

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 28, 2004, in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Sevenker, Ash, Melia, Beran, Collins, Sintek and Cetak present. The Clerk verified meeting notice had been published and posted as usual and minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cetak, Sintek, Beran, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Chairman Sevenker asked for public comment and Willis Platte spoke regarding the fact that the Hospital finances were in the black last month which he felt indicated they were headed in the right direction.

Sandy Simpson, Road Secretary, reported on Road claims and balances, noting the largest expenses were for fuel, asphalt, and gravel. She also reported that the Sheriff's Office and the Road Dept. split the cost of a new copier, each paying \$450. When asked how many miles of road were asphalted for the \$10,000 spent this month, Leth reported that asphalt was used on 2 1/2 miles of the Springdale road, 6 miles of the Loup City road and that half of a windrow remains for winter use. Simpson indicated \$19,000 worth of asphalt bills remain to be paid.

Leth reported that fuel prices continue to rise and even though he raised this year's budget it will probably still fall short. The Certification to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards and the Road & Bridge Contracts Report, to certify that County roads meet the minimum standards, was presented for Board approval. They were approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Ash, Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Melia, Beran. No: none. Absent: none. Leth also reported on LBs concerning counties padding their budgets, the 6 year reauthorization of T21, and the 2 tier highway superintendent system. Leth is planning to attend a meeting held by the Nebr. Dept. of Agriculture on emergency response planning and encouraged Board members to attend. Sheriff Larry Ronzco mentioned that he and his deputies were attending this meeting and volunteered to get in touch with Emergency Manager Ryan Simpson regarding the meeting. The Road Dept. continues to haul gravel with County trucks. Leth asked the Board to set a date for grader blade bids and it was moved by Sintek, seconded by Ash to set the bid letting for the October 26, 2004 meeting at 9:15 a.m.. Discussion was held regarding the carbide blades, Leth is not in favor of them. The last time blades were bid was April 8, 2003. Board advised buying whole load rather than half. Leth asked for Board direction regarding the cutting of trees on road right of way. Following discussion, Collins moved that the County continue to cut trees, especially at intersections, but not remove them from the property, the landowner must haul them away. Motion was seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Collins, Ash, Melia, Beran, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Board advised that Leth contact the landowner and give him the option of removing or trimming the trees himself or hauling away what is removed or trimmed by the County. Leth agreed to remove a tree branch overhanging the sidewalk at the Courthouse and Collins reported a road problem north of Jerry Collier's hill.

Alma Beland, Region 26 Director, appeared to discuss the concern of Gene McCoy, President of KNLV Radio, regarding emergency information provided to the media. Beland said that Region 26 serves 11 counties and that on the day in question there were 3 fires and many calls were coming in, there was not time to give out information. The dispatcher's first responsibility is to the 911 caller and the responders and unless instructed to do so by the fire chief or sheriff in charge of the emergency, they cannot give out information to the public or media, since what they have is only partial information and may be misleading. She suggested calling her office or the local official's office to get information rather than the dispatchers dealing with emergency response. McCoy stressed again that the radio can be helpful in an emergency by providing information to the public and mentioned the call from Burwell thanking him for his help in getting people out to help fight the fire. Beland indicated that Jeffries had called her after reading about his call in the paper and said that he had called McCoy to express his thanks to the volunteers but that there were too many and some did get

in the way. Dean Ash, Valley County Rep. on Region 26 Board, said that this item is on their meeting agenda for tonight and perhaps a procedure can be developed. He indicated that they want to work with the media and recognize their value in getting needed information to the public. Sheriff Ronzzo said that his office also recognized the importance of the media and would inform them of any information that would benefit public safety.

On behalf of the County, Chairman Sevenker recognized Dick Bossen for his years of service on the Hospital Board, from 1990 to 2004, and presented him with a gift of appreciation. Bossen thanked the County Board for their past support and indicated that our hospital is a good facility, a big asset to the County and needs strong support.

