

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors' regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on February 28, 2006 in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Ash, Baker, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Sevenker, and Sintek present. The February 14 minutes were approved as published and the Clerk verified that meeting notice was published in the Quiz and the agenda was posted at the east and west Courthouse entrances and on the County website. The agenda was adopted on motion of Sintek, seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Collins, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. There was no public comment.

Road Supt., Max Leth, was absent as he was attending a required critical bridge training session. Road Secretary, Sandy Simpson, gave the Road Claims and Balances Report for February. Fuel expense was down this month, \$3,983.50 was spent for asphalt sealer. No transfer was needed this month. Simpson confirmed that a used, 10 yard, International dump truck with low mileage had been purchased for \$17,900 through government surplus. Supervisor Ash reported a road complaint from Rolland Sell and ask that it be placed on the next meeting agenda. Simpson noted that the road crew was maintaining today, in spite of continued dry conditions, in an effort to alleviate some of the washboard conditions.

Signing of the affidavit and Resolution 06-06 for the County 1 & 6 Year Road Plan was inadvertently missed at the February 14 meeting when the plan was approved. Said documents were signed at this time.

Easement 06-240 for Nebraska Central Telephone Co., not received in time to be on the last meeting agenda but recommended for approval by Leth at that time, was approved on motion of Baker, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Baker, Ash, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Chairman Sevenker noted that permanent barriers have been placed on the ethanol plant access road. He said the County has done what was required of them and no longer owns any of the property involved.

While awaiting arrival of Neelam Bhardwaj, Hospital CEO, the Sheriff's Fees and Activity report was noted and County Attorney, Randy Cullers, reviewed the Notice to Proceed and Contract Documents for Werner Const. Co. listed as agenda item 9A. Procedure for payment was discussed to meet the contract requirements of payment by the 20th. The City requests that Olsson Assoc. sign off on statements presented by Werners to ensure work is properly completed. Statements will need to be on the first monthly Board meeting agenda to allow City to pay by the 20th. Cullers recommended signing the documents. Ash moved to authorize Chairman Sevenker to sign the Notice to Proceed and the Contract documents with Werner Construction Co., seconded by Collins. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The Olsson Assoc. billing of \$1170.50, item 9B, was reviewed by . Leth and sent onto Ord City.

Agenda item 9C1, jail heating and cooling proposals, was discussed. Proposals were received from Wadas, Holcombs indicated sufficient information was not available for them to make a proposal

Neelam Bhardwaj, Hospital CEO, presented the Hospital's regular written monthly report of financial information for January, January 18 meeting minutes and February 15 meeting agenda. Bhardwaj noted that the Hospital is audited twice a year and a copy goes to the government, they also must file cost reports with the state. Audit reports are available for people to look at. Dr. Blake started in January and PA Bob Riley in December. Another physician has been hired to start in April and she is looking for another physician and a PA. They plan to publish a quarterly newsletter to help educate people. The Chanticleer building was purchased for strategic positioning as the current location is landlocked with no room to expand. Bhardwaj said that corporations often must pay more than a private individual for property. She felt the purchase was necessary to the continued operation of the hospital as is periodic renovation and expansion. She noted a drop in use of agency staffing for the Nursing Home and attributed this to employees who accepted her challenge to work extra hours and earn a bonus for quarters when no agency staffing is required. A six month analysis of the use of hospital owned vehicles is planned, seems to be working very well. One vehicle is used for clinics, one at the hospital and the remainder by Home Health. Bhardwaj asked that one or two County Board members attend the Hospital Board meetings. The Hospital began making money in March 2005 and each month since.

At 10:20 a.m. the Board of Equalization convened on motion of Sintek, seconded by Ash. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Assessor and Clerk were present.

Proper notification having been provided to each applicant, the hearing was held for consideration of the Statements of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption (form 451A). There were no new applicants. No applicants appeared to testify. Following discussion, Sintek moved to approve the exemptions as they were approved last year, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. An applicant list, copy of each application and action taken by the Board are on file in the Clerk's Office.

Marlin Leasing's letter stating that a waste oil heater leased by Howard Tire should be removed from the 2005 tax rolls as it was no longer being leased by Howard Tire at this time, was discussed. Assessor Arnold estimated the tax at \$28.10 plus some interest. Cetak moved to write a tax correction to forgive the tax and interest on the waste oil heater leased by Howard Tire, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

The request of Summer Shoemaker for correction of her personal property for 2005 to remove a tanning bed she said was not in her possession at this time, was discussed. Cullers moved to approve the tax correction to remove the tanning bed from the 2005 tax rolls, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins. No: none. Absent: none.

