

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order in their Courthouse meeting room at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2005. Roll call was taken with Cullers, Sevenker, Sintek, Ash, Baker, Cetak, and Collins present. Notice of meeting was verified by the Clerk and the minutes of the June 28 meeting were approved as published. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Road Supt. Leth reported: state had 20 traffic counters out, this gives ADT for county; NIRMA inspected roads and will have to replace damaged signs; working on Fort Hartsuff Road this week, next Sargent Road, then project C88230 on Y and C88229A on Y going east; have quit spraying to fix Memorial Day damage; Welniak bridge repaired; blinking lights put up Monday for Comstock Festival; federal highway bill set at 186.5 million looks to be approved; standing committee on federal aid met in Lincoln on June 30, discussion of bridge inspection requirements and requirements for signage on washouts. Discussion of Frontier easement request too late to be on agenda, Sevenker reports receiving call from Frontier indicating approval needed immediately due to 911 service. Leth indicates REA will need to bring power over and will need their own easement, he has no problem with the easement. Board agrees that, if necessary, Frontier could begin the project and directs the Clerk to put the easement on the July 26 agenda for formal approval. Sevenker noted trees that need trimming by Elyria Catholic parsonage.

Sheriff Ronzzo's fee and activity reports for May and June were reviewed, he is in District Court.

Treasurer Suminski gave the Month-end Fund Report, noting the \$50,000 transfer to Road and the \$79,085.26 Inheritance Tax collection in June bringing the total Inheritance Tax funds to \$1,007,752.32. She also provided a detailed report of collections which will be condensed for publication. Her report included projected state aid for 2005-2006 with a comparison of state aid from previous years showing less aid each year. The miscellaneous receipt folder was available for Board review.

While awaiting the 10:00 a.m. start for Board of Equalization, the following items were heard. Lodging Tax Receipts for April were presented, noting the withholding of the collected amount by the state. A letter from Region 26 providing an inventory of NEMA grant fund purchases for entities in the county was reviewed, as well as information that the Dept. of Homeland Security may conduct visual audits of the purchased items. In addition, a notice from NEMA requesting certification of the County's compliance with A-133 requirements was reviewed. Clerk Lindsey noted that she had contacted Alma Beland, Region 26 Director, and unless the County received \$500,000 or more in federal funds we are not subject to the requirements. According to Beland, Region 26 records indicate we are well under that amount and the County has received no information from any County Office indicating otherwise. Lindsey indicated that she would return the form marked to show that less than \$500,000 in federal grant funds were received by the County. Discussion was held regarding the collection of rent from Agland Electric and Cornerstone. The leases set the rent at \$1.00 per acre per year. The Board directed the Clerk to consult the County Attorney and follow his recommendation. The Board approved selling the books from the School Supt. Office as part of the Junk Jaunt if there is time to advertise and prepare for it. In response to the query from Nemaha County, the Board elected to take no action regarding the county's General Assistance agreement with HHS. Needs Assessment Survey questions were discussed as well as the use of an opening statement to provide information to the public such as noting the fact that the Courthouse is on the National Historical Register.

Supervisors Collins and Baker were excused from the meeting to attend a funeral.

At 9:55 a.m. the Board of Equalization was convened on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker. Appraiser Larry Rexroth, Assessor Pam Arnold and Clerk Jenette Lindsey were present. Following is a report of each protest heard and action taken.

Protest #5, part NE4 10-18-13, protest #6, part W2SW4 11-18-13, protest #7, part N2NW4 14-18-13, Gary E. Ackles. Ackles testified that his property is worth less since it is in small tracts and asked how much discretion the Board had to adjust land values. Written testimony cited loss of land due to Hwy 11 improvement project. Board members indicated the state sets land value according to soil type and use. Assessor indicated

