

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska  
January 12, 2023  
9:30 a.m.

A reorganizational 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 January 12, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, Patrick J. Liska 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. Chairman Mackeprang presiding.

Supr. Pierce 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 December 21 and 29, 2022 and January 5, 2023 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 \$508,230.32 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Knox County Board of Supervisors recess at 10:07 a.m. on January 12, 2023.

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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The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:07 a.m., as provided by Sec. 23-156, Sec. 23-272, 23-274 Revised Statutes of Nebraska 1943.

Chairman Mackeprang appointed County Clerk Fischer as Temporary Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors due to the reorganization process.

Temporary Chairman/Co. Clk. Fischer called for nominations three times from the floor for the 2023 Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors. Supr. Liska nominated Supervisor Mackeprang.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann that nominations cease, rules be suspended and to cast a unanimous ballot for Supervisor Mackeprang for Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors for 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Supervisor Mackeprang assumed the duties of the Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors for 2023.

Chairman Mackeprang called for nominations three times from the floor for the 2023 Vice-Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors. Supr. Liska nominated Supr. Schlote.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Pierce that nominations cease, rules be suspended and to cast a unanimous ballot for Supervisor Schlote for Vice-Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors for 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #6. Motion carried. Supr. Schlote assumed the duties of the Vice-Chairman of the Knox County Board of Supervisors for 2023.