An email from NACO requesting information on the possible effect of LB968, which proposes to lower the value of agland from 80% to 75%, was discussed. Assessor Arnold indicated she could not provide this information. Board advised that she ask Accountant Chuck Abel for help.

Arnold reported that her office sent out 287 letters to property owners giving them informal notice of property valuation changes based on the reappraisal being conducted by Appraiser Chad Martinsen giving them opportunity to schedule an informal hearing if they felt the updated valuations were in error. They had received about 40 phone inquiries but only 7 people scheduled hearings. Values must be set by March 20, formal notices must be out by June 1 and property owners have until June 30 to file a protest. The Board asked that Arnold invite Appraiser Larry Rexroth, who provides assistance in developing depreciation tables and other criteria for establishing property values, to a Board meeting in May to explain how the values were set.

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

Bethanne Kunz, Exec. Dir. of VCED and Steve Parr of JEO Consulting Group, Inc. presented drawings and information on the downtown revitalization project to replace sidewalks and streets. The cost to the County is to be \$40 per running foot or \$40,000. The project would involve replacing a water main, sewer lines, a storm sewer and sanitary sewer work. Decorative brick pavers and lighting are included. It would involve 69 property owners. The estimated cost of the project is 2.7 million dollars. Parr noted that affected driveways would be replaced. Questions were raised regarding the ramp and retaining wall at the east entrance to the Courthouse. Also discussed was a letter from the City of Ord indicating that property owners had until March 8 to file a written objection and that a hearing is to be held on March 15 to determine the sufficiency of the objections. Kunz noted that sales or property tax is to pay for the project. Parr indicated that if the project goes, they will be meeting with each property owner to address concerns. Property owners Mick Puckett and Todd Fischer spoke in favor of the project and Kunz said the majority of affected property owners have reacted positively. Ash moved to support the downtown revitalization project in the amount of \$40,000, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cullers, Baker, Collins, Sintek. No: Cetak. Absent: none.

The request of Greeley County to withdraw from the Loup Basin Public Health Dept. was discussed. Sintek, Valley County Rep. for the LBPHD, advised that allowing the withdrawal would jeopardize the existence of the Department because they could drop below the required population numbers and he said the State probably would not approve the withdrawal. Sintek moved to deny the Greeley County request to withdraw from the LBPH Dept., seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Sintek, Cetak, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk is to send a copy of Board action to Chuck Cone, Director LBPHD.

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

The following information items were noted: Valley County Court Case CI06-16 regarding the appropriation of property by the Nebr. Dept. of Roads, Lodging Tax received for December \$1250.32, Lodging Tax February expenses \$1745.00, Alternative Energy & Bioenergy Workshops March 29 in Ord and March 30 in Ainsworth, NIRMA Model Safety Manual, 2005 NIRMA Annual Report.

Supervisor Cullers suggested that the Board look into the health savings plan option for employees. Following discussion, the Clerk was directed to invite Gary Streeks, the BCBS representative, to come to a Board meeting and explain this option.

Courthouse renovation, maintenance and repair discussion included: Chairman Sevenker will contact Holcombs to see if they are planning to submit a proposal for jail heating and cooling and talk to Beckenhauers about a jail proposal, Custodian Cronk said something will need to be in place by this fall; Cronk reported a new toilet installed in the attorney's room off the District Courtroom and one is currently being installed in the main third floor restroom; discussed capping off the third floor plumbing fixtures that are no longer used; financing options; Baker did not have estimates on repairing the District Courtroom chairs; Cronk and Cullers will get samples and costs for curtains and/or carpet for the Judge's Office. Chairman Sevenker reported that Beckenhauer has lined up a tour to view heating/cooling systems in Kansas City and Dallas involving a drive to Kansas City, a flight to Dallas, and taking 3 days. The Board was not in favor of such a trip and asked that Beckenhauer present what information they had on the systems at a Board meeting.

County Attorney Cullers reported that the Schauer v. Valley County hearing has been rescheduled for March 14. He noted that he will not be available for much of the March 14 Board meeting. Appointing a public defender, perhaps in conjunction with other counties, was discussed as well as proposed legislation regarding open meeting laws. The billing received from Siemens for their work on the first floor restrooms and the quality of that work was discussed. The Clerk reported speaking with Larry Cihal of Siemens at the time the billing was received, informing him that the Board had some concerns with the work but there had been no further contact from Siemens. It was determined that a letter should be sent to Siemens.

There were no Committee reports and the mail folder items available for review were: Loup Basin RC&D Newsletter, CNCS Newsletter, T. Loewenstein NACo Rep letters.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session, and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the February 28 meeting and an agenda for the March 14 meeting are available in the County Clerk's Office.

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