

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met on October 26, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Beran, Melia, Ash, Sevenker, Cetak, Sintek, and Collins present. Notice of meeting was verified by the Clerk. The minutes of the October 12 meeting were approved as published. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Melia, Beran. There was no public comment.

Road Secretary, Sandy Simpson, reported on October claims and balances. Road Dept. claims totaled \$98,372.19, with payroll at \$32,061.70 and vendors \$66,310.49. The larger vendor amounts were fuel, asphalt, gravel and the final payment on the John Deere grader.

Ash reported a road complaint north of Raymond Franzen's place, that the crown was too high. Leth will look at it. Leth reported that they were hand patching oil roads and should be done tomorrow. Road striping is complete. He has started bridge inspections. Diesel fuel is costing \$1.64 for off highway and \$1.96 for highway and has taken a third of the amount budgeted for the year. He recommends delaying some grading until spring to see how the fuel holds out. He is currently checking out an oil problem with his pickup and the blue Dodge pickup. An earlier complaint of drainage problems on the old state highway north of Bob Lutz will require removal of existing culvert and installation of tubes. Leth recommends waiting to see if the price of culverts goes down.

At 9:15 a.m. the grader blade bids were opened. Representatives from Nebr. Machinery, Midwest Service and Presco were in attendance. The total bid of each company for curved double bevel blades as noted in the specifications were: Nebr. Machinery \$14,839.40, BARCO \$16,099.40, Presco \$15,947.20, Midwest \$17,450.90 and B's \$16,182.00. Sintek moved to accept the low bid of Nebraska Machinery at \$14,839.40, motion seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Beran, Melia, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Concerns over the radius of the proposed curve on the road out of North Loup was discussed. Leth will call the state engineer in charge of the project.

Kara Fischer, President of the Hospital Board of Trustees, gave the Hospital report. Due to present circumstances, the Board of Trustees had asked Don Chase of Quorum to put together a 3 year projection of Hospital finances, which he gave at their last meeting. He indicated that he was very conservative in the factors used to make the projections. Two new doctors (one of which is here, the other to come soon) and rate increases were figured in. Expenses and supplies were figured based on nationwide averages. The projection was positive, showing a loss in fiscal year 2005, a slight gain in 2006 and a larger gain in 2007. Fischer also addressed a circulating rumor regarding a missing million dollars. She spoke with the Hospital auditors to confirm that there had been no illegal activity found in their recent audit and no missing million dollars. The public can call the Hospital Board or herself to verify any rumor. The OB and delivery room is completed and 2 babies were born last week. An open house will be held for the renovated facilities. A new Hospital CEO has been hired, Neelam Bhardway. She is to start on December 1, 2004. She has 20 years experience in administrative health care and finances. Fischer noted that this is the only CEO hired by the Hospital since Phil Lowe resigned and that the others were interim CEO's found by Quorum. Brownlee will remain for a day or two after Bhardway starts to show her around.

Sheriff Larry Ronzco presented his written fee and activities reports for September. When informed that the current evidence room may be converted into a unisex, handicapped accessible restroom, he asked if part of it could be set up as a laundry for the jail. He said it would save money. The evidence room could be moved to the third floor.

Treasurer, Janet Suminski reported that the last payment was made this month on the Hospital Bond. Since the Bond Fund was short, the Hospital Operating and Maintenance Fund was used to make up the difference of \$6321.25. The Hospital O&M Fund is part of the County budget and has been generally set at \$25,000. This fund and the Bond are the only tax money provided to the Hospital. Suminski reported that there would continue to be delinquent tax collections that would include dollars for the Hospital Bond Fund and asked the Board where they wanted this money to go. Following discussion, it was decided that any funds collected should go into the Hospital O&M until

the \$6321.25 was made up. Any collections above this amount are to be held until next year, when a decision would be made as to where they should go. Suminski also reported on delinquent taxes sold to tax sale companies. She then informed the Board that Timothy Lowenstein, the Nebraska Assoc. of County Officials representative to the National Association will be speaking at the NACO Conference in Lincoln on Thurs., Dec. 9 on the advantages of belonging to the National Assoc., but would be willing to speak at a Board meeting if none of them were planning to attend the Conference. Most of the Board is signed up to attend the Conference. She also mentioned that various insurance representatives would like to present information to County employees during work time, that most of the County Officials were not in favor of using work time for this purpose and asked the Board's feelings on the matter. The Board felt sufficient insurance choices are already offered.

At 10:10 a.m. the Board of Equalization was convened on motion of Sintek, seconded by Beran. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Beran, Melia, Ash, Cetak, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor, Clerk and Appraiser Chad Martinsen were present.

