

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
September 30, 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 30, 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.

Sheriff Henery 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 and Wausa Gazette newspapers, as shown by the Affidavits 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 16 and 23, 2026 meetings' minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the September 16 and 23, 2026 meetings' minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:53 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mlady that all claims except Claim #26090280, 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. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce that Claim #26090280 payable to Elder Law and 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.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 10:02 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 was being held to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 10:14 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 10:14 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr., closed the public comment session at 10:15 a.m.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:15 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:20 a.m. with all members present.

Custodian Beth Rudloff and Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface updated the Board on the removal of a tree at the front of the Courthouse near the southeast corner. The tree has a large crack in it and appears that it will split causing one of the limbs to fall on the sidewalk and on any parked cars in that area. Loren McCormick was contacted and he said he can come to remove the limb that is nearest to the sidewalk. Hwy. Supt. Barta said that a loader will be brought back to Center and will have it available for cleanup.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Certification to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Reviewed was Governor Pillen's Executive Order No. 26-20 Emergency Relief for Transportation of Seasonally Harvested Products issued September 24, 2026. The executive order allows motor vehicles, semitrailer or trailer transporting livestock or seasonally harvested products to be up to 25% over gross and axle group weight limits and the order to remain effective for 90 days; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Oil Crew update; 5.) Oil road stripe painting will be done; 6.) Rocket Sign Company of Spencer NE contacted Hwy. Supt. Barta and Interim Zoning Administrator Doerr with a request the sign company had received by members of the Dorsey Church to place a double-sided directional sign at the corner of 886 RD and 512 Avenue. Interim Zoning Administrator Doerr said signs for religious organizations are exempt from needing a permit but shall be placed on private property, not in the right of way; 7.) Reviewed was a proposal in the amount of \$253,823 from Ryan Simons/Directional Zone, Inc. of Stanton, Nebraska for boring under the Rec Road. Discussed there may be additional cost and pipe diameter options. No action was taken; 8.) Road employee Josh Bourn who has been working at the Verdigre Shed submitted his interest in filling the open position at the Niobrara Shed. Discussed was filling the position at the Verdigre Shed. A Road employee was contacted to see if he would like to transfer to the Bloomfield Shed to fill an open position there but the employee was not interested in the transfer. Advertising for the Bloomfield Shed position will end October 16 or until the position is filled; 9.) The loader will be delivered and the used loader will be coming in as well; 10.) Discussed was paying the bills and cash on hand; 11.) Gravel samples will be reviewed for Class A quality.

Angie O'Connor with Avera presented the report of the 2026 wellness and comparisons to 2011 when the first wellness took place. Health improvements have been made by the participants.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of September 14 – 25, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the County Treasurer's List of all real property in Knox County that was advertised as having delinquent taxes in February 2026 and were not sold for want of bidders at the last annual tax sale or thereafter, and the Board directs the Knox County Treasurer to issue County Tax sales on property with two years of delinquent taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the Rick Anderson Application for Permit to Install Pipeline or Service Line beneath a County Road on the SE1/4 of Section 25, T32N, R6W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska (Niobrara Township). By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board tabled the Great Plains Communications Application for Permit to Install Pipeline or Service Line Beneath a County Road on 877 RD between Hwy. 14 and 528 Avenue (Verdigre Township) as Interim Zoning

Administrator Doerr has required Great Plains Communications to complete a Floodplain Application which has not been received at this time.

