

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session in their Courthouse meeting room at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2005. Roll call was taken with Collins, Cullers, Sevenker, Sintek, Ash, Baker and Cetak present. The Clerk verified notice of meeting and the minutes of the February 8 meeting were approved as published. Since the County Attorney had to leave at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Sevenker asked that the agenda be amended to allow Cullers to present and explain the proposed County-Chamber agreement and the proposed resolution for a Visitors Improvement Fund and additional 2% Lodging Tax. Sintek moved to revise the agenda to hear Cullers presentation regarding item 8B immediately following public comment and to adopt the agenda as revised, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

Public Comment: Rolland Cronk expressed his interest in serving on the Toursim Advisory Committee.

Cullers presented the proposed agreement and resolution regarding tourism and the additional 2% Lodging Tax. Representatives from the Chamber and the Tourism Committee met with him to work out the agreement. He explained that the agreement outlined the duties and obligations of the Chamber and the County, however, the amount and method of payment was left open. The Chamber favored a set amount, the Committee a percentage of the collected tax. Further discussion will be held later in the meeting.

Sandy Simpson, Road Dept. Secretary, reported on Road Claims and Balances for February, noting the larger expenses were fuel, grader blades and gravel. The fuel budget is low and the overall budget will be tight, but it should be sufficient to the end of the fiscal year.

At 9:30 a.m. the Public Hearing for the 1 & 6 Year County Road Plans was held as advertised. Road Supt. Leth had presented the plans to the Board at the January 25 meeting. No one was present to testify against the plans. It was moved by Ash, seconded by Cetak, to approve Resolution 05-05 adopting the 1 & 6 Year Plans as presented at the January 25 meeting. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Randy Adamek appeared to ask if a portion of a County road could be closed so that he could put up a gate to try to stop theft. Adamek was advised that he will need to present a petition signed by 10 or more electors residing within a 10 mile radius agreeing to the road closing, the Board will then request Leth to do a study of the road and a public hearing date will be set, after which hearing the Board can act on the request.

Tom Krueger of JEO Consulting Group, Inc., the appointed County Surveyor, appeared to answer questions regarding the County's liability survey costs. The Board was concerned because the number of surveys has greatly increased over the last few years. Krueger noted that State law requires the County to pay for section and quarter section corners that cannot be found and are necessary to accomplish a private survey.

Road Supt. Leth's general report included: notice of new Federal Highway Administrator; changes in bridge inspection regulations, printed copy of changes available for review; most proposed legislation affecting highway allocations has gone in County's favor; LB 221 changes landowner responsibility for tree trimming from 8 feet to 15 feet and the deadline for mowing from August to Sept.; Michelin tires for motorgraders no longer available, may have to try Continental which do not last as long; closing of Howard Tire will affect County costs; looking at prices of asphalt; discussion of spraying weeds around bridges and where to budget cost, Board advised spraying should continue and should budget in Weed Fund; discussion of cutting and hauling trees, Board advised landowners should be notified before trees are cut, trees should be piled over fences for landowner disposal. Supervisor Baker reported a complaint of standing water in a field and a request to deepen road ditch to promote drainage and asked how he was to handle such complaints. Board advised the usual practice is to advise Leth and report to Board at next meeting.

Chad Martinsen is ill and will present his report at a future meeting.

Hospital Administrator, Neelam B. Bhardwaj, presented the Hospital report. The number of inpatients and nursing home patients continues to increase. The use of agency staffing has been cut by about 90%. A 4% employee pay increase was given last month, it has been 3 years since the last increase. The Nursing Home is in

full compliance with HHS requirements following their annual survey and the fire marshall also found total compliance. A grant received through Good Samaritan Hospital provides "tele-trauma service" which allows trauma physicians in Kearney to aid local physicians with trauma patients. The Valley County Hospital and the Extension Service are providing an educational event on meth. The Hospital is participating with all schools in the area for the job shadowing program. The software project necessary to meet HIPAA requirements was approved by the Hospital Board in January and is to be funded by the Valley County Hospital Foundation. It is hoped the project will be completed by March 18. On February 10 a child car seat safety check up was held. Twenty-six were checked, 13 were inappropriate and replaced free of charge. They hope to do this twice a year. To improve care quality and patient satisfaction, follow-up calls and patient surveys are being conducted.

