

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 January 30, 2007 in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Cetak, Sevenker, Vogeler, Baker, Cullers, Van Slyke, and Waldmann present. Clerk verified publication of meeting notice and posting of agenda in Courthouse and on County website. Minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved as published on motion of Cullers, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none. The agenda was adopted on motion of Baker, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none. Chairman Sevenker noted that the open meetings act is posted and copies are available to the public. There was no public comment.

Road Secretary, Sandy Simpson, reported on Road Dept. claims and balances for January. Road Fund balance is \$46,616.79, payroll for the month is \$39,385.69 and accounts payables totaled \$28,018.58. The larger expenses were for fuel, repairs, rolled salt, bulk oil, chemicals, diesel and tires. There is \$51,350 left in the fuel budget. Simpson worked with FEMA representative to provide information required to determine if the County qualifies for reimbursement of any expense related to the December ice storms.

Road Supt. Leth reported road maintenance difficult under present conditions and hard on equipment. Gravel freezes in the truck box and the trucks tear up thawed roads. The state consultant is starting to do the fracture critical bridge inspection for the counties. The failure of Congress to pass a transportation appropriations bill to provide sufficient investment levels could cost Nebraska 39 million dollars in federal highway dollars. The state is only doing the drainage portion of the Ord-North Loup highway project at this time, the surfacing portion will be let in 2011. The project is projected to take 145 days. The road will be closed on February 5 for a minimum of 12 weeks. Posts and delineators were ordered through a federal highway program at no cost to the county. NIRMA, the County's Liability Insurance carrier, provides a substantial savings on required drug testing for employees so is switching to their program. Van Slyke questioned Leth concerning the school bus routes. Leth said they try to get to them first, he will try to get them marked on the 911 map. Discussion of putting up signage for 911 roads. Board felt should check into cost. Leth will do some preliminary checking and report back to Board.

Billing statements from Olsson Assoc. and Werner Construction for the ethanol plant access road were approved by Leth and faxed on to Ord City for payment, they should be final billings.

County Attorney, Glenn Clark, reported on the need to revise the County Personnel Policy due to a Supreme Court decision regarding sick and vacation pay. The Court ruled that employment agreements cannot circumvent the statutory definition of wages and such definition includes fringe benefits. Clark had prepared a revision to the County's Personnel Policy on sick leave and vacation but he noted that this issue is to be addressed at the upcoming Central District Meeting and said the Board could delay a revision to see what information is provided at the meeting. He said as long as the County complies with the law, it doesn't matter what the personnel policy says. Clark also said there are other revisions needed in the current policy.

Weed Supt., Darrell Kaminski, presented his Year-end Report and 2007 Plan. Each Board Member received a copy of the report which includes a Board Roster, 2006 Infestation

Report, 2006 Activity Report, 2007 Budget Report and the Weed Control Plan for 2007. He noted that the acres of infestation remain the same but the intensity was lowered to show that landowners are making an effort at weed control. Discussed use of insects for weed control. Baker moved, seconded by Vogeler to approve the Year-end Report and the 2007 Noxious Weed Control Plan presented by Kaminski. Carried. Yes: Baker, Vogeler, Waldmann, Cullers, Van Slyke, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

At 10:00 a.m. Cetak moved, seconded by Van Slyke, to go into Board of Equalization. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Vanslyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk and Deputy Assessor were present.

Appraiser Chad Martinsen reported on the progress of the countywide reappraisal project. Eight townships have been appraised and seven remain to be done. He hopes to complete four this year and three next year to complete the project. Most people have been cooperative. He does not measure outbuildings, just checks their condition. Homes are measured and the condition is checked, including the inside if the homeowner agrees. Deputy Assessor Nance said informal notices will be sent to landowners in Springdale, Geranium, Michigan and Liberty Townships. The notices will offer landowners the opportunity to make an appointment with the Assessor and Appraiser to review the new valuations established through the reappraisal.

Notice from the Nebr. Dept. PAT that they will no longer supply updates to the Board's copy of the Assessor Manual was noted. Cetak moved, Cullers seconded the motion to move back into regular session at 10:10 a.m.. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none.

The monthly Hospital report was presented by CEO Larry Schrage. Financial statistics were short of projected budget in some areas but are showing overall growth. They continue to look for ways to keep costs down, increase utilization of existing services and offer additional services to increase revenues. He further reported: graduated 5 CNA's; hiring a pharmacist to provide better patient care, not to compete with local pharmacists; Dr. Adams is here twice a month for OBGYN services, Dr. Kummer and Dr. Meckel rotate to provide weekly cardiology services; considering purchase of a scope for surgery; considering replacing old Chanticleer with new structure for the Heritage Program, which would free up space in the hospital and better address confidentiality requirements of the Program, construction costs would be paid by Medicare.

Chairman Sevenker called a recess at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Bethanne Kunz presented the written VCED quarterly report, a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's Office. The report included: annual meeting Feb. 24; printed information from strategic planning session of Chamber & VCED; have had 9 applications for housing grant, grant must be used by 2008; sales tax receipts continue to increase each year; podcasts to be developed and emailed to alumnus; wage survey conducted; list of grants awarded to VCED or Chamber; Garfield & Valley County Travel Guide project update.

Bethanne Kunz presented the written Tourism quarterly report, a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's Office. The report included: Travel Guide ad sales exceeded expectations so no lodging tax funds are needed, \$8,685 Tourism Marketing Grant applied for by Burwell & Ord Chambers and Garfield & Valley County Visitors Bureaus, report on tourism evaluation by State Travel & Tourism presented Oct. 25, hospitality training conducted in partnership with Burwell with 25 participants, Visitor's Committee met Oct. 9 and Jan. 8.

