

PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Center, Nebraska
April 3, 2024
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, April 3, 2024 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, and Danny R. Schlote District #6. Absent was Supervisor James J. Borgmann District #7. Chairman Sokol, Jr. presiding.

Supr. Schlote led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. 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 Bloomfield Monitor 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 Sokol, Jr. approved the minutes of the March 20, 2024 meeting as read.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, 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, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried. Claims totaling \$552,871.42 are listed at the end of these proceedings.

Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Mackeprang to place on file the Clerk of the District Court March 2024 Fee Report. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Pierce, seconded by Supr. Liska to place on file the Receipts Revenue List of March 18 – 29, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6. Nays none. Absent was District #7. Motion carried.

The public comment session was held from 9:50 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. Supr. O'Connor commented that large farming equipment was driven into property that is part of a court case and the property as well as the road right of way was torn up by the large equipment. Discussed was a problem on an easement in the lake area where another landowner will not let cement trucks use the easement area.

The Board discussed what funds will pay for the LPR program start-up fees and said the fees will be paid from Knox County's allocation of the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) established by ARPA.

Chairman Sokol, Jr. moves the Board recess at 10:02 a.m. for Board of Equalization.

Supervisor Borgmann arrived at 10:15 a.m. during Board of Equalization.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors reconvened at 10:17 a.m. with all members present.

Sheriff Henery requested a closed session to discuss personnel. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Pierce to go into closed session at 10:17 a.m. to not cause injury to the reputation of individuals while discussing personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried. Chairman Sokol, Jr. reiterated the closed session will be held so as not to cause injury to the reputation of individuals while discussing personnel. The Board came out of closed session at 10:35 a.m.

Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Schlote to close at 10:35 a.m. the closed session held on personnel. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Office Manager Katie Fritz met with the Board on the following: 1.) The advertised asphaltic bid opening was held at 10:25 a.m. The Knox County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and further reserves the right to accept bids which are in the County's best interests. One bid was received which was from **Jebro Inc., Sioux City IA** – MC70 price per gallon - \$4.41; MC250 per gallon - \$4.07; MC3000 price per gallon - \$3.79; CRS-2 price per gallon (estimated gallons 7,500+) delivered to Creighton - \$3.37; Demurrage charge \$160 per hour after one and a half hours, \$100 cancellation fee; \$100 pumping fee each time County requests a pump during placement of orders; returned loads subject to \$400 return fee. Motion by Supr. Liska, seconded by Supr. Borgmann to accept the asphaltic bid from **Jebro Inc., Sioux City IA** as submitted. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried; 2.) Bridge Crew update; 3.) Oil Crew update; 4.) Updates on the Verdigre North and Shaw Bridge projects.

Librarians from Bloomfield, Creighton and Verdigre met with the Board with annual reports of activities and what the County funds were used for at the six libraries in Knox County. The Board expressed their gratitude for the work the librarians have done for their communities and Knox County. Motion by Supr. O'Connor, seconded by Supr. Liska to approve a cost-sharing of \$5,000 to each of the six Knox County libraries with the funds to be paid from the Inheritance Fund. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

Motion by Supr. Schlote, seconded by Supr. Pierce to place on file the County Sheriff's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected from January 1 through March 31, 2024. By roll call vote. Ayes all Districts. Nays none. Motion carried.

County Clerk Fischer gave a Legislative update.

Officials update was given by the following: 1.) Deputy County Attorney Jensen updated the Board that she had received a letter from Senator Barry DeKay (District #41) stating that the State of Nebraska cannot help with funding upgrades to the Weigand Basin – Miller Creek Recreational Road until 2029. Jensen prepared a Congressionally Directed Spending Request Form (CDS) – Fiscal Year 2025 to be submitted to United States Senator Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska) requesting appropriations from the Highway Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$13,385,548.75 for the upgrading of the Weigand Basin – Miller Creek Recreational Road. The Board signed a letter of support that will an exhibit to the CDS Request Form; 2.) County Clerk Fischer gave a presentation of the 2024 Primary Election process that will include the newly implemented Voter ID; 3.) NIRMA presenter Todd Duncan conducted Active Shooter Training for Knox Employees on April 2 and will conclude the afternoon of April 3. Several Supervisors will be attending the training after lunch on this date. The training is highly informative and well received.

