

## Valley County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Baker, Collins, Sevenker, Ash, Cetak, Cullers and Sintek present and notice of meeting was verified. Clerk Lindsey noted the need for a correction to the minutes of the August 9, 2005 meeting to include the Board's approval of the levy allocation request of Twin Loups Reclamation for \$31,392. Collins moved to approve the August 8, 2005 special budget meeting minutes and the August 9, 2005 regular meeting minutes to include the correction noted above, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Stefan Baker had signed up for Public Comment and told the Board that the Hospital was no longer making itemized expense information available to the public and that this was a violation of the freedom of information act. Baker indicated that if this was not corrected, he would contact the Attorney General. Chairman Sevenker asked Hospital Admin. Neelam Bhardwaj, present for the monthly Hospital Report, if she would respond. Bhardwaj explained that the report of itemized expenses was too long and complicated to be useful and was costly and time consuming to prepare so it was decided to discontinue it. However, the check register is available for inspection and copying upon request and their attorneys say this meets statutory requirements. Baker said he was satisfied as long as the check register is made available.

Bhardwaj then went over the printed Hospital Financial Report. She noted that our Home Health Care is the largest in the area, the search for an additional physician continues and a policy change is being considered for earlier transfer of accounts receivables to a collection agency. The employee opinion survey is completed with 76% participation and over 85% saying they are proud to work for VCHS and would bring their family members there for treatment. The survey also addressed communication, raises and personal time off and will be repeated next year to be sure that issues get resolved. A clinic location has been found in Loup City next to the Sherman County Bank, sites continue to be sought in Arcadia and Sargent. Three additional private rooms are ready for use in the Nursing Home. The new cat scan equipment is best in the area, over 100 cat scans performed in July. Moving of offices to Zlomke building is completed. To provide easier access to health care for the working public, OFHC, radiology and lab are open later and they are trying to set up an after hours or weekend schedule for Burwell too. Overtime is not required as staff works in shifts.

Road Dept. Secretary, Sandy Simpson, reported on Road claims and balances for August. Accounts payable totaled \$85,097.93 with the largest expenses for paint, asphalt, fuel, gravel and a 1991 Mack Truck. Road Supt. Leth presented a picture of the truck and said it was purchased in Chambers for \$25,000 and has 800,000 miles on it.

Easements 05-224, electric wiring for Ronald C. Jensen and 05-225, a water line for Gene Dorsey, were approved by Leth and a motion to approve both easements was made by Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. JEO letter regarding locating the NW section corner of section 12, township 19 North, range 14 West was discussed.

Leth noted the NDR Surface Transportation Program meeting schedule but said he did not plan to attend. He inspected the Region 26 tower road and did not see a problem with it. NIRMA paid the accident claim involving a County Road Dept. vehicle and the truck involved has been sold for \$19,000. The state's deficient bridge list includes 2 Valley County bridges that are on the County's 1 & 6 year plan, a truss bridge south of Boyce's and one in the Arcadia area. He has submitted the bridge report for this year. The County has 99 bridges and he inspects half of them each year. Discussion was held regarding water in the Fairplay School area following a 3 inch and 4 inch rain in the same week. Board felt that this is not likely to happen again for a long time so

advised Leth to take no action at this time. They are working on the last of 3 projects on Sargent Road . Discussed request for access on dirt road north of Meeses in Noble Township. Ash and Collins will inspect and report back.

Board of Equalization was convened at 10:20 a.m. on motion of Sintek, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. Assessor and Clerk were present. A Tax List Correction for Elma M. Hrebec Trust, due to an error in figuring the value of a detached garage, resulted in a tax reduction of \$28.56 and was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. A Tax List Correction for Charlene Lola, due to the State's rejection of the homestead exemption application based on income, resulted in an additional \$409.48 tax due and was approved on motion of Cullers, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. Assessor Arnold reported that she is running her ad for an additional week, that she has received 9 applications and will begin interviewing next week. The Board moved back into regular session on motion of Ash, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

The Clerk's District Court fee report was presented as well as the Sheriff's fees and activity report. No additional budget discussion was necessary.

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

Lodging Tax collections continue to be held by the Dept. of Revenue and applied to the amount due Custer County. This month's collection was \$610.87 with \$18.33 going to Admin. fees, leaving \$592.54. The Lodging Tax Committee spent \$2750.00.

NACO's request for information regarding the County's General Assistance program was discussed. The Board was not aware of any guidelines other than those in the General Assistance agreement with Health and Human Services.

Proposed revisions to the Central District County Officials Assoc. By-laws were noted.

Chairman Sevenker signed the statement required by auditors McDermott & Miller stating that the County has provided all information necessary to the audit. Each office is required to sign this statement. McDermott & Miller also presented a letter of agreement for audit services for an additional 3 years. Following discussion, the Board instructed the Clerk to advertise for bids.

VCED Board's request for use of the Courthouse steps at noon on August 31 for a picture of those involved in the Kellogg Foundation grant awards was approved on motion of Baker, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The following items were noted and discussed: NACO Conference registration deadline of Sept. 16, the Sept. 8 meeting of the Central Nebr. Economic Development District and the FEMA floodplains mapping project meeting on Sept. 21.

Diane Fowler, Health Insurance Liaison with BCBS and NACO appeared to get Board members concerns with regard to health insurance. Following discussion, she indicated four areas of concern expressed by the Board: the amount of money carried in the trust fund, premium raises preventing adequate salary raises, premium dollars are so high that even a low percentage raise is high dollar amount, would like to see a higher deductible offered with a significant drop in premium. Fowler advised the Board to invite BCBS Representative Gary Streeks to speak to them regarding the new health savings plan if they are interested in it.

The County Office Inventories, having been signed by the Board members, were approved on motion of Sintek, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

County Attorney Cullers reported discussing the EMC Insurance premium refund with Alan Anderson, who presented information setting the refund amount at \$3081. The Board felt there should be more research into this issue and instructed the Clerk to include it on the next agenda.

Attorney Cullers presented a copy of TERC's Findings and Orders regarding the Keown's appeal of their 2004 property valuation appeal. The County BOE and the Keown's have agreed to a 2004 valuation of \$166,500, 2005 as assessed and to look at the property again in 2006.

Cullers further reported NIRMA has indicated that the pending lawsuit does not fall within the coverage limits.

Chairman Sevenker received the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement for Child Support Enforcement Services with the Nebr. Dept. of Health and Human Services which requires the signature of both the Chairman and County Attorney. Cullers indicated that it appeared to be substantially the same as the one signed in 2003 and both he and the Chairman signed it.

At Cullers request, it was moved by Cetak, seconded by Sintek to go into executive session at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the Schauer v Ash, et al lawsuit. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. At 11:45 the Board moved out of executive session on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Under Committee Reports, Collins reported that Richard Klimek had indicated that a new siren is to be placed on the Courthouse and the condition of the roof was in question. He noted that Custodian Rolland Cronk had agreed to remain until the meeting was over to accompany the Board members on an inspection of the Courthouse roof.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m., to reconvene on Monday, September 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the August 30 meeting and an agenda for the Sept. 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