Discussion was held regarding 2 vacancies on the Tourism Advisory Committee due to

the expiration of terms of Don Vancura and Judi Welniak. The Board was notified that Vancura did not wish to continue on the Committee, Welniak was willing to continue. Vancura recommended the appointment of David Yost of North Loup as his replacement. Yost was present and said he was willing to serve. Interest in serving has been expressed by Rolland Cronk and Tammy Soper. Vogeler moved to nominate David Yost to replace Don Vancura and to reappoint Judi Welniak, seconded by Pat Waldmann. Cullers said, while she appreciated Welniak's service on the Committee, she would like to suggest that the Board consider appointing Tammy Soper instead of Welniak as she felt it was important to continue to have 2 Committee Members who are in the lodging industry. Vogeler then amended his motion to appoint David Yost to replace Don Vancura and Tammy Soper to replace Judi Welniak, Waldmann seconded the motion as amended. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Waldmann, Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk was directed to notify the newly appointed members and send letters of appreciation to Vancura and Welniak.

Brian Hergott and John Rystrom of Beckenhauers reported on the Courthouse renovation project. The whole west side of the Courthouse now has heat and within the next 5 days the entire first floor should be on line. Weather permitting, the window installation should be finished next week. The electricians have been very accommodating. The Daikin inspector was very pleased with the installation of the new heating and air-conditioning equipment. Hergott asked if the Board wanted them to look at replacing the west entrance doors, Chairman Sevenker said the County would handle that themselves. Sevenker noted that the position of the large dumpster caused the County's dumpster to be placed in the sidewalk which blocked pedestrian traffic. Rystrom said he thought the large dumpster could be removed soon.

Discussion was held regarding the request to provide hot water in the second floor restroom. Sevenker said he had talked to Petska and thought a small unit could be placed in the restroom for less than \$500. It was moved by Cetak, seconded by Cullers to approve the purchase of a small unit to be installed in the second floor restroom if it can be done for \$500 or less. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none.

The County ad proof for the Loup Valley Travel Guide was discussed. The Board wanted to change the caption to read Valley County Courthouse and leave out the reference to Courthouse tours. The Courthouse tours reference could remain in the body of the ad. The Board chose the third picture in the set of proofs provided, which was the one provided by Cullers. The Clerk will notify Nebraska Life of the Board's choices.

Jo Bob Atkins of Arnold Insurance presented a health insurance plan for the Board's consideration. The plan would be partially self-funded. He said this would provide a savings to the county over the long term not the short term. They shop the insurance market each year and employees would not know who the carrier is. The risk factor is determined largely by age and sex. Nuckolls, Dawson, Brown and Holt counties are currently on such a plan. He asked the Board to approve having him bid for the County's health insurance. The Board said they would check with other Counties and put this item on the next agenda.

At 12:30 p.m. Chairman Sevenker called a 45 minute recess, at 1:20 p.m. the Board reconvened.

Road Supt. Leth presented the One and Six Year Plan for Valley County roads. The plan included: a report of last years projects, a list of one-year projects with a descriptive sheet for each, a list of six-year projects with a descriptive sheet for each, and a map showing the location of each project. Leth went over each project for the Board. Hauling costs are figured

into each project so it is hard to compare projects as this can greatly affect the cost. A copy of the proposed plan is on file in the Clerk's Office. Van Slyke moved to schedule the hearing on the One and Six Year Road Plan for 9:30 a.m. on February 13, 2007, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The Treasurer's Summary of Collections, Disbursements and Balances was the same as that provided at the last meeting with the addition of bank account information.

Vogeler agreed to serve as the County's Mid Plains representative and Waldmann as the County's representative on the Loup Valley RC&D Board.

The letter from UNL notifying the County that they did not receive the grant for landscaping the Courthouse lawn was noted.

No one was interested in attending the NIRMA Annual Conference. Sevenker and Vogeler will attend the County Board Workshop. The Clerk is to register them and secure motel accommodations for Vogeler.

At the request of Region 26, Van Slyke presented a sample resolution for Board consideration which provides that any new tower put up in the County must allow emergency services to use it at no charge. The Board felt the County Attorney should look at it before a decision is made.

Rasmussen Land Surveying billing statement, Beckenhauer Construction Inc. statement and the January Claims and Balances report were discussed. January claims were approved on motion of Cullers, seconded by Van Slyke. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none.

The Lodging tax receipts and expenses report was noted.

The Public Officials Bond for Arcadia Township Treasurer, Lola Staab, was approved on motion of Baker, seconded by Van Slyke. Carried. Yes: Baker, Van Slyke, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The letter from Jail Standards Division regarding the February 15, 2007 jail inspection was noted.

Information regarding the Central District Workshop will be on the next meeting agenda.

Supervisor Cullers, the County's representative on the Region 3 Board, presented printed information regarding services provided by Region 3. She noted that there are six regions in Nebraska and that 22 counties belong to Region 3. It costs the County only 8 or 9 thousand dollars a year and Region 3 provides services such as Mental Health Boards and EPC services that would cost the county much more to provide themselves.

Supervisor Cetak, the County's representative on the Mid-Nebraska Individual Services Board said they also serve a 22 county area. He noted that the cost to the counties is based on population. They meet quarterly.

Mail Folder items available for review were: Nebr. Crime Comm. Grants, CNCS Re-Cap, KARR Tuckpointing, Loup Basin RC&D Newsletter, NACO Leasing Manual.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., in regular session, and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the January 30 meeting and an agenda for the February 13 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