

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on December 27, 2005 in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Ash, Baker, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Sevenker, and Sintek present.. Notice of meeting was verified and the minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. Collins moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. There was no public comment.

Road Supt. Leth presented the written report of Road Dept. claims and balances for December, noting that the Road budget is in good shape overall. When questioned, Leth explained that he takes bids for oil and that Stern Oil from South Dakota was the most reasonable. He said they supply many NE counties. Leth noted that Hooker Brothers has offered the County free dirt and he would like to have it piled on the closed portion of Road No. 139, which the Board approved closing on July 26, 2005. He asked the Board if it was okay for him to physically close the road at this time and they approved. Leth reported the purchase of Michelin tires at \$950 each. He noted that each tire had 7104 hours on it and there has been only 8 flats in 21 years of use. Buffalo County uses Continental tires at \$750.95 but only gets 1/3 the wear of Michelin. He feels the extra expense is worth it. The used ones will go on the front of the machines. County mix strip will take 4.85 acres of the County Farm on the Mortensen. There is no easement for the lateral as it was not installed by the irrigation district but by the farmer. Mix strip will be built this summer. Attorney Cullers suggested Leth put up stakes to mark the strip so that bidders will know what is available for their use.

The road from North Loup Village past the ball field to Highway 22 has been maintained by the County but is not in the County Road records. Attorney Cullers suggested the County take steps to include it. North Loup Village needs to have measurements in order to proceed with the installation of the hike/bike trail. Cullers will research the correct procedure but feels each adjacent landowner will need to be asked to sign off and a public hearing held to officially declare it a County road. On motion of Ash, seconded by Baker, Attorney Cullers was authorized to proceed with the establishment of the necessary easement of the existing County road from the Village limits to Highway 22 in Section 35, Township 18, Range 13, in Valley County, Nebraska. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Leth reported the purchase of a new pickup, a 2002 GMC 3/4 ton with 68,000 miles. The old one will be sold. Signage for the ethanol plant road closing was discussed. Leth said the cost for signs, barricades and posts would be about \$584.

Hospital CEO, Neelam Bhardwaj, presented the monthly Hospital report. She noted the financial portion of the written report indicates operating income is up due to increased census in the hospital, clinic and Home Health and efforts toward better management of expenses. Discussion was held regarding the new facilities plan. The Hospital Board has approved phase A of the plan and the financing of 8.2 million dollars. Schematic drawings are being done and will allow development of firmer cost numbers. Financing should be in place by April or May and begin construction. Prochaska & Assoc. has been hired to help determine whether Hospital finances are sufficient for the project. The County Board was invited to a meeting at which these findings were presented. A poster illustrating the plan will be provided to the County Board which will be available for the public to look at, but is not to leave the Courthouse. Three Community Forums will be held on January 16 & 17, at sites outside the Hospital, to inform the public of the plan and a media event is planned for January 28. Funding is to be by a 25 year loan. In answer to concerns regarding changes in medicare and medicaid reimbursement, Bhardwaj pointed out that the last time changes were made, the government allowed 10 years for institutions to get ready for them and that only 2% of healthcare funds go to critical access. She also noted the Hospital Board has approved replacement of their computer server immediately at a cost of approximately \$40,000. Without the replacement, they would have to go to manual operation by mid-January as the old one is outdated and at capacity.

At 10:15 a.m., the Board of Equalization was convened on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor and Clerk were present.

Assessor Pam Arnold presented a list of 48 properties that had to be corrected due to the inadvertent omission of the bond tax for the Loup Basin tax districts. Tax corrections numbered 3637 to 3684 to include the bond tax for the Loup Basin tax districts were approved on motion of Cullers, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. The list of affected properties will be attached to the minutes in the permanent record which is available for public inspection. Mitch Vodehnal submitted a written request for a correction to his personal property tax statement to show 50% ownership to his father, who is taxed in Garfield County, and 50% to himself. The correction was approved on motion of Collins, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Discussion was held regarding the Sales File Process information received from the Dept. of Property Assessment & Taxation. Arnold said that agland is low but commercial and residential look good. Sintek and Collins asked for copies of the ag sales roster.