James Knapp appeared to ask the Board to reconsider their decision on reimbursement for the fence he constructed on the County Farm property he leases. The Board only reimbursed the portion of the fence adjoining Don Wagner's property. Following discussion, the Clerk was instructed to put this item on the next meeting agenda to give Supervisors Cullers and Baker a chance to view the fence and the property.

The proposed agreement between the County and the Chamber regarding tourism promotion was discussed. Koelling suggested the amount should be 20% of the total tax collected which, estimating the tax to be \$20,000, would provide \$4000 for the Chamber. Helm felt that the Chamber needed a fixed amount for the first year in order to assure that they could provide the required services and then renegotiate the agreement next year. He advised that the estimated cost would be \$12,567 but the Chamber would be willing to accept a fixed amount of \$7000 for the first year. Following discussion, Chairman Sevenker suggested a fixed amount of \$6000 for the first year, to be taken from both the Visitors Improvement Fund and the Visitors Promotion Fund. Koelling agreed to that amount if it were capped at 30% of the total tax collected from both funds and Helm agreed to that amount and condition for the first year.

At 11:15 a.m., the Public Hearing for the establishment of a Visitors Improvement Fund was held. No testimony was given against the proposal. The two parts of Resolution 05-06 were approved in separate motions. Part one, establishing the Visitors Improvement Fund, was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Part two, implementing the additional 2% Lodging Tax, was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. The agreement between the County and the Ord Area Chamber was approved to begin April 1, 2005, at \$6000 per year with a cap at 30% of the total tax collected, on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cullers, Collins, Baker, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Heloise Bresley thanked the Board on behalf of the Historical Society for implementing the additional tax.

Treasurer, Janet Suminski, gave her report of month-end fund balances, noting that a transfer of funds will probably be needed for the Road Fund next month. Motor Vehicle Tax used to be divided between all entities, now only goes to the General Funds of the County, Schools, and City. She also provided a copy of the semi-annual fund report she is required to publish. Delinquent tax sales will be held March 7th.

The Sheriff's report was presented by Secretary, Wendy Bronson. In addition to the regular monthly report of fees and activities, she had prepared year-end reports and provided statistical printouts for the year regarding arresting agency statistics, jail statistics, and prisoner statistics. At Bronson's request, the Board moved into executive session at 11:45 a.m. to discuss a personnel issue on motion of Ash, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. The Board moved back into regular session at 11:50 on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. Chairman Sevenker said that County Attorney Cullers was preparing a statement regarding the health of Sheriff Ronzzo.

Supervisor Cetak left the meeting at 12:00 noon.

Kayla Hinrichs appeared to request County Board approval of the appointment of Jane Zadina to the Extension Board. Lori Bush and Kiley White are the other two Valley County members of the Area Central Four Extension Board which is comprised of 4 counties. Collins moved to approve the appointment of Jane

Zadina to the Extension Board, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Collins, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Sintek. No: none. Absent: Cetak.

February Claims & Balances Report was presented and February Claims were approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Cetak.

Discussion was held regarding the expiring terms of three members of the Tourism Advisory Committee: Jeanne F. Fells, Janet Cox and Larry Koelling. Collins nominated Rolland Cronk to replace Koelling as both were owners of lodging establishments. Ash, Sintek and Baker felt that Committee members should not be changed at this time due to the implementation of the additional tax and the new agreement between the Chamber and the County. Collins then rescinded his nomination of Cronk. Sintek moved to reappoint the three members whose terms were expiring and Baker seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: Collins. Absent: Cetak.

Chairman Sevenker left the meeting at 12:10 p.m., turning over the Chair to Vice Chairman Collins.

Supervisor Cullers presented a report on the recent County Board Workshop. Discussion included the advisability of membership in the National Association of Counties and the need for people to testify to the legislature regarding the Inheritance Tax issue.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session, and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the February 22 meeting and an agenda for the March 8 meeting are available in the County Clerk's Office.

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.

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Jenette G. Lindsey, County Clerk