

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2005 in the Courthouse Boardroom. Roll call was taken with Baker, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Sevenker, Sintek and Ash present. Notice of meeting was verified and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Road Claims and Balances report was given by Secretary Sandy Simpson. March payroll was \$32,130.65, accounts payable were \$15,708.79. The larger expenses were 4 Michelin tires, asphalt sealer, oil and gravel. The cost of gravel will likely be up next year due to higher gas prices.

Road Supt. Leth reported that a county truck was ticketed because gravel was showing above the top of the truck. The truck was not overloaded. This truck was ticketed before because water was running off the gravel. The state has received the county's 1 & 6 Year Plan. The federal bridge inspector wants an update of bridge inspections which would require counties to hire an engineer and would be costly. Federal funds may be available to help with this, he will find out more at their mid-year meeting. Discussed increased use of Haskell Creek Road and Pizza Hut Road due to detours for highway projects. Discussed request for guard rails or lights on Sargent Y. Leth said there is the possibility of federal help if it's considered a safety project. County Attorney Cullers reported on his research regarding County liability saying that there is no way to predict what may happen and the circumstances surrounding an accident play a role in determining liability, such as excessive speed or alcohol. Use of lights during festivals was discussed and a motion was made by Ash, seconded by Baker to install 4 high intensity, blinking lights at an estimated cost of \$400 each during the festivals. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. At the suggestion of Supervisor Ash, the Board set 1:00 p.m. on April 12, 2005 to tour the County roads.

Sheriff Ronzzo presented the Fees and Activity reports for February. He has been working 2 hours a day and hopes to be back to full time by April 20th if all goes well. The Board expressed their good wishes for his recovery. Discussed housing Valley County's female prisoners in Broken Bow at a cost of \$45 per day because housing a female prisoner in Valley County's jail requires leaving a bed vacant.

Nancy Glaubke, Planning & Zoning Admn., reported that the winter months have been slow but activity usually picks up in the spring. Ads reminding people of the need for zoning permits are run 3 times. Discussion of person building home in rural area requesting road maintenance. If requester pays for road upgrade, County must maintain; however, requester can sign a deed restriction stating that the County will not be asked to improve the road and this restriction is required to stay with the property if it is sold.

The Board of Equalization was convened on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak at 10:05 a.m.. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk and Deputy Assessor were present.

It was noted that Assessor Waits had applied for an extension of the required filing date for the county assessment rolls, however, the request was dismissed as the assessment rolls were completed on time. The list of organizations applying for tax exemption and the requirements to qualify were reviewed. Matt Olberding and Curt Sikyta were present to testify for GLVA and Al Curry was present to testify for the Elks building. Sikyta testified that the GLVA property was owned by a charitable organization, that no profit is taken from it and that they are working toward building a fitness center and gym on the property. Curry testified that the valuation of the Elks building was too high and that, since part of the building is now leased, it needs to be apportioned to separate the leased portion. Following discussion, it was decided that no action would be taken on any of the properties at this time and that a new hearing date would be set for the April 26, 2005 meeting at 10:00 a.m.. At 10:30 a.m., Collins moved to return to regular session and Sintek seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Hospital Admn., Neelam B. Bhardwaj, reported that admissions were down in February but home health was up and cash collections were higher. Cutting back on the use of agency staffing has helped keep expenses down. The year to date loss for this fiscal year is \$272,800, at this time last year it was \$486,000. The computer project is expected to be finished by Friday. The Hospital Board approved leasing a hematology analyzer as the old equipment is no longer reliable. A neighborhood concept is being developed for the nursing

home as well as more customization of the rooms and assigning the same staffing personnel to an area to promote better relationships, socialization and morale. Community education programs have been held on heart disease, cholesterol and blood pressure screening and programs on colon and rectal cancer as well as one on meth education and awareness are planned. Open houses were held at the Erickson and North Loup Clinics. She praised the efforts of Hospital employees in raising funds for a new sign. Dr. Studley has resigned effective June 1, 2005 to work as an emergency room physician in Beatrice where his wife's family lives. Since he did not fulfill his contract, he will be required to repay the house loan and signing bonus he received. The Hospital is participating in the job shadowing program for area high schools April 4 through the 8. The possibility of establishing clinics in Arcadia and Loup City is being investigated.

Treasurer, Janet Suminski, gave her report which included a certification closing the public sale of delinquent real estate taxes, a listing of the taxes sold which totals \$50,738.17, certification of remaining delinquent taxes, new county tax sale certificates and special assessments and a list of foreclosures. Resolution 05-08, authorizing and directing the County Attorney to institute proceedings to recover all delinquent real estate taxes, assessments, etc., which are delinquent for two years or more, was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Suminski is researching changing the number of required years of delinquency from 2 to 5 years.

