

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska

October 14, 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, October 14, 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 Don 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 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 30, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the September 30, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m.

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 \$536,079.38 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. closed the public comment session at 9:59 a.m. No one gave public comments.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 9:59 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:41 a.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 10:42 a.m. so as not to cause injury to individuals' reputations when discussing personnel. 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 when discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 11:18 a.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mlady to close at 11:18 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) A phone conference was held with Ryan Simons of Directional Zone regarding a quote for boring under the Rec Road. Discussed was the submitted quote of \$204,982, risks that may leach out water, pipe size, taking out a dam and digging to the west of the site to provide more room, and option to use 36" smooth pipe. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve a quote from Directional Zone of Stanton NE for boring under the Rec Road for drainage in the amount of \$204,982 that includes the cost of materials, excavating, and installing additional pipe. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Oil Crew update; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Chris Rohrer who is currently on the Bridge Crew is interested in moving to the Verdigre motorgrader operator position which was opened after Joshua Bourn moved to the Niobrara motorgrader operator position. Further discussion was held on the open motorgrader operator position at the Bloomfield Yard and now a position on the Bridge Crew; 5.) The used loader was delivered; 6.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on pending litigation. The Board came out of closed session at 12:20 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to close at 12:20 p.m. the closed session held on pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mlady to go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held on pending litigation. The Board came out of closed session at 1:20 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 1:20 p.m. the closed session held on pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Mackeprang, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to set the mileage rate at the IRS mileage rate of 76 cents per mile and 79 cents per mile for the Sheriff and deputies for serving papers. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to authorize Chairman Sokol, Jr. to sign the Revised Agreement for Storage of Emergency Management Equipment between Knox County Emergency Management Agency/Board of Supervisors and the Crofton Community Fire Protection District #5 for storage of the 2006 Ford F-350 Crew Cab and the 2013 Forest River Trailer (command trailer) for a term of two years at which time it shall convert to an annual contract which will renew automatically on an annual basis. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected July 1 – September 30, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

America's counties have a long and proud history of serving our nation's veterans, a legacy that continues to this day to ensure that the former service members in our communities have access to the resources they need to thrive. This coming Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and

show support and appreciation for veterans by lighting their buildings green from November 4 to November 11, 2026. Knox County residents are encouraged to display a green light in a window of their place of business or residence at that time. County Clerk Fischer asked the Board if they would approve participation again this year. Clerk of District Court Fischer said he would set up the green lights again as he has done in the past. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2026 – 30** supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans by "shining" green on the Courthouse Complex buildings November 4 – 11, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Resolution #2026 - 30
Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Knox County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and
WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and
WHEREAS, Knox County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and
WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and
WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and
WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and
WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and
WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and
WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, the Knox County Board of Supervisors hereby declares from November 4 – 11, 2026, as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Knox County will "shine" green lights on the Courthouse Square buildings; and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, the Knox County Board of Supervisors encourages Knox County citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th, 2026.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

<u>James Sokol, Jr. /s/</u>	<u>Martin J. O'Connor /s/</u>	<u>Kevin G. Mlady /s/</u>
James Sokol, Jr., District #4, Chairman	Martin J. O'Connor, District #1	Kevin G. Mlady, District #2
<u>David L. Pierce /s/</u>	<u>Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/</u>	<u>Danny R. Schlote /s/</u>
David L. Pierce, District #3	Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5	Danny R. Schlote, District #6
ATTEST: (Seal)	<u>James J. Borgmann /s/</u>	
<u>Joann M. Fischer /s/</u>	James J. Borgmann, District #7	
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk		

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of September 28 – October 9, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussed was the Emergency Manager position, submitted applications and the interview process that was held with three applicants. The Board offered the full-time Emergency Manager position to Andrew Filips of Crofton and Chairman Sokol, Jr. will contact Mr. Filips with the offer.

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 from General Fund 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 and registration, 610.56.

INHERITANCE FUND. Brogan Lammler 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.

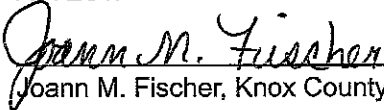
TOTALS

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

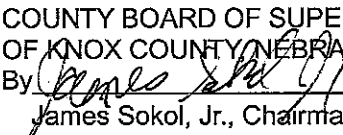
Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:01 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, until Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

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