The Board moved back into regular session at 10:25 a.m. on motion of Sintek, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

Custodian Rolland Cronk informed the Board that he is to have knee surgery on January 20 and expects a 4 to 6 week recovery period. His wife will do the inside work in his absence and Danny Vanek is to handle snow removal. Cronk noted his disappointment that the lower level restroom construction was not completed. He said there had been a lot of dust to clean up and that the dividers, handrails, doors and some wall patching remained. He also expressed concern for the possible safety hazard caused by the large marble pieces which were removed to provide handicap accessible stalls and are now leaning against the wall in the restrooms. Siemens is to move them to the Courthouse basement for possible later use by the County and he would like them to do it soon. The heating system for the third floor District Courtroom is working well.

The written report of the Sheriff's November Fees and Activities was acknowledged as well as the receipt of IV-D Reimbursement of \$1819.44 for the Clerk and \$3363.06 for the County Attorney..

Bethanne Kunz was present for discussion of the Lodging Tax/Chamber Management Agreement and presented a written proposal from the Chamber for 2006. The proposal notes the current Lodging Tax Committee by-laws require a quorum of 3 of the 5 members and only 1 member has attended the last 2 meetings resulting in a lot of wasted time. The Chamber proposes the by-laws be changed to meet quarterly. They also suggest removing the tourism phone line and transferring that number to the second line for a savings of \$500 per year. The Chamber is asking for \$4500 for 2006. The written proposal also lists 2006 goals including: develop travel guide with Garfield County, apply for technology intern for tourism website, stock brochure racks in County and establish racks along interstate, attend tourism conferences, continue ad in NE Life Magazine, develop guidelines for Improvement Fund, TARGET Assessment by Division of Travel & Tourism, hospitality training for tourism industry, renovate or replace existing brochure racks as needed and provide additional racks. Following discussion, it was determined that Sevenker, Cetak and Cullers will try to attend the next Tourism Committee meeting scheduled for Jan. 9. Clerk and Bethanne will try to figure a projection for tax receipts in 2006. The issue will be discussed again at the January 10 Supervisors meeting.

Kunz presented the County with a gold shovel from the Val-E Ethanol Plant groundbreaking.

Siemens Rep, Ron Paul, said the restroom partitions have been ordered and work should be completed in mid January. He also noted that local window bids had been solicited but not yet received and asked if the Board had decided how they were going to proceed. Custodian Cronk noted his concerns. Paul will have someone here to move the marble slabs right away and apologized for the delay noting that the partition samples should have been presented earlier.

Renovation financing was discussed. Supervisors Cullers and Sevenker attended the last REA Board meeting and presented the USDA Grant option to them. A utility company can apply for a USDA Grant of \$300,000 to be used as a no interest loan for certain projects. The utility must pay

20% of the grant which would be repaid by the borrower as part of the loan amount. Once the money is repaid it becomes a revolving loan to be used by others. The REA Board has not made a decision yet. Cullers noted that the telephone company could also sponsor this grant.

Attorney Cullers gave his report at this time so he could leave for court in Greeley County. Discussion was held regarding the legal description of the Mortensen Farm. Ash moved to advertise 76.25 irrigated acres for the Mortensen farm lease, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Further discussion included the number of animals allowed to pasture on each farm site and irrigation water to be paid by lessee for 95.5 acres. It was decided that the number of animals would be negotiated at the time of bidding and the lessee should be informed of the requirement to pay for water for 95.5 acres. Attorney Cullers will get pasture acres from FSA. Bidding for the farm leases is set for January 31, 2005.

At Cullers' request, the Board went into executive session at 12:00 noon for discussion of the Schauer lawsuits on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. At 12:10 p.m. the Board came out of executive session on motion of Collins, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Attorney Cullers left the meeting.

Resolution 05-27 authorizing the County Treasurer to invest surplus county funds was adopted on motion of Ash, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Supervisors Cetak, Cullers and Sevenker volunteered to attend the Downtown Revitalization Meeting on January 18th and report back to the Board.

County property tax statements were reviewed. The Clerk was directed to bill Cornerstone and Agland for their share of the property tax.

Chairman Sevenker presented a letter from the Greeley County Commissioners giving notice of their withdrawal from the Loup Basin Public Health Dept. effective June 30, 2006.

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

County Officials salaries will be set at the next meeting.

County Board Workshop in Kearney on February 8 -10 was noted as was the rescheduling of County Government Day to January 10.

Mail Folder items available for review: Christmas cards from Berggren Architects, Olsson Assoc., Grant Writing Workshop, CDBG s006 Application Guideline Workshops, Mid-Continental Restoration Co. flyer, Nebr. Economic Trends, T2 Nebr. Interchange, NACo T. Loewenstein emails (3).

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. to reconvene on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the December 27 meeting and an agenda for the January 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 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