

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
March 12, 2020  
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 March 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, Patrick J. Liska District #2, Virgil H. Miller 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. Chairman Mackeprang presiding.

Supr. Sokol, Jr. led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mackeprang announced to the public that a copy of the Public Open Meeting Act was posted in the Boardroom.

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 acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

The minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting were read and were approved by Chairman Mackeprang.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1. Email from County Attorney Thomas from NIRMA regarding possible lawsuits related to the failure of the Spencer Dam leading to massive flood damage in Knox County; 2. COVID-19 Preparedness from the North Central District Health Department.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann that all claims except Claim #20030104 payable to James D. Sokol, Jr. dba Sokol Electric, 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. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote that Claim #20030104 payable to James D. Sokol, Jr. dba Sokol Electric in the amount of \$91.80 written from the Road Fund, 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, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #4. Motion carried.

Claims totaling \$463,976.49 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Lease Agreement 65942025 – Addendum #2 renewing the Lease with the Department of Administrative Services acting on behalf of the Department of Health & Human Services commencing October 1, 2020 and ending on September 30, 2024 for the Health & Human Services' Office area in Annex #2 at the current rate of \$15.00 per square foot for 1,764 useable square feet of office space and no charge for 468 useable square feet of County-provided office space. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 9:59 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:09 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign a contract between Knox County and Western Engineering Co., Inc. for asphaltic overlay for the project titled "Bloomfield North Overlay, C-54(953)" in the amount of \$2,370,198.40 with no additions or deletions, except by written change orders. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2. Discussed the Bloomfield North project; 3. Discussion was held on purchasing a used road broom. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Liska to purchase a used Superior road broom from Murphy Tractor in Sioux City IA for \$45,000 that also includes a new broom, service and delivery. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4. The Ponca Creek is still flooding the Lazy River Acres Road. Discussed culverts, options, dredging, and an upcoming meeting in Lincoln to discuss possible waiver of WRP rules, a variance and any options to help the situation; 5. Update on the Federal Fund Buy Back "Abbenhaus" bridge project; 6. Flagger course to be held; 7. Cold storage building at the Creighton Yard. Bids will be obtained.

Emergency Manager Hintz met with the Board with updates on the coronavirus, safety measures, and information from the North Central District Health Department.

At 11:00 a.m., Chairman Mackeprang opened the advertised public hearing on the updates to the Knox County Comprehensive Plan. Zoning Administrator Doerr told the Board that Consultant Keith Marvin has been working on the updates for 1 ½ years. There will be one more component to update in the near future and that will be the lake area plan. The Planning Commission has approved the updates. The Board and Zoning Administrator Doerr reviewed the Chapter 13 policies and recommendations.

Chairman Mackeprang closed the open public hearing at 11:25 a.m. Motion by Supr. Miller, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to approve the Knox County Comprehensive Plan updates. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Doerr met with the Board on the following: 1. Late fees and permit fees have been sent on three parcels. One set of fees has been paid; 2. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Miller to place on file the February Permit Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Sheriff Henery met with the Board on the following: 1. Discussed COVID-19 preparedness plan for the Knox County jail; 2. Niobrara Village is requesting a law enforcement contract with Knox County. The contract will be acted upon at the March 26, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Miller to approve and authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign the NIRMA Settlement Agreement and the Sworn Statement in Proof of Loss on the severe flood waters damage to the Niobrara County Shed as well as vehicles and equipment. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Deputy County Attorney Holecek updated the Board on policy changes for electronic communications due to the COVID-19 virus.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the County Treasurer Report of all Delinquent Real Estate Taxes offered for public auction on March 2, 2020, that the public tax sale is now closed and the private tax sale will begin and continue until all said land has been offered. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file the Key Bank NA Standby Letter of Credit S322191 Amendment Sequence No. 002 for the Elkhorn Ridge Wind project. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Clerk of the District Court February Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the proposed emergency family medical leave expansion that is awaiting passage by the Senate and President Trump. At this time, COVID-19 issues will be handled through the sick leave/vacation time listed in the Knox County Employee Handbook and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Discussion ensued on usage of the County logo on a recent flood insurance flyer for several meetings held in Center on February 20, 2020 by a company selling flood products and flood insurance. The County logo was used without permission making it appear like the County sanctioned the event and had not.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor that the receipts totaling \$517,309.34 be accepted and placed on file. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

