

## 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, April 11, 2006, in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Baker, Collins, Sevenker, Sintek, Cullers, Cetak and Ash present. Clerk verified that meeting notice was published and agendas were posted at both Courthouse entrances and on the website. Since additions had been made to the agenda after it was mailed to Board Members but prior to the deadline, updated copies were provided and it was adopted on motion of Collins, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. There was no Public Comment.

Road Supt. Leth recommended approval of Easements 06-243 for Verl Timmerman, 06-243 for Dennis Jacobs and 06-244 for Jay Knapp, noting that all were for electricity. Ash moved to approve all three easement requests, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Leth reported that LB904, which would result in additional highway allocation funds for the County, is awaiting the Governors signature. Culverts are bid in conjunction with Custer County and the per foot prices have increased by 14 cents for 24 inch, by 70 cents for 48 inch and by \$18.00 for 120 inch. He noted that it would take \$400 to \$500 to fix the old snowblower and felt it was not worth the cost. He recommended that it be sold on Wolf's Auction and that he look for one to purchase through government surplus. The Board agreed. The State Highway project between Ord and Burwell will not close the highway as first proposed. The State will draw up an agreement between themselves and the County regarding gravel and maintenance. Leth would prefer that the County do the maintaining. Bids for this project are to be let in June, probably dirt work done this year and paving next year. Construction schedule sheet provided by Leth regarding the access road to the ethanol plant was discussed. A letter received from Roland Shafer requesting a guard rail and flashing light be installed on 2 curves on the Sargent Highway was discussed. Leth noted that flashing lights are put up during the festivals and a representative of the County's liability insurance carrier, NIRMA, had inspected the curves and felt that they were well marked. County Attorney Cullers will work with Leth on a response outlining what the County has done and NIRMA's inspection of the area. Leth reported that they have begun hauling gravel and maintaining.

Since Ron Bouska, Ag Inspection Specialist, had not yet arrived, Nancy Glaubke, Planning & Zoning Admn. gave her report. A subdivision request from Troy Dimmitt was presented. Dimmitt is requesting a subdivision of 5 acres from an 80 acre tract in the NW4 of Section 20, Township 20 North, Range 13 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Valley County, Nebraska. A survey of the property was provided and the Planning Commission's Recommendation of approval. Following discussion, Collins moved to approve the subdivision request of Troy Dimmitt as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Collins, Sintek, Cetak, Ash, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Glaubke reported that new officers elected by the Planning Commission were Chairman Marv Scheideler, Vice Chairman Don Vancura and Secretary Crystal Lech. The NPZA Conference was held last month and David Yost was recognized for the Popcorn Trail in North Loup. A new law was passed, LB975, which requires that a conditional use permit be issued for a Class II livestock operation wanting to upgrade a lagoon. The County gets notice from the State of a pending inspection.

Ag Inspection Specialist Ron Bouska presented his evaluation of the County's Weed Program. Points are given based on his inspection of 1% of the total county acres, his evaluation of the office including, inspection reports, Superintendent's certification, records, mapping and documentation, enforcement action and other reports and files, the annual reports and the continuing education requirements. County Weed Supt. Darrell Kaminski was present for the evaluation. Kaminski received 2707 points out of 3400 from Bouska. Bouska said that Kaminski is doing a good job and that the scoring is meant to be a means for the State to assist where it is needed, offering his help in any way he can. Bouska noted that a program is being developed to set up weed management areas to aid in grant applications for specific problems. He also noted that a statewide internet mapping project is being developed. Kaminski plans to check into purchasing a GPS unit for mapping Valley County.

Renewal of the Employment Contract with Kaminski to act as County Weed Supt. was discussed and approved on motion of Ash, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Ash, Baker, Cullers, Collins, Sintek, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Further discussion was held on the purchase of a hand-held GPS unit. Kaminski said he would like to get the County mapped in 3 years.

