

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 in their Courthouse meeting room. Chairman Sevenker noted the delay was due to his participation in County Government Day. Roll call was taken with Ash, Baker, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Sevenker and Sintek present and notice of meeting was verified. The Clerk reported a correction to the December 13, 2005 minutes changing the effective date of the appointment of Walt Smith as the new VSO from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006. She also noted that the Resolution number for investing county funds should have been 05-27 not 05-26 as noted at the meeting. Cetak moved to correct the December 13, 2005 minutes as noted above and to approve the December 27, 2005 minutes as published, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none. The agenda was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman was held. Collins moved that they stay the same. Ash seconded the motion and moved that nominations cease, however, he withdrew his motion to allow discussion of the first motion. The motion to keep Sevenker as Chairman and Collins as Vice-Chairman carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none. Chairman Sevenker said the Chairman's salary would be discussed later with the Officials' salaries.

The Chairman recognized Mabel Dobrovsky who had signed up for public comment with a topic of Valley County Hospital. Dobrovsky said she represented concerned taxpayers. Her concerns regarding the proposed Hospital expansion project included: what is the collateral, if payments become delinquent what recourse is available for the City and County, is critical access income secure enough to borrow money on, is there a guarantee that federal access won't change, what is the interest rate and range of payment. Sevenker noted that informational meetings are scheduled for the 16th and 17th of January and hoped that anyone with questions would attend. He thanked Dobrovsky for her comments noting that the purpose of the public comment section was to allow the public to express their views. He said that questions on the Hospital project should be addressed to the Hospital Board.

At 9:25 a.m. the Public Hearing was opened on closing County Road Number 40 as requested by Randall A. Adamek. Said road is described as beginning at the NW corner of the NW 1/4 Section 14, T19N, R13W of the 6th P.M., all in Valley County, thence southerly app. 110 rods (1,815') on Road No. 40, Bk. 5, P. 267 to a point where said road begins meandering to south and east. Adam Zebert was present and testified that he did not object to the closing. Road Supt. Leth affirmed his approval as stated in his report. Following discussion, Resolution 06-01 was adopted on motion of Ash, seconded by Cetak, closing County Road Number 40 as requested. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Road Supt. Leth reported: received final set of plans for road paving at the ethanol plant site, will need to have surveyor tie out and remonument one corner for the paving project, County has dirt available and will sell for 50¢ a yard, should have to attend only the fractured critical bridge course but not the bridge inspection course as reported earlier, County Attorney Cullers has advised that changes in CDL requirements should not require a change in the County Personnel Policy, shop gas bill was \$63.59 for December and \$260.91 for January. Chairman Sevenker expressed the Board's appreciation for the work of the Road Dept.

Emergency Manager, Ryan Simpson, reported: new siren in place on Courthouse, operational but not completed; sirens and pagers can now be operated from Region 26, the Sheriff's Office or hand held radios; past grants are being audited by Federal Gov.; working with Hospital on becoming trauma center. Simpson presented Ag Disease Response Plan for the Board to consider, make recommendations and adopt at the next meeting. A NIMS (National Incident Management System) training matrix was also presented. Certain local officials are required to take the NIMS training in order to be eligible for future grants. The training can be taken online, however, Simpson is working on setting up a local training session in February.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board of Equalization was convened on motion of Cullers, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor, Treasurer, and Clerk were present.

Assessor Arnold presented, for the Chairman's signature, the official form for the Mitch Vodehnal Tax Correction approved at the last meeting, . She also noted that she and her staff are entering the new values for outbuildings and houses in Noble, Eureka, Elyria and Ord townships based on the updated information received from Appraiser Chad Martinsen. Arnold plans to hold informal hearings for taxpayers who wish to discuss the new valuations although land use and values may not be completed. Values must be set by March 20.

Treasurer Suminski presented Motor Vehicle Exemption Applications for Loup Basin RC&D, Mid Nebraska Individual Services, Heartland Assembly of God Church, and Seventh Day Baptist Church. The application from St. Johns Lutheran Church had not been received, however, Suminski asked that it be included and if there were any changes, she would bring it back before the Board. The Treasurer recommended approval for all of the applications. Ash moved to approve all of the Motor Vehicle Exemption Applications, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

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

Treasurer Suminski presented her December Fund Report, going over each column and noting totals for General, Road (including Highway Allocation receipts), Visitors Promotion and Inheritance Tax. Visitors Improvement was not included but will be added for the next report. Semi-annual fund report will be published as required.

