

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on February 27, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in their Courthouse meeting room. Roll call was taken with Cullers, Vogeler, Baker, Sevenker, Waldmann, Cetak, and Van Slyke present. Clerk verified posting and publishing of meeting notice. Cullers moved to approve minutes of the Feb. 13 meeting, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Baker moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Baker, Van Slyke, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Sevenker noted the Open Meetings Act is posted and copies are available for the public. There was no public comment.

Road Secretary Sandy Simpson reported on February Road claims and line-item budget balances. Total expenses were \$60,071.76. Larger expenses were for: fuel, parts, chemical supplies, oil and diesel. The Road Budget should be sufficient for the fiscal year unless a major unexpected expense is required.

Leth reported on road maintenance difficulties due to weather conditions and general discussion was held on the issue. He works with bus barn on bus routes. Board members want to make sure public concerns are addressed and noted that most people understand the situation. Leth said his department is doing their best.

Leth said he was contacted by Alma Beland, Region 26 Director, requesting that the County sign a Disaster Declaration for the rain/snow storm occurring this past weekend. Van Slyke moved to authorize Chairman Sevenker to sign the Disaster Declaration for Valley County, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

Sheriff Ronzzo reported sign vandalism is again occurring in the County, the jail has passed inspection although formal notice has not yet been received, and they are working with the State Patrol to cut down on speeding and semi-truck traffic on the Pizza Hut road. Ronzzo said the State is offering a grant for the purchase of a patrol car camera with audio. The unit would cost \$4995. The grant would pay \$3500, the County's share would be \$1495. The Board agreed to the purchase if he has the funds in his budget. He also noted that the jail passed the fire inspection about a month ago.

Hospital CEO, Larry Schrage, presented information on demolition of the old Chanticleer building and the construction of a new facility to house the Heritage Program. The Hospital Board looked at four proposals and chose Chief Construction. It will be a 2240 square foot building at a cost of \$338,000 to be paid, over time, by Medicare. He noted that less than 3% of Medicare goes to rural critical access facilities so he does not anticipate that Medicare cutbacks would affect this. The new building will not have a basement since it could affect Medicare reimbursement. Chief Construction will use local subcontractors where possible. Demolition should be complete by the end of March and completion target date is end of September.

Hospital Board President, Kara Fischer, reported that the Hospital was notified they are a beneficiary of the will of Angeline Koelling. They are to receive the proceeds of a coin collection valued at \$2000 and 4322 shares of stock valued at \$50 per share. The Hospital Board is grateful to Ms. Koelling and her family. The funds are to be turned over to the Hospital Foundation.

Schrage presented the regular written monthly financial report and copy of the minutes of the last Hospital Board meeting. Overall revenues are good, expenses are up. They continue to

struggle with long term care numbers. Hospice programs have had an affect on that statewide. Agency staffing is a major factor in expenses, not only here but in most rural areas. Five CNA's were retained from the December training. There is soon to be an oncologist and a pharmacist on board. Dr. Hagge has resigned effective May 27, 2007.

Courthouse Custodian, Rolland Cronk, reported that a basement floor drain which he had plugged to prevent sewer gas odor is going to be needed for the new HVAC system. He has asked Petska to look at it and will report back to the Board. Discussed drapes, paint and carpet for third floor Judges Chambers. Building Committee and other interested County Officials will meet with Cronk at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday to look at the room and make recommendations. He is starting to work with lock smiths in Grand Island to see what can be done with repairing and/or replacing some Courthouse door locks.

John Rystrom of Beckenhauer Const. appeared to answer questions on the renovation project. Contract Change Order Request #8 for Gene's Electric's work to move moulding in Board room was discussed. Board felt the number of change orders was excessive and was an indication the initial engineering work was faulty, however, there was no retainage for engineering. Also discussed was the \$250 General Conditions charge by Beckenhauer's on the change order. Rystrom said it was to recoup their cost for getting estimates and the extra time it required of Brian Hergott and their office staff. Vogeler felt some of the Change Order costs should be the responsibility of the engineer or Beckenhauer. Rystrom noted that renovation of an existing structure usually requires more change orders than new construction. Cetak moved to authorize Chairman Sevenker to sign Contract Change Order Request #8 in the amount of \$914.25 and the Application and Certificate for payment in the amount of \$62,640.00, Cullers seconded the motion. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann. No: Vogeler. Absent: none. Rystrom reported the heat is up and running although there are a few control issues. Drywall work is starting, hopes to be finished in 2 weeks. Plans for covering some of the pipes may need to be changed as the covers may not fit in some areas. It will be 3 or 4 weeks before the jail roof top units are switched. Marvin Window Rep. said installation of windows was well done.