Sheriff Ronzzo was unable to attend today's meeting. The Nebr. Jail Standards Inspection Report was available for review and will be on file in the Clerk's Office. The letter accompanying the report noted that "the facility was determined to be in full compliance with the Standards at the time of inspection".

Treasurer Janet Suminski presented the Fund Report for March, listing the amounts collected during the month for each fund and the fund balances. The Misc. Receipts folder was available for review and she noted that interest income on investments is included.

Clerk Jenette Lindsey presented March Fee Reports for the County Clerk's Office and the Clerk of the District Court.

Chairman Sevenker noted that he had placed the Valley County Health Systems item on the agenda to allow discussion of what is currently going on. He said he is bothered by the non-acceptance of the hospital financials and the firm who audits their records. He asked any Board member who had any information regarding inaccuracies in the financials or the audits that could be backed up to bring it to the Board so that it could be discussed. He said that acting Hospital CEO Schrage is also willing to discuss the financials with anyone if they have proof of something that isn't right. Sevenker said the Hospital Board could not act until there was reason to and they did. The deficiencies were pointed out and they are and will be corrected. Sevenker said it is important to maintain and provide quality health care, available to everyone. He also said he is upset about posters with false information about him that are being put up in area businesses. Supervisor Cullers said the public should be made aware of this act. Cullers noted that any factual information on the hospital financials should be brought to the Board and examined by an independent party so that it could be settled. Sevenker said he understands a letter is circulating advocating the replacement of the Hospital Board. He asked if any of the County Board felt that this was necessary. Supervisor Baker responded that he had received input that the Hospital Board should be elected rather than appointed. County Attorney Cullers said this is not possible under the current organization. He noted that a District Hospital has also been considered or going to a nonprofit organization, but how to make the change and keep funding in place, like Medicare reimbursement etc., is the question. Sevenker said that he too would like to see the Hospital Board elected but there is no way to do that at this time. He said we need to work to move forward in a positive direction. Supervisor Cullers said public input and constructive criticism is always welcome but she told Mable Dobrovsky that she was deeply disappointed in her remarks at the last meeting that the only honest member on the County Board was George Baker, without presenting any facts to back it up. Dobrovsky denied using the word only.

Supervisor Cullers presented a copy of a proposed pamphlet with information about the flow-through fund and endowment fund recently set up through the Nebraska Community Foundation. The purpose of the funds is to help raise money for restoration and maintenance of the Valley County Courthouse. This item will be on the next agenda and any corrections or suggestions can be made at that time.

Leadership Quest participants presented a report on their project to take pictures of things they felt were assets to the area and things they felt needed to be improved. Those present were Laura Pokorny, Marilyn Beck, Crystal Lech, Trent Proskocil and Trine McBride. Among the pictures of assets were: renovated store fronts, new construction, well-kept recreational spots, and the Courthouse. Things that needed improvement included: downtown Ord streets and sidewalks, empty businesses, junk cars and old billboards that are faded or note businesses no longer here. Suggestions from the group included enforcement of regulations regarding nuisance properties and junk cars and paint murals on the blank walls of buildings. Sevenker commended the presenters for taking the class, doing the project and presenting it. It was noted that 7 members of the group are high school students who could not be present.

Economic Development Director, Bethanne Kunz, introduced Cody Sitz and Chuck Kokes who spoke to the Board regarding available lots in the Mortensen Industrial Site. Kokes wants to build a repair business for large equipment and Sitz wants to build an irrigation and domestic well business. Both men

wanted lots with highway frontage. Following discussion, Cetak moved to have the Economic Development Board and Bethanne contact Gilmore & Assoc. to proceed with establishment of the requested lots. Cullers seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none. Kunz will contact James Knapp regarding the two lots. Sevenker said he looks on this as an investment in the area.

