PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
October 28, 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 28, 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.

Supr. Mlady 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 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 October 14, 2026 meeting minutes. Chairman Sokol, Jr. approved the October 14, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. opened the public comment session at 9:45 a.m. Katrina Burkhardt gave public comment regarding overdose of radiation and attempting to join a coalition that addresses radiation.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann 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 $1,715,165.50 are listed at the end of these proceedings, noting that transfers were made from one fund to another as per the adopted 2026/2027 budget and are included in the claim totals.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of October 12 – 23, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

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

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:07 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) A complaint was received about a roadside not being mowed. Supr. Pierce relayed that the tenant of the property had not mowed the roadside and the landowner had been contacted; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) Continue to advertise for open positions; 4.) Oil Crew update; 5.) Update on boring project on the Rec Road; 6.) The used loader was delivered and is taller than expected and won't fit through the doors at the Verdigre Shed. A swap of loaders could be done where the Center loader could be moved to the Verdigre Shed and the recently purchased used loader could be relocated to the Center Shed; 7.) Discussed was a request from a lake area owner who wants to take down a part of a hill and inquired if this would require zoning approval. Hwy. Supt. Barta said that he told the landowner that the dirt cannot be pushed into the right-of-way; 8.) Discussed gravel quality at the Mitteis gravel pit and that better screens will be used.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to approve Application For Permit to Install Pipeline or Service Line Beneath a County Road For Right Fiber Communications on 881 RD and 552 AVE in Dowling Township. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve Application for Permit to Install Pipeline or Service Line Beneath a County Road For Right Fiber Communications on 887 RD between Hwy. 14 and 523 AVE in Verdigre Township. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) Hwy. Supt. Barta, Hwy. Supt. Office Manager Katie Fritz and Sheriff Henery attended the NIRMA workshop in Kearney recently. Knox County received a dividend of over $5,600; 2.) Sheriff Henery informed the Board that he was called into service to review signatures on petitions that were circulated in Nebraska and are now involved in a lawsuit against out-of-state circulators due to fraudulent signatures. One signature being investigated is of a Knox County person who had died two months prior to the date of the signature shown on the petition; 3.) County Clerk Fischer thanked the unknown person or persons who submitted her name for nomination to receive the NACO Lifetime Achievement Award. NACO will announce the official who will receive the 2026 award at the NACO December Conference in Kearney.

Sheriff Henery discussed with the Board a letter from the City of Crofton and a copy of Crofton City Ordinance #10-8-26-1 entitled "Protection for Mass Surveillance" where the Crofton City Council is prohibiting the use of automated license plate reader systems from being installed within the City of Crofton City limits and any camera currenty within city limits at the time of approval of the ordinance be removed within 30 days. A Flock camera is installed on a pole that is owned by Cedar Knox Public Power District located within the right-of-way of the State Highway in the Crofton City limits and Sheriff Henery has permission from Cedar-Knox PPD to have the Flock camera installed on their pole. Sheriff Henery gave instances where the information from the Flock camera system solved crimes, solved child abductions and assisted in finding fugitives. Civil County Attorney Myers-Noelle said that many safeguards are in place to stop abuse of disruptive regulations and ultimately the Crofton City Council does not have the ability to require the camera be taken down as it is located in the State right-of-way and as the camera system is paid through County funds, it is the Board of Supervisors who have the decision if the camera should be removed. As the City no longer contracts for County law enforcement due to a lack of a police officer, County Sheriff Henery said that the County still handles emergency law enforcement but that the City is open to lawsuits because of not having a certified police officer or contract with the County for certified law enforcement.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Piece to go into closed session at 10:56 a.m. to receive privileged and confidential legal advice regarding litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held to receive privileged and confidential legal advice regarding litigation. The Board came out of closed session at 11:54 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Mlady, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 11:54 a.m. the closed session held to receive privileged and confidential legal advice regarding litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 103,513.40; Applied Connective Technologies LLC, it costs, 4,299.75; Bazile Creek Power Sports, mower parts, 115.50; Bomgaars Supply Inc., janitor supplies, 62.97; Brockhaus Funeral Home Inc., county burial, 3,500.00; CMart LLC, gas, 133.65; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 8,058.30; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 34,801.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 19.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 115.50; DAS State accounting-Central Finance, radios, 187.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier, 7,179.71; Election Systems & Software Inc., election layout, 7,052.20; Fire Protection Services LLC, alarm inspections, 600.00; First National Bank Omaha, postage/supplies/gas/meals/lodging, 1,579.79; Hefner Hardware, bulbs, 31.97; Holiday Inn-Kearney, lodging, 139.95; Joann Fischer, reimbursement of postage, 300.00; Knox County Court, court costs, 123.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, Flowage Easement Road Fund and C & C Development Fund, 491,041.90; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 140.43; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 92.29; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 180.00; Police Officers' Association of Nebraska, membership, 30.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 1,108.80; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 7,276.69; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 84.93; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 500.83.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 34,608.48; B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 382.50; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 56.19; Bloomfield Auto Parts, oil/filters/repairs, 94.32; Bomgaars Supply Inc., shop supplies/oil/tordon, 374.51; Cedar Knox PPD, electricity, 161.89; CMart LLC gas, 462.50; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,592.85; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 30.06; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 13,269.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 476.02; First National Bank Omaha, adobe, 193.15; Freeman Oil Co LLC, diesel, 2,100.00; Husker C-Mart, gas, 651.23; Jebro Inc., road oil, 21,837.20; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 53.89; Medical Enterprises Inc., alcohol test, 5.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 129.94; Overhead Door Co. of Sioux City, repairs, 2,300.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 394.24; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,279.47; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 130.00; Vic's Service LLC, gas/repairs, 426.98; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.40; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 49.50; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 21,115.69.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. First National Bank Omaha, zoom subscription, 179.24; Knox County Treasurer, transfer to General Fund, 6,000.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. First National Bank Omaha, subscription, 210.00; Next Town Over, advertising, 377.76; Ramada Midtown, lodging, 417.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. Harley Stark, intern, 700.00; Legendary Graphics LLC, shirts, 120.00.

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

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 2,000.25; Adella Haineraich, meals, 45.00; First National Bank Omaha, subscriptions/gas/meals, 765.21.

INHERITANCE FUND. Albin Law Office, court appointed attorney, 3,498.74; Fitzgerald, Vetter & Temple, court appointed attorney, 3,261.08; Hanna LK Jensen, court appointed attorney, 5,487.50; Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC, court appointed attorney, 571.55; Knox County Treasurer, transfer to General Fund, 903,240.92.

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

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Salaries, 1,523.18; Knox County Treasurer, transfer to 911 Wireless Service Holding Fund, 10,000.00.

TOTALS

General Fund	$672,309.06
Road Fund	104,209.01
Child Support Fund	6,179.24
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,004.76
Visitor's Improvement Fund	820.00
County Wellness Fund	250.00
C&C Development Fund	2,810.46
Inheritance Fund	916,059.79
911 Wireless Service Fund	11,523.18
Total	**$1,715,165.50**

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 11:55 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 until Thursday, November 12, 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 CLERK Seal KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By _____

James Sokol, Jr., Chairman