

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 29, 2004, in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, and Sevenker present. Notice of meeting was verified and the minutes from the regular June 13th meeting and the special Board of Equalization meeting on June 15th were approved as published in the Quiz. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cetak, Sintek, Ash, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none. No one appeared for public comment.

Road Claims & Balances report was given by Supt. Leth. The larger expenses were for gravel, fuel and purchase of a 1993 truck. Leth's general report included: attended annual meeting in Valentine; making 2 winrows now for maintenance and project C8820A on Ashton road, additional winrow will go to Loup City road then 2 more for maintenance; starting project C88216B, move fence and build shoofly, Board wants truss bridge salvaged; continue to haul gravel; discussed Jay Knapp project, County Attorney Cullers contacted Frontier and they would pay the \$5700 cost to secure their line if County elects to work on the bridge, no plans to do so at this time, Board asks Leth to figure cost of lowering culvert; discussion of water on road east of Jay Knapp.

Clerk reported the statement from Gilmore and Associates for paving design for Mortensen Family Industrial Site access road has been faxed to City Clerk, Sandy Kruml for consideration by the Sales Tax Committee. Following discussion, Attorney Cullers read a proposed ad for taking bids on the project, setting the deadline for receiving bids at 5:00 p.m. on August 6, 2004 and opening bids at 9:15 a.m. on August 10, 2004. It was noted that the specifications should indicate that the City will have final approval of the bidder. Sintek moved, Beran seconded approval of the notice as read by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Beran, Melia, Ash, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Gravel bids were opened at 9:30 a.m. as scheduled. Ulrich Gravel was the only bidder: at bin \$4.65 per cubic yard, cubic yard mile 19¢ truck charge, 47B at pit \$5.00 per yard, rock at pit \$10.50 per yard, sand at pit \$3.00 per yard, price for minimum haul 95¢, 5% fuel surcharge added on each ticket if price of fuel goes above \$1.80 per gallon. Motion to accept the bid was made by Beran, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Beran, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Melia. No: none. Absent: none. Scott Ulrich was present to sign the contract.

Sheriff Ronzzo presented May Fees and Activities Report and traffic for the Comstock Festival was discussed. Letter regarding possible need to repay a portion of the COPS grant was discussed. County Attorney Cullers reported he had been in contact with them some months ago but had not heard anything until this letter. He said there had been a change in personnel and he would check on it. Motion was made by Cetak, seconded by Ash authorizing the repayment of \$2907.21 in grant overpayment from the Misc. General portion of the budget if required prior to the next Board meeting. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Treasurer Suminski presented the estimates of State Aid to Counties for fiscal year 2004-2005 and a comparison table for State Aid for prior years indicating a significant drop in funds. The Legislature has again appropriated no funds to the County Property Tax Relief Program for the new fiscal year which also represents a significant loss to the County. As a result of the requirement to match 50% of the Highway Incentive funds from the state, \$210,000 will need to be transferred from Inheritance Tax Fund to Road Fund. Accountant Chuck Abel was present to explain that since it is not possible to carry the Inheritance Tax money as cash reserve it must be budgeted to spend. A portion of the Inheritance Tax Fund is budgeted to transfer to other funds as needed. Abel will go over the figures with the Board as soon as totals for the 2003-2004 fiscal year are available, probably the last July meeting. Suminski also reported a good response from the delinquent letters sent out in June and that the Misc. Receipt information was available in the red folder.

Hospital Board President, Kara Fischer, reported that interim CEO Robert Ohlen started work on Thursday. Majority of medical staff issues have been resolved with Julie Stevens withdrawing her

hearing process. She noted that the staff is committed to rebuilding the Hospital finances and have considered ways to cut the budget and increase revenue, such as staff scheduling and employees taking on dual rolls. They are examining revenue by department and looking at reimbursement options as well as checking to make sure charges are comparable with other similar institutions. Out patient services provided by visiting physicians are a good source of revenue. The obstetric department is being renovated and will open in late July or August. The Ericson Clinic will open July 5th, North Loup Clinic has changed hours and Burwell Clinic has increased to 4 days. Quorum will present 8 or 10 resumes for the Hospital Boards consideration in the search for a full time CEO, will probably take 4-6 months to complete the search. Once a permanent CEO is found they can go ahead with strategic planning. Dr. Studley starts August 1.

Alan Anderson presented a comparison of last years Liability Insurance costs and this years costs which indicated that workers' compensation was much higher this year. Last year the County paid \$74,915.00, this year it is \$90,256.00. He also mentioned a request from the Hospital to check into the County providing insurance for the EMT's and the ambulance, but found that while there may be some savings in insurance premiums, the County would have to pay the salaries for the EMT's so the matter was dropped.

In the interest of time, the BCBS Subgroup Application will be discussed later in the meeting.

Bethanne Kunz explained the CDBG application requiring a public hearing at today's meeting is not going to be submitted until this fall due to time constraints, so the hearing is not needed.

