

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
September 16, 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 16, 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.

Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle 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 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 September 2, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the September 2, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:40 a.m. Bloomfield firefighters Ben Lauck and Jim Petersen updated the Board on the new WHOSE paging program. Cedar County is now starting the program and their equipment has arrived. Discussion was held on the training with dispatchers, mutual aid, working with other towns to make sure the program is working at each fire department, updates needed to the command trailer and possible communications would be appreciated on the Lindy tower. Also, during the public comment session, Josh Rhodes introduced himself to the Board as he will be present for the Tom Middleton public hearing.

Correspondence reviewed was information of the "Miles of Smiles" program through North Central District Health Department.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce that all claims except Claim #26090206, 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.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann that Claim #26090206 payable to Elder Law and Estate Planning, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee, be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #5. Motion carried.

Claims totaling \$399,498.59 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 10:02 a.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:03 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

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

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Nebraska Revised Statute 39-1811 says that roadsides are to be mowed sometime in July and September. Many roads have not been mowed yet this year. An ad will be placed on the County Facebook page; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) Rec Road culvert boring was discussed; 5.) Update on the cash on hand and bills to be paid; 6.) Review of sale of surplus vehicles and tractor parts at the Annual Consignment Auction in Hartington on September 8, 2026.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of August 31 - September 11, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to cancel Check #26090054 payable to Lois Colwell in the amount of \$27.00, noting that the check is dated September 2, 2026 for prior service of October through December 2026 and is being canceled as Mrs. Colwell passed away before September 2, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to approve KENO through the County of Knox for The Current, LLC dba The Current located in the Lazy River Acres area (Raymond Township). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board and County Clerk Fischer discussed deer carcass dumpsters. County Clerk Fischer had information from J & J Sanitation who said they would provide the dumpsters again this year at the Niobrara and Creighton County Yards. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve deer carcass dumpsters from the end of October through December 1 through J & J Sanitation of O'Neill to be located at the Niobrara and Creighton County Yards and the costs to be paid from the County KENO Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board took a break from 10:39 a.m. to 10:48 a.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened at 10:48 a.m. the public hearing for Conditional Use Permit #CU2604 James Cook for a catering service in Jefferson Township. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 10:50 a.m. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve Conditional Use Permit #CU2604 James Cook for a catering service located on the E1/2NE1/4 of Section 17, T30N, R7W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska (Jefferson Township). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

At 10:48 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public hearing on Conditional Use Permit #CU2603 Tom Middleton for a garage with living quarters in Allan's Addition to Kohles Acres. Discussion was held on the garage which is to be a separate building and will have living quarters in it noting that the building will be located on a 33-foot portion of a vacated street that was vacated in 1999. Katrina Burkhardt said she had seen the notice in the newspaper, had spoken to a Herrick Township Board member who said they didn't know about the conditional use permit or structure and said that communication is needed with the township government. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 11:02 a.m. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Conditional Use Permit #CU2603 Tom Middleton for the

construction of a detached garage with living space on the second level located on a portion of vacated Hillside Road adjacent to Lots 2 and 3, Block 6, Allan's Addition to Kohles Acres (Herrick Township). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

