

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
May 12, 2022  
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 May 12, 2022 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.

Sheriff Don Henery 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 Creighton News 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 April 28, 2022 meeting were read. Chairman Mackeprang approved the April 28, 2022 with the correction that discussion ensued on a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding Agreement in reference to a portion of 893 RD in Hill Township and that Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session held at 1:46 p.m. was held so as to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Miller 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 \$790,328.65 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess for Board of Equalization at 10:04 a.m.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:18 a.m. with all members present.

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

Motion by Supr. Miller, seconded by Supr. Schlote to place on file the Receipts Revenue List from April 28 through May 10, 2022. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1. Bridge Foreman Mike Jelinek passed the Highway Superintendent exam; 2. Chairman Mackeprang signed the Notice of Award and the Notice to Proceed on the Bloomfield Northeast bridge project; 3. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Liska to authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign Change Order No. 1 on the Bloomfield Northeast Bridge Project changing the superstructure to a slab bridge configuration as a cost saving measure of \$40,000. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 4. At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Mackeprang opened the advertised public hearing on the vacation/abandonment of a portion of 521 Avenue in Section 11 of Bohemia Township; 5. Discussion was held on the recent bid opening in Antelope County for microsurfacing the Ashfall Road. There is approximately 2.1 miles of the road in Knox County. Antelope County Road Foreman Aaron Boggs was present to review the bids with the County's portion proposed to be \$218,429.82 from Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp of St. Cloud MN or \$204,271.28 from Missouri Petroleum Products Co. LLC of St. Louis MO. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Chairman Mackeprang to accept the bid from Missouri Petroleum Products Co. LLC in the amount of \$204,271.28 for microsurfacing 2.1 miles of the Ashfall Road in Knox County. Discussion was held on the project that would begin July 15, 2023 and how long the microsurfacing materials would last. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #4 and #5. Nays Districts #2, #3, #6 and #7. Motion failed; 6. A request was received from the Frankfort Township Board to vacate and abandon a 1.1-mile portion of 547 Avenue between Sections 19, 29, 30 and running through the SW1/4 of Section 20. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to adopt **Resolution #2022 - 11** directing Highway Superintendent Barta to conduct a study for the vacation/abandonment of a 1.1-mile portion of 547 Avenue (Platted Road #835 and Platted Road #257) between the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4SE1/4) of Section 19, the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4NE1/4) of Section 30, the NW1/4 of Section 29 and across the SW1/4 of Section 20, all in Township 33 North, Range 2 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #2022 - 11**

WHEREAS the Frankfort Township Board has requested to vacate and abandon a portion of 547 Avenue as follows:

A 1.1-mile portion of 547 Avenue (Platted Road #835 and Platted Road #257) between the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4SE1/4) of Section 19, the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4NE1/4) of Section 30, the NW1/4 of Section 29 and across the SW1/4 of Section 20, all in Township 33 North, Range 2 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska

WHEREAS the Highway Superintendent must conduct a study of vacating and abandoning such roads, and,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Supervisors hereby directs Hwy. Supt. Kevin R. Barta to conduct a study of vacating and abandoning a 1.1-mile portion of 547 Avenue (Platted Road #835 and Platted Road #257) as described above.

Passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

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

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

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

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

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

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 7. Walton Bridge update; 8. Discussion was held on the letter received from the Nebraska Department of Transportation regarding the repair to the CJ Slide on the Rec Road. The State paid 80% in the amount of \$209,971.09 however the past contracts/agreements in the 1960's said the State would pay 90%. County Attorney Thomas updated the Board on the process to try to obtain the additional 10%. Discussion then was held on the replacement of the Weigand Bridge also located on the Rec Road. County Attorney Thomas said the bridge is a high priority so the focus should be trying to get the State to pay for 90% of the bridge replacement. Also discussed was the need to put traffic counters on the entrances into the State areas along the Rec Road during the month of July. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to have a letter sent to the Nebraska Department of Transportation requesting the State to pay for 90% of the replacement costs of the Weigand Bridge on the Rec Road and if the State does not agree, the County will follow up with a lawsuit to be filed in Lancaster County declaring that the State is responsible for the 90% of those costs. By roll call. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Angie O'Connor with Avera met with the Board to discuss the annual on-site wellness program and the 2022 Services Proposal. The basic price will be \$105 per participant this year. Discussion was held on past results, proposed testing, and portal updates. Scheduling a date for the on-site wellness program will be done. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Miller to approve a 2022 On-site Wellness Health Screening for Knox County employees at a cost of \$105 per participant; to allow a \$25 credit per participant towards additional laboratory testing; that those employees participating shall complete a Wellness Questionnaire through the LiveNOW Portal and if the employees do not they are not eligible to participate; that participating employees shall meet with Avera staff in a Health Coaching session to review each participant's results of the Wellness Health Screening; to approve reimbursement to those eligible employees who are enrolled in the County's health insurance benefit through 90 Degree Benefits/HealthCare Solutions Group and participate in the onsite Wellness Health Screening and complete all of the requirements for the screening with the reimbursement to be up to \$250 of 2022 deductible paid between \$250 and \$500; for those employees who pay for child(ren) health insurance coverage through 90 Degree Benefits/HealthCare Solutions Group, Inc., reimbursement up to \$250 of 2022 deductible paid between \$250 and \$500 provided the employee participates in the 2022 Wellness Health Program; that there will be no option to opt out to a comparable wellness program; and the reimbursement of the 2022 deductible must be made by the end of the first quarter in 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #1. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta continued with the following: 9. Discussion was held on purchasing a motorgrader for District 2 and possible trade-ins; 10. A side-dump trailer was purchased at an auction in O'Neill; 11. Discussed purchasing a used truck tractor to pull the lowboy or side-dump trailer. Mechanic Crosley found a 2018 Freightliner 10-speed conventional day cab truck tractor at John's Trucks & Equipment in Lyons NE for \$95,000 with warranty left on it. Further discussion was held on the difficulty of finding good used trucks and cost of new trucks. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Miller to approve the purchase of a 2018 Freightliner 10-speed conventional day cab truck tractor in the amount of \$95,000 from John's Trucks & Equipment in Lyons NE. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 12. A web-ex call will be held with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Lazy River Acres area.

Emergency Manager Hintz met with the Board on the following: 1. The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Grant for financial assistance to update the Hazard Mitigation plans was approved. NEMA will pay \$63,750 toward the update costs and Knox, Antelope and Holt Counties will share the costs of \$21,250 for the update.

Supr. Miller left at 12:10 p.m.

Emergency Manager Hintz continued with the following: 2. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to authorize Chairman Mackeprang to sign the Missouri River Northeast Region Community Wildfire Protection Plan. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #3. Motion carried; 3. Discussed fiber optic connection between Hartington and Center, use of grant funds and options; 4. A call was received from the Bureau of Reclamation that if the Merritt Dam in western Nebraska is breached it may affect the lower areas of

the Village of Niobrara; 5. A problem has arisen with the original radio equipment at the Lindy tower and some of the equipment must be replaced. The cost will be approximately \$9,369 which Emergency Manager Hintz said she has in her budget however she felt the replacement of radio equipment should come from the Sheriff's budget in the future.

Zoning Administrator Doerr met with the Board on the following: 1. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the April Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #3. Motion carried; 2. Discussed a type of tiny house that is on wheels that will need to be licensed; 3. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve Administrative Plat Application #P0189 Ron and Karen Joslin for a boundary adjustment of tract in the SE1/4 of Section 14, T33N, R3W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent District #3. Motion carried.

The Board and Hwy. Supt. Barta discussed the vacation/abandonment of a portion of 521 Avenue in Section 11 of Bohemia Township. Hwy. Supt. Barta said that an easement has not been presented yet for a landowner at the end of the proposed vacation/abandonment. The Board took no action and the hearing remains open and will be continued at the May 26, 2022 meeting.

