

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
October 4, 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 Wednesday, October 4, 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.

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 September 20, 2023 meeting were approved by Chairman Mackeprang as read.

Correspondence reviewed was: 1.) Letter of Intent from Great Plains Communications to apply to the Nebraska Public Service Commission for a Nebraska Broadband Bridge Project grant to provide broadband internet service north of Crofton along Lewis and Clark Lake.

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 \$989,741.14 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 10:14 a.m. with all members present.

Hwy. Supt. Barta met with the Board on the following: 1.) Oil Crew update; 2.) Center line and white line painting on County oil roads will take place; 3.) Bridge Crew update; 4.) Weigand bridge approach update. The contractor will have a company work on the bump at the approach. The road will be closed for a half day when work is being done; 5.) Lazy River Acres update. Discussion was held on work to be done to Highway 12 in that area. Also discussed was a compatible use report; 6.) Discussed roads being mowed; 7.) A landowner is requesting reimbursement for materials that he installed in the area where the County extended a culvert in a field driveway. The landowner had not communicated with the County prior to adding the materials therefore did not receive permission to place the materials. The Board took no action; 8.) Discussion will be held at a future meeting regarding the request by Herrick Township for assistance with the Kohles Acres entrance.

Economic Development Director Harvey and Visit Knox County Director Miller met with the Board regarding the Niobrara State Park Visitor's Improvement Grant application in the amount of \$10,000 for concrete and concrete supplies for the construction of two Yurts at the Niobrara State Park. The Board had asked for more information when reviewing the application at the September 20, 2023 meeting. The Yurts will be rented at \$160 per night and hopefully year-round. Economic Development Director Harvey said that the Niobrara State Park and the Lewis & Clark SRA are the largest providers of lodging tax to the County, so they have been included in the Visitor's Promo/Improvement Grant process. After further discussion, motion by Supr. Borgmann, seconded by Supr. Schlote to approve the Visitor's Improvement Grant Application of the Niobrara State Park in the amount of \$10,000 for concrete and concrete supplies for the construction of two Yurts at the Niobrara State Park. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Nays none. Abstain District #4 due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek met with the Board on the following: 1.) Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. O'Connor to place on file the August 16, 2021 Board of Adjustments meeting minutes. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) The terms of Nick Stout and Kay Morrill on the Board of Adjustments will expire soon. Both members are interested in serving another term; 3.) The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation grant is nearing completion. An extension was granted because FEMA and NEMA needed additional time to review the grant progress; 4.) Emergency Manager/Zoning Administrator Jelinek will complete her Emergency Manager course for certification next week.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Public comment on non-agenda items was given by Tom Noecker with Hartelco of Hartington. Hartelco is applying for a grant to put fiber optic in the lake area and is requesting a letter of support from the Board. As the matter was not placed timely on the agenda for this meeting, the Board could not act on the matter and it would be too late for the grant process to wait until the next meeting, so Board members were encouraged to write personal support letters as individuals if they were interested.

Motion by Supr. Sokol, Jr., seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of September 19 through October 2, 2023. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Officials' updates were given by the following: 1.) Discussion was held on deer dumpsters. Sheriff Henery has been researching options for deer dumpsters. As Sheriff Henery was at training and not able to be at the meeting, he prepared information that the Board reviewed. The Board requested further research; 2.) Deputy County Attorney Jensen updated the Board on the Heimes/Janssen lawsuit. Also, discussed were pending cases; 3.) Chairman Mackeprang and the Board discussed the recent Joint Public Hearing. County Clerk Fischer presented a copy of the Knox County Joint Public Hearing Report that she had to prepare and submit to the Cities of Bloomfield and Crofton as well as the State Auditor and NACO; 4.) County Clerk Fischer presented a County Report of the recent Crofton City Recall/Special Election. Also, a public hearing will be held at the November 1, 2023 meeting on a reuse loan application.