At 11:05 a.m., Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public hearing for P#2605 Heaven's Ridge Subdivision Final Plat. Tony Dick and legal advisor Ann Post discussed with the Board that significant discussions were held with Cedar Ridge about an agreement for road maintenance, but no results have been reached. Katrina Burkhardt mentioned that the Herrick Township Treasurer was not aware of the new proposed subdivision and that notification needs to be made to the township boards and, in addition, believes the HOA Covenants was weak. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle responded that meetings were held when the preliminary subdivision plat was proposed and at least one Herrick Township Board member was present at one of the meetings. Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public hearing at 11:15 a.m. Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve P#2605 Heaven's Ridge Subdivision Final Plat, a subdivision located in the E1/2SE1/4 of Section 13, T33N, R3W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska (Herrick Township). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Economic Development Director Miller met with the Board on the following: 1.) Economic Development Director Miller informed the Board that all the County high schools have internship programs, and she was asking for an intern to help with tourism promotion and the website noting that Wausa High School student Noel Kumm is interested. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle drafted an Independent Contractor Agreement for Social Media Marketing Services at \$15 per hour. Director Miller said that Ms. Kumm would be coming every other Friday and the cost to be paid from the Visitor's Promo Fund; 2.) There will be an Agri-Tourism and Adventure Tourism workshop in Scottsbluff, she would like to attend and asked if it was permissible to drive a county vehicle that far. The Board said they had no problem with that; 3.) Update on recent meetings; 4.) Discussed housing expansion. Discussed was the possibility of school land being sold. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to place on file Niobrara Village Housing Project information. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to go into closed session at 11:33 a.m. to review job applications for the Emergency Management position and Zoning Administrator position. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held for the review of job applications for the Emergency Management position and Zoning Administrator position. County Clerk Fischer and Senior Office Clerk Surface were present. The Board came out of closed session at 12:05 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 12:05 p.m. the closed session held on review of job applications for the Emergency Management and Zoning Administrator positions. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:05 p.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to go into closed session at 1:10 p.m. to protect public interest to receive legal advice on litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to protect public interest to receive legal advice on litigation. Supr. Mackeprang left the closed session at 1:25 p.m. but did not leave the meeting. The Board came out of closed session at 1:48 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 1:48 p.m. the closed session held to protect public interest to receive legal advice on litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Insurance Agent Jeff Hammer met with the Board about the current Lincoln Financial Life Insurance where the County provides a \$15,000 life insurance policy to eligible employees and where eligible employees can purchase additional life insurance for themselves and family members. Agent Hammer presented information on Colonial Life insurance that could replace the Lincoln Financial Life and would save the County money in premiums. The employees could also enroll in additional coverage at a lower rate and a higher coverage rate noting the additional coverage premiums are a payroll deduction. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to switch the life insurance benefit coverage from Lincoln Financial Life Insurance to Colonial Life Insurance starting in November and that Insurance Agent Jeff Hammer who handles the County's other insurance benefits to be the broker with the Colonial Life Insurance, noting that a number of employees have other types of coverage with Colonial Life and Agent Hammer will handle these other coverages as well for the employees. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the 2026/2027 budget. Knox County will be participating in the Joint Public Hearing on September 21, 2026 at 6:05 p.m. at The Barn in God's Country along with the City of Crofton and the Bloomfield, Creighton and Wausa schools. The Knox County 2026/2027 budget hearing and the tax hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Officials update was given by County Treasurer Ebel who informed the Board that there will be four more tax sales in October.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 100,121.89; Antelope County Sheriff, board prisoner, 1,755.00; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, it costs, 5,433.76; Clerk of District, court costs, 281.00; CLS, mop rental, 45.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,684.22; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 33,157.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, subscription, 52.00; DAS State accounting-Central Finance, backup, 472.00; Ecowater, bottled water, 311.00; F & M State Bank, ACH fee, 240.00; Grager's Grocery, jail food, 279.45; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/tower internet, 1,190.73; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 839.70; Knox County Court, cases pending or bound over, 271.00; Knox County Sheriff, paper fees, 38.44; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 134.09; Maggie Cook, court reporter, 462.20; MIPS Inc., computer program, 172.45; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, training, 580.00; North Central Public Power District, tower electricity, 46.27; O'Neill Shopper, publishing, 41.50; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 225.38; Platte Valley Communications, maintenance/repairs, 231.75; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,059.52; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 296.36; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 54.24; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,988.72; Software Unlimited Corp., program, 2,168.11; T-Mobile, cell phones, 32.01; T-Mobile, cell phones, 196.22;

Tilden Drug, meds, 23.10; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 492.82; Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, publishing, 503.13.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 46,305.61; American Textile Mills Inc., shop supplies, 141.29; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 1,356.96; Carlson Home & Auto Supply, tire repair, 40.00, CHS, diesel/def, 1,644.13; City of Creighton, water/sewer, 135.41; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,481.03; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 203.07; Country Market, shop supplies, 19.95; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 14,198.00; Farmers Pride, diesel/propane, 4,323.33; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., gas/diesel/repairs/spray/shop supplies, 8,476.12; Husker C-Mart, gas, 329.65; J&K Auto, tire repair, 22.50; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 51.68; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 259.57; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 560.00; Kayton International Inc., repairs, 3,076.98; Kevin R. Barta, reimburse title and tire fee, 16.00; Kimball Midwest, shop supplies, 181.16; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 60.23; LTL Holdings Inc., gas, 385.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 47.01; Powerplan, repairs, 573.89; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 443.52; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil/ shop supplies, 1,833.32; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 3,051.65; Spencer Quarries Inc., rock, 462.09; T-Mobile, cell phones, 414.10; Tauber Lumber & Supply LLC, ash gro grinding, 6,014.99; Vic's Service LLC, gas/tires, 1,001.82; Village of Center, water/sewer, 70.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 94.50; Waste Connections of Nebraska inc., garbage, 22.25.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Jebro Inc., road oil, 101,116.56.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. City of Bloomfield, improvement grant, 10,000.00; Creative Revolution, Microsoft 365 subscription, 719.64; Village of Wausa, improvement grant, 10,000.00.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 2,024.00; Nicole Sedlacek, leadership, 200.00; T-Mobile, cell phone, 47.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 473.50; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special attorney, 4,630.50; Liberty Law Group LLC, special county attorney, 50.00; North Central District Health Department, miles of smiles, 2,270.00; Stratton Law Group PC LLO, court appointed attorney, 2,279.54.

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

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

TOTALS

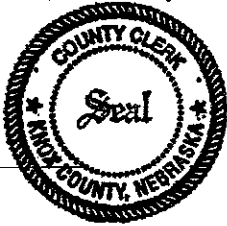
General Fund	\$165,880.06
Road Fund	99,346.31
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	101,116.56
Child Support Fund	81.00
Visitor's Improvement Fund	20,719.65
County Wellness Fund	250.00
C&C Development Fund	2,271.00
Inheritance Fund	9,703.54
911 Emergency Fund	39.14
911 Wireless Service Fund	91.34
Total	\$399,498.59

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:17 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, until Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for the 2026/2027 budget hearing and 2026 final tax hearing/special meeting and until Wednesday, September 30, 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