Clerk Lindsey presented her December Fee Reports for District Court and County Clerk. She also presented the annual report of accounts receivable for Ambulance Fees prior to 1999 and asked that \$225.47 owed by Laurie Drake be stricken due to a bankruptcy order of discharge. Collins moved to approve striking the \$225.47 due to the bankruptcy filing, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

Nancy Glaubke appeared for Bethanne Kunz on behalf of VCED to request that the County sign a letter of support for the grant application through the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act. Glaubke explained they hope to build a program to encourage our youth to return to the County after college. Cullers moved to support the BECA grant application, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

Glaubke also reported that Valley County Economic Development would like to reapply for the Down Payment Assistance Grant which was denied last time. It must be done through the County. This is the pre-application, more information will be provided before the actual application is needed. Cullers moved to approve the pre-application for the Down Payment Assistance Grant, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

The County Officers Signature and Seal Report was passed around for Board Members to sign. The Clerk is to submit the report to the Secretary of State-Notary Division by February 1.

The list of legal Holidays for which the Courthouse will be closed, as noted in the County Personnel Policy, was approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The Current Expenditure Summary Report for December 31, 2005 was reviewed as well as the letter from NIRMA requesting immediate reporting of all fatal or serious injury accidents that occur on County roads. The interim study to examine Nebraska County Government structure (LR226) regarding the advisability of consolidating counties for greater efficiency was also discussed. A copy of the complete report is on file in Clerk's Office.

Committees and County Representatives were discussed. It was noted that the Ag Land Valuation Board has been dissolved. Sintek recommended Bill Brush be reappointed to serve with him on the Loup Basin Health Dept.. Chairman Sevenker said it would be helpful if the representatives would report to the County Board after their agency meetings. It was agreed by all that the Committees and Representatives remain the same as last year. The County Physician will

be named at the next meeting. Sevenker said it should be a physician who has access to the Hospital. He will call the Ord Family Health Center to see who is willing to serve.

Larry Koelling, Lodging Tax Committee member, was present for discussion of the contract with the Chamber for tourism promotion and improvement. He said the Committee met last night and has the necessary funds to pay the Chamber through March, which is the length of the contract. They are planning to spend \$1500 through the Rural Initiative Intern Program to help develop a tourism website. There are currently 1300 to 1400 daily hits on the Chamber website regarding tourism. The Committee will work with the Chamber on a new contract and present it to the Board. The projected combined income of both tourism funds is only about \$8500 annually.

Ron Stauffer of Beckenhauer Construction, Inc. was present for discussion of Courthouse renovation. Stauffer introduced owner Buster Beckenhauer who explained that they provided construction management services. He said they bring together a team to work with the Board, then present options for Board consideration, including costs. They prepare bid specs, help analyze the bids, select the bidder, issue a contract, supervise the project and provide an engineer to approve the work. Beckenhauer said an initial evaluation and assessment would cost from \$3000 to \$5000 and take six to eight weeks to complete. Discussion included the need to maintain historical quality, new construction versus renovation, and financing options. Baker moved that Beckenhauer Construction be hired to do an evaluation of the heating, air-conditioning and windows in the Valley County Courthouse at a cost not to exceed \$5000, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Baker, Ash, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. They will send something briefly outlining the agreement. Suggested County Attorney Cullers check with Holt County Attorney regarding lease purchase financing as Holt County used this to finance their annex.

The request of Chuck Kokes regarding cedar trees on an abandoned cemetery site will be considered at the next meeting to give Board members time to visit the site.

Supervisor Cullers spoke on starting an endowment fund and a flow-through fund through the Nebraska Community Foundation. Since the Wozab Fund is already set up with them, there would be no cost to set up these additional funds. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer need to be named. Cullers moved to establish an endowment fund and a flow-through fund for Courthouse restoration and maintenance, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. Officers to be chosen at the next meeting.

