

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
March 21, 2020
2:00 p.m.

An emergency 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 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.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.

Chairman Mackeprang 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 emergency meeting was given in advance thereof by notice on the Knox County website, within the Knox County Courthouse on the bulletin board, on the exterior Courthouse and Annex doors, at the Center Post Office, and forwarded via email to all Knox County newspapers to post on their websites. It was also listed on the Knox County News and Verdigre Eagle Facebook pages.

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.

Reading of the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting was dispensed with until the March 26, 2020 meeting.

The emergency meeting was held due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the safety of the public and the safety of the Courthouse staff.

Sheriff Henery informed the Board that his office will cease conducting vehicle identification number inspections until further notice.

Discussion was held on the dwindling disinfecting supplies that are difficult to replenish, closing the Knox County Courthouse Campus buildings to the public except by appointment, procedures for staff, jail issues, tracking of inventory expenses and payroll hours worked that would be over and above the usual expenses so that these amounts spent can be tracked in case of reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses, HVAC between the basement and first floor, and procedures for County sheds.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote that for the safety of the public and the Knox County Courthouse Campus staff along with the CDC Recommendation on social distancing due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, the Knox County Courthouse and Annex buildings be closed to the public except by appointment until further notice along with the following directions: that all staff will report to the offices at the usual hours and maintain county business, each official will be responsible for letting their employees into the buildings if they do not have access; all walk-in members of the public will be limited to entry into the Courthouse Campus buildings by appointment only; all customers are required to call ahead and make an appointment with the specific office where they must conduct business; determine if it is necessary to have a customer come into the building or if the business can be done by other means such as by phone, fax, mail or email; customers may leave their documents, payments, etc. in the drop box located in the Courthouse Foyer that is open 24/7 and is audio/video monitored by a security camera; officials will be responsible for escorting their customers with appointments to their office area and back out of the building, and customers will not be allowed in the offices except for the driver's exams on Fridays so limited business may be conducted in the Courthouse Foyer or hallways and that these conditions may change rapidly so it will be a day by day basis. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the County's sick leave/vacation time policy in the Knox County Employee Handbook. County Attorney Thomas said that President Trump signed into law new legislation in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the law will take effect April 2, 2020. The law is broad and addresses a variety of relief efforts related to coping with COVID-19 and among the broad-sweeping provisions, the "Family First Coronavirus Response Act" makes changes to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) including mandatory emergency paid leave under certain circumstances, and by creating the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act as a standalone provision. It also created certain tax credits for employers which correspond to the new requirements under the expanded FMLA and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. Sick leave, vacation time and catastrophic leave will need to be used first and the expansion allows for pay of up to 2/3 of their wages up to six weeks after the sick leave, vacation time and catastrophic leave are exhausted. More information will be provided at the next regular Board meeting.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Liska to authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign the Knox County State of Emergency letter where Knox County with the inclusion of all cities, villages, businesses, schools and communities within has a great potential of suffering from county-wide damages resulting from the COVID-19/Corona Virus event that is on-going and continuing indefinitely causing disruption of services, cost-incurred prevention and protection and the endangerment of the health and safety of the citizens and businesses of Knox County, and to apply to the State of Nebraska for assistance from the Governor's Emergency Fund and any other resources. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

The Board will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, March 26 and the 10-person rule will be followed. Provisions will be made so any additional public will be able to participate in the meeting via phone from the basement conference

room if necessary. County Attorney Thomas recommended that the Board start each meeting with a resolution under emergency rules that restricts people with business for the meeting.

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:00 p.m. on March 21, 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