A letter received by the Economic Development board, Mayor Winterfeld and the Ord City Council from Mike Johnson of Johnson Fabrications was discussed. Chairman Sevenker read portions of the letter which indicated Johnson Fabrications had considered constructing a manufacturing facility in Ord but decided not to due to the Hospital and truck parking issues. Gene McCoy, Tom Kruml and Wayne Winterfeld said it appeared that Johnson Fabrications was not a legitimate company. Kruml presented a chronology of events from Mr. Johnson's initial contact through the efforts of the Economic Development Board to contact Mr. Johnson or to find evidence of the existence of Johnson Fabrications. No contact could be made nor evidence of existence found.

Connie Fread presented her request for County funds to help purchase a van for the Hospital. The Foundation has approved \$1619.00, the City Council suggested she apply for Mortensen Funds, which if granted, would leave \$1619.00 for the County to fund. Sintek moved to approve the request for \$1619.00 to purchase a van for the hospital, Beran seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. The van would be purchased in October, a decision will be made later as to where to budget the County funds.

Karissa Hagedorn of USDA Rural Development presented a check for \$50,000 to the County, which is the RBEG awarded for expanding established businesses and creating and retaining jobs. She congratulated the Board for seeing the needs and finding ways to meet them. The Board acknowledged that Economic Development Director, Bethanne Kunz, was to be congratulated on her efforts to obtain the grant.

Tourism Committee member July Welniak reported that their funds have been spent on local events like the Elyria Pumpkin Festival, advertisement in Nebraska Life magazine and brochures. They are considering a county-wide map with events advertised on the back and locations marked. She indicated that the Chamber's request for funds was delayed because funds are given on a fiscal year basis and Evelyn Sharp Days had already been funded for this fiscal year. A claim for funds for Evelyn Sharp Days has been turned in for July. Chairman Sevenker noted that timing can make it difficult for the applicants to plan their events if they aren't sure of the funding. Roland Cronk, RC&D Tourism Committee commented that lodging tax dollars are for the purpose of advertising community events in order to draw tourists to the area. He said a seminar was given by RC&D to educate people on the regulations governing how the money can be spent and asked if the County was aware of the use made of the allotted funds. Welniak said the application requires that they list how the money is to be used. The Board felt more of the funds should be spent.

Custodian applications were discussed. Sintek suggested snow removal be added to custodial duties. Chairman Sevenker appointed Building and Grounds Committee, Chaired by Collins, to meet with the applicants on July 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room. Collins will contact the applicants.

Applications for the Hospital Board member were discussed. Sevenker reported request to extend deadline for applications and that Bossen agreed to continue to serve until a replacement is appointed. Sevenker read a list of the applicants: John H. Campbell, Paul C. Lamb, Gerald Schmitt, Paul C. Lambert, Roger C. Lansman, William Brush. A motion was made by Melia, seconded by Cetak to extend the application deadline for 2 weeks until the July 13th meeting. Discussion was held regarding interviewing applicants in public and use of executive session. Melia amended his motion to set a deadline for applications as close of business on July 9th and Cetak seconded the amended motion. Carried. Yes: Melia, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Board of Equalization was convened at 11:30 a.m. on motion of Sintek, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Ash, Melia, Beran, Cetak, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor and Clerk were present. Protests of those present were heard first.

Protest #22, Joe D. Hanson, parcel number 880031332 valued at \$101,420. Hansen was present and testified his home had no finished basement and listed some comparable properties. He had a \$14,000 raise in 2003 and felt the additional raise this year was too much. Assessor noted a \$20 per square foot raise in the new Marshall Swift pricing and suggested postponing action until she could do a walk through. Square footage may have been over estimated due to angles of the property. Board agreed to delay action on this property.

Protest #25, Darleen Severance, parcel number 880029540 valued at \$63,960. Severance was present and testified that no improvements have been made, no paved street or curbing and no alley access. Assessor asked that protest be tabled pending clarification of quality of home with appraiser Rexroth. Board agreed to delay action, indicating it could be addressed again at the July 8 meeting which Rexroth is to attend.

Protest #26, Larry & Barbara Freouf, parcel number 880020321 valued at \$42,925. Larry & Barbara Freouf were present and testified that this is a commercial building, no improvements, not great location, resale possibility not good. Assessor indicates pricing index changed from \$20 to \$30.50. Motion was made by Ash, seconded by Sintek to leave property at last years value, \$36,115 total value.. Carried. Yes: Ash, Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #28, Wade & Diane Bundy, parcel number 880025305 valued at \$35,050. Wade Bundy was present and testified that an increase of 40% is excessive, new roof & gutters after hailstorm, garage in bad condition, foundation is bad, needs windows. He requested a total value of \$30,417. Motion was made by Melia, seconded by Ash to leave land at value set by Assessor and lower the building value to \$21,585 for a total value of \$30,500. Carried. Yes: Melia, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #14, Dale Naprstek, parcel number 880015554 valued at \$91,515. No one appeared to testify. Written testimony indicates noxious weeds, prairie dog problem, poorest quality land on ag value chart. Assessor testified that the FSA map shows land use and classification are correct. Motion made by Cetak, seconded by Ash to leave value at \$91,515, as set by Assessor. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #15, Vince Herrick, parcel number 880028889. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates not livable, no water hookup. Motion by Collins, seconded by Ash to set value of \$1.00 per square foot for house, due to it's condition and leave land at value set by Assessor for a total value of \$33,225. Carried. Yes: Collins, Ash, Melia, Beran, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #16, Geneva D. Edghill, parcel number 880025998 valued at \$6395. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates land too steep to be usable. Assessor indicates property