A resolution from Kimball County opposing LB526, combining the County and District Court Offices, was discussed. Clerk Lindsey noted that she had sent a letter of opposition to all the legislators last fall. Attorney Cullers noted his concerns including the possible lack of access to judges when needed and he offered to prepare a resolution for the Board to consider. This issue is to appear on the next Board meeting agenda.

Officials salaries for the 2007-2010 term are required to be set by January 15, 2006. Assessor, Clerk and Treasurer salary for 2006 is \$32,000, NACO's recommendation is \$33,500. Collins moved to increase the salary for these offices to \$33,000 for 2007 and to give \$1000 increase each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010 in increments of \$500 every six months, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. The County Attorney will receive \$33,500 for 2006, NACO gave no dollar recommendation for this office on a part-time basis. Supervisor Cullers excused herself from discussion of and action on the County Attorney salary due to her relationship with the present County Attorney. Cetak moved to set the 2007 County Attorney salary at \$38,500 with \$1000 increase each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010 in increments of \$500 every six months, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Baker, Ash, Collins, Sintek. Abstain: Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. The use of a Public Defender as a way to lower Court appointed attorney costs was discussed. The County Sheriff will receive \$32,500 for 2006, NACO recommends \$37,375. Collins moved to set the Sheriff 2007 salary at \$33,500 with \$1000 increase each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010 in increments of \$500 every six months, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. The Sheriff also acts as Jail Administrator through appointment by the Board in Resolution 03-28 and receives \$300 each month for this duty. The Jail Administrator pay is separate from the Sheriff's salary. Following discussion, Collins moved to leave the Surveyor salary as it is at \$300 per

year with no cost of living raise, no benefits and no meeting or other expense allowances, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Supervisor salaries were discussed. It was determined that the additional pay allowed for the Supervisor who is elected Chairman should be set as part of the salary resolution voted on before each term and not changed on a yearly basis. The Supervisors will receive \$4800 for 2006, NACO recommends \$16,650. Cetak moved to set the Supervisor salary at \$6000 for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 with an additional \$100 per month paid to the Supervisor elected Chairman, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek. No: none. Absent: none.

County Attorney Cullers reported that the Farm Leases have been updated and the Clerk will be publishing the required notices for leasing the property. Bids are to be taken at the January 31 meeting. He is scheduled to meet with Hospital Administrator, Neelam Bhardwaj, tomorrow regarding the planned expansion and will report to the Board at the next meeting. Cullers requested that the Board go into executive session to discuss the Schauer lawsuit.

At 12:55 p.m., the Board went into executive session to discuss the Schauer lawsuit, on motion of Baker, seconded by Supervisor Cullers. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none. At 1:00 p.m., the Board moved back into regular session on motion of Collins, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. No action was taken as a result of the executive session discussion.

Mail Folder items available for review were: Greater Nebr. Outdoor Tour & Rec Expo, Chamber Newsletter, VCED Quarterly Review, US Census American Community Survey, Beckenhauer Const. Newsletter, NDEQ Grant Program.

At 1:05 p.m. the Chairman called a 15 minute recess. At 1:25 p.m. the meeting was called back to order for presentation of the Valley County Road Names Map by Alma Beland and Deane Meeks of Region 26. The purpose of the map is to provide locations for emergency responders in rural areas. Avenues run north and south, roads run east and west. The Valley County Sheriff, Ord City Police, Valley County Highway Supt., Valley County Emergency Manager and his assistant, the Arcadia and North Loup Fire Chiefs, and County Supervisor Ken Collins had input in the naming process. One concern was the length of the name, since it has to be combined with a 5 digit number to make an address. Some of the changes Meeks will make as a result of today's discussion include: shorten Englehoff Canyon Ave. to Englehoff Ave., shorten Middle Loup Canal Road to Canal Road, a portion of 810th road changed to Comstock Road, a portion of 466th Ave. changed to Nine Mile Ave., a portion of 469th Ave. changed to Seven Mile Ave., a portion of 475th Ave. changed to Gravel Creek. Signage for the roads was discussed with regard to cost and the importance of signs as more new people move into the area. The Valley County Nebraska Road Names Map was accepted as corrected on motion of Ash, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session, 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the January 10 meeting and an agenda for the January 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 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