

Valley County Board of Supervisors Minutes

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Sevenker at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, August 31, 2004 in their Courthouse meeting room. Publishing and posting of the notice of meeting was verified by the Clerk and the minutes of the August 9th budget meeting and the August 10th regular meeting were approved as published. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: Sintek. Chairman Sevenker noted that the roll had not yet been taken and instructed the Clerk to do so. Roll was taken with Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Cetak and Sevenker present, Sintek absent (excused by Chairman). There was no public comment.

Road Secretary, Sandy Simpson reported August claims and balances. The larger expenses were fuel, pavement marking paint, asphalt and gravel. Road Fund balance is \$264,990.51.

Road Supt., Leth noted that the Loup City road was in bad condition and would need to be repaired this year, he asked for approval to move his budget request for a new pickup to the asphalt line item to allow for funding to repair it and the Board agreed. Discussion was held regarding trees on right of way. County Attorney Cullers indicated that it is the landowners obligation to remove trees that are an obstruction and that the County needs to set a policy. Leth reported that the Ord City Council approved the bid for paving the access road to the Mortensen Family Industrial Site. The contractor is to start work the week of Sept. 13 and the road will be closed from 14 to 30 days. The County will provide a detour on the side of the existing road during that time. The old truss bridge was sold for \$2600. Discussion was held on an Interlocal Agreement with Garfield County to hire Supt. Leth on a part-time, hourly basis so they could qualify for State and Federal match money. Valley County would continue to pay Leth's wages and benefits and Garfield County would pay Valley County for the hours Leth worked for them. Leth would not oversee any Garfield County employees, but serve as a consultant. The proposed agreement could be canceled by either party upon 45 days notice. Discussion was held on number of hours, pay per hour, mileage, and phone expense reimbursement. The draft agreement was sent to the Garfield County Board and their Attorney. Cullers will contact Sevenker or Collins regarding any suggested revisions.

Leth okayed easement 04-216 for Bernard Petska and it was approved on motion of Beran, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Beran, Ash, Melia, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Sheriff Ronzzo is on vacation, his written fees and activities reports for July were reviewed.

Kara Fischer, Hospital Board Pres. reported as follows: Dr. Studley began August 1; renovation of OB room is to be finished in October; candidates for CEO position will be interviewed by the Hospital Board of Trustees, meet all physicians and assistants and tour the facility; efforts made to cut costs include restructuring schedules to cut overtime and outside help and cutting expenses in each department; Quorum is helping with CEO search and rate increase decisions and will help with strategic planning once a permanent CEO is in place; September 12 is the Hospital's 40th anniversary celebration. The written report provided by the Hospital was included in the meeting information mailed to the Supervisors for their review.

Discussion was held regarding the Ord Trail dedication ceremony, Evelyn Sharp Days and the Hospital anniversary open house all to be held on Sept. 12. An invitation to the Supervisors to attend the Trail dedication, which appears later on the agenda, was noted at this time.

At 10:00 a.m. the Supervisors moved into Board of Equalization on motion of Beran, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Beran, Ash, Melia, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek. The Assessor and Clerk were present. Waits introduced Chad Martensen, a registered appraiser from Petersburg, Nebraska, who will be licensed in December. Discussion was held regarding employing him to update rural properties. Discussion included: whether to measure all buildings or only new construction and obvious additions; need to measure homes; dividing the County into tiers of 3 or 4 townships and updating 1 tier each year to spread out the cost; if it's necessary to hire a person with special training or if a person with general knowledge could do it; to be effective for the 2005 tax year, update must be completed by March. Martensen proposed measuring all buildings (except

those with obviously no value), walk through homes when allowed, take photos, make site maps and various other updates to the current cards at a cost of \$60 per parcel. If the Board did not wish to have everything measured the cost could come down to \$50 per parcel. There are approximately 1009 parcels in the county, with about 200 of those in the first tier. In addition to the reappraisal, Assessor Waits requested \$5000 for Larry Rexroth to do the sales studies, noting that her staff would do the data entry. Noting the importance of having current records from which to establish property valuations, the Board agreed to return \$5000 to the Misc. General budget under the Contract for Appraisal line item. No decision was made on Martensen's proposal at this time.

The following Tax List Corrections, all due to business closings, were presented and approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Collins: #3623 Carsons IGA Enterprises in the amount of \$97.38, #3624 Carsons IGA Inc. in the amount of \$2.70 and #3625 Lana's Floral in the amount of \$.28. Carried. Yes: Ash, Collins, Cetak, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

There being no further business before the BOE, Collins moved, Ash seconded the return to regular session. Carried. Yes: Collins, Ash, Melia, Beran, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Bethanne Kunz, Executive Director, gave the quarterly report for the Valley County Economic Development Board. The internship of Brian Zimmer was very successful and they plan to apply again next summer. Information regarding the ethanol production business will be provided at a meeting Oct. 6 at 7:00 p.m.. A recent survey indicates Valley County does not meet the individual low-to-moderate income status required to apply for an elevator grant so another survey may be done. Also discussed were the Sales Tax Fund, the Re-Use Fund, a USDA grant received to hire a part-time business development coordinator, Nancy Glaubke; website regarding alumni recruitment; entrepreneurship in the schools; 2005 housing grant for down payment assistance; low interest loans, design assistance for storefronts; Leadership Quest has 21 participants; a start-up business course and boot camp for existing businesses; new business has shown interest in the area.

