

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in the Courthouse Boardroom. Roll call: Vogeler, Sevenker, Cetak, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, and Waldmann were present. Clerk verified meeting notice was published and agenda posted. Minutes of February 26, 2008 meeting, included in Board packets, were approved on motion of Vogeler, second by Baker. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none. Updated agendas were provided to Board members since item 10M was added after Board packets were mailed but prior to the 24 hour deadline. Cullers moved to adopt the updated agenda, seconded by Van Slyke. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none. Sevenker noted posting of Open Meetings Act with public copies available.

Public comment was offered by Kate Sullivan, candidate for the Nebraska Legislature, District 41. Sullivan noted the need for articulate, outspoken legislators from rural Nebraska to promote needs of the rural areas as agriculture is still the backbone of the State and needs to be kept strong and sustainable. Having had a recent experience with the County Hospital, she said this area is fortunate to have such a facility and that it is an important part of the infrastructure that keeps people here. Concerns noted by the Board included: need to more actively promote use of ethanol, concerns with the Health & Human Services 2 billion dollar budget, Nebraska's low ranking among other states for teacher salaries and the complex state aid formula for schools.

Road Supt. Leth recommended approval of proposed Easement 08-278 for Wilma Nagorski to bring water across a County road. Cetak moved to approve Easement 08-278, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none

Discussion was held regarding 3 parcels of land owned but not used by the County. The Assessor has determined these parcels are taxable since they are not used for a tax exempt purpose. Leth noted the County has no use for the parcels and recommended they be sold. Further discussion will be held under BOE with the Assessor.

Leth reported that Kaminski delivered the remaining weed spray to the Road Dept. and it is stored in the shop. Road crew began patching oil yesterday; maintaining dirt roads today due to winter damage and predicted rain; will monitor oil roads, may be necessary to post when ethanol plant begins taking corn; some soft spots on gravel roads; received technical advisory from State regarding Federal regulation to measure all Valley County bridge truss plates, anything with 3" of gravel on bridge deck must have gravel removed or State will close the bridge, deadline for compliance is June 8, two Valley County bridges may be affected. Will be taking training for new State computer system for bridge inspections called Pontus. Van Slyke reported a family is moving into the Nevriy place in the Arcadia area so the access road will become a bus and mail route and will need gravel and maintenance.

Hospital CEO, Larry Schrage, appeared to present the Hospital financials for January. Written reports for December and January were provided at previous Board meetings, however, Schrage's review and discussion of them was postponed until today. Public meetings will be held in North Loup, Arcadia, Elyria and Ord at which the architects and financial advisors will present information and answer questions on the proposed Hospital project. If the Hospital does not look to the future and modernize and expand it will close. Doctors and staff look to modern facilities. We currently have good service but lack space. The average daily census has grown 8% in two years. Most programs are up except long-term care which is down, due in part to a reduction in the number of beds allotted for the service. If critical access was lost today, the County would have to subsidize the Hospital \$1,500,000. January is typically busy; average daily census 7 patients; no agency help used this year; salaries up due to subsidizing employee health care; \$600,000 spent on equipment this year; if bond issue not approved will have to install \$150,000 sprinkler system which state waived due to possible bond; looking at putting capital improvement funds into cash reserves.

Dave Scott, Clerk Magistrate Pauline Grooms and County Attorney Clark were present for discussion of the District Courtroom speaker system purchased from Scott. The District Court Judge and the County Court Judge have not been using the system because it does not work adequately. Grooms said Judge Brodbeck wants a wired system. Scott said the wireless mikes were designed to work within 16 inches, Grooms and Clark said you had to be closer than that and it was not working for the Attorneys. Grooms also indicated there was a lot of static and screeching when the system was in use. Scott can provide wired mikes with phantom power for \$2400. He would not charge labor and would try to sell the old wireless ones. Waldmann moved to approve 4 new wired mikes, phantom powered and to take whatever we can get for old ones, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Planning & Zoning Admin., Nancy Glaubke, reported receipt of notice from FEMA that the preliminary flood plain maps for Valley County are to be made final. She called them to report that we had never received revised maps after review of the preliminary maps. They will send revised maps and we have until August 19, when they are to be approved, to request changes. The County has 1 year after August 19 to join FEMA. There is no cost to join other than administering and monitoring it. Quarterly reports are required and monitoring sale of property. The preliminary maps are in the Clerk's Office.

County Weed Supt., Darrell Kaminski, was present for discussion of his contract renewal and the Resolution authorizing him to act on behalf of the County Weed Control Authority Board. Attorney Clark had drawn up a new contract to replace the old one. Kaminski offered no objection to the new contract. Following discussion, Vogeler moved to approve the new employment contract between the County and Darrell Kaminski for County Weed Supt. services from 4-1-2008 to 3-31-2009 at the same salary, \$1050 per month. Motion seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none. Resolution 08-07 authorizing Kaminski to perform the duties of County Weed Supt. was approved on motion of Waldmann, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler. No: none. Absent: none.

Government Resolution 08-08, indicating the County's support of participation in the Nebr. Community Improvement Program for economic development for the years 2008-2010, was presented by Bethanne Kunz. Following discussion, Resolution 08-08 was approved on motion of Cullers, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none.

A recess was called at 10:50 a.m., meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m. with all Board members present.

