

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
July 22, 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 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Kevin G. Mlady District #2, David L. Pierce District #3, James Sokol, Jr. District #4, Danny R. Schlote District #6 and James J. Borgmann District #7. Absent were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1 and Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5.

Supr. Borgmann 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 July 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the July 8, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m. Veterans' Service Officer Hanvey updated the Board on the upcoming ceremony to honor Korean War Veterans on July 26, 2026 at Creighton. Eighteen of the twenty-two Knox County veterans have said they will attend the ceremony along with two from Antelope County, one from Holt County and one from Pierce County. Director of Nebraska Veterans Affairs John Hilgert will be presenting medallion coins to those veterans.

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 #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$705,703.33 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of July 6 – 17, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

Discussed was setting the Avera Onsite Wellness in March or April next year as the mid-year schedule causes conflicts with Road projects.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote, as pursuant to Revised Statute Section 23-122, employee salaries as of July 2026, be published in the legal papers of the Niobrara Tribune and Wausa Gazette by August 15, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

Pursuant to Section 23-122, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, salaries and job descriptions of County officials and employees are required to be published between July 15 and August 15. Benefits include a single dental/vision policy, a \$15,000 life insurance policy, and eligible full-time employees receive a single health insurance policy. In addition, eligible full-time employees can enroll their spouses, child(ren) or family in the County health insurance with Knox County paying the premium for the spouse/child(ren)/family health insurance coverage. In lieu of health insurance, eligible full-time employees receive a taxable \$207/pay period stipend for opting out of County health insurance coverage. Those not receiving insurance will be marked "no insurance". Non-exempt employees' salaries are based on an eight-hour workday with exception of law enforcement and non-exempt employees are eligible for overtime pay for hours worked over 40 hours a week at one & one-half times hourly rate. There are twenty-six pay periods annually as Knox County employees are paid bi-weekly. The following are salaries of Knox County officials and employees as of July 20, 2026: **ELECTED OFFICIALS:** **Supervisors:** 1 Supervisor/Chairman - \$1,204.61/pay period + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; 2 Supervisors - \$1,158.46/pay period; 4 Supervisors - \$1,158.46/pay period + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; **County Assessor Office:** County Assessor - \$2,896.15/pay period; Deputy Assessor - \$30.25/hour + \$20 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Clerk/Appraiser - \$20.85/hour + \$20 clothing allowance/pay period; 2 Clerk/Appraisers - \$19.72/hour + \$20 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Clerk/Appraiser - \$18.20/hour + \$20 clothing allowance/pay period; **County Attorney Office:** 1 Administrative Assistant - \$21.44/hour + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; **County Clerk Office:** County Clerk, Election Commissioner & Ex-Officio Register of Deeds - \$2,896.15/pay period; Deputy County Clerk - \$30.25/hour; Senior Office Clerk - \$28.93/hour + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; 1 Office Clerk - \$19.08/hour; 1 Part-time Office Clerk - \$17.50/hour (no insurance); **Clerk of District Court Office:** Clerk of District Court - \$2,896.15/pay period; Deputy Clerk of District Court - \$30.25/hour + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; **County Sheriff's Office:** County Sheriff - \$3,680.76/pay period + \$60 uniform allowance/pay period & \$23.08 phone/internet/pay period; 911 Coordinator - \$28.87/hour + \$30 uniform allowance/pay period; 1 Chief Deputy Sheriff - \$2,967.51/pay period + \$37.60/other hours + \$60 uniform allowance/pay period; 2 Deputy Sheriffs - \$2,912.26/pay period + \$36.90/other hours + \$60 uniform allowance/pay period; 1 Deputy Sheriff - \$2,680.23/pay period + \$33.96/other hours + \$60 uniform allowance/pay period; 7 Part-time Deputy Sheriffs - \$32.70/hour (no insurance); 1 Administrative Assistant - \$22.37/hour + \$30 uniform allowance/pay period; 1 Jailor - \$28.60/hour + \$30 uniform allowance/pay period; 1 Jailor - \$28.17/hour + \$30 uniform allowance/pay period; 3 Jailors - \$22.37/hour + \$30 uniform allowance/pay period; 1 Jailor - \$20.92/hour + \$30 uniform allowance/pay period; 1 Part-time Jailor - \$23.12/hour (no insurance); 1 Part-time Jailor - \$23.65/hour (no insurance); 2 Part-time Jailors - \$20.92 (no insurance); **County Surveyor Office:** County Surveyor - \$57.69/pay period; **County Treasurer Office:** County Treasurer - \$2,896.15/pay period; Deputy County Treasurer - \$30.25/hour; 1 Office Clerk - \$22.16/hour; 1 Office Clerk - \$20.85/hour + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; **Custodian:** 1 Custodian - \$24.45/hour; **Extension Office (Interlocal agreement):** 1 Office Manager - \$26.69/hour; **APPOINTED OFFICIALS:** **Emergency Manager Office:** Emergency Manager - \$2,273.60/pay period; **Highway Superintendent Office:** Highway Superintendent - \$3,457.96/pay period + vehicle benefit; 1 Office Manager - \$30.25/hour; 1 Office Clerk - \$23.70/hour; 1 Mechanic - \$38.75/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Bridge Crew Foreman/Crane Operator - \$29.01/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Oil Foreman - \$28.33/hour + \$25 clothing

