

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
May 11, 2023
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 Thursday, May 11, 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. Borgmann 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 April 27, 2023 meeting were read and approved by Chairman Mackeprang.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Email, letter and project packet from the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation regarding US-20-N-59 project (Highway 14); 2.) Emails received from Elizabeth Bigley and Jim Recob and a letter from John and Susan Arens regarding the Riverpoint Bay Preliminary Plat; 3.) Letter and information from the Corps of Engineers on the Weigand Marina Expansion at Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area; 4.) Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition letter about the 22nd Annual Membership Meeting to be held on May 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Way Community Room in Yankton.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska 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 \$550,586.04 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 10:12 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) A Safety Committee meeting was held at 8:30 a.m.; 2.) Brian Bumann started as a seasonal truck driver; 3.) Updates on bridge projects. The Weigand bridge may reopen next week so shoofly materials will need to be removed. Discussion ensued on where the materials will be reused; 4.) Update on the Ponca Creek dredging in the Lazy River Acres area. The Army Corps of Engineers has now changed their cost benefit ratio on the project and will not be participating in it. Discussion was held on proposed work to Highway 12 in that area. The matter was tabled; 5.) Discussed was possible construction of a mechanic's shop at the Center County Yard. An 80 ft. x 120 ft. building would cost approximately \$508,000 not including additional costs for electrical and plumbing installations. An option to add onto an existing building was discussed. More research will be done; 6.) The position at the Bloomfield County Shed and a position at the Crofton County Shed have been filled. More advertising will be done to fill the position at the Wausa County Shed and a second position at the Crofton County Shed; 7.) Oil Crew update; 8.) Bridge Crew update; 9.) The bid opening for a new dump truck/snowplow will be held at the June 8, 2023 meeting; 10.) A radar speed sign near Miller Feedlot, with an estimated cost of \$3,200, is missing. Videos from cameras in the area will be viewed and a report will be made by the Sheriff's Office; 11.) The bid opening for the Shaw bridge and the Cedar County bridge will be held at the May 25, 2023 meeting; 12.) The Lazy River Acres sign along Highway 12 fell over and needs to be removed. Supr. Sokol, Jr. will contact Niobrara Valley Electric to cut the electricity to the sign; 13.) Hwy. Supt. Barta was contacted that the marker east of Winnetoon that should be located at the end of State maintenance was moved and needs to be moved back as it makes it appear that the State's maintenance area is less than should be; 14.) Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. O'Connor to go into executive session at 10:50 a.m. to protect the reputation of individuals when discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session will be held to protect the reputation of individuals when discussing personnel. The Board came out of executive session at 11:11 a.m.; 15.) Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 11:11 a.m. the executive session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Jim Kotrous met with the Board regarding the loss of calves by coyotes in his area and animal damage control. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) program resolves wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist. Mr. Kotrous said that he has his cattle tested each year for neosporosis as his cattle have had the disease, and according to his veterinarian, the disease is caused by the protozoan parasite which is carried by canines including coyotes. Neosporosis survives in soil and water for prolonged periods after canine feces have decomposed. Discussion was held on contracting with the USDA, information from counties who have used the USDA services and landowners giving local hunters access to hunt coyotes. No action was taken.

Senior Office Clerk Rhonda Surface met with the Board on the following: 1.) Upgrade to the telephone system in the Courthouse. The present telephones are antiquated and need to be replaced. Discussion was held on options and quotes received were: **Applied Connective Technologies of Albion NE** - \$22,916.95 for Grandstream SIP 48-button telephones, portable phones, hardware and professional services along with \$245 per month for managed services; **Great Plains Communications of Blair NE** - \$39,689 for Sangoma phones plus \$16,500 business solutions wiring for a total of \$56,189. The internet and local phone service would continue with Great Plains Communications. The Building and Grounds Committee recommended the purchase of telephones from Applied Connective Technologies. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept the quote from **Applied Connective Technologies of Albion NE** in the amount of \$22,916.95 for forty Grandstream SIP 48-button telephones, nine portable phones, hardware and professional services along with \$245 per month for managed services, and the costs of the telephones and setup to be paid from ARPA funds and the monthly managed services to be paid from the General Fund until the services are no longer needed. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Discussion was held on the heating/cooling units in the Courthouse that were installed in 2007 by Heartland Heating of Norfolk. No action was taken;

3.) The colors of the metal siding for the new storage/garage building were selected and conveyed to contractor Scott Ober who is now ordering the siding as increased steel prices are coming soon.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2311 Marlene Wragge for a boundary line adjustment and easement of an 8.82-acre tract in the E1/2SE1/4NE1/4 of Section 15, T30N, R4W of the 6th P.M., Knox County, Nebraska. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr., to place on file the March/April 2023 Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Update on the Safety Committee meeting.

