamml P.C., court appointed attorney, 1,309.64; Fitzgerald, Vetter & Temple, court appointed attorney, 1,171.60; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33; Sunflower Law LLC, special county attorney, 5,871.25.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 12.14.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, continuing ed, 89.70; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.71; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44; Police Legal Sciences, training, 256.20.

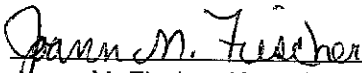
911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. First National Bank Omaha, continuing ed, 209.30; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04; Police Legal Sciences, training, 597.80.

TOTALS	
General Fund	\$188,784.46
Road Fund	267,394.01
Child Support Fund	249.38
Visitor's Promo Fund	638.19
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	588.99
County Wellness Fund	250.00
C & C Development Fund	2,476.33
Inheritance Fund	11,681.52
Keno Fund	12.14
911 Emergency Fund	809.05
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,746.60
Total	\$474,630.67

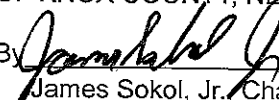
Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:57 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, until Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

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 
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman