

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
June 29, 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 29, 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. 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 Wausa Gazette 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.

Chairman Mackeprang approved the minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting as read.

Chairman Mackeprang informed the Board that on June 19, 2023, Supervisors O'Connor, Borgmann, Schlote (corrected 7-13-2023) and he attended a meeting with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, along with other County Officials and County employees. The meeting addressed the Weigand Marina Expansion and other projects the Game and Parks is working on. Supr. O'Connor made comments to the Nebraska Game and Parks representatives following their presentation. No action was taken by the Supervisors present, and there was no discussion amongst the Supervisors.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Letter from Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice confirming that an annual inspection of the Knox County Jail was conducted for the Nebraska Jail Standards Board; 2.) Letter from the Secretary of the Interior notifying the Board that the Department of Interior issued a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PIIT) in the amount of \$46,975 to Knox County.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska that all claims, except Claim #2023060199, 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.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce that Claim #2023060199, payable to Preston Schlote, audited and approved for payment by the Claims Committee be allowed subject to delinquent personal taxes. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #6. Motion carried.

Claims totaling \$1,309,059.76 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 10:05 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:22 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) The Board reviewed and signed their respective County Shed/Yard inventories; 2.) Discussion ensued on a new Mechanic's Shed for the Center County Yard. Specifications and drafting of an 80 ft. x 100 ft. metal structure with insulation and concrete will be researched so the bidding process can begin; 3.) Review of the Road Fund budgets and cash on hand was made. A number of project costs will have to be paid in the near future; 4.) Bridge Crew update; 5.) Oil Crew update; 6.) County-Township Allocation update; 7.) Estimated 2023 Federal funds in the amount of \$202,788.46 for STP and \$190,998.30 for Bridge will be remitted to Knox County in March 2024; 8.) Heavy rainfall at Butte, Nebraska caused flooding of the Ponca Creek in the Lazy River Acres area. Pictures were viewed of the damage and clearing of trees from the bridge area.

Economic Development Director Hanvey met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to accept the recommendations of the Knox County's Visitor's Committee for distribution of the Visitor's Improvement Fund as follows: Bloomfield - \$10,000 for portable horse stalls; City of Crofton - \$10,000 for upgrading camp posts to 50 AMP; Creighton VFW - \$10,000 for Veterans Memorial; Verdigre - \$10,000 for upgrading camp posts to 50 AMP; Wausa - \$10,000 for Walking Trail; Lewis & Clark SRA - \$10,000 for expansion of electrical camping by eight new sites; and Center - \$5,000 for developing green space on Center Village lot. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Discussion was held on a wage alignment for Visit Knox County Director Miller. Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Schlote to make a wage alignment for Visit Knox County Director Stacy Miller at \$20.16 per hour beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to go into executive session at 11:10 a.m. for job evaluations of appointed officials Weed Supt. Banks, Veteran Service Officer Jones and Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated that the executive session was held on job evaluations of appointed officials Weed Supt. Banks, Veteran Service Officer Jones and Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek. The Board came out of executive session at 12:15 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Pierce to close at 12:15 p.m. the executive session that was held on job evaluations of appointed officials. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 12:15 p.m. for lunch.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with all members present.

Chairman Mackeprang moves the Board recess at 1:00 p.m. for Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 2:03 p.m. with all members present.

Sheriff Henery met with the Board on the following: 1.) Discussion was held on the Interlocal Agreement between Knox County and the Village of Wausa for Law Enforcement Services. Wausa Village Board members Ron Nelson and Bob Marks were present and asked questions regarding the Interlocal Agreement. The Board suggested the matter should be worked out between the Sheriff and the Village Board of Trustees; 2.) Sheriff Henery and County Clerk Fischer discussed with the Board upgrading the security cameras. Applied Connective Technologies will be contacted for proposals; 3.) Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to go into executive session at 2:19 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session will be held on pending litigation. The Board came out of executive session at 2:41 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 2:41 p.m. the executive session held on pending litigation. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Senior Office Clerk Surface met with the Board on proposed Employee Handbook revisions that were recommended by the Employee Handbook Committee. Many of the proposed changes are recommendations from NIRMA. Discussion was held on various sections of the proposals. The Board took no action. The Employee Handbook Committee will meet again to review suggestions for revisions.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of June 7 through June 27, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Pierce to adopt **Resolution #2023 – 08** allocating budget authority in the amount of \$854.09 from the County General Miscellaneous function to the County Surveyor function within the General Fund Budget. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023 - 08

WHEREAS, due to unforeseen circumstances, proposed expenditures exceed budget authority allocated for the County Surveyor function within the General Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS, budget authority in the General Miscellaneous function, also an office function of the General Fund Budget, is adequate to allow for transfers to meet current fiscal year expenditures, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that an additional eight hundred fifty-four dollars and 9 cents (\$854.09) of budget authority is hereby allocated to the County Surveyor function from the General Miscellaneous function within the General Fund Budget.

Dated this 29th day of June 2023.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

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

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

David L. Pierce /s/
David L. Pierce, 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

The Board had approved at the June 8, 2023 meeting moving the current Category 1 step-up employees to \$18.00 per hour plus a 3% wage increase starting July 1, 2023 and eliminating the two-year step-up process for all new and newer hires. County Clerk Fischer informed the Board that three of the step-up employees were at or near the completion of their step-up process and would have gone to \$18 per hour at that time. Three other newer employees are still within a one-year period of hiring so County Clerk Fischer asked the Board to consider leaving the newer Category 1 employees at the prior approved rate of \$18 per hour plus a 3% wage increase starting July 1, 2023 but give the advanced step-up employees their \$18 per hour plus a 6% wage increase similar to the 6% increase given to other regular full-time Category 1 employees. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to set the wage of Category 1 employees Kylee Kracht, Corrie Key and Morgan Johnson at \$18 per hour plus a 6% increase starting July 1, 2023 as they completed or nearly completed their two-year step-up process. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to approve the appointment of Derrick Kinnison of Verdigre for a five-year term on the Veterans Service Committee and to thank former Committee member Don Stoural for his many years of service on the Veterans Service Committee. 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. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve Administrative Plat Application #P2313 Roland and Tammy Johnson on a 6.41-acre tract boundary adjustment in the SW1/4NW1/4 of Section 24, T30N, R3W 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. Liska to approve a Joint Powers Agreement serving Yankton County, South Dakota, and Cedar and Knox Counties that would establish guidelines for implementation of support in the event of incidents or events that may be beyond the capabilities of a Member Agency that may need to request assistance from other Member Agencies to effectively mitigate such an incident or event. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 3.) Pictures were viewed of emergency trailers in Wayne County and in Yankton County; 4.) Discussion was held on the Safety Committee addressing water and electricity issues in the Courthouse as a concern and establishing a plan; 5.) Zoning comprehensive plan updates; 6.) Governor Pillen issued a statement that amends hazard mitigation funding.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to go into executive session at 4:05 p.m. for job evaluation of appointed official Hwy. Supt. Barta. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Mackeprang reiterated the executive session will be held for job evaluation of appointed official Hwy. Supt. Barta. The Board came out of executive session at 4:42 p.m.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to close at 4:42 p.m. the executive session held on job evaluation of appointed official Hwy. Supt. Barta. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Borgmann to set the hourly wage for Weed Superintendent Steven Banks at \$24.00 per hour starting July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to set the hourly wage of Veterans Service Officer Gary Jones at \$24.50 per hour beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Schlote to set Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Kelsy Jelinek at \$4,133.33 per month for Emergency Manager duties and \$1,033.33 per month for Zoning Administrator duties beginning July 1, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Sokol, Jr. to set Hwy. Supt. Kevin Barta's base wage at \$6,120 per month along with \$708.33 per month that he currently receives from a portion of the incentive payment the County receives as Hwy. Supt. Barta holds a Class A license. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Officials' update was given by Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek who informed the Board that the County Attorney's Office recommends the Board members not attend Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments' meetings.

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

GENERAL FUND. Applied Connective Technologies, computers, 6,163.68; Black Hills Ammunition, ammo, 469.50; Blackburn Mfg., supplies, 13.00; Bloomfield Pharmacy, meds, 26.50; Bomgaars, jail supplies, 6.99; Carlson Home & Auto, air filter, 17.33; Center Garage, wipers, 16.00; CenturyLink, long distance, 67.86; Classic Carpet Care, mop/towel rent, 49.50; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 621.02; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios/backup, 282.88; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 448.00; Dollar General, jail supplies, 54.85; Eakes Office Solutions, chairs, 1,410.00; Fairfield Inn by Marriott, lodging, 98.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/meals/postage; 4,894.61; Floor Maintenance & Paper Supply, supplies, 595.69; Heartland Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., quarterly bill, 1,428.00; JEO Consulting Group Inc., hazard mitigation plan, 7,424.00; Knox County Court, cases pending/cases bound over, 244.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 376.33; Knox County Treasurer, transfer from General Fund to Road Fund, 80,026.68; Lori Ebel, mileage, 240.39; Marie Nelson, mileage, 38.00; MIPS, training, 464.63; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 4,516.78; Nebraska State Patrol, in car computer fees, 866.13; Northeast Weed Management Area, dues, 100.00; Postmaster, postage, 3,040.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 1,447.10; Reserve Account, meter postage, 16,000.00; UNL Eastern Nebraska Research & Extension Center, salary, 11,930.27; Verdigre Eagle, publishing/supplies, 1,332.00; Verdigre Farm Service, gas, 170.71; Verizon, hotspot, 40.01; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 1,360.00.

