

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
June 8, 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, June 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Supervisors Martin J. O'Connor District #1, 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 Patrick J. Liska District #2. Chairman Mackeprang presiding.

Deputy County Attorney Jensen 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 May 25, 2023 meeting approved by Chairman Mackeprang as read.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) NIRMA/NIRMA II 2023-24 billing statement and letter; 2.) Copy of letter regarding the partial summary judgment in CI 22-38; 3.) Article on Debt limit Deal and no "clawbacks" of ARPA SLFRF funds.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce that all claims, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee, be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$1,066,477.19 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of May 24 through June 6, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the Clerk of District Court May Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Pierce to approve the Great Plains Service Order Q-19332-KNOX CO COURT HOUSE New SIP Trunks, Bulk Caller ID and 12 POTS for sixty months. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 9:59 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:18 a.m. with all members present except Supervisor Patrick J. Liska District #2.

Hwy. Supt. Office Manager Katie Fritz met with the Board on the following: 1.) Oil Crew update; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) No applicants have applied for the Wausa County Shed position; 4.) Discussion was held on CDL licenses, County paying for employees testing and licenses, and a contract for repayment to the County if the employee leaves within a determined period. More research will be done; 5.) Supr. O'Connor showed pictures of culverts and work completed; 6.) Update on the recent motorgrader training.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file the May Zoning Permits Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Absent was District #2. Motion carried; 2.) Update on the Courthouse generator and maintenance; 3.) Deputy County Attorney Jensen is drafting a contract for the River Bay Plat; 4.) A Zoom meeting with Consultant Keith Marvin will be scheduled so the Board can approve the updated zoning regulations; 5.) The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan update is nearing completion; 6.) There will be a flood assessment meeting in Bloomfield. The schedule for the meeting will be sent to the Supervisors once it is received; 7.) Work continues on replacing the sirens in Crofton; 8.) Discussion on fire protection in the lake area will be held with the Crofton Fire Chief and the Rescue Captain; 9.) Star Wars project update; 10.) Command trailer - discussion was held on the use of borrowing a command trailer from Wayne County or Yankton County. The Board directed Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek to research purchasing a command trailer; 11.) Supr. O'Connor showed pictures of the Walker's Vally View beach front. Research will be done to see who owns the property where boats have been parked as someone wants to put in a pickle ball court in that area.

Economic Development Director Hanvey and Visit Knox County Director Miller met with the Board on the following: 1.) The new fellows from UNL have started; 2.) A Zoom meeting was held with Kurt Hesser with Maly Marketing. Mr. Hesser presented options for targeting and attracting tourists to Knox County, strategy and messaging, creating photo shoots, and designing advertising. Mrs. Miller said that the Maly Marketing campaign would draw a different group of visitors to Knox County, and she would like the County to purchase their services. The Board took no action and will discuss the matter later in the meeting.

The advertised bid opening for a new dump truck with snowplow and tailgate sander unit was held at 11:00 a.m. The Knox County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any or all bids and further reserves the right to accept any bid that best serves the County's needs. Bids received were: **RDO Truck Center, Norfolk NE** – 2025 Mack Granite tandem axle dump truck, Henderson RSP 11 ft. snow blade and Henderson TGS Salt/Sand Spreader, estimated delivery date May 2024, \$282,811.22; **Truck Center Companies, Omaha NE** – 2024 Western Star 47X set forward axle truck, Henderson RSP 11 ft. snow blade and Henderson TGS201SS spreader, estimated delivery date 4th quarter 2023, \$258,823; **I-STATE Truck Center, Sioux City IA** – 2025 Western Star 47X set forward axle truck, Henderson RSP 11 ft. snow blade and Henderson TGS Salt/Sand Spreader, estimated delivery date early-mid 2024, \$270,888; **Master Tech Truck & Equipment, Wichita KS** – 2024 Kenworth T880S dump truck, Monroe 12 ft. snowplow and Monroe under-tailgate spreader, estimated delivery date 4th Quarter 2023/1st Quarter 2024, \$320,574. Mechanic Crosley took the bids for review.

Supr. Liska arrived at 11:10 a.m.

Steve Jessen of Norfolk presented information on the EPIC Tax Option Action. Information presented was the following: elimination of all Nebraska property, income, inheritance, corporate and sales tax and would impose a

Consumption Tax rate on all services and new goods; there would be no taxes on groceries; elimination of double taxation; budget processes; funding for entities; and Amendment 314 to LB79; seven States currently have no income taxes, and upcoming townhall meetings.

Weed Superintendent Banks met with the Board on the following: 1.) Update on the newly formed Northeast Weed Management Area. The annual dues will be \$100. Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to approve the dues of \$100 and participation in the Northeast Weed Management Area By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) There will not be forced spraying on an area pasture as the land manager sprayed the leafy spurge.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 12:39 p.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:19 p.m. with all members.

Mechanic Crosley returned to the Board to review the truck/snowplow/sander bids. He recommended the low bid of Truck Center Companies of Omaha. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to accept the bid from **Truck Center Companies, Omaha NE** for a 2024 Western Star 47X set forward axle truck, Henderson RSP 11 ft. snow blade and Henderson TGS201SS spreader with an estimated delivery date 4th quarter of 2023 in the amount of \$258,823 with payment of the unit to be made from the ARPA Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

County Clerk Fischer presented a Power Point presentation on the MIPS Biweekly Payroll and Time and Attendance programs. The Time and Attendance program is a program where employees would clock in and clock out on their scheduled working days by using an app on an electronic device and this information would go into a centralized program that tracks hours worked, FMLA, PTO, funeral leave and hours not worked.

Motion by Supr., O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to implement Biweekly Payroll beginning August 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the MIPS Time and Attendance Program where the employees would clock in and clock out on the scheduled workday via the electronic device beginning August 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on changing meeting dates. Currently the Board meets every second and last Thursday of the month, however, with the implementation of Biweekly Payroll, the Board will need to meet twenty-six times in a year, which would be every two weeks to approve payroll claims. Also, meetings on Wednesdays would not pose a scheduling conflict with the County Attorney's Office and Court. Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. O'Connor to change the Board of Supervisors/Board of Equalization meetings' dates to Wednesdays every two weeks beginning August 9, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the current wages of Categories 1, 2 and 3 employees and proposed wage increases. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. O'Connor to set the beginning wage for Category 1 employees at \$17.50 per hour, eliminate the step-up process for new hires, the new employees to receive the \$17.50 per hour for one year, move the current Category 1 step-up employees to \$18.00 per hour plus a 3% wage increase, and other Category 1 employees including deputies and not including elected and appointed officials to receive a 6% increase beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to move the Category 2 step-up employees to \$20.77 per hour with no percentage increase and the other Category 2 employees to receive a 9.6% wage increase beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Sheriff Henery and the Board discussed wage increases for the Category 3 employees. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Liska to increase the wages by 8% for Category 3 employees not including elected Sheriff Henery beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #2, #3 and #5. Nays District #1, #4, #6 and #7. Motion failed.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to increase the wages by 9.6% for Category 3 employees not including elected Sheriff Henery beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Economic Development Director Harvey met with the Board to discuss the Zoom presentation by Maly Marketing held earlier in the meeting. Also discussed was the use of Tik Tok on County cellphones. The Board directed Director Harvey to research creating a photo shoot through Maly Marketing. Also, the Board recommended Director Harvey to use other social media programs other than Tik Tok.

Supr. Schlote left at 3:50 p.m.

