

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
August 26, 2021
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 August 26, 2021 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.

Supr. Liska 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 Verdigre Eagle 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 August 12 and August 17, 2021 meetings were read and approved by Chairman Mackeprang.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, 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 \$326,807.74 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 10:01 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:06 a.m. with all members present.

In Hwy. Supt. Barta's absence, Office Administrator Katie Fritz met with the Board on the following: 1. Oil Crew update; 2. Bridge Crew update; 3. Motorgrader bid specifications are being drafted for bid letting; 4. Niobrara Yard employee Dustin Crosley will be using the extra oil pickup to drive to the Creighton Yard to assist the Oil Crew; 5. Former motorgrader employee Max Dvorak offered to drive the truck and belly dump gravel trailer during the summer; 6. The Board discussed who should conduct the bridge inspections.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Planning Commission July 13, 2021 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Board of Adjustments December 2, 2019 meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Miller, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file the Receipts Revenue Lists from July 29 through August 11 and August 12 through August 25, 2021. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to set the uniform allowance for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 for the Weed Superintendent at \$35/month for the months of May through October and for full time employees in the following offices: Road employees \$35/month; Sheriff's Office – Sheriff and Deputies \$120/month and Dispatchers/Jailors \$60 per month; and Assessor's Office - \$20/month. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the 2020/2021 Office inventories. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

At 10:28 a.m., Chairman Mackeprang opened the public hearing for the vacation/abandonment of a portion of Bass Drive in the Lazy River Acres Subdivision in Raymond Township. Chairman Mackeprang closed the public hearing at 10:31 a.m. Present was Rick Droescher. A letter from Ramon Brandt in support of the vacation/abandonment was read into record. It was then moved by Supervisor Liska, seconded by Supervisor Miller that the publisher's affidavit of publishing notice herein, be filed with these minutes and as part of this record. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Liska, seconded by Supervisor Miller to adopt **Resolution #2021 – 25** to vacate and abandon Bass Drive adjoining Lots 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 in Block A located in Lazy River Acres, a platted subdivision located in Section 16, T33N, R7W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2021 - 25

WHEREAS, upon the public hearing duly held, after proper notice given, it appears that it would be in the public interest to require the vacation and abandonment of the following portion of Bass Drive in the Lazy River Acres subdivision located in Raymond Township, Knox County, Nebraska described as follows:

Bass Drive adjoining Lots 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 in Block A located in Lazy River Acres, a platted subdivision located in Section 16, T33N, R7W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska

BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the County Clerk mail a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Township Board of Raymond Township in Knox County, by certified mail, filing her receipts therefore as part of this record.

Passed and approved this 26th day of August 2021.

ATTEST: (Seal)

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

By Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Chairman

Discussion was held on providing deer dumpsters again for the upcoming deer hunting season. County Clerk Fischer will contact Key Sanitation.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to adopt **Resolution #2021 – 26** allocating up to 4.5 cents of levy authority to the Knox County Rural Fire Districts as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443 noting that the Creighton, Niobrara, Wausa and Crofton Rural Fire Districts chose levies of 4.5 cents, Bloomfield Rural Fire District 3.5 cents and Verdigre Rural Fire District 2.25 cents. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2021 – 26

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the allocated amount to the rural fire districts was 4.5 cents, and WHEREAS, the Knox County fire districts belong to the Mutual Fire Organization (MFO), and

WHEREAS, that under legislation in 2018 the fire districts in an MFO had to have one year where the levies were the same for all members and could be different for the next two years, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County rural fire districts were allocated 4.5 cents by the Knox County Board of Supervisors in 2019/2020, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate up to 4.5 cents to the Knox County rural fire districts as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443 for budget year 2021-2022 noting that not all rural fire districts will use the 4.5 cents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Knox County rural fire districts have chosen the following levies: Creighton Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Bloomfield Rural Fire District – 3.5 cents; Verdigre Rural Fire District – 2.25 cents; Niobrara Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; Wausa Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents; and Crofton Rural Fire District – 4.5 cents.

DATED this 26th day of August 2021.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5, Chairman

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Patrick J. Liska /s/
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

Virgil H. Miller /s/
Virgil H. Miller, District #3

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., District #4

Danny R. Schlote /s/
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

ATTEST : (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

Insurance Agent Jeff Hammer reviewed with the Board the dental/vision insurance that the County currently provides as a benefit for eligible employees. Eligible employees can also enroll their spouse and/or child(ren) in the insurance as a premium payroll deduction.