The Hospital report was given by Walt Brownlee, the new Interim Administrator, as Kara Fischer, Hospital Board Chairman, was unable to attend. Brownlee said he has been a hospital administrator for 33 years and has seen many changes. He feels our hospital is doing as well as can be expected and sees a good future for it due to the number of physicians, physician assistants and the number of clinics served in the surrounding area. Next month all insurance is renewed so financials may not be as positive. Need to look at expanding services to draw more revenue. OB remodel is complete and we have 2 doctors to do deliveries. He has visited all clinics, some repair and painting needed in North Loup, all are in good shape. After interviewing 3 candidates for the CEO position, it was offered to one but he decided he wanted to serve in a larger hospital so there will be another round of interviews.

The Board of Equalization was convened at 10:10 a.m. on motion of Cetak, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk and Deputy Assessor were present. A Tax List Correction for Ord Bowl was presented. The business was sold and the 2004 taxes accelerated. The Correction was approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Ash. Carried. Collins, Ash, Melia, Beran, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. There being no further business for the Board of Equalization, Sintek moved to move back into regular session, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Nancy Glaubke, presented the Interlocal Agreement for the Valley County Area Planning Commission between Valley County, North Loup Village, Arcadia Village and Elyria Village for county approval. Arcadia had questioned the expense, but had made the decision to continue so all of the villages have approved the agreement. Collins moved, Beran seconded approval of said Interlocal Agreement. Carried. Yes: Collins, Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none. Glaubke reported on the 2004 Nebraska Rural Institute in McCook that she attended which included a visit to the Heartland Cattle Co., a vineyard, organic produce farm, fish farm and an ethanol plant.

The Sheriff's written report of August fees and activities was reviewed. Ronzzo noted that Deputy Dunn attended training on how to handle the hazardous materials involved in meth labs.

Discussion was held regarding the upgrade to a Stanley door opener on the new east entrance door, the settling of the existing steps at the east entrance requiring additional cost to allow for those steps to be replaced at a later date without disturbing the new ramp, permission for the dirt on the south side of the old flower bed to be removed by the workers this morning with their skid loader while the area is open and accessible, and the cost of changing from an aluminum framed door to a bronze framed door. Following discussion, Beran moved and Ash seconded approval of the added costs of an estimated \$200 for the door opener upgrade, the unknown added cost to address the settling of the existing steps and the dirt removal, and the additional \$338.75 for the bronze metal framing and glass on the door. Carried. Yes: Beran, Ash, Melia, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. The Board agreed that rock could be used to replace the flower bed and Beran volunteered to contact Sam Pishna regarding the cost of removing 2 trees on the Courthouse lawn that appear to be dying. The Board requested a cost estimate on each tree separately.

Receipt of the completed County Budget Document was noted.

The Clerk reported that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program material had been reviewed by County Emergency Manager Simpson and that he is considering applying for a grant for weather radios for public facilities as noted in the material. Application deadline is in February 2005.

Lodging Tax receipts and disbursements were reviewed. Sevenker reported attending the Lodging Tax Committee meeting last night and said the Committee felt they had followed the State directive to distribute the funds fairly throughout the County. They felt that the funds awarded to the County Fair Board should be counted toward the City of Ord's portion. Discussion was held regarding the amount of funds collected that are not spent.

A letter from NACO regarding the increase in fees charged by the company that administers the County's Section 125 plan was discussed. It was determined that this item should be put on the agenda again in November to give NACO an opportunity to find another administrator. The increase will take effect beginning with the new plan year, which for Valley County is February, 2005.

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

The County Attorney had no report and there were no Committee reports. When asked, Attorney Cullers responded that the agreement between Garfield and Valley Counties for the part-time services of Leth is in progress. It was noted that meetings tonight include: Region 26, Economic Development and RC&D.

The following Mail Folder items were available for review: Region 26 agenda, Loup Basin RC&D, Community Action, EMC Loss Control Insights.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, and at 10:00 a.m., as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the September 28 meeting and an agenda for the October 12 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