Chairman Mackeprang announced the 2023 Committees as follows: **CATASTROPHIC LEAVE COMMITTEE** – the recipient employee's department head, Chairman – Supr. Kevin Mackeprang, Co. Clerk Joann M. Fischer, Sheriff Don Henery, Highway Superintendent Kevin Barta and an Outside Employee - Road Department; **CLAIMS COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, Danny Schlote and James Sokol, Jr.; **COUNTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE** – Supervisors in Respective Districts; **COUNTY MACHINERY CARE COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, James Sokol, Jr. and Patrick Liska and Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta; **COURTHOUSE & GROUNDS COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Kevin Mackeprang, David Pierce, and James Sokol, Jr., Co. Clerk Joann M. Fischer, Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface, Custodian Beth Rudloff; **COURTHOUSE SECURITY COMMITTEE** – Sheriff Don Henery, Co. Attorney John Thomas, Deputy Co. Attorney Hanna Knox Jensen and Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek; **COURTHOUSE SUPPLY APPROVAL OFFICER** – Joann M. Fischer, Co. Clerk; **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK & PERSONNEL SYSTEM REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Created 6/27/2019)** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang, Co. Clerk Joann M. Fischer, Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix, Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface, Deputy County Attorney Hanna Knox Jensen, Sheriff Don Henery, Mechanic Jeremy Crosley, and Hwy. Supt. Office Manager Katie Fritz; **FINANCING, BANKING & INSURANCE COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, James Borgmann and David Pierce, Co. Treasurer Lori Ebel; **PRINTING COMMITTEE** – Supervisors James Sokol, Jr., James Borgmann and Patrick Liska; **PURCHASING COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Martin O'Connor, James Borgmann and Kevin Mackeprang; **ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE** – Supervisors James Sokol, Jr., Patrick Liska and David Pierce, and Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta; **SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Supervisors Danny Schlote and Patrick Liska; Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek and Co. Clerk Joann Fischer – Co-Coordinator; Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta; Road employees Mike Beckman, Mike Jelinek and Mike Kucera; Custodian Beth Rudloff, Sheriff Don Henery; and Katie Fritz - Secretary; **SAFETY COORDINATORS** – Emergency Manager Kelsy Jelinek and Co. Clerk Joann M. Fischer; **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE (ADA)** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang, Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta; and Co. Clerk Joann M. Fischer – Coordinator; **BLOOMFIELD AIRPORT JOINT ZONING BOARD** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang; **CREIGHTON AIRPORT JOINT ZONING BOARD (Created 5/14/1992)** – Supervisor James Borgmann; **GOLDENROD REGIONAL HOUSING AGENCY** – Supervisor James Sokol, Jr.; **HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) COORDINATOR** – Co. Clerk Joann M. Fischer; **KNOX COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY** – Supervisors James Borgmann and Kevin Mackeprang; **KNOX COUNTY VISITORS' COMMITTEE** – Supervisor Martin O'Connor; **MISSOURI SEDIMENTATION ACTION COALITION BOARD** – Mark Simpson; **911 EMERGENCY SERVICE BOARD** – Supervisors James Borgmann, Dan Schlote and David Pierce; **NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang and a Spirited Citizen; **NORTHEAST NEBRASKA AREA AGENCY ON AGING** – Supervisor David Pierce; **NORTHEAST NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (NENEDD) BOARD** – Supervisor James Borgmann and Mike Crosley; **NORTHSTAR SERVICES BOARD** – Supervisor Danny Schlote; **RECREATION RIVER COOPERATING AGENCY** – Supervisor Martin O'Connor; **REGION IV MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE DISTRICT** – Supervisor Danny Schlote; **REGION IV MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Supervisor Kevin Mackeprang; **STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (SLFRF)** – Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 10:22 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:41 a.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to authorize Co. Treasurer Ebel to invest all funds of the County for the calendar year 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to set the current salary for Veterans' Service Officer Gary Jones at \$23.11 per hour. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to designate the publishing and posting requirements of 2023 Notices of Meeting as follows: All 2023 Notices of Meeting to be posted on the Knox County Website being [www.co.knox.ne.us](http://www.co.knox.ne.us); the Notice of Meeting for the first regular meeting of each month be published in the Niobrara Tribune, the Notice of Meeting for the second regular meeting of each month be published in the Wausa Gazette; and special meeting/quorum meeting notices be published in both the Niobrara Tribune and Wausa Gazette. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1. County Bridge Match Program update; 2. The One and Six Year Hearing will be held on February 9, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.; 3. Safety inspections of the County Sheds will be January 23, 2023; 4. Road employee job evaluations will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Boardroom on January 26, 2023; 5. A wire welder and tools will be purchased for the Crofton Shed; 6. Discussed road conditions, complaints and a threat received after the snowstorm. The threat was reported to the County Sheriff; 7. Maintainer repair; 8. A safety meeting with Cedar County will be held on February 9, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.; 9. Verdigre North bridge update; 10. County sign inventory is being done; 11. Discussed proposed developments along the Rec Road; 12. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to go into executive session at 11:01 a.m. so as to protect the reputation of an individual. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated that the executive session was being held so as to protect the reputation of an individual. The Board came out of executive session at 11:24 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to close at 11:24 a.m. the executive session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Economic Development Director Kelly Hanvey met with the Board on a Rural Fellowship program administered through the University of Nebraska. The program is a unique program designed to connect college students to rural Nebraska communities. The students would move into the rural community for a seven-week period during the summer to complete community-identified projects. Past projects have ranged from economic development, workforce development, tourism, community planning, mental health and much more. The University pays the salary for one student, but the County would have to pay for the second student which would be approximately \$5,000 plus housing. The Board members said it would be an excellent experience. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve Knox County participating in the Rural Fellowship Program with the University of Nebraska for a seven-week period during the summer of 2023 with Knox County paying approximately \$5,000 for one student plus lodging for both students, and such funds to be paid from budgets to be determined at a later date. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the 2022 Permits Report, a Yearly Summary, and the December Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2301 Keith and Diana Eckmann for a five-acre tract split in the SW1/4NW1/4 of Section 14, T31N, R5W of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 11:49 a.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 12:46 p.m. with all members present.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List for December 28, 2022 through January 10, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Semi-Annual Report by the Knox County Treasurer of Collections, Disbursements and Balances for Six Months ending December 31, 2022, and further certifying that there were no unpaid claims against Knox County as of December 31, 2022. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Clerk of District Court December 2022 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected October 1 through December 31, 2022. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to set the 2023 mileage rate at 65.5 cents per mile and the County Sheriff paper serving mileage rate at 68.5 cents per mile. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept and place on file the Knox County Credit Card Accounts report as of January 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve adding Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix to the signature card for the Knox County Register of Deeds checking account at the Farmers & Merchants State Bank. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Sheriff Henery updated the Board on the Lindy Tower. The costs for operating the tower are currently paid from the Emergency Manager budget within the General Fund and responsibility of the tower was done by the former Emergency Manager. Sheriff Henery said he will take over the responsibility of operations of the Lindy Tower with the costs to continue being paid from the Emergency Manager budget until the 2023/2024 budget is set at which time the operation costs will be built into his Sheriff's budget within the General Fund. The State took over the Winnetoon Tower so Knox County is not responsible for it any longer.

The Board changed the first meeting in April to Wednesday, April 12, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Deputy County Clerk Krista Nix updated the Board on the ARPA funds which must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Discussion was held on suggested uses of ARPA funds and the funds received for the makeup of PILT contributions.

Discussion was held on the garbage pickup. Key Sanitation handles the garbage pickup in Center and had the misfortune of truck breakdowns. Key Sanitation did pick up the garbage at the Courthouse the first week of January and are attempting to catch up.

The Board discussed legislative bills being introduced that will affect County operations.

Officials' update was given by Sheriff Henery who said his year-end report will be published in the County papers.

There was no public comment on agenda items nor on non-agenda items.

The Board reviewed a draft of an Employment Agreement with former Zoning Administrator Doerr for consulting services. The draft will be returned to the Deputy County Attorney for contract changes.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into executive session at 1:14 p.m. so as to protect the reputation of an individual when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session will be held so as to protect the reputation of an individual. The Board came out of executive session at 2:03 p.m.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 2:03 p.m. the executive session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on a cellphone for Emergency Manager Jelinek or the use of her personal phone with a fringe reimbursement. The Board directed Emergency Manager Jelinek to purchase a new cellphone so as to keep the County business on a separate phone.