land use correction was made on protest #6 based on FSA certification, otherwise the records were correct. She also noted that property lost to Hwy project will not be taxed. On Protest #5, Ash moved to approve Assessor recommendation of no cause for change, since records are correct, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cullers, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker. On Protest #6, Sintek moved to approve the correction of 2 acres from dry to grass based on FSA certification for a revised value of \$24,050, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker. On Protest #7, Ash moved to approve Assessor recommendation of no cause for change, since records are correct, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cullers, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Protest #12, W 300 acres of W2 32-17-13, Joseph M. & Loretta Hickman. Joe Hickman testified that many sales are not based on true value of property, his pasture is very rough, some parts not accessible, some wasteland, value of vacant buildings was raised. Assessor testified that land use is correct, house valued at flat \$1500, granary at \$1685, chicken house and shed at \$75 each. Cetak moved that there is no basis for change on land value, but directed the Assessor to inspect buildings for possible adjustment, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Cullers, Ash. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Protest #8, L8 B24 Ord Original, Lloyd V. Griffith. No one appeared to testify, written testimony indicated that he would sell the property for \$35,000. Assessor inspected property and found interior original with no improvements, lowered condition to fair but had to change year built from 1940 to 1951 so value was only lowered from \$41,520 to \$39,545. Cetak moved to approve Assessor recommendation based on inspection and year built for total property value of \$41,785, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Cullers, Ash. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Protest #11, tract NE4NW4 26-17-16 inside corp. Arcadia, Lola Staab. No one present to testify, written testimony indicates more than 1/2 of property is in the river, bought from village for \$50. Supervisor Ash is familiar with property and confirms owners testimony also notes that land cannot be built on and that County lowered neighboring property last year. Assessor recommends lowering value by half since half is under water. Ash disagrees, says property is not usable. Cetak moved to approve Assessor recommendation, but motion dies for lack of a second. Ash moves to approve the \$100 value requested by owner for 2005 and direct Assessor to review similar properties along the river corridor to equalize values for next year, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cullers, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Protest #13, John D. Jr. & Joanne E. Prien, NE4 1-17-14. No one present to testify, written testimony indicates part of field not farmable due to inadequate drainage, slough across property and streambed along southern edge, patches of alkali soil. Assessor testified that land use was updated based on certification from FSA which raised the value from the protested \$143,330 to \$151,470. Sintek moved to approve the corrected valuation of \$151,470 based on the FSA certification, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Protest #14, part NW4 25-17-16, Dennis Greenland. No one appeared to testify, written testimony indicates changed from cropland to grass. Assessor advises land use update based on FSA certification lowered valuation from \$9375 to \$6000. Cetak moved to approve updated value based on FSA certification, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Cullers, Ash. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Protest #26, part SE4 & S2S2NE4 36-18-14, Protest #27 N2NE4, N2S2NE4 36-18-14, Roger Hornickel, tabled from July 11 hearing for Assessor to review number of acres assessed against those shown by FSA. Assessor indicates the number of acres match. Sintek moved, seconded by Cetak, to approve assessed valuation of property on Protests #26 & 27 based on FSA certification. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Tax List Correction for Danny & Mary Jo Scot for a mobile home being moved to Custer County was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cullers, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

At 11:05 a.m., the Board moved back into regular session on motion of Cetak, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Cullers, Ash. No: none. Absent: Collins, Baker.

Glen Gatz, of USDA Rural Development, spoke to the Board regarding grant and loan opportunities through USDA for Courthouse repair and renovation projects. He also presented handouts outlining some of these opportunities. USDA is a lender of last resort and requires that an applicant be turned down by an outside bonding agency before they will look at providing funds. He noted the need to stay within levy limits, offered to help architect with program guidelines and is willing to return to a meeting anytime.

Sheriff Ronzzo appeared to discuss his report, noting that he is considering raising rates from \$45.00 to \$50.00 per day and is transporting prisoners for Howard County until they get new deputies.

The NIRMA billing and real property appraisal was reviewed and the issue of a blanket bond covering County Officials rather than individual bonds was discussed. County Attorney Cullers was asked to research this and to write a letter to EMC regarding the refund of a portion of the premium due to an error.

The following items were reviewed: annual billing notices from Region 26, Nebr. State Probation and Region III and the Loup Basin RC&D request for contacts to help develop a searchable business directory.

Discussion was held regarding appointment of a County Rep to the LBRC & D Committee since Chairman Sevenker is unable to attend the Tuesday night meetings. The Board felt that the Chairman had the authority to appoint someone, so Sevenker appointed Dale Melia to represent the County on this Committee.

Receipt of the City of Ord Notice of Public Hearing to consider declaration of blighted and substandard area was noted.

County Attorney Cullers reported that after his conversation with Ron Gottula, Dept. of Revenue, who said no interest would be collected on the Visitor's Promotion funds the County must pay back, he talked to Tom Gillespie, legal counsel for the Dept. of Revenue, who indicated that if the Dept. made it an assessment, interest could be collected. Gillespie indicated that this is the first time such a large amount has had to be returned. Discussion was held regarding paying it back in a lump sum. Cullers was asked to write a letter requesting the Dept. of Revenue's position on this matter in writing.

Mail folder items available for review included: Chamber Newsletter, Economic Development Quarterly Review, Rural News Bits, NIRMA/AON publication.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, July 28, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the July 12 meeting and an agenda for the July 28 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 notification of the time and place of said meeting and subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Jenette G. Lindsey, County Clerk