Sheriff Henery met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the County of Knox and Village of Wausa for Law Enforcement Services from June 15, 2023 through June 15, 2026. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to approve the Knox County Sheriff's Office/Cedar County Sheriff's Office Interlocal Law Enforcement Agreement from June 1, 2023 through June 1, 2026 to provide for personnel backup and such other assistance as either party may require in time of emergency or other time of need. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of April 26, 2023 through May 9, 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 Clerk of District Court April Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on ARPA funds and projects. Deputy County Clerk Nix updated the Board on the funds remaining and obligated projects. Federal legislation has been introduced to "claw back" unobligated ARPA funds. The ARPA funds must be obligated before December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to obligate \$1,183,587.72 as follows: \$127,500 Murphy Tractor - wheel loader; \$70,000 Scott Ober Construction remaining storage/garage obligation; \$23,000 Applied Connective Technologies phone system upgrade; \$175,587.72 Eagleview flights – Assessor's Office; \$270,000 dump truck/snowplow; and \$517,500 mechanic's shop at Center County Yard with a \$306.74 balance remaining of unobligated ARPA funds. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) Supr. O'Connor reviewed the Corps of Engineers letter regarding Weigand Marina Expansion at Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area and said that it was misleading as the letter says they are adding a boat ramp however upon review there is proposed putting a new convenience store in the location of a current ramp which then eliminates one ramp; 2.) County Clerk Fischer informed the Board that Rhonda's Café in Creighton is now adding KENO which will fall under the interlocal agreement between Knox County and the City of Creighton; 3.) Chairman Mackeprang said there will be a Lewis and Clark NRD/Cedar-Knox Rural Water meeting where they plan to drop the Dolphin Township well project and may be looking to the Aten area in Cedar County; 4.) Supr. O'Connor and Hwy. Supt. Barta are subpoenaed to the District Court on the case of Kenneth Jansen, etal vs Terry Heimes etal.

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

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 189,244.36; Applied Connective Technologies, IT contract, 4,508.31; Bomgaars, mulch, 174.50; Clerk of District Court, court costs, 72.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 14,181.04; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 41,111.37; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 28.80; D&L Tire LLC, tires, 1,061.96; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper, 727.58; Ecowater, bottled water, 630.50; Elizabeth Doerr, contract hours, 480.00; Fairfield Inn Kearney, lodging, 659.70; Floor Maintenance Paper Supply Co., janitor supplies, 421.66; Gragert's, jail food, 1,318.67; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 1,998.59; Heartland Counseling Services, training, 115.28; J&K Auto, mower gas, 22.07; JEO Consulting Group Inc., hazard mitigation plan, 1,719.00; Knox County Register of Deeds, record resolution, 16.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 299.48; Kristine Kumm, mileage, 41.92; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 295.91; Lois Kumm, jail food, 45.50; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer program, 683.65; NACO, 1st half dues, 2,132.85; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,915.46; Northeast Nebraska News CO., publishing, 606.07; O'Neill Shopper, publishing, 61.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 216.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 477.20; R&K Motor Parts, oil/filter, 84.87; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 12,740.71; Top Appraisal Co., appraisal work, 1,350.00; UNL Eastern Nebraska Research & Extension Center, salary, 11,884.40; US Cellular, cell phones, 195.16; US Cellular, cell phones, 354.36; Verdigre Eagle, publishing/envelopes, 1,048.68; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 167.04; Verizon Wireless, hot spot, 40.01; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 500.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 61,370.96; Avera Medical Group, drug test, 25.00; B's Enterprises Inc., patch mix/flag material/bolts/nuts/culverts, 36,590.00; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 4,774.40; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 110.43; Big Red Mini Mart, gas, 52.01; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, drug test, 100.00; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 368.58; City of Bloomfield, water, 28.00; City of Creighton, water/sewer/garbage, 51.50; C-Mart, gas, 266.51; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 4,442.30; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 5,969.86; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 15,835.32; Crane Sales & Service, repairs, 1,434.18; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 504.03; Freeman Oil Company LLC, diesel, 989.40; Great Plains Communications, phone, 535.71; Grossenburg Implement Inc., filters/repairs, 1,444.97; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 47.97; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 4,076.50; Jedlicka's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 187.79; Larry Pilar, prior service, 21.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 95.36; Marlene Moeller, sand, 1,200.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 59.91; Netcom Inc., repairs, 292.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 349.60; Northeast Nebraska News Company, publishing, 23.07; Omaha Slings Inc., repairs, 387.46; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 17.52; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 627.48; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters, 2,496.25; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 4,034.55; Roger Lemke, clay, 750.00; Schreier Lumber, shop supplies, 24.00; Sucha Repair, repairs, 47.62; U.S. Cellular, cell phones, 413.13; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel/haul, 35,000.30; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 201.99; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/gas/repairs, 3,644.61; Vic's Service LLC, gas/repair, 194.57; Village of Center, water/sewer, 38.00; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.94; Village of Verdigre, water/sewer/garbage, 95.39; Village of Wausa, water/sewer/garbage, 146.45; Wausa Medical Clinic, drug test, 60.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 22,714.86; Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, publishing, 394.19..

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fee, 4,823.75.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineer fee, 4,821.25.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 49.76; Hometown Leasing, copier lease, 160.38; Maximus Inc., cost allocation, 1,434.10; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc., scanner rent, 81.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 2,640.00; Flagship Publishing Inc., publishing, 553.00.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 56.25.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 3,833.33; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 285.20; Grandpa Dan's Popcorn, meals, 41.00; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 49.76; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 5.96; Northeast Nebraska News Co., publishing, 318.32; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 88.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 233.44; US Cellular, cell phone, 122.02; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 154.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, contract, 2,000.00; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland P.C., court appointed attorney, 930.98; Highway Signing Inc., bridge contract, 5,425.00; Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC, court appointed attorney, 9,153.19; Klein Law Office P.C., court appointed attorney, 635.41; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 105.83; Three River Telco, phone, 17.71.

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

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

TOTALS	
General Fund	\$295,913.16
Road Fund	212,578.67
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	4,823.75
Flowage Easement Road Fund	4,821.25
Child Support Fund	1,725.24
Visitor's Promo Fund	3,193.00
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	274.06
Economic Development Fund	56.25
C&C Development Fund	5,175.85
Inheritance Fund	20,227.91
911 Emergency Fund	123.54
911 Wireless Service Fund	737.91
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	<u>935.45</u>
Total	<u>\$550,586.04</u>

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 12:27 p.m. on May 11, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023 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