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

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 206,522.15; Amy Johnson, mileage, 15.73; Bonnie R. Cash, prior service, 9.00; Cathleen Sue Stark, prior service, 12.00; James Peschel dba Classic Carpet Care, mop/towel rent, 49.50; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 15,533.30; Connie J. Janecek, prior service, 15.00; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 38,641.37; Creston Fertilizer Co., Bloomfield Branch, spray, 1,583.41; DAS State ACCTG-Central Finance OCIO, network charges, 448.00; Diane L. Eckert, prior service, 36.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement/paper/office supplies, 1,428.76; Ecowater, bottled water & cups, 553.25; Elizabeth Doerr, contract hours, 250.00; Farm & Home Publisher LTD, Knox County plat books, 1,250.00; Gragert's, jail food, 803.49; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 2,030.06; Jacquelyn E. Meier, prior service, 21.00; James F. Janecek, prior service, 21.00; JoAnn Eisenbeiss, prior service, 45.00; Justice Data Solutions, Inc., JAMIN software, 2,900.00; Karen K. Riesberg, prior service, 21.00; Kristine Kumm, mileage, 69.44; Laura Hintz, prior service, 15.00; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 289.95; Lois Colwell, prior service, 27.00; Lois Kumm, jail food, 30.00; Megan Hanefeldt, mileage & office equipment, 49.80; Microfilm Imaging Systems, scanner rent, 40.50; MIPS, computer programs, 23,513.94; MIPS, computer program, 13,864.24; NIRMA, risk management renewal, 84,758.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,952.86; Northeast Nebraska News CO., publishing, 296.45; PIP Marketing, plate envelopes, 330.00; Pitney Bowes, supplies, 273.87; Platte County Sheriff, paper service, 25.38; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2,196.18; Quill Corporation, office supplies, 1,090.91; R&K Motor Parts, repairs, 227.25; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly billing, 6,700.75; Region IV Inc., quarterly billing, 2,521.50; Reserve Account, meter postage, 3,980.00; Rhonda Surface, reimbursement of office supplies, 23.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 13,946.64; Sunset Law Enforcement, ammunition, 360.90; US Cellular, cell phones, 195.16; US Cellular, cell phones, 354.36; Virginia Buerman, prior service, 27.00.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 70,676.51; Avera Medical Group, drug test, 25.00; B's Enterprises Inc., patch mix/blades, 7,172.00; Bauer Built Inc., tires, 5,396.16; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, drug test, 100.00; Bruce Haggen, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; CM Tools LLC, tire changer, 6,580.00; C-Mart, gas, 307.37; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 5,154.19; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc., repairs, 866.28; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 15,835.32; Crofton Journal, advertisement, 17.22; Farmer's Pride, diesel, \$7,905.52; Great Plains Communications, phone, 540.52;

Rosenburg Implement Inc., repairs, 100.49; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 4,025.00; Husker Steel, bridge steel, 69,835.00; Jackson's Heavy Equipment Training, LLC, training, 1,133.34; Jacob Dendinger, equipment rental, 523.68; Jedlica's Hardware Hank, shop supplies, 128.49; Larry Pilar, prior service, 21.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 95.36; Linn Post & Pipe, Inc., shop supplies, 25.02; LTL Holdings, Inc., gas, 180.35; Marc Mastalerz, prior service, 21.00; Medical Enterprises, Inc., drug test, 35.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 42.66; NIRMA, risk management renewal, 104,167.00; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 282.54; Northeast Nebraska News Company, publishing, 224.60; Power plan, repairs, 202.80; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 672.30; R&K Motor Parts, repairs/filters, 1,339.57; Retirement Plans Div. of Americas, retirement County pays, 4,655.94; Rohrer Welding, repairs, 94.31; Suchi Repair, repairs, 1,000.51; U.S. Cellular, cell phones, 352.46; Vukic Excavating LLC, gravel/haul, 52,985.27; Vic's Service LLC, gas, 403.26; Village of Niobrara, water/sewer, 43.56; Village of Verdigris, water/sewer/garbage, 79.39; Walton Electronics, CB & antenna, 79.95; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 41,677.95; Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, publishing, 254.19..

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineering fee, 9,907.50.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. JEO Consulting Group Inc., engineering fee, 2,417.50.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 49.76.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 3,036.00; First National Bank, advertising, 590.00.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. First National Bank, internet, 183.90.

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

COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND. Eagle view – Pictometry International Corp., imaging & software, 175,546.32; Robert H. Krepel, Jr., LLC, asbestos inspection, 300.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 161.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 3,833.33; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 285.20; Crofton Journal, ad/promo, 192.00; First National Bank, dues, travel, supplies, postage, meals and Promo, 616.81; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 49.76; 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, 122.02.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, contract, 2,000.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

KENO FUND. gWorks, GIS annual fee, 5,450.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 105.83; Special Ts & More, Inc., youth shirts, 2,520.00; 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 & equipment, 9,689.52; OPTK Networks, regionalization network, 761.48; South Sioux City/Dakota County Law Enforcement Center, networking & equipment, 10,581.85.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$429,349.10
Road Fund	405,331.08
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	9,907.50
Flowage Easement Road Fund	2,417.50
Child Support Fund	49.76
Visitor's Promo Fund	3,626.00
Visitor's Improvement Fund	183.90
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	274.06
Covid American Rescue Plan Act Fund	175,846.32
Economic Development Fund	161.00
C&C Development Fund	5,383.34
Inheritance Fund	4,083.33
KENO Fund	5,450.00
911 Emergency Fund	2,643.54
911 Wireless Service Fund	737.91
911 Wireless Service Holding Fund	21,032.85
Total	\$1,066,477.19

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 3:55 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, 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