Knox County Fair Director Jerry Nipp updated the Board on the recent 2021 Knox County Fair and future projects. Mr. Nipp said that the Knox County Ag Society requests the same amount of funds as was allocated in 2020/2021 which was \$90,000 for General Expenses and \$60,000 for Capital Improvements. The Board said Mr. Nipp and the Ag Society are doing a good job. Motion by Supr. Miller, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to adopt **Resolution #2021 – 27**, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate a final allocation of levy authority of \$150,000 to the Knox County Ag Society with the breakdown to be \$90,000 for General Expenses (0.004020 levy) and \$60,000 for Capitol Improvement (0.002680 levy) for a total levy of 0.006700 for budget year 2021/2022. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2021 - 27

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors reviewed an income and expense report of the Knox County Ag Society and comparable funds allocated to ag societies in neighboring counties, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate \$150,000.00 to the Knox County Ag Society with the breakdown to be \$90,000.00 for General

Expenses (0.004020) and \$60,000.00 (0.002680) for Capitol Improvement for a total levy of 0.006700 for budget year 2021/2022.

DATED this 26th day of August 2021.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5, Chairman

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Patrick J. Liska /s/
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

Virgil H. Miller /s/
Virgil H. Miller, District #3

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., District #4

Danny R. Schlote /s/
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

ATTEST : (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to adopt **Resolution #2021 – 28** that as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, the Board will allocate final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2021/2022. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2021 - 28

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution that determines a final allocation of levy authority for Knox County's subdivisions as per Nebraska Statute §77-3443, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Supervisors has allocated levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority to the Knox County townships, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as per Nebraska Revised Statute §77-3443, the Knox County Board of Supervisors will allocate a final allocation of levy authority to the Knox County Ag Society and the Knox County Rural Fire Districts but no allocation of levy authority will be given to the Knox County Townships for budget year 2021/2022.

DATED this 26th day of August 2021.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kevin D. Mackeprang /s/
Kevin D. Mackeprang, District #5, Chairman

Martin J. O'Connor /s/
Martin J. O'Connor, District #1

Patrick J. Liska /s/
Patrick J. Liska, District #2

Virgil H. Miller /s/
Virgil H. Miller, District #3

James Sokol, Jr. /s/
James Sokol, Jr., District #4

Danny R. Schlote /s/
Danny R. Schlote, District #6

ATTEST : (Seal)
Joann M. Fischer /s/
Knox County Clerk

James J. Borgmann /s/
James J. Borgmann, District #7

Krista Nix with the County Clerk's Office and County Clerk Fischer presented the updates to the Knox County proposed 2021/2022 budget where accommodation was added for anticipated grants noting that this will not change the proposed tax request of \$3,623,458.91 which is nearly \$27,000 less than last year. The proposed levy is slightly lower being 0.161837 compared to last year's levy of 0.162297. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to approve the changes to the proposed Knox County 2021/2022 budget draft showing that with the drop of the valuation of over \$10.1 million the proposed budget still shows a decrease of nearly \$27,000 for the tax request and the proposed levy to be slightly lower than the 2020 levy. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. The 2021/2022 Budget hearing and the 2021 Levy hearing will be held on September 9, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Ariel Larsen with the North Central District Health Department updated the Board on the alcohol and tobacco compliance checks done in Knox County recently. In Knox County, all twenty-six alcohol vendors checked passed but three out of twenty-three checks for tobacco sale compliance failed. Also presented was the information "Cannabis on the Youth Brain". Attempts to legalize marijuana in Nebraska continues.

Deputy County Clerk Rhonda Surface and SLFRF Administrator Krista Nix updated the Board on quotes for laptops. The ARPA funds can be used for laptops or other equipment that may be needed to do County work from home due to allow telework in case of a COVID outbreak. Some of the current computers need updated programming or need to be replaced. Quotes for Dell laptops were received from Applied Connective Technologies in the amount of \$915 and from PrecisionIT in the amount of \$919. Discussion was held on the process of who has final approval of using the ARPA funds. The Board decided the SLFRF Committee will review and present recommendations to the County Board for their final approval. The Board did approve the purchase of eight laptop computers from Applied Connective Technologies in the amount of \$915 each along with docking stations with the possibility of a Dell deal registration savings discount with the costs to be paid from the ARPA funds.

Deputy County Clerk Surface updated the Board on the NIRMA Cybersecurity training held on August 25. The Board had made it mandatory that all officials/department heads and employees attend the training and those who did not had to have an approved absence from the Board. A number of the Sheriff's Office employees had already taken the training in February 2021, so they did not have to attend this training. Those officials and employees who had been excused from the August 25 training will have to take the training on either of two dates available in September. The consensus of the attendees was that it was a very good training.

