

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, in their Courthouse meeting room in regular session. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with Ash, Beran, Collins, Sintek, Cetak and Sevenker present, Melia absent. The Clerk verified that notice of meeting was published and posted and minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. Supervisor Melia arrived at 9:05 a.m. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Beran, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. No one had signed up for public comment.

Road Secretary, Sandy Simpson, reported on Road Claims and Balances for April. She noted the larger expenditures and reported that the remaining gravel budget should be sufficient, the fuel budget will be tight, the overall budget looks okay and there is only one payment remaining on the John Deere motor grader.

Road Supt., Max Leth, presented his drawing and estimated cost of materials for the approach to the access road at the Mortensen Family Industrial Site. Leth requested that the engineers do the radius staking. The Board accepted Economic Development Director, Bethanne Kunz's offer to present the drawing to the Ord City Council at their next meeting for their approval of the use of sales tax funds to pay for it. Following City approval, the County can let bids for the project. Leth agreed to seed the drainage ditch to prevent the growth of weeds.

Easement 04-213 for James Jaeschke was approved on motion of Beran, seconded by Melia. Carried. Yes: Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

Leth's general report included: purchase of asphalt from Jebro at 81.39, able to use state bid so county did not have to let bids; shop roof is sealed, no leaks during Saturdays rain; maintaining over all roads, fixing bad spots; hauled replacement tubes for Sargent road project #C88192B, work begins next week, will notify radio of closing of Sargent road for 4 or 5 days, detours will be marked; discussed possibility of fuel costs going over budget, okay if overall budget not over; will not need grader blades until fall; working on back slope on Arcadia canal road; road complaint from Comstock Post Office will be taken care of.

Weed Supt., Kaminski, reported that Salt Cedar is being considered for addition to the list of noxious weeds and presented a letter from the Nebr. Dept. of Agriculture asking if the county was for or against the proposal. Kaminski said this plant uses up to 200 gallons of water a day and that putting it on the noxious weeds list would help keep it out of the state. Ash moved, Cetak seconded approval of adding Salt Cedar to the noxious weed list. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none. Kaminski also reported that Plateau would be available but was not sure how the ordering and dispensing of it would be set up.

County Attorney Cullers and Kaminski reported that the state was continuing to monitor parcels of Valley County land on which noxious weed notices had been sent last year. Approximately one third of those who received notices last year either had not taken action or the action had not been effective so a notice will be required this year. If this notice is not effective, the state requires that a force spray notice be sent. Following discussion, it was determined that the Board has no choice since it is required by law. Cetak moved, Ash seconded the motion directing Cullers to compose a letter regarding the notices to be sent to landowners as required by law. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

The Hospital report was given by Kara Fischer, President of the Hospital Board of Trustees, in the absence of Admin. Phil Lowe and CFO Don Williamson. The regular written report was presented and Fischer noted the areas of increase and loss. A survey of area nursing homes indicates that many are showing a decline in numbers, due in part to the impact of assisted living facilities. Expenses for attorney fees, Dr. Trimble and Quorum from July 2003 to March 2004 total \$443,000. The Hospital currently has \$573,000 in CDs, 2 of which are restricted (\$1000 & \$800). There are no liens against the CDs. If all financial obligations were taken care of, \$300,000 CDs would be left. Ten or twelve years ago, the Hospital had no CDs. Chairman Sevenker commented that both the County Board and the Hospital Board are concerned with and knowledgeable about

Hospital finances. Fischer reported that Don Chase had been replaced by John Ross of Wisconsin as the Quorum Representative. Due to the critical access designation of the Hospital, some of Quorum's fees are reimbursed and the rural clinic designation for Ord Family Health Center will also provide reimbursement. Fischer advised that the exam taken by Dr. Dan Stevens did not meet the requirements stated in the by-laws that all Hospital physicians must sign and abide by.

At 10:05 a.m., Sintek moved, Cetak seconded the motion to convene as Board of Equalization. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor and Clerk were present.

Assessor Waits presented a Notice of Rejection of Homestead Exemption for Gary Hawley for Board approval. The property did not qualify for exemption because the house was not owned by Mr. Hawley prior to January 1, 2004 and he did not meet the age requirement. Beran moved to accept the rejection, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Beran, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Melia. No: none. Absent: none.

