

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 a.m., April 26, 2005 in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Baker, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Sevenker, Sintek and Ash present. The Clerk verified that notice of meeting was published and posted and the minutes for the April 12, 2005 meeting were approved as published. After packets were mailed to the Supervisors, item 8A was changed to include discussion of other Courthouse repairs in addition to the windows. This revised agenda was adopted on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. No one had signed up for Public Comment.

Road Supt. Leth reported the Road Claims & Balances, with accounts payable at \$35,625.08 and payroll at \$31,934.90. The larger expenses were fuel and gravel. The fuel line-item is overspent \$2668.05 and gravel has \$23,460.77 remaining. Leth will monitor this to ensure that the total road budget is not exceeded. Fuel and gravel budget will need to be increased next year.

Leth's report included the following information: lights for the Sargent Y have been received and the Road Dept. has built brackets to help protect them, will install them as soon as they have time; the lights will be operational a few days before each festival and shut off after each festival; Leth is planning to attend a public meeting to be held on May 3 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Ord Veterans Club regarding the State road project on highway 11 between Ord and Burwell, any concerns can be expressed at this meeting; new owner of Koch Materials requires debit account for payment of asphalt, last year purchased asphalt from Jebro where you can pay monthly, they have been very good to work with; have found iron in oil again on the 3 year old John Deere patrol, advised to check again after another 100 hours, is still under warranty; the Dept. of Roads Transportation Enhancement Program offers grant funding for such things as hiker biker trails, safety activities, historic preservation, etc.; plan to work on bridge on Myer Creek; continuing to haul gravel; car accident in Yale Township destroyed guard rails, even though on minimum maintenance road advises rails should be replaced, County Attorney Cullers advised there may be some insurance settlement money to help defray cost.

Leth indicated all appeared to be in order on Easement 05-221 for Mike Usasz and the easement was approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Chairman Sevenker reported that he had received several compliments on County roads in the north and west part of the County.

While awaiting the arrival of Hospital Admn. Bahrdwaj, Old Business item 8A was discussed. Custodian Cronk listed general plumbing problems, especially in the jail, that need to be addressed, also the furnace for the jail is 30 years old and Wadas can no longer get parts for it. Cronk also reported that it may be possible to install a washer and dryer in his office space as there is existing plumbing and the dryer could be vented through a window. It would require 110 wiring for the washer and 220 for the dryer. He will try to get estimates on costs before the next budget year.

Chairman Sevenker estimated a cost of about \$750 to have Mike Kruml secure the windows on the east side of the Courthouse. Kruml would use his own lift and it would require two workers. Markowski has said the City would supply their truck and an operator, the County would have to find someone willing to work from the city bucket. Baker offered to see if he could find someone. County Attorney Cullers encouraged the Board to develop a comprehensive plan regarding the repair and renovation that is needed for the courthouse, he advised that such a plan may enable some of the work to qualify as matching funds should the county receive any grant funding. Ash moved to approve the project to secure the windows on the east side of the Courthouse, and if the County is unable to find someone to work from the city's bucket, Kruml is to be hired and the cost paid from the Inheritance Tax Fund. The motion was seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Following further discussion of a comprehensive plan, Chairman Sevenker volunteered to contact Siemens to see if they could help with this.

Hospital Admn. Neelam Bhardwaj presented the written report regarding the last Hospital Board meeting and the year-to-date financial reports through March. She reviewed the reports with the County Board, noting some factors affecting these reports include: February is shorter month, occupancy increase, delay in certification of Dr. Studley for medicare reimbursement, salary and wage increases, cost of new computer system. The vision statement for the hospital is to be the healthcare provider of choice. In an effort to reach this goal a strategic plan has been developed which she outlined for the Board. A new CT scanner is to be leased, the revenue from it should cover the lease payments. Health care benefits for hospital employees will now include a waiver of the deductible if County facilities are used and a waiver of the first \$500 cost for employees without insurance. Centralized scheduling has been implemented which provides one phone number, available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., to schedule all services. The Sunshine Committee continues fund raising for signs, with \$5200 raised and \$1800 more needed. The Auxiliary Thrift Shop has donated \$1500 for a sign on top of the hospital, another \$2500 is needed. New CFO, Larry Schrage, will begin work on May 2, 2005. Nursing Home volunteers were honored with an appreciation dinner. The three clinic open house events went well. Fifty students took part in the job shadowing program. New hematology analyzer will be in use beginning May 1. Dr. Studley's resignation is effective April 31 but he will return for five weekends to serve as on-call physician. The search for clinic facilities in Arcadia and Loup City continues.

