

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in their Courthouse meeting room. Chairman Sevenker called the meeting to order and roll call was taken with Sevenker, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker and Ash present. The minutes of the January 25 meeting were approved as published. Collins moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. No public comment was offered.

Road Supt. Leth was absent due to illness. He had informed Chairman Sevenker by phone that his crew would be maintaining this morning and that he had attended a meeting regarding an ethanol production facility. A notice received from JEO Consulting Group, the County's Surveyor, regarding a request to establish section corners in Eureka Township was discussed. At this time, the Clerk also presented a billing statement for \$4112.50 received yesterday from JEO for corners established in Elyria Township. This would appear to be part of the Hulinsky property survey for which the County has already paid \$1853.38, bringing the total cost of this survey to \$5965.88. Discussion was held regarding the increase in the number of surveys billed to the County since JEO was appointed compared to the number of surveys billed prior to their appointment. County Attorney Cullers advised that the County is responsible for establishing section and half-section corners. Chairman Sevenker will speak to Tom Krueger of JEO prior to the next meeting and this is to be included on the next agenda.

Sheriff Ronzzo was not on the agenda, but asked to address the Board and Chairman Sevenker agreed. Ronzzo said a false rumor has been started claiming Deputy Dunn assaulted his wife, was put in jail and was out on work-release. He wanted the Board to know this was completely false. The Board thanked him for keeping them informed. Sevenker asked Ronzzo about the scheduled Jail Standards inspection and was told it has been delayed until Thursday but the Fire Marshall has inspected the jail and it passed.

The Clerk's reports of District Court Fees and County Clerk fees were presented.

Rolland Cronk, County Custodian, reported: contacted Wadas regarding non-working District Courtroom radiator, awaiting estimate; timer on boiler not yet installed, may be able to pay out of next budget year; Augustyn to estimate wiring in ground floor restrooms; electrical work on west entry light, shorted out due to lack of supporting chain; seeking estimate on timer for outside lights; current outstanding bills will likely deplete this year's repair budget.

Karr Tuckpointing proposal of \$55,795 was discussed regarding the deduction of \$3,754 for window caulking. Following discussion, the Clerk was directed to contact the company for references on work they did five to ten years ago, to indicate the County is seriously considering their bid and to get a commitment date in order for the work to be done this fall or next spring.

Sevenker asked Attorney Cullers to report on the handicapped restrooms at this time since Custodian Cronk was present. Cullers reported that Cannon felt the addition of a washer and dryer for the Sheriff's Office might make a unisex restroom a better option than making over the existing restrooms. Cannon proposed that he find out if the Fire Marshall would approve a unisex restroom and, if approved, draw plans for it in addition to plans for the existing restrooms. Following discussion, Cullers was directed to proceed with having Cannon look into the unisex restroom. Cullers asked Custodian Cronk to measure the current evidence room, the proposed site of a unisex restroom, and make a rough sketch to send to Cannon.

The Weed Control Contract with Darrell Kaminski was renewed for another year at an annual salary of \$12,600 on motion of Collins, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cetak, Sintek, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Anne Clausen's letter requesting a donation to the 2005 After Prom Party Committee was discussed. The Board supported the idea, however, questioned the use of tax dollars for this and noted they would want to treat all County high schools the same. It was concluded that the County could not contribute. Supervisor Baker will inform the Committee..

Following discussion, the Board indicated they were not interested in the waste tire cleanup bid proposal from The Tire Cutters, Inc. at this time.

Larry Koelling, Valley County Tourism Committee member, reported that Todd Kirshenbaum of Nebr. Tourism & Travel was unable to attend today's meeting due to the weather. He said that the Committee met last night and began work to clarify their duties and update the by-laws. Todd Fischer and Stephanie Copp of the Ord Area Chamber attended the Committee meeting. The Board indicated their desire to have more involvement in the grant approval process as well as their concerns about implementing an additional 2% lodging tax without a plan in place to provide for utilization of the original 2% tax. All agreed that a regional concept was necessary to best promote tourism in the area. Rolland Cronk, Deb Eppenbach and Cathy Bruha spoke on the issue. Discussion included: need of a recognizable contact point for people outside the area & state; internal conflict for Chamber members who are tourism business owners; RC&D more regional but less recognizable outside area & state; Chamber already fields tourism calls, prepares and sends information on request; RC&D does not usually get involved on a permanent basis with one member County; a public hearing must be held at the February 22 Board meeting in order to implement the additional tax by July 1, otherwise it would be October. It was determined that a public hearing could be held without committing the Board to implementing the additional tax. The Chamber could draw up a proposed contract for the Committee's review and presentation to the Board at the February 22 meeting. Cetak moved, Cullers seconded the motion to set a public hearing on the additional 2% lodging tax for 11:00 a.m. at the February 22, 2005 Supervisor's meeting. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk was instructed to place the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the agenda prior to the hearing.

The following items were reviewed: County Attorney IV-D reimbursement of \$3579.87; Central District meeting hosted by Greeley County on March 17 at the Kearney Ramada Inn, pre-registration deadline Feb. 24; County Board Workshop Feb. 9, 10, 11, Kearney Holiday Inn; January Expenditures Summary Report.

Bethanne Kunz presented information regarding the impact to the area of an ethanol production facility and requested, on behalf of Valley County Economic Development, that the Board adopt a resolution supporting such a facility. She explained that community and area support must be shown in order to meet state requirements. On motion of Collins, seconded by Ash, Resolution 05-04, as drafted by Attorney Tom Kruml in support of the recruitment and establishment of an ethanol production facility in the County, was adopted. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

The billing statement for membership dues from Central Nebr. Economic Development District in the amount of \$2439.00 (\$1.50 per 1,626 rural Valley County population) was discussed. Bethanne Kunz, Secretary/Treasurer for CNEDD, explained that, in addition to writing grants for members, they also administer surveys and will help members search out available grants. She offered to contact Heidi Phillips, Executive Director of CNEDD and request that she appear at a Board meeting to explain the services they offer. Cullers moved and Baker seconded the motion to approve paying the membership dues for another year. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

County Attorney Cullers had reported on the handicapped restroom issue earlier. He said he is currently reviewing the County's interlocal agreements at the request of the Clerk and the County's Personnel Policy is on his agenda to update. Search warrants were served last week as the result of a citizen tip and some meth and marijuana were found. He encouraged citizens to report any suspicious activity. Supervisor Ash received a letter of complaint regarding the timeliness of Cullers handling of a child support modification case. Cullers acknowledged that it had taken longer than he would have liked, partly due to the payor living in California and the extra time it takes to make the required out of state contacts. Cullers felt the complainant's calculations of support lost due to the length of time the case took were not accurate.

Supervisor Helen Cullers reported on the Region III meeting she had attended and indicated that Randy McCall and Beth Baxter of the Governing Board would be willing to speak to the County Board regarding Region III. Her report included some of the programs supported by Region III funds and she noted that \$3900 was awarded to 39 groups, one of which was Ord, to support post-prom parties.

Supervisor Ash reported that Mid Plains was discontinuing their Youth on Track program and replacing it with a detoxification program.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m., and will reconvene on February 22, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, and 10:00 a.m., as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the February 8 meeting and an agenda for the February 22 meeting are available for 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 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, Valley County Clerk