Kunz then presented the Economic Development Board Quarterly Report. Items noted include: 30 business visitations in January, air permit issued for Val-E Ethanol and construction begun, job fair May 6, 2006, 65 members in the Founder's Club, partnering with LVRPPD to expand the HTC program, \$262,870 available in sales tax fund this FY, applied for down-payment assistance grant, applying for loan to build spec building near Ord, applied for grant to develop alumni database for Ord, North Loup/Scotia and Arcadia High Schools, results schedule for Needs Assessment Survey and working to develop program to acquire vacant lots and make them available for construction.

A payroll claim received from Attorney Greg Jensen on behalf of former hospital employee Judy Warner was discussed. County Attorney Cullers said he understood that a payroll policy change made at the Hospital was retroactive and changed accumulated PTO time. He indicated this was not something he would advise a business to do, however, he recommended the County deny the claim. Reasons for denial included: the County has no payroll or PTO records available on which to evaluate the claim, there is a question as to whether it is in the proper form, it is signed by the Attorney not the applicant, and there is no budget to which the claim can be assigned. Sevenker felt the Hospital Board should be approached to revisit this issue and noted that other Hospital employees had the same grievance. Cetak moved to approve Attorney Cullers' recommendation to deny the payroll claim of Judy Warner, seconded by Sintek. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker, Ash. No: none. Absent: none.

County Attorney Cullers has to leave for Court in Garfield County, so he gave his report at this time. The Board approved his proposed letter to the Pokornys regarding their request for an access road to their property in Greeley County. His letter acknowledges their choice to go east through Greeley County which means no action is required of Valley County. A copy of the letter will be sent to Greeley County. The Board also approved his proposal for a draft document to landowners along the North Loup trail regarding the road to the ball field which the County has maintained but has no record of opening. Cullers will request easements from the adjoining landowners in order to open the road, however, in the event an owner does not grant the easement, the County will abandon the road. This will not affect the opening of the trail.

Loup Basin Public Health Dept. Director, Chuck Cone, spoke to the Board regarding preparation of a Pandemic influenza response plan. The proposed plan includes Quarantine and Isolation (Q and I) regulations that will need to be adopted by the County Boards as well as the Board of Health and will require a public hearing. The proposed regulations have been provided to the various County Attorneys for their review to assure that they are acceptable. The towns and villages will also be asked to accept these regulations. The Board of Health will adopt the regulations at their meeting on June 12 and ask that Counties adopt them at that time. He recommended that the Board name the Sheriff as the Quarantine Officer. Cone talked about the recent mumps cases in Iowa and Nebraska, noting there were 300 cases in Iowa and 33 in Nebraska, however, none in our 9 county area. He handed out information concerning some of the services provided by the Loup Basin Public Health Dept., a list of Ten Essential Public Health Services and an Emergency Preparedness Guide pamphlet.

Informational items on Community Redevelopment Workshops regarding Brownfield sites, water charges from NLR Irrigation Dist., and the March Expenditures Summary Report were reviewed.

Supervisor Cullers, County Representative for Region 3, provided a printed report on their activities. She noted a proposal for construction of a Mid Plains Center Behavioral Healthcare Service to provide Medical Detox for those who cannot afford it. This involves the control and monitoring of meds and includes those with high blood pressure and diabetes. Cullers said Ord High School Youth Leadership was the only Valley County applicant for the mini-grants offered by Region 3, receiving \$217.19. She felt it was a shame that area schools did not take advantage of this opportunity and suggested that each Supervisor do a follow up with their area school for next year. Region 3 Director, Randy McCall, would be willing to talk to the Board about Region 3. The Board agreed and Cullers will set up a date.

Mail Folder items available for review: Senator V. McDonald letter regarding LB904, VCHS Newsletter, NIRMA Newsletter (2), NDOL Newsletter, Chamber Pulse.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the April 11 meeting and an agenda for the April 25 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 meeting agenda, 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 of 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.

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Jenette G. Lindsey, Valley County Clerk