

## 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, December 13, 2005 in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Baker, Collins, Sevenker, Sintek, Cullers, Cetak and Ash present. Notice of meeting was verified and the minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. The agenda was adopted on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. There was no public comment.

Road Supt. Leth recommended approval of refunding Easement 04-218, Don Petska. Said refund was approved on motion of Cetak, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Leth submitted a written report on the petition to abandon County Road No. 40 filed by Randall Adamek. Leth indicated he found no problem with abandoning this road. Baker moved to adopt Resolution 05-26 setting the Public Hearing on the abandonment of Road No. 40 at 9:15 a.m. on January 10, 2006, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Baker, Ash, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak.

The 2005 State Highway Needs Assessment booklet is available for review.

Leth reported he is required to attend 2 bridge inspection training sessions at a cost of over \$500 each plus motel and food costs. He noted that he had not budgeted for this and asked that it be taken from the Inheritance Tax Fund. Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Ash, to approve the entire expense for the 2 courses, including food and lodging, be paid from the Inheritance Tax Fund. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

GreenIron has repaired both the 1996 JD patrol and the new JD patrol during the recent snow storm and gave good service. Report included: numerous flat tires due to use of chains, need to replace some chains, used dozer couple of times, putting wings on now, have used 2 truck loads salt with 1/2 bin left. Leth was contacted by Region 26 regarding disaster area designation. Region 26 is requesting County sign letter declaring state of emergency due to recent snowstorm in order to qualify for state funds. Ash moved, seconded by Baker, to authorize Chairman Sevenker to sign the letter as requested by Region 26. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Have received 5' irrigation pipe extension for ethanol plant access road and hopes to get it in this winter. Chairman Sevenker again expressed the Board's appreciation to Leth and his crew for their efforts during the recent snowstorm.

Planning & Zoning Admin., Nancy Glaubke, reported that terms were up for three of the Planning Commission members. Lynn Griffith and Marv Schiedeler are willing to continue but Jerry Neeman wishes to be replaced. Neeman recommended Craig Critel as a replacement. Collins moved to reappoint Griffith and Schiedeler to another 3 year term on the Planning Commission, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Glaubke will talk to Critel and the Board can call her with additional names to fill the third vacancy. She will present additional names for the third vacancy at another meeting.

Glaubke asked the Board to approve the contract with consultant Orville Stahr which stipulates maximum fees will not exceed \$3000. County Attorney Cullers has approved the contract. The contract for professional services of Orville Stahr was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The Treasurer and Clerk reports were delayed to allow James Moreau of Olsson Associates to be heard regarding the plan for the ethanol plant access road and dates for bid letting on the project. Moreau said there have been some minor modifications since the plan was presented to the County. He also presented a preliminary estimate of the cost of the project, including \$41,000 for the rail crossing improvements which is not included in the bid. The plan was approved and the preliminary estimates accepted on motion of Cetak, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. Discussion was held on dates for advertising and

opening bids. Olssons will advertise, conduct the bid opening, review the bids and present their recommendation to the Board. The bid opening will be public and held at the Courthouse. Ash moved to set the bid advertisement dates as December 21, 28, January 4, 11, the public bid opening at 1:00 p.m. on January 18, official Board approval at their January 31 meeting and a completion date for the project of September 15, 2006. The motion was seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk was directed to send a letter to the City Council and Mayor informing them of the above dates and inviting them to the public bid opening and the January 31 Board meeting.

The latest Olsson Assoc. billing statement was reviewed by Road Supt. Leth and submitted to the City for payment.

At this time Chairman Sevenker recognized VSO Charles Cox and Veteran's Service Committee Chairman Everett Lech. Cox told the Board he plans to resign effective January 1, 2006 and noted that he has held the office for 15 years. Lech commended Cox for the good work he has done and recommended Walt Smith to fill the position. Lech noted there have been complaints regarding the number of hours the office is open and said that Smith would work out of his insurance office. Smith has agreed to work for the same budgeted amount Cox does, which Cox estimated to be \$7000 per year for his salary and office supplies. Smith will make no additional charge for the use of his office or equipment. Ash moved to appoint Walt Smith as the Valley County VSO, then amended his motion to include the acceptance of the resignation of Charles Cox from the Valley County VSO position effective December 31, 2005 and the appointment of Walt Smith to the Valley County VSO position effective January 1, 2005. Motion seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Cox will help with the transition. The record books will be transferred to the County Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Ash left the meeting at 10:25 a.m. for a doctor's appointment.