#20445 – Knox County Clerk, transfer to road, 94,682.45; #20446 – Knox County Sheriff, inmate commissary, 225.75; #20447 – Midwest Bank, interest, 1,455.62; #20448 – Kevin G. Mlady, candidate filing fee, 242.84; #20449 – Knox County Sheriff, 911 surcharges, 29.98; #20450 – Knox County Sheriff, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter mileage, 3,623.42; #20451 – Knox County Sheriff, VIN inspections and handgun permits, 200.00; #20452 – Knox County Treasurer, interest, 3,942.00; #20453 – Knox County Treasurer, interest, 3,311.57; #20454 – State of Nebraska, 2<sup>nd</sup> of six homestead exemption payments, 50,124.53; #20455 – State of Nebraska, personal property tax credit, 63,470.72; #20456 – State of Nebraska, March 2020 rent, 2,205.00; #20457 – Lois Jean Walstrom Estate, inheritance tax, 2,269.56; #20458 – Midwest Bank, interest, 6,688.97; #20459 – Knox County Clerk, fees, c.c. marriage licenses, election recovery & copies, 226.28; #20460 – Clerk of District Court, fees, court costs, copies, passport fees & bail bond, 999.41; #20461 – Knox County Treasurer, registration fee for annual public tax sale, 750.00; #20462 – Commercial State Bank, interest, 642.09; #20463 – Knox County Court, fines, court costs & lab test fees, 3,388.74; #20464 – Register of Deeds, recording fees, documentary stamp tax & copies, 6,182.08; #20465 – Knox County Zoning, building permit, 80.00; #20466 – Knox County Zoning, building permits, 1,600.00; #20467 – Knox County Sheriff, VIN inspection fees, 150.00; #20468 – Knox County Clerk, imprest interest, 19.78; #20469 – Commercial State Bank, interest, 3,852.22; #20470 – NIRMA, NIRMA reimbursement, 91.80; #20471 – State of Nebraska, asphalt conference reimbursement, 293.00; #20472 – Knox County Sheriff, VIN inspections, 100.00; #20473 – State of Nebraska, highway allocation, 191,226.29; #20474 – Santee Sioux Nation, reimbursement 80% for Ray Stark bridge, 75,235.24.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 166,116.44; Amy Johnson, mileage/screening fee, 29.15; Applied Connective Technologies, program/computer supply, 176.50; Bloomfield Pharmacy, meds., 38.60; Blue360 Media, law books, 150.28; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Center Garage, tow vehicle, 125.00; Classic Carpet Care, mop/towel rent, 35.00; Clerk of District Court, filing fee, 36.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 12,622.03; Connie J. Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 29,750.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 57.18; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 448.00; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Dollar General, supplies, 173.95; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 1,227.20; Ecowater Systems, bottled water/salt, 432.00; Farmers and Merchants State Bank, safe deposit box rent, 30.00; Gragerts, supplies, 4.99; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,488.40; Hefner Hardware, supplies, 21.57; Hide Out Bar & Grill, prisoner board, 3,536.00; Holly Wortmann, board travel, 202.40; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 76.18; Jacquelyn E. Meier, prior service, 21.00; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; JoAnn Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Jo Ann P. Knori, prior service, 20.00; Joann M. Fischer, reimburse for credit card payment, 31.65; Karen K. Riesberg, prior service, 21.00; Key Sanitation, garbage, 108.00; Knox County Sheriff, return service, 299.09; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 263.71; Liz Doerr, mileage/postage/computer program, 237.77; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Madison County Sheriff, house inmate, 50.00; Mary Ketelsen, screening fee, 5.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage/meal/screening fee, 167.22; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program, 795.19; Moody Motor Company Inc., running boards/repair, 596.05; N&B Gas Company, propane, 985.80; NACEB, extension board dues, 100.00; NE Secretary of State, notary fees, 30.00; NE Secretary of State, notary fees, 30.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,201.54; Northeast NACO, registrations, 275.00; Northeast Nebraska News Co., publishing, 95.51; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 462.00; Postmaster, postage, 220.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance

County pays, 1,896.40; Quill Corp., office supplies, 795.55; R&K Auto Parts, repairs, 203.19; Rader Feed & Supply LLC, ice melt, 683.55; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 6,567.00; Region IV Inc., quarterly bill, 2,521.50; Reserve Account, election postage, 13,000.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 11,277.00; Roma Walton, prior service, 51.00; Secretary of State Elections Division, voter forms, 30.00; Telebeep, pager, 64.17; Thomson Reuters West, law books, 556.00; University of Nebraska Lincoln, computer program, 625.00; U.S. Cellular, cell phones, 154.07; US Cellular, cell phones, 234.07; Verdigre Eagle, pub./stamps/envelopes, 628.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 297.00; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 57,172.69; B's Enterprises Inc., asphalt patch/blade bolt/bits/signs, 8,312.36; Barco Municipal Products Inc., flag material, 105.62; Bauer Built Tire, tires, 6,962.80; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 264.22; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 49.32; Bloomfield Auto parts, supplies, 285.83; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 159.56; Bomgaars, shop supplies/shop tools/grease, 635.05; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; Burns Lumber Co. LLC, shop material, 30.79; CHS Wausa, diesel, 1,020.80; CHS, propane, 600.10; City of Bloomfield, water, 24.20; City of Creighton, water/sewer/garbage, 149.86; C-Mart, gas, 268.54; C-Mart LLC, gas, 85.11; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 4,309.14; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 1,544.67; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 11,900.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 272.82; D & L Tire LLC, tire repair, 180.00; David L. Bauer, prior service, 36.00; Dollar General, shop supplies, 32.45; Farmer's Pride, diesel/heating fuel, 2,257.87; Great Plains Communications, phone, 593.61; Grossenburg Implement Inc., filter/repair, 764.16; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 7.99; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/oil, 3,857.40; J&K Auto, gas, 84.75; James Sokol dba Sokol Electric, wire water heater, 91.80; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 99.81; Kayton International, forklift use, 34.00; Kevin Barta, title/tire fee, 22.00; Key Sanitation, garbage, 120.00; Larry Pilar, prior service, 21.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 107.28; Mark's Machinery Inc., repairs, 98.00; Moody Motor Co., radio, 588.29; N&B Gas Co., heating fuel/shop supplies, 2,515.80; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 87.67; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 485.54; Pease General Store, shop supplies, 87.51; Poppe Electric, heater/hookups, 876.88; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 732.70; R&K Motor Parts, shop tools/repairs/shop supplies/oil/filters, 2,095.06; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 3,727.55; Truck Center Companies, repairs, 345.67 U.S. Cellular, cell phones, 413.39; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/gas/repairs/fluids, 3,081.23; Vic's Service LLC, gas/shop supplies, 316.62; Viking Lumber, shop supplies, 30.97; Village of Center, water/sewer, 25.50; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 39.00; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 81.53; West Hodson Lumber & Concrete Co., shop supplies, 16.48; West Hodson Lumber & Concrete Co., shop materials, 1,124.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 17,097.09.

**FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND.** Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 24,520.55.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 50.77; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 251.86; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00; Quill Corporation LLC, office supplies, 572.89.

**ROD PRESERVATION/MODERNIZATION FUND.** Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 55.00; MIPS, computer program, 263.70.

**COUNTY INSURANCE FUND.** Name Redacted, reimburse deductible, 141.92; Name Redacted, reimburse deductible, 250.00.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.** NENEDD, admin fees, 300.00.

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 3,602.82; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 267.56; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 850.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 50.77; Lincoln National Life ins. Co., insurance County pays, 5.96; NEDA Executive Director, membership dues, 150.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 43.10; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 205.31; University of Northern Iowa, registration, 885.00; US Cellular, cell phone, 143.47.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Doerr & Klein P.C., court appointed attorney, 2,872.73; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 23,080.48; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** CenturyLink, phone, 5.68; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 175.35; Three River Telco, phone, 42.07.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND.** Salaries, 2,306.54; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 495.71; Three River Telco, phone, 179.34.

**SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND.** Dollar General, commissary supplies, 93.10.

TOTALS

General Fund	263,596.40
Road Fund	136,354.08
Flowage Easement Road Fund	24,520.55
Child Support Fund	956.52
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	318.70
County Insurance Fund	391.92
Economic Development Fund	300.00
C&C Development Fund	6,203.99
Inheritance Fund	28,036.54
911 Emergency Fund	223.10
911 Wireless Service Fund	2,981.59
Sheriff Commissary Fund	93.10

Total \$463,976.49

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 1:00 p.m. on March 12, 2020 until Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.

I, Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk, do hereby certify that the County Board minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST:

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joann M. Fischer, Knox County Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin D. Mackeprang, Chairman

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