

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
September 2, 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, September 2, 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.

County Clerk Fischer 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 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 August 19 and August 26, 2026 meetings minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the August 19 and August 26, 2026 meetings minutes.

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

Correspondence reviewed was a letter and report from the Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice of the annual evaluation of the Knox County Jail that was determined to be in full compliance with Standards at the time of the inspection.

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 \$547,973.03 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:12 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:12 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:22 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussed was damage to the northeastern part of Knox County from the recent storm; 2.) Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2026 – 19** to declare a 2010 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 pickup 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 - 19
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. 2010 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 LT 4 Door Pickup, VIN 1GCSKSE31AZ290859

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 2nd day of September 2026.

ATTEST: (Seal)

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA
By: James Sokol, Jr. /s/
Chairman

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) Bridge Crew update; 5.) Discussed proposed culvert boring project under Rec Road; 6.) Discussed a complaint from the Post Office about conditions of several Bohemia Township roads. Bohemia Township Chairman Wendell Rohrer was present and informed the Board that he has maintained the roads however due to the drought, it is very hard to eliminate "washboard" conditions.

County Clerk Fischer and the Board reviewed the 2026/2027 budget. With the revisions, deductions and cuts made to the worksheets at the August 26, 2026 budget meeting, the tax request was dropped from \$6,033,525.84 to \$4,824,100.84 that included tax relief by transferring from the Inheritance Fund \$250,000 for the General Fund and \$303,240.93 for a payment for the Bloomfield North project repayment. The Board wished to see a lower tax request so a further proposed transfer from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$350,000 was proposed for a total of \$600,000 to be transferred to the General Fund for tax relief along with a transfer of \$303,240.93 for the sixth repayment for the Bloomfield North Project. Knox County will have to participate in the 2026 Joint Public Hearing on

September 21, 2026 along with three Knox County Schools and the City of Crofton. The Budget Hearing and the Final Tax Request Hearing are scheduled for September 23, 2026.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of August 17 – 28, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to adopt **Resolution #2026-20** withdrawing and declining the award grant from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment/Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program due to concerns about the grant requirements of the types of windows and putting in over sixty windows in the short grant deadline period. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026 – 20

WHEREAS, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program is being administered by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors contracted with Five Rule Rural Planning and Lowell Schroeder, Project Developer for the submission of a grant application to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program on behalf of Knox County, Nebraska in the amount of up to \$100,000 for the replacement of windows and possibly replacing the HVAC system in the Knox County Courthouse in Center, Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Knox County received an email on June 24, 2026 stating that Knox County was selected to receive an award under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program with a subaward Federal value of \$95,030.00 with a total project cost of \$190,510 and that specific types of windows need to be installed by the end of October 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors held a bid process for the window replacements and four bids were received, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors had concerns about the grant requirements of the types of windows and putting in over sixty windows in the grant deadline period, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors hereby withdraws and declines the awarded grant from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment/Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

Dated this 2nd day of September 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. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Planning Commission June 16, 2026 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Due to the resignation of Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Austin Taylor, the Board wanted to continue issuing zoning permits so the Board proposed interims to temporarily provide zoning and permitting advisory services to the County. Former Zoning Administrator Liz Doerr stepped forward to help for a short time as well as Heather McWhorter agreed to provide services for a fixed time. Civil County Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle prepared Independent Contractor Agreements that were reviewed. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement between the County of Knox and Heather McWhorter for interim zoning services from September 2 and December 31, 2026 at \$50 per hour and an Independent Contractor Agreement between the County of Knox and Elizabeth Doerr for interim zoning services from August 27 and December 31, 2026 at \$50 per hour. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Emergency Management and Zoning positions. The initial advertising for the positions was for full-time positions but now advertising will be made to include that positions could be part-time with limited benefits.