allowance/pay period; 5 Motorgrader Operators – \$25.44/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Motorgrader Operator - \$25.44/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; 2 Motorgrader Operators - \$23.28/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 2 Motorgrader Operators - \$21.89/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 3 Truck Drivers – \$25.44/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Truck Driver - \$25.44/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; 2 Truck Drivers - \$21.89/hour + \$25 clothing allowance/pay period; 1 Part-time Truck Driver - \$22.75/hour (no insurance); **Veteran Service Officer Office:** Veterans Service Officer - \$24.00/hour + \$207 opt out stipend/pay period; **Weed Superintendent Office:** Weed Superintendent - \$27.08/hour summer months + \$25 uniform allowance/pay period/summer months (no insurance); **Zoning Administrator Office:** Zoning Administrator – \$568.40/pay period; **OTHER OFFICES: Development Agency Director Office (Interlocal agreement):** Development Agency Director – \$25.00/hour.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:00 a.m.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:17 a.m. with all members present except Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1 and Kevin D. Mackeprang District #5.

Ron Wagner of Creighton met with the Board to ask if the County would take the concrete and brick debris from a recent fire that destroyed The 812, a bar Mr. Wagner and his wife, Lisa, owned and operated until the fire. The Board confirmed they would take the concrete and brick debris at the Creighton County Yard to be ground and used by the County.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Bridge Crew update; 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Discussed purchasing a pulverizer. Several quotes were received being Asmus Equipment, Plainview NE – IronCraft's VH-90 Extreme Duty Rotary Tiller, \$8,750.00, Mitchell's Equipment, Atkinson NE – Maschio 250 rotary tiller, \$18,900, and AKERS Equipment, O'Neill NE – Maschio 250 rotary tiller, verbal quote of \$18,000. More research will be made.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 10:48 a.m. so as not to cause injury to an individual's reputation when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as not to cause injury to an individual's reputation when discussing personnel. Hwy. Supt. Barta was present during the closed session. The Board came out of closed session at 11:03 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 11:03 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened at 11:04 a.m. the public hearing for the Class C Liquor License Application for 1st and 10 Bar and Grill owned and operated by the Santee Sioux Nation. Santee Sioux Nation Chairman Alonso Denney was present and updated the Board on the new facility at 52946 Hwy 12 STE 2, Niobrara and handed out the business plan of the establishment. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 11:07 a.m. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the Class C Beer, Wine, Spirits On and Off Sale Liquor License Application for 1st and 10 Bar and Grill owned and operated by the Santee Sioux Nation. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

