

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in special session on August 2, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in their Courthouse meeting room to review Office/Dept. budget requests and Subdivision requests. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with Collins, Sevenker, Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Baker and Cullers present. The Clerk verified that notice of meeting was published and agendas were posted and provided to requesting media. The agenda was adopted on motion of Ash, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Ash, Cetak, Sintek, Collins, Cullers, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Chairman Sevenker noted that the Open Meetings Act was posted and copies were available to the public as required.

Budget Accountant, Chuck Abel, gave a short report reviewing the information he had provided at the last Board meeting. He noted that the General Fund budget reflects the one million dollar renovation project for replacement of the Courthouse HVAC and windows. Abel provided a handout listing the amounts of approved subdivision requests for the last 2 fiscal years and the amounts requested for the 06-07 fiscal year.

Terry Christensen spoke for Loup Valley Ag Society. They are requesting \$40,000 General Fund and \$10,000 Sinking Fund. They would like the County to help with utility and maintenance costs since they house the County Extension Office. They hope to realize additional income when the new Tech Center is completed and they are looking at a different property insurance provider which would cut that cost in half.

Larry Schrage and Tammy Knutson spoke on behalf of the Ambulance Operations Fund. The budget request includes \$90,000 for a new ambulance, \$5000 for repair and \$40,000 for a second paramedic. The old ambulance would be kept as a backup but is becoming unreliable and has 126,000 miles on it. Knutson is the only paramedic and is on call 24/7. Sintek asked about a lease-purchase program to spread the cost over several years and Schrage agreed to look into it.

Emergency Management Director, Ryan Simpson requested a raise from \$150 per month to \$175, with little change in the remainder of his budget.

County Attorney, Randy Cullers noted that he tried to budget so that whoever takes over in January will have sufficient funding. Half of the amount usually budgeted for office rent, phone and utilities was moved to capital outlay in case equipment purchases were necessary. Cullers felt there was enough to provide a full-time office staff person.

Assessor Pam Arnold said she increased her request for educational costs to keep herself and her deputy certified. She gave the same raise to her staff as did the Clerk, Treasurer and Road Dept., 30¢ per hour, or approximately \$50.00 per month.

Custodian, Rolland Cronk said he left his wages the same and noted that it was difficult to estimate utilities with the new system. He allowed \$5000 for roof repair following construction, capital outlay includes new fridge already purchased for Jail and discussed snow removal.

Sheriff Larry Ronzco said he raised all salaries \$1.00 per hour except Chief Deputy Walker, who was raised 25¢ per hour and, while it was not included in his budget request, he asked that the Jail Administrator salary of \$300 per month be doubled or he would resign that duty. Ronzco had budgeted \$28,500 for a car, however, he thought he could get one for around \$17,000. The Board questioned the amount requested for Jail Tender wages, noting that a \$1.00 per hour raise added to last year's expenditures did not add up to the requested amount. Ronzco will refigure that amount.

Treasurer Janet Suminski said other than the 30¢ hourly raise for her staff and the salary set by the Board for the Officials, her only increase was to purchase a desk.

Road Supt. Max Leth said he budgeted a \$50.00 per month increase for employees and noted that he will be required to pay some accumulated sick time. Discussed cost of asphalt and condition of Haskel Creek Road with regard to it's use by heavy equipment over the next couple of years for state road projects. Also discussed was the need for a motor grader to replace the 1982 Cat. He has budgeted \$60,000 to purchase a used one or \$40,000 for a first payment on the lease-purchase of a new one. Board felt it would be better to purchase a used one. He would like to get a good

weed truck and 2 pickups and trade off or sell some of the older ones and has budgeted \$18,000 for this. Board suggested a budget of \$12,000 for a weed truck and 1 pickup.

Clerk Jenette Lindsey said she also budgeted a 30¢ per hour raise for her staff and pays accumulated sick time. She noted that she was having difficulty getting cost information from ES&S to know how much to budget for the Election Commissioner.

Budget Accountant Abel said the preliminary cuts discussed totaled about \$144,000. He said small increases for the subdivisions should be covered by the valuation increase. Abel said it would be helpful to the subdivisions if the Board could make a decision on their requests at the August 8 meeting so they would have time to take their case to the people if they wanted to. The Office/Dept. budgets could wait until the August 29 meeting.

The Veteran's Service Officer budget was discussed. The Board noted VSO Walt Smith was requesting a salary increase from \$4800 per year to \$7200, an \$800 increase in expenses and \$200 increase in supplies.

There was general discussion regarding the overall County budget.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 11:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the August 2, meeting and an agenda for the August 8 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 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 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