At 10:20 a.m. the Board of Equalization convened on motion of Cetak, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor, Deputy Assessor, Treasurer and Clerk were present.

The Board considered the request of Adam Kunz for removal of a hydroseeder from his personal property listing since it was titled and plated. The Treasurer and Deputy Assessor confirmed that titled, plated property should not be listed on a personal property tax form. Motion was made by Ash, seconded by Cetak to remove the hydroseeder from the personal property listing. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Property Tax Exemption Application Forms 451A tabled from the March 29, 2005 meeting were discussed. Matt Olberding spoke on behalf of the GLVA properties, saying he understood that the land does not qualify for exemption because it is presently idle but that they intend to use the property as a practice field for girls softball this summer and that should bring it into compliance. Efforts continue to develop a physical fitness center on the property and eventually a pool, track and auditorium. Heloise Bresley was present on behalf of Clean Country. Assessor Waits indicated that exemption for the GLVA property in question could be approved now and disapproved by June 30 if the ball fields were not developed. Sintek moved to approve the requests as they were last year. Cetak seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. A list of requesting organizations showing the Board's action for each is part of the permanent record. The Board moved back into regular session on motion of Collins, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

The bid notice for handicapped accessible restrooms on the Courthouse lower level was discussed. Ash moved that the deadline for receiving bids be 8:30 a.m. on June 14, at which time they will be opened by the Building and Grounds Committee and reported to the full Board at the meeting. The notice is to be published for two consecutive weeks. Motion seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Discussion was held regarding the county's liability insurance as to whether the county could change carriers without advertising for bids. Supervisor Collins and Attorney Cullers will discuss with Alan Anderson the possibility of an extended renewal date. Sevenker will contact NIRMA. Ash moved to get a bid from NIRMA and compare to EMC. The motion died for lack of a second.

The Management Discussion and Analysis Statement required as part of the county's audit will be reviewed at the next Board meeting. The BOE Workshop May 12 and 13th in Kearney was noted.

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

The choice of a natural gas supplier was discussed. The Clerk reported that Paul Markowski called with quotes for ACE of 1.019 for 100% fixed and 98.8 for the 80/20 blend and that the website for ONEOK listed 1.075 fixed and MIR + .313 for the 65/35 blend and the website for Kinder Morgan listed 1.077 fixed and NYEMC + .317 with a cap at 1.213 for the market index with cap. Collins moved to choose the ACE fixed/market blend, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

A Memorandum of Agreement allowing Valley County to participate in a countywide needs assessment survey at a cost of only \$1.00 per returned survey was discussed. DED now requires that these surveys be updated every 3 years in order to qualify for grant funds. The agreement was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The Memorandum of Endorsement for the THRIVES program sponsored by CNCS was approved on motion of Baker, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Baker, Ash, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

A letter received from Margaret (Waldmann) Bader regarding the care of rural cemeteries was discussed. Attorney Cullers will research this and Chairman Sevenker will contact Ms. Bader.

The following informational items were noted: BCBS billing cycle change from the 15th to the 1st of the month, Jail Standards Board letter affirming compliance of the County Jail, February lodging tax receipts of \$438.44, the \$4288.55 state reimbursement of direct costs for the Social Services Office, and a notice of town hall meeting dates scheduled by Nebraska HHS to improve access to health care and insurance.

At County Attorney Cullers' request, the Board approved a fee of \$30 for the STOP program effective July 1, 2005 on motion of Baker, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. Cullers also discussed updating the personnel policy to reflect the use of flex time and comp time among other updates that are needed. He plans to meet with the Road Dept. on this issue. Chairman Sevenker said he felt things got blown out of proportion at the last meeting and that he had talked to the road employees and sent a letter to them in an effort to reassure them. The handicap restroom issue was addressed earlier.

As the county's representative on the Economic Development Board, Chairman Sevenker reported that a meeting was held with the ethanol people on Friday and it still looks favorable but there has been no commitment yet.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the April 26 meeting and an agenda for the May 10 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