GENERAL FUND. Salaries, 99,151.72; Antelope County Sheriff, house inmate, 400.00; Brockhaus Funeral Home Inc., autopsy costs, 1,430.00; Classic Carpet Care, mop rental, 35.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 7,278.49; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 43,004.59;

Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 943.80; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, radios, 161.00; DAS State Accounting-Central Finance, teletype, 537.60; David A. Arens, meeting/mileage, 70.85; Dean Wilken, meeting/mileage, 50.55; Ecowater, bottled water, 234.00; First National Bank Omaha, gas/supplies/postage/meals/lodging, 4,764.64; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 2,047.91; Greg D. Kuhlman, meeting/mileage, 56.44; Jim Kotrous, meeting/mileage, 45.96; Jones Automotive, repairs, 141.48; Keith Nielsen, meeting/mileage, 42.69; Knox County Sheriff, service fees, 6.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 295.91; MIPS, computer program, 784.52; Moody Motor Company, repairs, 62.65; Neil Clausen, meeting/mileage, 61.68; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 1,913.78; Pitney Bowes, meter lease, 159.57; Postmaster, election postage, 1,550.00; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 2,241.00; Quill Corporation, supplies, 201.35; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, quarterly bill, 6,638.00; Region IV Inc., quarterly bill, 2,521.50; Reserve Account, postage, 2,000.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 6,820.05; Robert D. Larsen, meeting/mileage, 36.79; Robert Ganz, meeting/mileage, 39.41; Security Shredding Services, shredding, 280.00; Stingers, meals, 53.64; US Cellular, cell phones, 185.62; Verdigre PrintWorks, printing, 867.75.

ROAD FUND. Salaries, 35,338.30; B's Enterprises Inc., blades, 21,160.00; Bloomfield Medical Clinic, DOT physical, 150.00; Bomgaars, shop supplies/shop tools/repairs, 840.61; Bruce A Hagge, prior service, 24.00; Bruce Peters, prior service, 24.00; City of Bloomfield, water, 28.00; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 2,568.95; County of Knox Employee Benefit c/o Healthcare Solutions Group Inc., insurance County pays, 18,745.32; Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, publishing, 28.52; Dan Vakoc, mixing strip rental, 500.00; Eakes Office Solutions, copier agreement, 162.19; First National Bank Omaha, meals, 106.86; Grossenburg Implement, repairs/oil/greaser, 6,641.99; Herbert Feed & Grain Co., diesel, 2,116.80; Hrbek Construction, equipment rental, 630.00; Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., insurance County pays, 113.24; Marc Mastalir, prior service, 21.00; Marlene Moeller, mixing strip rental, 500.00; Nebraska Public Power District, electricity, 237.53; North Central Public Power District, electricity, 375.20; Orrin Pospisil, mixing strip rental, 500.00; Pitzer Digital, publishing, 20.62; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 806.76; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 2,331.34; Rose Equipment Inc., repairs, 97.10; Scott Grim, prior service, 30.00; US Cellular, cell phones, 542.80.

CHILD SUPPORT FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 165.98; Mayer Signs, signs, 335.00.

VISITOR'S PROMO FUND. Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association, advertising, 75.00.

ROD PRES/MOD FUND. MIPS INC., computer program, 566.66.

COVID ARPA FUND. Truck Center Companies, truck, 258,823.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND. NENEDD, admin fees, 276.25.

C&C DEVELOPMENT FUND. Salaries, 3,511.21; Collector of Internal Revenue, Social Security County pays, 264.58; First National Bank Omaha, leadership/postage/meals/registration, 1,404.34; Great Plains Communications, phone/internet/fax, 89.44; Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 5.96; Principal Life Insurance Company, insurance County pays, 44.82; Retirement Plans Div. of Ameritas, retirement County pays, 225.19; US Cellular, cell phones, 61.61; Verdigre Improvement Club, Verdigre bucks, 100.00.

INHERITANCE FUND. Cedar County Transit, public transit, 2,100.00; Rodney W. Smith, public defender contract, 2,083.33.

911 EMERGENCY FUND. Great Plains Communications, phone/internet, 234.11; NESCA, training, 36.00; Three River Telco, phone, 66.42.

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND. Great Plains Communication, phone/internet, 406.46; NESCA, training, 84.00; Three River Telco, phone, 154.99.

TOTALS

General Fund	\$187,115.94
Road Fund	94,641.13
Child Support Fund	500.98
Visitor's Promo fund	75.00
ROD Pres/Mod Fund	566.66
Covid ARPA Fund	258,823.00
Economic Development Fund	276.25
C & C Development Fund	5,707.15
Inheritance Fund	4,183.33
911 Emergency Fund	336.53
911 Wireless Service Fund	645.45
Total	\$552,871.42

Chairman Sokol, Jr. adjourned the Knox County Board of Supervisors at 11:18 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 until Wednesday, April 17, 2024 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 _____
James Sokol, Jr., Chairman