The Ord Area Chamber of Commerce Invoice for membership dues of \$50.00 plus an optiona1 \$5.00 was discussed. Bethanne Kunz noted that membership is voluntary. Following discussion, Cullers moved to join at the \$50.00 level, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Baker. No: none. Absent: Ash.

The Clerk's November Fee report was noted.

Treasurer Janet Suminski reported on November collections. Fines totaling \$21,949.83 were paid to the schools as required by statute. Total receipts for the month were \$26,450.41. Second half taxes are beginning to come in now. Inheritance Tax Fund is currently \$1,052,187.86.

County Attorney Cullers gave his report at this time as he had to leave for court in Garfield County. The County Officials met yesterday to discuss salaries. NACO recommends a base of \$33,300 with an additional 20% for a Sheriff who also serves as Jail Admin.. Cullers noted that in order to attract qualified workers, it is important that salaries remain competitive. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor asked that the same raises be given for the next term as were given for the current one, \$1500 for the first year and \$1000 for each of the remaining three years. This schedule worked well to keep Valley County salaries in line with NACO recommendations for the upcoming term. Although not an elected position, Cullers noted the importance of the Road Supt. and the need to keep the pay competitive in the event Leth retires and a replacement is needed. He also noted that the City Police Chief receives more than \$40,000 compared with the County Sheriff who will be at \$32,500 for 2006. Cullers then informed the Board that he will not address the salary for County Attorney since he does not intend to file for reelection. He said he has enjoyed working with the Board and other County Officials, but the position takes more time than he can afford to give, it has affected his client base and that of his partners. If no one files for the office, he would be willing to negotiate a contract for the position. The Supervisors current annual salary of \$4800 is considerably lower than the NACO recommendation of 50% of the base salary recommendation and Cullers encouraged the Board to increase it in order to continue to attract qualified persons.

Attorney Cullers reported receipt of an order for dismissal of the second Shauer lawsuit against the County. The first one is still active. He also advised that the Board wait to hear from NIRMA before taking action on the Ammerman Torte Claim.

Following discussion of weather related closing of the Courthouse, it was moved by Baker, seconded by Cetak that the Board Chairman get information from the Sheriff and Road Supt. on the advisability of closing the Courthouse, call the Clerk with his decision and the Clerk will inform the other Officials. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Ash.

Due to Court duties, Sheriff Ronzso was unable to be present for the salary discussion. He arrived at this time and advised the Board that he would accept NACO's salary recommendation. He confirmed that the Ord Police Chief gets \$45,000 and that he took a pay cut when he left the Ord Police Dept. to be Valley County Sheriff.

The Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor Cullers will meet after the meeting to choose a color for the material to be used for the partition and door of the new handicap accessible restroom stalls.

Custodian Rolland Cronk was present for discussion of Courthouse renovation and financing. Chairman Sevenker is to contact Ron Stauffer of Beckenhauer Construction, Inc. to request that he come to the January 10 meeting. Supervisor Cullers is to contact LVRPP to get on their meeting agenda on December 19 to explore the grant option. Cullers will contact Sevenker and Baker to confirm the date and time of the meeting and if possible, all three will attend.

Supervisor Baker left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

The revision of the farm lease was discussed. Attorney Cullers had presented a draft with an updated legal description. Chairman Sevenker is to talk to Attorney Cullers regarding possibly restricting the number of cattle allowed and the need to separate the crop land from the pasture land. The Clerk is to include the farm lease on the next meeting agenda.

Also discussed were: the NACO insurance coverage update concerning a Health Savings Account, EMC Insurance Co. dividend of \$6857, mileage rate reduction to 44.5 cents effective January 1, 2006, County Board Workshop in Kearney February 8 - 10, 2006, discount program offered by fire alarm inspection company, Protex Central, Inc.. Clerk is to put County Board Workshop on next agenda. Board agreed the Protex Central discount is not sufficient to warrant the early payment.

Mail Folder items available for review: Ord Area Chamber Newsletter, Rural News Bits, NIRMA Publication, Nebr. Board of Engineers Newsletter, NACO T. Loewenstein, Nebr. Crime Commission Grant Information.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, December 27, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the December 13 meeting and an agenda for the December 27 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