Ken Cullers offered to donate some of his mounts to be displayed in the Courthouse. Discussed hawk, owl and the rattlesnake that was caught locally. He also has deer and bobcat. Heads would need to be displayed on the wall, others would need to be in a glass case. Board directed this be put on next agenda for decision. Cullers said would have to get federal permit for a hawk and could take a year.

At 10:45 a.m. a recess was called, at 10:55 a.m. the meeting was reconvened with all members present.

Kurt Genrich, National Insurance Services, presented information about the voluntary life insurance available to employees who participate in the County's health insurance. He also presented information on other voluntary coverage they offer on a pre-tax basis, including vision and long-term disability. The Board agreed that this information could be presented to County employees during the work day. Genrich will contact the Road Dept. to set up a time and let the Clerk know when they are coming, Clerk will notify Board members.

Bethanne Kunz, VCED, Paul Markowski, Ord City, and Brent Soderlin, JEO, presented an update of the downtown improvement project. Markowski said they want to put outlets on some of the light poles around the square and would need an easement from the County to put a transformer and control panel on the north side of the Courthouse. The existing unit would be removed. JEO would draw up the easement agreement. Cetak moved to approve a permanent

easement for the City of Ord to locate a transformer and control panel on the north side of the Courthouse to replace the existing unit, seconded by Vogeler. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none. Soderlin displayed drawings of the downtown project. Cost to the County will be \$40,000. The drain on the northeast corner of the Courthouse will go underground instead of running over the sidewalk. Any of the irrigation system and sod that is disturbed for the new sidewalks will be replaced. The existing benches around the Courthouse will be removed and the Board needs to decide which ones will be replaced so pads for this purpose can be installed when the sidewalks are built. The project is to start April 9 and the completion date is November 27. Discussion of replacement of the benches is to be on the next meeting agenda.

The Board noted the reminder of the Central District meeting on March 15 in Grand Island and asked that it be placed on the next meeting agenda.

County Attorney, Glenn Clark, could not be present. Deputy County Attorney, Jason White, presented his report at this time as he had another commitment and had to leave. He noted that the Tort Claim filed by Barb Schamp could be discussed in executive session as a litigation matter, however, there is not sufficient information at this time for discussion. NIRMA has been informed of the claim and denied coverage. He advised that the Board needed to take no action at this time and that after 6 months the claimant could file suit. White said he thought more information should be requested. He reported that JoAnn Scott has been hired to staff their Ord Office on a full-time basis. The tower resolution requested by Region 26 was discussed and Van Slyke explained that the Board did not feel it was in the County's best interest to require free County use of any newly constructed communications tower since Region 26 charges for use of their tower and since there is a need for more towers in the County. The proposed revision of the County Personnel Policy regarding vacation time is to be on the next meeting agenda. White reported that the new County Attorney set up seems to be working okay. He covers County Court, County Attorney Clark covers District Court and Board Meetings. They both have cell phones and offices in Broken Bow as well as the Valley County office through which they can be contacted. The Davis Creek Cemetery was discussed. White said ownership of the cemetery needs to be established, for which a legal description is needed and a search of the real estate records. The Clerk will check the Register of Deed records and this item will be on the next meeting agenda.

February Claims were signed by the Claims Committee and the list of claims was available for review. Clerk reported that the grant funds for the Housing Assistance grant were received on Friday so the line of credit established by the County to facilitate access to down payment funds was able to be repaid along with the other charges connected with the grant which were presented at the last Board meeting. February Claims were approved on motion of Cullers, seconded by Van Slyke. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none.

Cullers reported that the brochure printed by Nebr. Community Foundation for the Courthouse Restoration Account was updated with the newly elected Board Members. NCF will print copies of the updated brochures for 10¢ each or the County can make their own copies or have them printed by someone else. Updating the Courthouse picture and printing them in color was discussed. Cullers will check and report back.

December Lodging Tax receipts received in February were \$2687.99. There were no Feb. expenses.

Clerk was directed to look into other options for maintenance of the County website since Nebraska Online now requires a contract and a \$50 per hour fee for maintenance. At present the only regular maintenance required is a new minutes folder each year.

NACO is hosting a Counties' Legislative Day on Thursday, April 12, 2007, which provides an opportunity for County Officials to observe the Legislature in action and visit with State Officials. Sign up sheets are to be returned by Friday, April 6, 2007.

NACO Attorney's email noting that the Appropriations Committee has tentatively cut \$2 million in jail reimbursement from the proposed state budget was discussed.

Mail folder items available for review: Loup Basin Public Health Dept. Mtg. Ntc., Region 26 Council Mtg. Agenda, Loup Basin RC&D Newsletter, Loup River Valley Travel Guide, NDOR 2006 Annual Report, Nebr. Economic Trends (2), NACo Rep. Lowenstein Report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in regular session, and 10:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the February 27 meeting and an agenda for the March 13 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