A statement made by Mable Dobrovsky in a letter to Valley County residents regarding a reevaluation of rural dwellings being for the sole purpose of raising taxes was addressed by Chairman Sevenker. He noted that all real estate transactions have to be reported to the state and that the state requires property valuations be set at 92% to 100 % of market value for residential property and 74% to 80% for ag property. If the County does not meet the valuation requirements, the State will come in and increase them. In order to treat all taxpayers equally, the records on which the valuations are based have to be current and accurate and this requires a periodic review of the properties. The city and village updates are complete. The review of rural property is being conducted over a period of time due to budget constraints. This Board has always been conservative and conscientious. In talking to County Budget Accountant, Chuck Abel, Sevenker found that it is difficult to compare levies from one county to another because different factors are present in each county. He felt that no county is operated more economically.

The appraisal agreement with Chad Martinsen was discussed. Martinsen felt that the County modifications presented at their last meeting would require more time on his part, therefore, he asked for \$5.00 more per parcel. Martinsen had presented a new draft of the agreement, which included the County modifications and the higher fee of \$55 per parcel, to Attorney Cullers. Cullers pointed out each of the modifications in the agreement. Following discussion, Ash moved to accept the Contract for Property Listing with Chad Martinsen/Martinsen Appraisal at \$55 per parcel and Cetak seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Beran, Melia. No: none. Absent: none. The Board asked that Martinsen begin with Ord Township and continue until the \$10,000 appraisal budget for this year is spent. At 10:40 a.m., Supervisor Melia left the meeting.

At 10:45 Beran moved to return to regular session, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Beran, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash. No: none. Absent: Melia.

Assessor Waits presented a preliminary draft of tax rates for 2004/2005 as part of agenda item 8A, the Clerk's levy printout including other county certifications. She said there appeared to be no major increases and that she would have the final draft by mid November.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the copy of the Courthouse blueprints from Berggren Architects for \$58.42 and the letter from NACO regarding their endorsement of First Concord Benefits Group of Lincoln as the new Section 125 Administrator.

The contract with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. to act as County Surveyor was discussed. The contract addendum was read, whereby JEO agreed to seek County Board approval prior to providing any services for the Office of Valley County Surveyor. A billing statement from JEO for \$465.00 was received by the County for surveying work they had done on the County's behalf without seeking prior approval of the Board. Chairman Sevenker reported that he called Dale Sall, the JEO representative who signed the agreement, and that he agreed that County approval should have been sought prior to the work being done and that he would send a letter of explanation. No letter had been received to date. David Ziska, an Engineer with JEO, was present on another matter and had been asked by his company to explain that the work that was billed was in connection with a

survey for Elaine Hill. It was found that construction of a culvert had destroyed a section corner marker and JEO had to reset it. They felt this was a County Surveyor responsibility, however, if it was determined that the Village of Arcadia had constructed the culvert, the County could ask the Village for reimbursement. County Attorney Cullers advised that, in his opinion, JEO had not fulfilled their agreement so the County was not under obligation to pay the billed amount until the situation was resolved.

David Ziska, JEO representative, presented information regarding the Ord Downtown Master Plan. Ideas for renovation of the downtown streets, sidewalks, utilities and beautification plans were discussed. A presentation had been made to the City Council who wanted the County's reaction to the plan since the Courthouse is a major part of the downtown area. Following discussion, the Board agreed that renovation was needed and that cost would be a major factor in approval of a plan. Estimated costs of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per side for sidewalk construction on 3 sides of the Courthouse were discussed. The Board felt that they could not offer approval until more definite information was available on costs and funding. They felt that planning should continue. Sevenker will relay the Board's feelings to Mayor Winterfeld.

County Attorney Cullers has a scheduled Court appearance, so asked to give his report early. He reported that he had not been able to meet with County Weed Supt. Kaminski as he has been in the field. However, all Board members had received the letter from the State Dept. of Agriculture and he asked for their direction on how to proceed. The letter had set two deadlines for the County, November 6 to provide evidence that landowners had been advised in writing requesting noxious weed control this fall and November 12 to provide evidence to NDA that effective enforcement action has been implemented. Following discussion, it was decided that Chairman Sevenker will call Mitch Coffin with the State Dept. and explain that Kaminski will be on the November 9 meeting agenda.

Cullers noted that the lease amounts for the County Farm still need to be adjusted and that he had reviewed a letter the Clerk received from the Dept. of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, offering an invitation to participate in a voluntary compliance assistance program. He felt that the County was in good shape with regard to compliance.

A letter from John L. Batty, M.D. regarding the EPA order lowering the acceptable levels of arsenic in public water was reviewed. The Board felt that the County was not involved in public water issues and that this would be more appropriate for the City.

October claims and balances were discussed, noting that 75% of the ramp cost was paid this month. Some concerns with the operation of the automatic door were discussed and have been referred to Bill Clamp. Following discussion, Collins moved to approve the October claims, Beran seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Collins, Beran, Ash, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Melia.

Following items were received: letter on NACo/ESRI Technology Foundation GIS Grant Series, State reimbursement of \$85.54 for County Attorney IV-D Medical, Lodging Tax August receipts of \$364.41 and October pay outs of \$1350. Mail Folder items were available for review.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, and at 10:00 a.m., as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the October 26 meeting and an agenda for the November 9 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