

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 in their Courthouse meeting room in regular session. Chairman Sevenker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.. Roll call was taken with Collins, Cullers, Cetak, Sevenker, Ash, and Baker present. Supervisor Sintek was absent, excused by Chairman Sevenker. Publishing and posting of the meeting notice was verified by the Clerk and the minutes of the April 26 meeting were approved as published. The agenda, including noted additions made after the Board's packets were mailed, was adopted on motion of Cetak, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins. No: none. Absent: Sintek. No public comment was offered.

Road Supt. Leth was absent due to illness so there was no general road report. Leth had left word of his approval of the proposed easement refund. Easement 04-209 for Michael L. Jackson was approved for refund on motion of Ash, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek. The lack of a road report will affect the timing and order of the meeting as it is reflected on the agenda.

Sheriff Ronzzo had not yet arrived so the Treasurer was summoned. Meanwhile the Clerk presented her report of fees collected in April as County Clerk and District Court Clerk. She also reported closing the Employee Fund Account for unreimbursed medical expenses and presented a spreadsheet showing activity in the Account since it was established in 1998. The amount remaining in the account was \$1578.50, \$1500.00 deposited by the county and \$78.50 unclaimed employee funds. This amount was paid to the Treasurer. The account was closed because the new administrator, First Concord Benefits, wants the withheld amounts sent to them directly.

Treasurer Suminski presented the month-end fund balances for April, noting that County General is in good shape following recent tax collections. Changing the Road Fund transfers from monthly to as needed has worked well. A \$50,000 transfer, the first this year, was made to Road in April and another will be needed in June to meet the required match for highway allocation funds. The Hospital Bond Fund has accumulated \$107.33 as back taxes are collected, when it reaches \$6321.25 the Hospital Operating and Maintenance Fund can be repaid the amount borrowed from it to make the final bond payment. Airport account balances were down due to cashing CD for bond payment, however, collections for the Airport General Fund were \$7517.63 and for the Improvement Fund were \$9,033.48. The Airport Bond will be paid off in September, 2006. A total of \$1,990,156 taxes were collected in April, an additional \$640,000 was collected on Monday, May 2.

This year a Management Discussion and Analysis Statement is a required part of the county audit. McDermott & Miller, who perform the county audit, supplied a draft copy of the statement which was mailed to each Board member prior to today's meeting for their review. Following discussion, Collins moved to approve the MDA Statement as supplied by McDermott & Miller, motion seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

Reminder of the BOE Workshop May 12 & 13 in Kearney was noted.

Supervisor Ash requested today's agenda include discussion of flexible hours for the road crew and the pasture trail that leads to the Region 26 tower. Ash indicated that he was against flexible hours for the road crew and it was his understanding the road crew was also against it. Collins said he also thought the road crew was against it as well as Road Supt. Leth. Sevenker said he had met with the Road Dept. and explained that it was not the Board's intention to institute flexible hours against the wishes of the Road Dept.. Attorney Cullers said he will continue to work on updating the County's personnel policy. Access to the Region 26 tower was discussed. The Board felt maintenance of the tower and the trail were the responsibility of Region 26 as they are the entity with legal access to the property. Each member county of Region 26 pays a share of the cost, a county in which a tower is located should not incur additional costs. Ash noted that other Region 26 towers are located near Merna, Sargent and Erickson.

Notice from BCBS of informational meetings this month in Gering, North Platte, Kearney, Norfolk and Lincoln was discussed. Rep. Streeks had indicated it was important to attend one of these meetings. The Clerk is unable to attend due to installation and training for the new central registration voting equipment. Supervisor Cullers noted that she will be in Kearney for the BOE Workshop and will try to attend part of the BCBS meeting.

Receipt of Boiler Inspection Certificates was noted as well as the response from Senator Nelson on Federal funding for the RC&D program and the Summary Report of Current Expenditures.

The Artisimos request to use the Courthouse lawn for Art in the Park on July 2, 2005 was granted on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek. The Clerk is to remind them of the underground sprinkler system.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board of Equalization was convened on motion of Ash, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: Sintek. The Assessor and Clerk were present. Discussion was held regarding the Notice of Hearing from TERC indicating commercial property in Ord City was valued 1.19% over the acceptable range established by the state. TERC's intent is to lower this value by 5.13% unless the county presents evidence that it should not be lowered. Assessor Waits indicated there were no errors in her records and no evidence to offer so she sent notice to waive appearance at the hearing. Chairman Sevenker pointed out that the county received the notice April 26 and the hearing was scheduled for May 5. This is not much time to prepare and, because it falls between Board meetings, the Board is unable to discuss the situation. Waits handed out a sheet regarding Ag Land values and noted that Chad Martinsen will be back in June. At 10:20 a.m. the Board went back into regular session on motion of Collins, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Sintek.