GENERAL FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 102,565.68; Bomgaars, supplies, 43.20; Burns Lumber Co, LLC, ceiling tiles, 71.84; CenturyLink, long distance, 1.33; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,379.24; County of Knox Employee Benefit Account HealthCare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 40,982.42; Creighton 59 LLC, gas, 78.12; Creston Fertilizer, weed spray, 737.00; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 1,856.01; DAS State

Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 161.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 448.00; Derrick Barr, meeting/mileage, 80.02; Eakes Office Solutions, copier contract, 158.79; Echo Group Inc., elevator fuses/bulbs, 132.84; Election Systems & Software, memory stick/programming, 459.24; First National Bank Omaha, gas/postage/supplies/meals, 5,637.56; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 2,099.14; JEO Consulting Group Inc., hazard mitigation plan, 525.00; Kay Morrill, meeting/mileage, 39.41; Kelsy Jelinek, meal, 10.00; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 52.94; Knox County Treasurer, transfers to Flowage Easement Road Fund and C & C Development Fund, 340,440.92; KV Electric LLC, fix light/radio system, 244.00; Landmark Surveying, survey fees, 951.36; The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 295.91; Madison County Sheriff, service fees, 40.90; Micro Distributing II Inc., test kits, 448.34; MIPS, computer programs, 961.30; N&B Gas Co., propane, 770.00; Netcom Inc., repairs, 2,800.00; Nick Stout, meeting/mileage, 78.71; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 3,259.69; Northeast Nebraska News Company, publishing, 27.75; Pitzer Digital LLC, publishing, 148.00; Postmaster, postage, 313.12; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 293.71; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 6,638.00; Region IV Inc., quarterly bill, 2,521.50; Reserve Account, meter postage, 7,000.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,876.25; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 39.41; Secretary of State-Elections Division, registration, 80.00; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 105.00; Travis Barney, meeting/mileage, 42.03; Verdigre Eagle, publishing, 28.00; Village of Center, water/sewer/garbage, 524.00.

ROAD FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 39,431.42; B's Enterprises Inc., signs, 2,035.00; Bomgaars, shop supplies, 1,162.71; City of Bloomfield, water, 25.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,792.74; County of Knox Employee Benefit Acct. c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 19,715.32; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 128.00; First National Bank Omaha, batteries/chain ratchet/reg fees, 1,004.94; Freeman Oil Company LLC, diesel, 1,555.84; Great Plains Communications, phone, 42.70; Grossenburg Implement Inc., repairs/shop supplies, 2,025.50; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 1,750.77; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 4,600.00; Kenneth Dine, lab/CDL, 74.59; Kevin Barta, tire/title fee, 15.00; Larry Pilar, prior service, 21.00; Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., insurance County pays, 119.20; N&B gas Co., propane, 2,002.15; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 173.60; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 293.52; People's Grocery, shop supplies, 17.74; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 851.58; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,500.86; RL Morse LLC, equipment rental, 1,600.00; Steffens Service, gas, 499.17; Village of Center, water/sewer, 34.00; Willow Creek Sand & Gravel, gravel/haul, 12,627.99.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 114.39.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Salaries, 1,607.15; Southeast South Dakota Tourism Assn., membership, 365.00.

ROD PRESERVATION/MODERNIZATION FUND. MIPS, computer program, 275.39.

COVID ARPA FUND. Gene Steffy Auto Group, pickup, 40,362.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 191.25.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Adjusted Salaries, 1,948.57; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 138.85; First National Bank Omaha, dues/gas/meals, 368.54; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 90.28; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 5.96; Kelly Hanvey, meals, 30.00; Principal Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 113.41; Stacy Miller, meals, 46.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, contract, 2,000.00; Knox County Treasurer, transfer to General Fund, 303,240.92.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 44.74; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 233.60; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. City of Norfolk, networking, 104.38; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 406.46; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$540,687.68
Road Fund	97,100.34
Child Support Fund	114.39
Visitor's Promo Fund	1,972.15
ROD Pres./Mod. Fund	275.39
Covid ARPA Fund	40,362.00
Economic Development Fund	191.25
C & C Development Fund	2,786.43
Inheritance Fund	305,240.92
911 Emergency Fund	344.76
911 Wireless Service Fund	665.83
Total	\$989,741.14

Chairman Mackeprang adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 11:51 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 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