Long time County Treasurer Cathy Stark submitted to the Board her letter of retirement effective September 30, 2021 and her recommendation that Deputy County Treasurer Lori Ebel be appointed to complete the term that expires January 2023. Mrs. Stark has worked in the County Treasurer's Office over the course of 43 years with 34 of those years being the Knox County Treasurer. Deputy County Treasurer Lori Ebel submitted her letter of formal application for appointment to the Knox County Treasurer's position. Mrs. Ebel has been employed in the County Treasurer's Office for 38 years with 34 years as Deputy. The Board commended County Treasurer Stark for her dedicated service to Knox County. As per Nebraska Revised Statute 32-563, when a vacancy occurs before the election of a successor, the functions of the County office shall be exercised by appointment of the deputy if there is one. Motion by Supr, O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept the retirement letter of long time Knox County Treasurer Stark with such retirement effective September 30, 2021 and to appoint Deputy Knox County Treasurer Lori Ebel to the position of Knox County Treasurer effective October 1, 2021 to complete the term ending January 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were as follows: 1. Emergency Manager Hintz updated the Board on the increasing COVID numbers in the North Central District Health Department; 2. Deputy County Attorney Holecek informed the Board that Administrative Assistant Angela Roskeland submitted her resignation as she will be taking a job in Creighton; 3. Krista Nix updated the Board on the new Facebook page of "Knox County Nebraska Courthouse". Job postings will be placed on the Facebook page and on the website.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Public comment on non-agenda items was given by Supr. Schlote, Supr. Sokol, Jr. and Chairman Mackeprang on the recent visit by the Governor Ricketts and State Senators who visited many sites in northern Knox County pertaining to LB 406. (Corrected 9-9-2021) Discussion ensued on the many good points made, the Senators were surprised by the area, suggestions were made during the visit and one was a boat dock at the Weigand area but little mention of the roads leading to Weigand, expansion of Highway 81, and some people said they liked that the area as is and didn't want to see it to become commercialized. A week-long study will be done at the Ponca Tribe Headquarters in Niobrara during the second week in October and the public is invited to participate. Suggestions from this study session will be submitted to the State Senators.

GENERAL FUND. Bob Barker Company Inc., supplies, 42.71; Bomgaars, keys/wipes/roundup/trimmer, 511.28; CenturyLink, long distance, 68.48; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 52.00; Consolidated Management Company, meals, 12.68; Creston Fertilizer Co. Inc., chemicals, 1,405.12; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 233.52; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 64.20; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 46.84; Derrick Barr, meeting/mileage, 72.04; Doug DeShazer, meeting/mileage, 58.60; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/supplies, 412.25; Farm and Home Publishers, plat books, 375.00; F&M State Bank, annual ACH fee, 240.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/hot spot/postage/jail food, 5,290.81; Grafix Shoppe, graphics, 386.14; Greg Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 51.88; Hagge Glass, repair lock, 185.00; Holiday Inn Kearney, lodging, 539.70; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 45.16; Jody McFarland, meeting/mileage, 41.80; John Thomas, reimburse dues, 255.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 133,069.47; Neil Clausen, meet/mileage, 56.36; Nick Stout, meeting/mileage, 70.92; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 246.14; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter, 209.73; Robert Larsen, meeting/mileage, 35.08; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 74.64; Travis Barney, meeting/mileage, 70.92; Verdigre Eagle, publishing/printing, 1,016.02.

ROAD FUND. Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 67.06; Cedar Knox PPD, electricity, 85.70; CHS Crofton, diesel, 1,072.07; C-Mart LLC, gas, 293.09; Dustin Crosley, mileage, 116.48; First National Bank Omaha, meals/motel/repairs, 1,602.29; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 6,120.00; Jebro Inc., road oil, 86,872.26; LTL Holdings, gas, 154.61; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 157.71; NMC Inc., repairs, 959.34; Pro Crane Services LLC, equipment rental, 6,072.50; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil/filters, 493.38; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Steffens Service, gas, 15.02; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel/haul/equipment rental, 38,215.99; Vic's Service, gas, 216.22; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 25,236.38.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. CenturyLink, long distance, 4.28.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Flagship Publishing Inc., publishing, 400.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. First National Bank Omaha, kiosk internet, 173.90.

ROD PRES/MOD FUND. Mobile Binders, books/binders, 6,811.48.

COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND. Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning, mini split, 4,792.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 255.75.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. CenturyLink, long distance, 4.28; First National Bank Omaha, dues, ga, postage, supplies & meals, 897.94; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 5.61.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. CenturyLink, phone, 34.15.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. CenturyLink, phone, 392.76.

TOTALS

General Fund	145,239.49
Road Fund	167,796.10

Child Support Fund	4.28
Visitor's Promo Fund	400.00
Visitor's Improvement Fund	173.90
Rod Pres/Mod Fund	6,811.48
Covid American Rescue Plan Act Fund	4,792.00
Economic Development Fund	255.75
C&C Development Fund	907.83
911 Emergency Fund	34.15
911 Wireless Service Fund	<u>392.76</u>
Total	\$326,807.74

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:16 p.m. on August 26, 2021 until Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for the Knox County 2021-2022 Budget Hearing and Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request with the regular meeting to follow.

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