To expedite the procedure of requesting funds from the USDA/RBEG awarded to the County for Economic Development, Kunz asked the Board to consider authorizing her to sign the initial request to USDA. The request is a report of expenses incurred and request for reimbursement. Since the funds are sent to the County and accessed through the claims process, the Board would continue to have approval of the spending of the grant dollars. Bethanne Kunz was authorized to sign the request to USDA for reimbursement of expenses on motion of Ash, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Collins, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Clerk Jenette Lindsey reported on possible changes in election procedures in 2006 due to the Federal HAVA legislation requirement for handicap accessible voting and noted that McDermott and Miller performed the county audit August 23-25. She also requested direction from the Board regarding items left in the School Supt. Office as she had begun sorting through them. It was suggested that the Ord Township Library be contacted regarding books. Sheriff Ronzco is willing to allow prisoners to volunteer to help haul what needs to be thrown away and Probation Officer Gidley could be asked about those required to do community service work. The Clerk will set up a time to meet with Sevenker and Collins to view the items and provide instruction for their disposal.

The Chairman recognized Vicki Bauer. Bauer spoke on behalf of the RC&D on a preproposal they submitted for a grant requiring a government entity sponsor. The preproposal was verbally approved by Chairman Sevenker due to lack of time to get on the last meeting agenda. If the preproposal is approved, the application will be due by November 15, 2004 and will require the Chairman's signature. The grant is through the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund and is for the purpose of providing video conference, computer and educational opportunities for citizens in central Nebraska. A copy of the preproposal was provided giving more project detail. The Household Hazardous Waste collection was also discussed.

Accountant Chuck Abel appeared for budget discussion. The request for reappraisal funding was again discussed and the Board directed that \$5000 be added to the Contract for Reappraisal in the Misc. General portion of the General Fund. Subdivision levy requests were discussed and allowed as follows: Twin Loups Reclamation District \$31,392 General Fund; Valley County Airport

Authority \$30,000 General Fund, \$36,000 Bond; Loup Valley Agricultural Society \$20,400 General Fund, \$25,000 Capital Construction; Ord Fire District \$14,977 General Fund; North Loup Fire District \$16,000 General Fund, \$4000 Sinking Fund; Arcadia Fire District \$8000 General Fund, \$2,000 Sinking Fund. The County will again retain a portion of the township levy authority and will make up the difference between what was requested and what was allowed. The exact amounts will be determined by the accountant, based on the allowed levy limits. Resolution 04-20, approving the allocation of levy authority for each subdivision, and Resolution 04-21, regarding reimbursement to the townships, were adopted on motion of Cetak, seconded by Melia. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Melia, Ash, Beran, Collins. No: none. Absent: Sintek. It was moved by Cetak, seconded by Melia to set the budget hearing for the Sept. 14, 2004 meeting at 11:00 a.m.. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Melia, Beran, Collins, Ash. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Resolution 04-22, outlining the policy of Valley County regarding inventory of personal property in the possession of County Officials, was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Beran. Carried. Yes: Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

The Household Hazardous Waste Agreement was approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Beran. Carried. Yes: Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Collins moved to approve August claims, seconded by Melia. Carried. Yes: Collins, Melia, Beran, Ash, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

County Inventories were signed and approved on motion of Ash, second by Melia. Carried. Yes: Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

The County's Privacy Complaints and Inquiries Policy, presented by County Attorney Cullers, was considered in conjunction with the Cooperative Agreement between the Clerk of the District Court and Nebraska HHS/Child Support Enforcement. Both were approved on motion of Beran, second by Ash. Carried. Yes: Beran, Ash, Melia, Cetak, Collins. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

The Coordination Agreement between the State and County regarding use of grant funds administered by NEMA for homeland security was considered. The agreement provides that before any funds are released, the County must agree to the stated conditions in order to provide a means to coordinate local projects to provide a framework for a larger statewide strategy. Region 26 awaits the signing of these agreements by the various member Counties in order to receive designated grant funds. The Coordination Agreement was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Beran. Carried. Yes: Ash, Beran, Melia, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Lodging Tax receipts of \$2,058.76 for June and August expenses of \$4259.00 were reviewed and the Central District meeting in Kearney on Sept. 16 was noted.

County Attorney Cullers reported that the Keowns have filed an appeal of their 2004 property valuation with TERC. Deb Keown has requested a meeting with the Board and Cullers will set up a time for himself, Collins and Sevenker to meet with them.

A diversion program and a public defender were discussed.

Collins indicated the need to discuss making the public restrooms handicap accessible and reported that Custodian Cronk had made good progress in cleaning the basement and some plumbing repairs had been made on the third floor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, September 14, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, and at 10:00 a.m., as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the August 31 meeting and an agenda for the Sept. 14 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