ROAD FUND. Art's Garbage, garbage, 18.00; Backus Sand & Gravel, gravel, 2,111.55; Bazile Creek Power Sports, repairs, 259.41; Black Hills Energy, heating fuel, 53.89; Bohemian One Stop, gas, 791.06; Cedar-Knox Public Power District, electricity, 87.56; CHS Wausa, diesel/def, 1,424.64; City of Bloomfield, water, 28.00; C-Mart LLC, gas, 122.00; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 401.25; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 352.98; Eakes Office Solutions, copies, 217.43; Harmony Inn and Suites, lodging, 267.00; Hefner Hardware, shop supplies, 10.17; Herbert Feed & Grain, diesel, 10,605.17; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 1,300.00; Inland Truck Parts & Service, repairs, 646.23; J&J Sanitation, garbage, 49.00; Jebro Inc., mc200/mc3000, 96,886.77; Kayton International, shop supplies, 70.00; Light and Siren, lights, 980.00; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 12,505.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 135.19; Pease General Store, shop supplies, 33.14; Pitzer Digital LLC, publishing, 78.00; Preston Schlote, mow/trim, 60.00; Russ Crosley, garbage, 46.00; Santee Utility Commission, garbage, 65.00; Steffens Service, gas, 103.34; TB&K Construction Inc., equipment rental, 1,026.88; Vakoc Excavating LLC, gravel/haul, 29,857.76; Verdigre Farm Service, diesel/gas/grass seed/supplies, 4,640.28; Village of Center, water/sewer, 38.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 42,888.69.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND. Dixon Construction Co. Inc., bridge contract, 439,132.75.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT ROAD FUND. Dixon Construction Co. Inc., bridge contract, 164,456.63; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 1,835.00.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. CenturyLink, long distance, 4.24.

VISITOR'S IMPROVEMENT FUND. City of Bloomfield, improvement grant, 10,000.00; City of Creighton, improvement grant, 10,000.00; City of Crofton, improvement grant, 10,000.00; First National Bank Omaha, internet, 23.90; Lewis & Clark SRA, improvement grant, 10,000.00; Village of Center, improvement grant, 5,000.00; Village of Verdigre, improvement grant, 10,000.00; Village of Wausa, improvement grant, 10,000.00.

COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND. City of Plainview-Solid waste Division, disposal of demolition materials, 217.55.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 150.00.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. CenturyLink, long distance, 4.24; Cody Hanvey, serve food, 28.00; First National Bank Omaha, sub/gas/lodging/meals, 1,219.43; Helber Fernandez Riberio, fellow grant, 2,500.00; Hilltop lodge Motel, lodging, 320.00; Holiday Inn Kearney, lodging, 119.95; NETA, membership, 300.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Commercial Hotel, lodging for Fellows, 1,250.00; Highway Signing Inc., bridge contract, 4,025.00; Mainelli Wagner & Associates Inc., engineer fees, 26,153.13; Mark D. Albin, court appointed attorney, 678.95; Maycee Quick, fellow grant, 2,500.00; Theisen Construction, bridge contract, 241,055.99.

KENO FUND. gWorks, zoning tab, 2,704.00.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. First National Bank Omaha, fair handouts, 941.17.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$146,280.44
Road Fund	208,159.39
Highway Bridge Buyback Fund	439,132.75
Flowage Easement Road Fund	166,291.63
Child Support Fund	4.24
Visitor's Improvement Fund	65,023.90
Covid ARPA Fund	217.55
Economic Development Fund	150.00
C&C Development Fund	4,491.62
Inheritance Fund	275,663.07
Keno Fund	2,704.00
911 Emergency	941.17
Total	<u>\$1,309,059.76</u>

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 4:54 p.m. on June 29, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 13, 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