Lowell Schroeder with Five Rule Planning updated the Board on the Western Knox County Housing Survey that covers Niobrara, Creighton, Verdigre and Verdel.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the advertised Courthouse Window Replacement bid opening at 11:15 a.m. The Knox County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any or all bids and reserves the right to accept any bid that in their judgment best serves the County's needs. Bids received were: **Johnson Specialty Contracting, Creighton NE,** \$409,700; **Timekey Enterprise, LLC, Kansas City, MO,** \$258,565; **Scott Ober Construction, LLC, Bloomfield NE,** \$181,800; **Bartak Glass, Inc., O'Neill NE,** \$187,306. Discussion was held on timeline for installing and design of windows according to the grant specifications, applying for extension of deadline to install windows and historical requirements. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to reject all Courthouse Window Replacement bids received at this time. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to table until the next meeting placing on file the Crofton City letter of Termination of the law enforcement interlocal agreement that will expire August 1, 2026 as Sheriff Henery is in contact with the Crofton City Council. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent were Districts #1 and #5. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 108,361.41; Antelope County Sheriff, board prisoner, 135.00; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, battery backup, 235.95; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 125.40; Bohemian One Stop, gas/meals, 135.86; Bomgaars, supplies, 22.66; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 36.00; CLS, mop rental, 50.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,301.41; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 34,705.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 43.69; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 11,394.20; DAS State accounting-Central Finance, backup/radios, 659.00; Grafix Shoppe, graphics, 445.47; Grager's Grocery, jail food, 379.11; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,198.67; Independent Pest Management LLC, pest control contract, 1,330.00; Knox County Court, cases pending or bound over, 107.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 60,655.21; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 134.68; Morgan Johnson, reimburse insurance premium, 5.75; Motorola Solutions Inc., radio, 5,431.29; Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, lodging, 100.00; Nebraska Forest Service, rake, 112.34; North Central Public Power District, tower power, 50.20; Northeast Community College, BLS renewal, 42.00; Physicians Laboratory P.C., autopsy costs, 424.00; Pitney Bowes, meter lease, 171.30; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 110.56; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,108.80; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 498.87; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 397.47; Regier Carr & Monroe LLP, audit/budget, 30,800.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,610.83; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 42.00; Yankton Fire & Safety Co Inc., fire extinguisher inspection, 313.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 43,119.40; B's Enterprises Inc., signs/plank, 14,022.00; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 214.33; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 56.11; Bloomfield Auto Parts, oil/filters/supplies, 144.08; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 789.66; Cedar Knox Public Power District, electricity, 169.63; CHS, diesel/def, 1,040.55; City of Creighton, water/sewer,

133.81; CMart LLC, gas, 556.04; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,237.28; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 535.52; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 15,308.00; Crane Sales & Service, repairs, 2,050.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 918.50; Crofton Lumber, repairs, 27.40; Farmers Pride, diesel, 11,361.75; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., gas/diesel, 10,116.37; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 3,335.00; Husker C-Mart, gas, 397.87; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 51.68; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 61.95; Kayton International Inc., oil/filter, 122.12; KTP Enterprises Inc., repairs, 443.50; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 147.57; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 385.16; Norfolk Lodge & Suites, lodging, 550.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.52; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil/ filter/shop supplies, 3,043.01; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,850.56; Roger Lemke, clay, 930.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 94.50; Waste Connections of Nebraska inc., garbage, 80.25; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel, 53,754.33; Yankton Fire & Safety Co. Inc., fire extinguisher inspections, 250.50.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Husker Steel, bridge steel, 248,760.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Creative Revolution, website updates, 62.50; Crofton's Dam Race, promo funds, 1,500.00; Verdigre Improvement Club, promo grant, 1,000.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 2,000.00; Amy Pavlik, leadership meal, 60.00; Stacy Miller, reimburse meal/gas, 123.54.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,750.00.

KENO FUND. Platte Valley Communications, paging system console, 2,726.00.

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

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

TOTALS

General Fund	275,674.13
Road Fund	170,916.68
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	248,760.00
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,562.50
C&C Development Fund	2,183.54
Inheritance Fund	2,750.00
Keno Fund	2,726.00
911 Emergency Fund	39.14
911 Wireless Service Fund	91.34
Total	\$705,703.33

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:08 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, until Wednesday, August 5, 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