Baker moved to go into Board of Equalization at 11:00 a.m. as advertise, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor and Clerk were present.

Discussion was held regarding the 3 County-owned parcels the Assessor has determined are taxable: Parcel #880016261, N 4 rods of W 45 rods in the NW4NW4 of 10-20-14; Parcel #880032529, W 30' L1 B5 in Original Townsite of Arcadia; Parcel #880005719, N 4.5 rods of NW4 27-18-13. County Attorney Clark advised that to sell the properties a public hearing would have to be held to allow public comment on the proposed sale. The hearing must be advertised for 2 weeks. After the hearing the property can be offered for sale to the highest bidder upon 10 days notice to the public. If no bids are received or if they are too low, a contract can be negotiated for sale of the property. Vogeler moved to proceed with sale of parcels 16261, 32529 and 5719 as soon as possible, seconded by Van Slyke. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. The Clerk was directed to advertise a public hearing regarding sale of the parcels for the April 8, 2008 Board meeting.

Cetak moved to go out of Board of Equalization, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler. No: none. Absent: none.

Written report of Sheriff Fees and Activities for November and December were reviewed.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy, Gary Walker, was present for discussion of the resignation letter delivered to the County Clerk on March 3, 2008 by Sheriff Larry Ronzzo. Walker is willing to serve as interim Sheriff, but does not desire the position on a permanent basis. Walker will perform the Sheriff's duties as of April 1 until a new Sheriff can be appointed by the Board. Walker is to receive the Sheriff's salary and Jail Administrator pay during the time he is acting Sheriff for the County. An ad for a new Sheriff is to be provided to the Sheriff's Assoc. for distribution throughout the State and to the Law Enforcement Training Center for their bulletin board and placed on the NACO website. Ad is to give an application deadline of March 31 and the Clerk's Office contact information. The applications will be reviewed by the Board at the 7:00 p.m. Board meeting scheduled for review of the Wozab Fund applications and the Clerk is directed to advertise the meeting accordingly. Baker moved to accept resignation of Sheriff Larry Ronzzo effective March 31, 2008 as designated in his resignation letter, seconded by Van Slyke. Carried. Yes: Baker, Van Slyke, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

A lunch break was called at 12:25 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. At 1:00 p.m. the meeting reconvened with all Board members present.

The Clerk's fee report was reviewed. Also discussed was her request to change the May 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting date due to the Primary Election. It was decided to delay a decision on a meeting date until the April 8 Board meeting.

The County Audit for FY 2006-2007, prepared by Dana F. Cole, was accepted on motion of Vogeler, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Waldmann, Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Following discussion, Vogeler moved to authorize payment of the BCBS premium billing at the first meeting of each month due to the BCBS decision to eliminate the extra 5 day grace period for payment, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, Baker, Van Slyke, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Sevenker reported on the NIRMA Building Contents Schedule reviewed at the last meeting, noting that 25% of the building value was used as content value. The cost is about \$12.00 per year in premium. The Board does not have control of building value and agreed there is no need to take any action.

The Clerk was directed to put in a claim for the \$538.00 billed by Howard County as the prorated cost of having the District Court Judge Office in the Howard County Courthouse

The May 2008 expiration of the six year term of Hospital Board members Gary Miska and Carl Streeter was noted and it was decided if they are not willing to continue, the positions should be advertised.

The annual letter requesting State reimbursement of direct costs relating to space provided for the HHS Office in Ord was approved on motion of Waldmann, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Waldmann, Waldmann, Baker, Van Slyke, Cetak, Vogeler. No: none. Absent: none.

Attorney Clark presented a draft copy of a letter to Senator Vickie McDonald in support of LB587 regarding jail reimbursement. Vogeler felt the legislative bill number should be included in the last paragraph. Cullers moved to approve the letter with the inclusion of LB587 in the last paragraph, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, Van Slyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Cullers presented a bill for \$262.15 from Rural Designs for the informational brochure on tax credits available for contributions to the Courthouse Renovation Endowment Fund and suggested it be paid from the Endowment Fund. Following discussion, Baker moved to approve payment of the \$262.15 from the Endowment Fund, seconded by Vogeler. Carried. Yes: Baker, Van Slyke, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

The following informational items were reviewed: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Central Nebr. Housing Developers on April 9 at the Calamus Lodge, Lodging Tax February Receipts and Expenses, Current Expenditures for Feb. 29, 2008 Summary Report, Budget Seminar May 29 at Kearney Holiday Inn, Central District Meeting March 20 at Kearney Ramada Inn. The Clerk was directed to put the Budget Seminar on the agenda again prior to the May 16 registration deadline.

Discussion was held regarding a Wozab celebration. It was decided to place this item on the next agenda and Baker will check on availability of the Methodist Church.

Vogeler moved to approve the claims and fund request for payment of the BCBS premium billing for March and the Housing Assistance Grant funds received for the drawdown approved at the February 26, 2008 meeting, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, Van Slyke. No: none. Absent: none.

Waldmann reported that the proposed Visitors Center in North Loup which is to be housed in the old gas station beside the Pump and Pantry is going to try to open this year. They are still deciding on what equipment will be needed and hope to use volunteers to staff it.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., to reconvene on March 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in regular session and 11:00 a.m. as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the March 11 meeting and an agenda for the March 25 meeting are available for public inspection 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 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.

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Jenette G. Lindsey, Valley County Clerk