Kent Helm, Ord Area Chamber and Larry Koelling, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee were present to clarify the agreement by which the County is to pay the Chamber for services pertaining to the promotion of tourism. Helm and Koelling agreed that the Chamber will be paid a flat fee of \$6000 for one year in quarterly installments with the first installment due in April. The amount will be renegotiated next year. Since there are not sufficient funds remaining in the Lodging Tax Fund budget to pay the first installment in April, the Board agreed to pay the first installment from Inheritance Tax Funds, to be reimbursed by the Lodging Tax Fund out of the 05-06 fiscal year budget, on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. Ash moved to approve the agreement at \$6000 per year, paid quarterly beginning in April and Collins seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Custodian, Rolland Cronk, reported that during the high winds on March 10 or 11, a storm window from the third floor fell out over the east side entrance. The screws that attach the windows are pulling out and there are ten or more additional windows that are not secure. He has made temporary repairs but advises a more permanent solution is needed. He talked to Paul Markowski and the city is willing to loan a lift truck but they will not provide a person to work from the bucket. The Board suggested that he contact the REA to see if they could help. Cronk also reported that 93% of his lawn care budget has been used. He asked that lawn work be started as late in the season as possible. Following discussion, the Board agreed to continue the lawn care contract with Collier for another year at the same rate and they also agreed that the lawn would not be power raked this year. The Board offered no opposition to ExtraOrdinary Days activities use of the Courthouse steps and grounds or to having the Courthouse restrooms available for public use. The Board also agreed to giving the brochure racks from the School Supt. Office to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for their use if they wanted them. Koelling is to look at them and decide if they would be usable.

Discussion of the Karr Tuckpointing proposal is delayed until the next meeting agenda along with further discussion of the Courthouse windows.

Gary Streeks, BCBS Rep., reported that this years increase looks to be between 3 and 5 percent. The rates and the master group application will be out earlier this year, perhaps by late April. New options are to be offered, including higher deductible options and a health savings account. The average age of NACO active employees has dropped 5 years, due in part to participation of cities and municipalities which should help on the rates. Streeks asked to be notified if the Board looks at other insurance options. Several counties have opted for partial self-funding contracts and three of them have come back to BCBS even though they face a 25% surcharge if their health history is not good. If possible, he will be back when rates are released.

Chuck Cone, Admn. Loup Basin Public Health Dept., reported that he is attempting to appear before each of the 9 County Boards that make up the LBPHD. He handed out pamphlets to each Board member and explained that among the services they perform are school surveys of attendance, hospital surveys for influenza,

the Kids Connection and Medicare programs once administered by CNCS. They worked with Valley County Hospital to set up flu immunization clinic and worked with the Central Dist. Health Dept. to receive vaccine during the shortage and over 200 people were vaccinated. He plans to report to the Board on an annual basis.

Cone also represented the request to use the Courthouse lobby for health awareness display during the first two weeks of April for Public Health Month. The Board approved the request on motion of Ash, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Tom Kruml and Gaylord Boilesen spoke regarding the effort to attract an ethanol plant to Valley County. It is not their intent to keep information from the Board or the public, however, the prospects require a certain amount of secrecy. Three prospects have been hosted. Some of the issues they look at are roads, streets, available corn, number of cattle, incentive package, trucks and railroad. There are two types of ethanol plants, wet milling and dry milling. Dry milling cuts down on the odor and this is the type of plant that is looking at this area. Planning and Zoning requirements would not apply if TIF is used. They noted that the construction phase of such a project would also be a big economic boost to the county.

County Attorney Cullers presented a proposed agreement between the city and county to authorize City Police Officers to patrol within a one mile radius of Ord. He also had prepared resolution and petition forms for vacating a county road. Having forms on hand should help to streamline the procedure.

The following informational items were noted: Chainsaw Safety & Sawmill Demonstration April 7 at the Fairgrounds, USDA announcement of Preserve America Initiative regarding community facility funding, County Lodging Tax of \$628.90 for January, and JEO was paid \$4717.00 from the Inheritance Tax Fund.

March claims were approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

A letter of support for continued federal funding of RC&Ds was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. A letter opposing proposed legislation to consolidate the County and District Courts was approved on motion of Baker, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Supervisor Cullers presented a written report for Region III. Her report noted that Region III will now be titled Region 3, that 27 mini-grants were awarded by Region 3 in 2005 to community based organizations but there were no requests from Valley County organizations, and that contacts to Region 3 need to be established for North Loup, Arcadia and Elyria.

Supervisor Sintek showed a 12 minute video entitled "Nebraska Livestock, We're All Shareholders" which demonstrated the importance of the livestock industry to the state's economy. The video will be left with the Extension Office for use by the public.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the March 29 meeting and an agenda for the April 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