Officials' updates were: 1. Sheriff Henery informed the Board that Knox County is the first county in the State to have hand-held radios for the Sheriff and deputies. The radios came from the Nebraska State Patrol; 2. Security protocol was discussed for Annex #1 and #2. More discussion will be held in the future; 3. Update on North Central District Health Department.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 188,770.86; Amy Johnson, mileage, 15.21; Applied Connective Technologies, IT program, 3,538.60; Carrot-Top Industries Inc., flagpole repairs, 171.00; CenTec Cast Metal, grave markers, 1,518.91; Classic Carpet Care, mop/towel rent, 52.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 14,440.11; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 29,280.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 156.00; Dollar General, jail supplies, 58.20; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/supplies, 816.70; EcoWater Systems, bottled water/salt, 264.50; Election Systems & Software, election coding, 3,965.93; Gragert's, jail food, 1,121.22; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,356.94; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., furnace, 2,165.00; Hefner Hardware, janitor supplies, 29.97; Holiday Inn Kearney, lodging, 379.80; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 76.18; Independent Pest Management, pest control, 350.00; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, supplies, 21.97; Joann Fischer, reimburse gas, 19.34; John Thomas, reimburse supplies, 39.75; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 145.69; Kristine Kumm, mileage, 92.46; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 269.98; Liz Doerr, mileage, 70.20; Madison County Sheriff, mental health board, 28.46; Madison County District Court, mental health board, 50.00; Marvin Planning Consultants, zoning regulation update, 500.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program, 514.38; Monroe Systems, toners, 275.61; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,976.24; Northeast Nebraska News Co., publishing, 1,013.11; O'Neill shopper, publishing, 60.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 130.50; Platte Valley Communications, radio license, 105.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2,061.72; Quill Corporation, supplies, 162.38; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter, 257.78; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 12,841.40; Telebeep, pagers, 64.17; UNL Eastern Nebraska Research & Extension Center, salary, 10,877.56; US Cellular, cell phones, 191.02; US Cellular, cell phones, 365.50; Verdigre Eagle, publishing/subscription, 335.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 343.00.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 64,687.44; B's Enterprises Inc., sign posts, 6,960.00; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 824.40; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 92.97; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 107.90; Bloomfield Auto Parts, shop supplies, 27.46; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 1,061.55; Bomgaars, shop supplies/shop tools/seed/repairs, 1,035.22; Bonnie Jennings, clay, 270.00; Brian Dather, trailer, 150.00; CHS Wausa, diesel, 2,599.04; City of Bloomfield, water, 28.00; City of Creighton, water/sewer/garbage, 217.11; C-Mart, gas, 269.16; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 4,857.89; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 2,340.64; Country Market, shop supplies, 7.09; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 12,810.00; Farmer's Pride, diesel, 9,735.45; Great Plains Communications, phone, 537.00; Grossenburg Implement Inc., repairs, 938.20; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 63.97; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel/grass seed, 1,796.04; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 2,137.50; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies/ice melt, 323.73; JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 3,240.00; Knox County Register of Deeds, recording fee, 196.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 107.28; M & M Auctions LLC, side dump, 38,515.00; Murphy Tractor Equipment Co. Inc., motor grader, 279,800.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 61.78; NIRMA, cpr/aed manuals, 494.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 346.50; K&S Door Co. Inc., dba Overhead Door Co. of Norfolk, door repairs, 790.25; Powerplan, repairs, 157.40; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 761.94; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/oil/filters, 2,683.76; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 4,228.06; Rohrer Welding, welding gas/repairs, 1,043.11; Sucha Repair, oxygen/acetylene/repairs, 579.17; U.S. Cellular, cell phones, 412.25; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel/haul, 31,989.19; Village of Center, water/sewer, 38.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 38.63; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 77.39.

**HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND.** JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fees, 2,738.75.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 51.35; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 156.69; Maximus Inc., cost allocation, 122.66; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00; Nebraska Clerks of the District Court Association, registration, 75.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 570.79.

**VISITOR'S PROMO FUND.** Bargain Buyway, promo grant, 300.00; Bloomfield Community Club, promo grant, 1,000.00; Center Improvement Club, promo grant, 500.00; Creighton Chamber of Commerce, promo grant, 1,000.00; Crofton Community Club, promo grant, 1,000.00; Flagship Publishing Inc., publishing, 400.00; Harm & Tulleys Event Center, promo grant, 500.00; Knox County Ag Society, promo grant, 1,500.00; Miles Partnership, publishing, 2,000.00; Niobrara Promoters, promo grant, 1,000.00; Shannon Trail Promoters, promo grant, 300.00; Verdigre Improvement Club,

promo grant, 1,000.00; Wausa Community Club, promo grant, 1,000.00; Winnetoon Community Committee, promo grant, 300.00; Yankton Thrive, membership, 300.00.

**ROD PRESERVATION/MODERNIZATION FUND.** MIPS, computer program, 435.66.

**COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND.** Salaries, 3,850.31.

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 4,720.70; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 353.09; Creighton Chamber of Commerce, Creighton bucks, 270.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 51.35; Kelly Hanvey, reimburse Crofton Bucks, 350.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 5.96; Niobrara Promoters, Niobrara bucks, 80.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 294.69; Stacy Miller, reimburse meals, 46.80; US Cellular, cell phone, 161.62.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** CenturyLink, phone, 6.06; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 105.08; Three River Telco, phone, 17.71.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 534.21; Three River Telco, phone, 203.70.

TOTALS	
General Fund	\$281,379.85
Road Fund	479,437.47
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	2,738.75
Child Support Fund	1,057.49
Visitor's Promo Fund	12,100.00
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	435.66
Covid American Rescue Plan Act Fund	3,850.31
C&C Development Fund	6,379.03
Inheritance Fund	2,083.33
911 Emergency Fund	128.85
911 Wireless Service Fund	<u>737.91</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$790,328.65</u>

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:49 p.m. on May 12, 2022 until Thursday, May 26, 2022, 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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