purchased in 1987 for \$6500. Motion by Collins, seconded by Sintek to leave at \$6395 as set by Assessor. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #17, Gary & Eileen Bruha, parcel number 880025452 valued at \$24,580. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates property was on the market for over a year at \$25,500 and was purchased for \$15,000. Needs shingles, maintenance on foundation, siding, doors and windows. Motion made by Melia, seconded by Beran to leave land at \$7315 as valued by Assessor and set the total value at \$20,000, leaving value of \$12,685 on the buildings. Carried. Yes: Melia, Beran, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #18, Virginia Sawdey, parcel number 880025347 valued at \$64,955. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates fixed income does not allow for needed improvements: bathroom, windows, sills, carpets, painting. Motion made by Ash, seconded by Cetak to leave at the newly assessed value based on comparable properties. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #19, Dale & LeAnn Beran, parcel number 880021294 valued at \$15,420. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates house is being torn down, pictures were provided. Motion was made by Ash, seconded by Collins to set a flat value of \$5.00 on the building, since it must be valued as of January 1, 2004, for a total value of \$6585. Carried. Yes: Ash, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #20, Dennis H. Rice, parcel number 880029547 valued at \$36,210. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates only partial basement, uneven floors, foundation poor condition, garage pole barn construction, south porch unfinished. Assessor walk through update calculates value at \$32,585. Motion by Ash, seconded by Sintek to accept Assessor recommendation of \$32,585. Carried. Yes: Ash, Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #21, Dennis H. Rice, parcel number 880029330 valued at \$3180. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates vacant lot, no potential for building due to drainage creek crossing lot and poor access to street. Motion by Sintek, seconded by Ash to set flat value of \$100 due to creek. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Ash, Cetak, Collins, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #23, Roger Wallace, parcel number 880003934 valued at \$188,165. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates grain bin removed in fall 2003, associated 3.0 acres converted to irrigated cropland. Assessor testified land use update from FSA map comes to \$171,430. Supervisor Ash confirmed grain bin is gone. Motion by Cetak, seconded by Ash to set total value at \$171,430. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #24, Robin Dahlsten, parcel number 880036627 valued at \$6985. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates house not safe to live in, upstairs needs rewiring, roof is bad, has been empty for 15 years and requested building valuation be lowered from \$6540 to \$4195. Motion made by Sintek, seconded by Cetak to accept owners requested building valuation, making the total \$4640. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Protest #27, Robert S. & Allison A. Todsén, parcel number 880022477 valued at \$76,155. No one appeared. Written testimony indicates house is 1½ stories not 2, 3 bedroom not 4 and compared it to Wes Ulrich and Allen Cetak houses. Assessor asked to delay action for clarification of proper classification with appraiser Rexroth as to the number of stories and Board agreed.

Motion made by Cetak seconded by Ash to go out of Board of Equalization at 1:05 p.m. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek. Chairman Sevenker called a short recess and the meeting reconvened at 1:13 p.m..

The Subgroup Application for NACO with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for health insurance was discussed. Premiums will be raised 8% this year after a 12% increase last year. Following discussion, the motion was made by Collins, seconded by Ash to continue the health insurance at the \$500 deductible rate with County reimbursement of \$200 through December and effective January 1, 2004 go to the \$1000 deductible with no County reimbursement. Carried. Yes: Collins, Ash, Melia,

Beran, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. The County will absorb the premium increase and continue the reimbursement policy for 6 months in order to give employees notice of the change. Motion was made by Ash, seconded by Sintek to amend the eligibility requirement portion of the insurance agreement to match the County's Personnel Policy. Carried. Yes: Ash, Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none.

The request of VSO Charles Cox to reappoint Paul Waltman of North Loup to another 5 year term on the Valley County Veterans Service Committee was approved on motion of Beran, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Beran, Ash, Melia, Collins. Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The request for funding of South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$912.00 for fiscal year 2004-2005 was approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none.

A letter from USDA requesting the County sign a base acreage reduction form for the County Farm was discussed. Collins moved, Beran seconded approval for Chairman Sevenker to sign the form. Carried. Yes: Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

June claims and balances were approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Collins, Ash, Melia, Beran, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

County Attorney Cullers presented Resolution 04-19 which, if signed, would indicate formal approval by the Board of the Mortensen Family Industrial Site, 1st Subdivision plat map as submitted at the June 8, 2004 meeting. Motion of approval was made by Ash, seconded by Melia. Carried. Yes: Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins. Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Cullers and Weed Supt. Kaminski discussed with the Board the issue of follow-up action on noxious weed notices. Individual tracts were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m., to reconvene on July 8, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. as Board of Equalization for the purpose of hearing property valuation protests and July 13, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and at 11:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the June 13th and June 15th meetings and an agenda for the July 8th and July 13th meetings are available for public inspection 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 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, Valley County Clerk