Heartland Heating and Air installed years ago the HVAC system in the buildings on the Courthouse Complex which system included their own computer program that allowed Heartland to monitor the thermostats off site. Heartland is discontinuing their computer program and the thermostats will need to be replaced. Also, the maintenance contract will be less than in the past because of the discontinued computer programming. Mike Wiederin with Heartland presented estimates to replace the thermostats with Wi-Fi thermostats in the amount of \$8,640.00. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve the installation by Heartland Heating of Norfolk NE of Honeywell Wi-Fi thermostats for 24 units in the amount of \$8,640.00. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the updated HVAC maintenance contract with Heartland Heating of Norfolk NE in the amount of \$1,800 quarterly service on the heating and air conditioning plus \$225 for air filters for a total of \$2,025 per quarter. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board discussed with Sheriff Henery a purchase of a new pickup. The replaced pickups from the Sheriff's Department are turned over the Road Department. Hwy. Supt. Barta said that they have three to five pickups that have over 150,000 miles and several others that have between 80,000 to 100,000 miles. Sheriff Henery said that a new Ford pickup would cost a fleet amount of \$50,000 plus additional costs to add radios and other equipment. Further discussion was held on the turn over in the Sheriff's Office in January. The Board said the purchase of a new pickup of the Sheriff's Office will be put on hold for the time being.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to cancel Check #26090205 in the amount of \$473.50 payable to Albin Law Office written from the Inheritance Fund as it was a duplicate payment. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Tyler Memorandum of Understanding VS-NEB-029 for renewal of the VetraSpec Software Services which is now replaced with the Tyler End User License Agreement Turnkey Solutions, Inc. for January 2, 2027 through January 3, 2028 for the Veterans' Service Office. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to send a letter to Karen K. Barrett with the Nebraska Department of Revenue requesting a list of all active lodging tax permit holders in Knox County. By roll vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussed filling the Zoning Administrator position which was advertised for full-time which is 30 hours or more per week or part-time which is less than 30 hours per week. Two applicants were scheduled for interviews. Discussion ensued on an hourly wage amount for the position. Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. Pierce to offer the Zoning Administrator position to Kathryn Rice of Creighton who requested a part-time position which will be a position without insurance benefits but will have retirement and the beginning wage to be \$27.50 per hour. 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 11:45 a.m. to review submitted Emergency Manager applications. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to review submitted Emergency Manager applications. The Board came out of closed session at 12:33 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to close at 12:33 p.m. the closed session held on review of submitted Emergency Manager applications. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Committee updates and Officials updates were held.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 100,773.88; Benchmark Government Solutions LLC, training, 155.30; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 60.70; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,956.79; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 51.26; D&L Tire LLC, tires/brakes/oil change, 752.00; DAS State accounting-Central Finance, radios, 187.00; DAS State accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; Dollar General, supplies, 6.00; Eakes Office Solutions, service contract, 153.67; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/meals/postage, 4,365.43; Hagge Glass, windshield, 571.00; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 389.85; KBRX, advertising, 60.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer to road fund, 152,801.06; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,054.00; Plainview News, publishing, 82.50; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 115.46; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 12,909.50; Reserve Account, election postage, 3,000.00; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,139.56; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 80.00; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 82.50.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 40,924.17; B's Enterprises Inc., signs/patch mix, 12,080.00; Bazile Creek Power Sports, chain, 51.94; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 245.34; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 57.99; Bloomfield Tire & Oil LLC, tire repair, 380.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/spray, 571.17; Brian Sandoz, prior service, 18.00; Bruce A Hagge prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; Cedar Knox Public Power District, electricity, 162.90; City of Bloomfield, water, 38.00; C-Mart LLC, gas, 814.47; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 3,130.68; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 660.95; Dendinger Ag LLC, mowing, 916.44; First National Bank Omaha, repairs/fees, 1,146.45; Freeman Oil Co LLC, diesel, 2,566.20; Lawson Products, shop supplies, 184.81; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug tests, 72.00; N&B Gas Company, heating fuel, 1,681.75; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 132.62; Pro-Crane Service LLC, equipment rental, 7,731.25; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,688.41; Rohrer Welding, bridge repairs, 614.97; Scott Grim, prior service, 30.00; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel, 77,931.40; Verdigre Printworks, time sheets, 550.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 24,711.61.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Jebro Inc., road oil, 48,036.45.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Midwest Music Center, sound system equipment, 70.75.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, promo costs, 437.09.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 2,018.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas, postage, leadership, registration, 610.56.

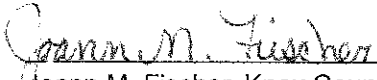
INHERITANCE FUND. Brogan Lamml P.C., court appointed attorney, 972.49; Cedar County Transit, county transit, 2,750.00; Elder Law and Estate Planning, special county attorney, 6,195.00; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 350.00.

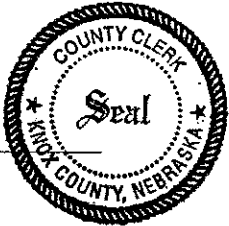
911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Salaries, 1,191.46.

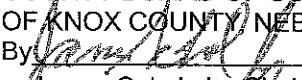
TOTALS	
General Fund	\$293,285.06
Road Fund	180,162.52
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	48,036.45
Child Support Fund	70.75
Visitor's Promo Fund	437.09
C&C Development Fund	2,628.56
Inheritance Fund	10,267.49
911 Wireless Service Fund	1,191.46
Total	\$536,079.38

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:43 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, until Wednesday, October 14, 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