County Attorney Cullers provided a written report of his findings regarding county responsibility for abandoned cemeteries. The county has no mandatory obligation to maintain abandoned cemeteries but may contribute not more than \$500 per year for the upkeep of a totally abandoned cemetery and not more than \$400 per year for a partially abandoned cemetery. Cemeteries established before 1900 are classified as pioneer cemeteries and fall under additional guidelines. Cullers' research indicates that the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery is not abandoned but remains under the control of the appropriate local governing body of the Catholic Church. He read aloud his proposed letter to Margaret Bader in response to her inquiry and the Board approved it. Discussion included making a written inventory of the abandoned cemeteries and who cares for them and try to line up caretakers for those who do not have any. It was suggested that the Board place an ad in the Quiz expressing their appreciation for those who currently care for an abandoned cemetery.

Alan Anderson, Alan Dale Insurance, and Larry Pelan, NIRMA, were present to discuss county liability insurance. Anderson, the agent for EMC who is the current liability insurance carrier for the county, indicated that the company has found errors that may have resulted in a premium overcharge for last year, however, he has not received anything definite on this. He also does not have a firm premium figure for the renewal due May 17, 2005, but he has been authorized to say that it will not be more than \$90,000. Pelan submitted a proposal at the Board's request and stressed that, due to the lack of time, it is only an estimate based on assumption and not a firm bid. His illustrational proposal was \$73,234 and he indicated that he tried to err on the high side. Discussion included: possibility of gaining time by renewing with EMC and canceling after 30 days if NIRMA was determined to be the better offer; NIRMA requires 3 year commitment, however, Pelan said if a county did not pay their premium they would not have coverage, no one is forced to stay in; both NIRMA and EMC pay dividends; we are dealing with taxpayer dollars; county did not advertise for bids. Chairman Sevenker felt that many questions remained unanswered and asked if it would be beneficial to schedule a special meeting. Anderson felt he would receive information from EMC within the next few days that would enable him to give a more firm premium quote and Pelan thought if he could get county payroll figures and workman's comp figures his quote could also be more firm.

A special meeting was set for Monday, May 16, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., at which time the final premium quotes will be received from EMC and NIRMA and the Board will chose a liability insurance carrier.

Larry Cihal of Siemens was present to explain the services they offer. He said the county has already partnered with Siemens since they went through the RFP process several years ago. Before Siemens will do anything concrete, the county needs to sign a letter of intent with Siemens or agree to pay for services. He indicated that they have done similar projects with the St. Paul Courthouse, Saline County and Grand Island Schools. They can meet with the Building and Grounds Committee and formulate a priority list, plan of action and funding options. Projects can be completed in phases. Discussion included funding this type of project through bonds and putting it to a vote of the people. Heidi Phillips of CNEDD and Glen Gatz of USDA are to be at the next Board meeting to discuss grant opportunities, which would be a possibility to help fund such projects. Cihal will let us know if he or Dave Raymond would be able to come to the next meeting.

Ron Bouska, Ag Inspection Specialist, presented the annual Weed Program Evaluation. Weed Supt. Darrell Kaminski was present. Bouska's written report rated the program on survey results, followup, reports and continuing education. Bouska said he felt Kaminski has a good program going and progress is being made. Kaminski said he also felt things were going well.

Sheriff Ronzzo did not appear, so his written fee and activity reports were reviewed.

The cemetery issue was again discussed. The Board authorized Chairman Sevenker to approve having someone mow a specific cemetery and put in a claim to the county. Sevenker asked Collins to write down his list of cemeteries and who is currently caring for them.

Attorney Cullers reported that letters were sent to Henry Gregorski and Jim Duda regarding fencing of county road right of way. Discussion was held regarding this issue.

Cullers asked that the Board go into executive session for discussion of conflict of interest cases. Collins moved to go into executive session at 12:35 p.m., seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cetak, Baker, Cullers, Ash. No: none. Absent: Sintek. At 12:45 p.m. the Board came out of executive session on motion of Cetak, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins. No: none. Absent: Sintek. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Supervisor Baker offered a suggestion for an ad of appreciation to those persons who are mowing abandoned cemeteries and the Board approved it for publication.

Supervisor Cullers presented information regarding USDA grants. This will be discussed further at the next meeting when Heidi Phillips of CNEDD and Bill Gatz of USDA will be in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, May 31, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the May 10 meeting and an agenda for the May 31 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 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 notice of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Jenette G. Lindsey, County Clerk