Officials' update was given by County Treasurer Ebel who said that 95% of the 2025 taxes have now been collected.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 102,561.25; Amy Johnson, mileage, 87.73; AT&T Mobility, cell phone, 128.63; Bomgaars, windshield wash/oil, 32.61; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; Christa Beckmann, reimburse meals, 36.00; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 173.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,871.01; Connie J Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,157.00; Creston Fertilizer Co Inc., weed chemicals, 1,523.65; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 479.46; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; David A Arens, meeting/mileage, 75.75; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 52.30; Diane L Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies/paper, 2,246.29; First National Bank Omaha, supplies/postage/meals/lodging/gas, 4,483.56; Grandma Pam's, veterans meals, 1,200.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 1,231.72; Greg D Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 59.80; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 279.90; James F Janecek, prior service, 21.00; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 48.20; Jo Ann Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Kari Ebel, mileage, 94.30; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees, 85.50; KV Electric, repair light, 130.24; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 134.09; Loffler, copier agreement, 144.88; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Madison County Clerk, judges expense, 156.77; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage, 113.16; MIPS Inc., computer program, 907.08; Monica McManigal, prior service, 15.00; NACO, registration, 30.00; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 65.60; North Central Public

Power District, electricity, 2,587.86; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 401.46; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,059.95; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 742.26; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,077.15; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 40.95; The Barn at God's Country, rent, 300.00; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 82.50; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00; Wayne County Clerk, judges expense, 4,611.85.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 44,032.68; B's Enterprises, Inc, sign/misc/patch material, 7,610.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/pump/spray/grease, 1,539.87; City of Bloomfield, water, 35.00; CMart LLC, gas, 686.16; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,307.15; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 14,198.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 1,010.29; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 10.99; Diesel Machinery Inc., repairs, 786.26; Freeman Oil Co., diesel, 1,817.00; Great Plains Communications, phone, 213.62; Grossenburg Implement, oil/filter/repairs, 94.28; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/gas, 10,613.54; Kaiser Appliance & Refrigeration, brush blade, 41.99; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 141.72; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 325.40; Plumbing & Electric Service Inc., pipe, 2,820.10; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.70; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,898.23; Straight-line Striping Inc., centerline marking, 12,756.15; Sudbeck Underground, equipment rental, 26,240.00; Village of Center, water/sewer, 35.60; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 30,583.44.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. Sid Dillon, truck, 158,500.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 60.39; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 168.38; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 374.36; Postmaster, postage, 1,112.80.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Center Community, promo grant, 500.00; First National Bank Omaha, advertising, 140.18; Nebraska Travel Association, dues, 400.00; Winnetoon BBQ, promo grant, 500.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Legendary Graphics LLC, decals, 1,027.50.

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, 2,024.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/meals/leadership/subscriptions, 1,072.66; Great Plains Communication, phone/internet/fax, 61.91.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 473.50; Cedar County Transit, public transit contract, 2,750.00; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 15,153.75; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 12,862.50; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33; Sunflower Law LLC, special county attorney, 8,540.00.

KENO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, postage, 23.10.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, continuing ed/supplies, 139.27; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.71; OPTK Networks, networking, 228.44.

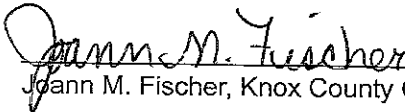
911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. First National Bank Omaha, continuing ed, 209.30; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; OPTK Networks, networking, 533.04.

TOTALS	
General Fund	\$175,253.06
Road Fund	162,301.40
Flowage Easement Road Fund	158,500.00
Child Support Fund	1,715.93
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,540.18
Visitor's Improvement Fund	1,027.50
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	588.99
County Wellness Fund	250.00
C & C Development Fund	3,158.57
Inheritance Fund	41,863.08
Keno Fund	23.10
911 Emergency Fund	602.42
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,148.80
Total	\$547,973.03

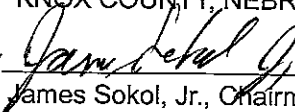
Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:12 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, until Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

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