**GENERAL FUND.** Salaries, 205,724.80; Applied Connective Technologies, IT contract, 3,342.51; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, medical treatment, 190.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 15,750.18; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 39,611.37; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 763.12; Ecowater, bottled water, 453.00; Gragert's, jail food/supplies, 1,682.95; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,979.22; Hampton Inn Kearney, lodging, 359.85; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., quarterly billing, 1,428.00; Hefner Hardware, snow shovels/pail, 67.57; Jansen Roofing & Construction, repair

buildings, 280.00; Knox County Register of Deeds, record deeds, 20.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 8.00; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 286.08; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage/mannequin, 174.98; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program, 683.65; MIPS, data conversion, 783.41; N&B Gas Company, propane, 1,414.10; Northeast Nebraska Assessors Association, dues, 25.00; Nebraska Association of County Assessors, dues, 60.00; Nebraska Weed Control Association, registration, 120.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 2,428.86; Northeast Nebraska News Co., publishing, 112.14; Pitney Bowes, meter lease, 159.57; Pitzer Digital LLC, publishing, 989.02; Postmaster, postage, 1,740.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2,151.36; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 118.04; Reserve Account, postage, 3,000.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 14,177.17; US Cellular, cell phones, 949.06; US Cellular, cell phones, 718.61; Verizon Wireless, hot spot, 40.01.

**ROAD FUND.** Salaries, 82,734.28; Bauer Built LLC, tires, 13,610.00; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 158.16; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 202.70; Bloomfield Auto Parts, repairs, 559.93; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 724.51; Bomgaars, shop supplies/fuel nozzle/ice melt/tordon, 1,593.81; CHS Wausa, diesel, 2,460.21; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; City of Creighton, garbage/water/sewer, 170.39; C-Mart, gas, 352.86; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 6,063.50; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 2,112.24; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance county pays, 17,775.32; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 419.55; Crofton Lumber, shop supplies, 3.29; Ed Kleinschmit, mailbox repairs, 50.00; Farmer's Pride, diesel, 3,043.25; Freeman Oil Company LLC, diesel, 4,133.75; Great Plains Communications, phone, 543.10; Grossenburg Impl. Inc., repairs, 2,078.91; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 120.51; J&K Auto, gas, 39.75; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 436.86; Kayton International, def, 53.49; Key Sanitation, garbage, 60.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance county pays, 113.24; Medical Enterprises Inc., drug test, 35.00; Mike Jelinek, lodging, 108.82; N&B Gas Co., propane, 1,946.90; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 95.09; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 497.03; Pitzer Digital LLC, publishing, 62.01; Powerplan, repairs, 1,190.20; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 806.76; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 5,461.38; Riverside Hydraulics Inc., repairs, 266.17; Schreier Lumber, mailbox, 19.60; State of Nebraska Motor Fuels Division, diesel tax, 896.00; Steffens Service, gas, 3.25; Sucha Repair, repairs, 116.93; U.S. Cellular, cell phones, 646.87; Vic's Service LLC, gas, 119.22; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.81; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 85.04; Wausa Medical Clinic, drug test, 60.00.

**FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND.** JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineering fee, 3,737.50; Michael Zerbe, easement/fence, 31,356.98.

**CHILD SUPPORT FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 51.52; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 160.38; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00; Northeast District Court Clerks Association, registration/dues, 125.00.

**VISITOR'S PROMO FUND.** Salaries, 2,904.00.

**ROD PRESERVATION/MODERNIZATION FUND.** MIPS, computer program, 274.06.

**COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND.** Salaries, 3,806.50.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.** NENEDD, admin fees, 18.75.

**C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND.** Salaries, 3,833.33; Collector of Internal Revenue, social security County pays, 285.20; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 51.52; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 5.96; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 233.44; US Cellular, cell phone, 161.90.

**INHERITANCE FUND.** Cedar County Transit, contract, 2,000.00; Jeffrey M. Doerr, court appointed attorney, 731.94; Joseph M. Smith, court appointed attorney, 414.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.37.

**911 EMERGENCY FUND.** CenturyLink, phone, 6.44; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 105.82; NESCA, membership, 10.80; Three River Telco, phone, 17.71.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND.** Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 534.21; NESCA, membership, 124.20; Three River Telco, phone, 203.70.

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE HOLDING FUND.** City of Norfolk, regional host network, 173.97; OPTK Networks, regionalization network, 761.48.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$301,832.13
Road Fund	152,098.69
Flowage Easement Road Fund	35,094.48
Child Support Fund	417.90
Visitor's Promo Fund	2,904.00
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	274.06
Covid American Rescue Plan Act Fund	3,806.50
Economic Development Fund	18.75
C&C Development Fund	4,616.17
Inheritance Fund	5,229.31

911 Emergency Fund	140.77
911 Wireless Service Fund	862.11
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	<u>935.45</u>
Total	\$508,230.32

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 2:05 p.m. on January 12, 2023 until Thursday, January 26, 2023 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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