Board returned to regular session on motion of Ash, seconded by Beran. Carried. Yes: Ash, Beran, Melia, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

Director, Bethanne Kunz appeared for the Economic Development Board to explain that a CDBG grant they are working on required a letter of intent signed by the County and they were not aware that the County signature was required in time to request approval at the last County Board meeting. In order to meet the deadline, Chairman Sevenker signed the letter of intent pending Board approval. Kunz asked if the Board would approve the signing of the letter, saying it could be withdrawn if not approved. Melia moved to approve the signing of the letter of intent, Beran seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Melia, Beran, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

The Sheriff's written reports of Fees and Activities for March were presented in his absence. A letter from the Nebr. Commission on Law Enforcement acknowledging that the jail was in full compliance with the Minimum Jail Standards was also presented.

Clerk's report: quarterly report of ambulance fees collected on balances due prior to 1999, District Court IV-D reimbursement \$1195.39, Lodging Tax receipts \$747.79, expenditures \$675.00.

Custodian Severance reported that he was not eligible for disability since he is working full time and that he continues to be weak on the right side but is getting along okay. He suggested that he and Barb Nordhues contract with the County for Courthouse and lawn care. Chairman Sevenker said that lawn care and sprinkler bids were on the agenda. Severance said he still planned to stay on full time through May. Sevenker advised him not to do anything he felt he was unable to do.

Lawn care bids were received from Collier's Lawn Care and Loup Valley KLawn. Neither bidder was present. Collier's bid included weekly mowing, bagged and hauled, \$85 per week; four-step fertilizer \$210 per application; fall leaf clean up \$175 per clean up; tree pruning \$30 per hour. KLawn's bid included only fertilizing and weed control at four applications without grub control for \$1000, with grub control \$1140. Following discussion, the bid from Collier's Lawn Care was accepted on motion of Sintek, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Ash, Melia, Beran, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Collins abstained. Cullers advised contract not needed, independent contractor has own liability insurance.

Underground sprinkler bids were received from Fox-1, Inc., Buller Landscaping and Turf Pro. Carl Buller and Adam Kunz were present. Fox-1, Inc. bid \$7200, Buller Landscaping bid \$9944.40 and Turf Pro bid \$6495.00. Following discussion, the bid from Turf Pro was accepted on motion of Cetak, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Collins, Sintek, Ash, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. Kunz advised installation could be completed by the end of May.

Paul Markowski was present for discussion of choosing a natural gas supplier. Following discussion, Ash moved and Cetak seconded the choice of ACE fixed/blend option. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none.

Establishing a grant fund was discussed. Clerk Lindsey said the State Auditor's Office advised that a fund could be established and money received into it during this fiscal year without amending

the budget. Ash moved, Beran seconded approval of Resolution 04-15 establishing Grant Fund #2500. Carried. Yes: Ash, Beran, Melia, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

Claims were approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Ash. Carried. Collins, Ash, Melia, Beran, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Cullers presented a Memorandum of Understanding for the five county joint agreement to seek grant funding for the development of Juvenile Services. It is substantially the same as the one signed in 2002. Ash moved to approve said memorandum, Sintek seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Ash, Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none.

Taking bids for construction of a ramp at the east Courthouse entrance was discussed. Cullers advised that the County could pay for materials each month but labor could be paid upon completion so performance bonds would not be needed. Insurance coverage is required in the bid specs and Alan Anderson and the underwriter felt that builders risk insurance would not be necessary. Request for bids will be in this weeks Quiz to be opened by the Building and Grounds Committee at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, May 10, 2004, prior to the regular meeting.

Cullers also reported: that he is working on an Affidavit for the Board to sign to correct a discrepancy in the approval of several real estate subdivisions; will figure adjustment of rent for County Farm for 2003 and 2004, when rental of the farm is rebid, it will be based on 81.1 acres; the tax appeal hearing for Keowns is scheduled for Sept. 2 in Kearney; discussed cost of secure housing for juvenile prisoners.

Ash reported on Mid Plains meeting regarding drug and alcohol counseling and Sintek reported on the current fund balance from Nebr. Community Foundation.

Mail folder items were available for review.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon, to reconvene on Monday, May 10, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, and at 10:00 a.m., as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the April 27 meeting and an agenda for the May 10 meeting are available in the office of the County Clerk.

I, the undersigned County Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the County Board, that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Jenette G. Lindsey, County Clerk