

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 26, 2008 in the Courthouse Boardroom. Roll call was taken with Baker, Cetak, Cullers, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Vogeler and Waldmann present. Clerk verified publishing meeting notice and posting agenda. Minutes of the August 11 budget meeting and August 12 regular meeting were approved on motion of VanSlyke, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Cullers moved to adopt today's agenda, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Chairman noted Posting of Open Meetings Act and availability of public copies. No public comment was offered.

Road Secretary Simpson presented the August Road Claims and Balances totaling \$137,904.10. August fuel costs \$47,064.63 with 3 additional loads ordered. Leth has budgeted enough to complete two armor coat projects.

Leth reported that information he received from the state and oil distributors for the Ord/Burwell road project indicate that the bottom layer of asphalt should be completed this fall. The County approved 2 detours for the project; one at Elyria and one at the animal clinic. There is to be one-way traffic on the highway and it is common practice to allow passage of emergency vehicles. Working on project C88206 now, bridge should be crossable by end of week. Hauling some gravel. FEMA lowered our payment from \$55,000 to \$18,000 due to FEMA representative error in the labor rate. Leth recommended that armor coating be done in the spring in hopes of getting better bid price on oil. If Grand Island asphalt plant is sold rather than closed will help costs due to lower freight charges. Leth will use extra paint on Sargent Road and Ft. Hartsuff Road as it does not store well.

Jerry Berggren of Berggren Architects was present to congratulate County on receipt of grant funds for installation of an elevator in the Courthouse. He has worked with the County since 1991 with regard to a Courthouse elevator and outside exit from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and has worked with many counties on Courthouse projects. Chairman Sevenker noted Valley County has contacted Architect Glenn Mannes regarding an exit from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in an effort to find the most affordable plan. Berggren noted his willingness to continue working with Valley County if they so desired.

Hospital CEO Schrage gave the regular monthly report. The statistical and financial information was reviewed. The new Heritage building has increased participation due to increased privacy and modernization of facilities. Long-term care still needs work, licensed for 70 beds in past but now capacity is 50 due to expansion of acute services. Hospice expanding into Broken Bow area; Hospice and Home Health program is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the state.

Marc Munford of Ameritas discussed the investment of the hospital bond funds and introduced Barry Ballou of Nebr. Liquid Asset Fund. Munford noted that 7.1 million dollars was wired to NPAIT this morning, and this was confirmed by Treasurer Suminski. Munford said RFP's were sent out last Thursday and NLA's bid was the most competitive so they recommend that the bond funds be moved from NPAIT to NLA. Ballou said that NLA has been in Nebr. since 1988, their funds are all in government securities, no more than \$100,000 is invested in one bank so risk is secured, funds are easily accessible. Suminski said Board has not authorized her to invest County funds with NLA. County Board questioned what institutions were invited to bid. Munford said of 6 local banks invited to bid only 2 local bids were received and they were not competitive. The high bid was 3.2 by NLA. County Attorney Clark will prepare a resolution designating NLA as a County depository for Board approval before the meeting adjourns. Discussion was held regarding how to handle payment of bills incurred during construction as well as payments due on the bond. Schrage asked that he manage the disbursements. It was decided the hospital will be responsible for disbursements, however, prior to payment all bills and bond payments will be presented to the County Board for their approval.

Meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m., reconvened at 10:45 a.m. with all members present.

County Budget Accountant Chuck Abel was present for discussion of the County budget. Abel said, based on preliminary figures, it appeared the County would need to cut back their levy to allow funding for the merged Fire District, however, the Assessor's certified valuation numbers indicate this will not be necessary. The bulk of the valuation increase is due to the ethanol plant's personal property, which will depreciate out over the next few years. The Board could take this opportunity to establish a cash reserve without raising the levy from last year. Discussion followed as to the need for a cash reserve and the possibility of the State doing away with the Inheritance Tax. Abel noted that the County usually does not spend all funds budgeted but if they did, the General Fund would be down to nothing. Previous budget action was discussed. Clerk noted her records show the following action: Weed line item 2-2545 cut from \$5000 to \$2000, Road line item 3-0201 decreased by \$20,000 (from \$108,500); Sheriff line item 2-9900 corrected from \$4500 to \$1500; \$10,000 for GIS system and Appraiser fees of \$15,000 moved from Misc. General to Assessor Budget; \$1000 added to Civil Defense budget for purchase of car. Discussion of Veterans' Service Office Budget included: serves many Veterans but question use of Valley County funds to assist out of county Veterans; need for

additional office help salary of \$2600; Smith's request last year for \$4000 increase in his salary and \$3600 for office assistant; Board allowed \$2000 salary increase last year but no funds for office assistant. Following discussion, Cetak moved to remove the \$2600 clerical assistant from the requested VSO budget, seconded by Cullers. Not carried. Yes: Cetak, Cullers. No: VanSlyke, Baker, Waldmann, Vogeler. Absent: none. VanSlyke moved to cut the requested \$2600 to \$1300, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Cetak. No: Vogeler. Absent: none. Discussed the possible budgetary affect of Leth's retirement. Abel noted the budget can be amended if necessary. The Board agreed that Abel should use a levy of .385 in preparing the budget for final Board approval at their Sept. 9 meeting. Subdivisions must be notified of Board action on their levy requests by Sept. 1 and a Resolution is required. Abel noted he did not think reimbursement of the townships would be necessary this year but advised adopting the Resolution authorizing it in case it is needed. Resolution 08-19 authorizing reimbursement of the townships was approved on motion of VanSlyke, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. At the August 11 Board meeting a motion was made and carried approving the subdivision levy requests as received with the exception of the Airport, which was approved at \$30,000 General Fund and \$36,000 Bond and Ord Township, approved at \$79,800. Resolution 08-20 setting the levy authority for requesting subdivisions as set out in the Board motion of August 11, 2008 was approved on motion of Vogeler, seconded by Cullers. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, Cullers, Baker, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none.

Laurie Hansen and Curie Mincer of CNEDD were present to discuss the \$250,000 grant for a Courthouse elevator. CNEDD personnel wrote the grant for the County. Hansen said the County will receive a contract from NDED setting out requirements the County must meet in order to receive the funds. Once the conditions are met, funds can be released. A grant administrator must be hired, CNEDD can administer the grant if the County chooses. The County has 24 months to complete the project. The need to pursue the additional funding that may be available through LVRPP was discussed. Also discussed what happens if County cannot afford to complete the project. Hansen said grant funds can be turned back to state but it is not desirable to do this; an extension of time can be requested. The County needs to procure for an architect or engineer. A \$5000 Administration salary is part of the grant. Cullers asked if an official thank you letter to the state would be appropriate and Hansen agreed that it would.

Housing Grant General Administrator, Candy Kuntz presented the following grant claims and invoices for Board approval: VC-08-HR \$383.99, VC-10-HR \$367.01, VC-12-HR \$397.83, CDS Housing Admin. \$500, and Drawdown 21 for \$1579. She also presented a Summary of grant activities showing DPA \$12,296.93 and HR \$29,477.41 remaining. No word has been received on requested 6 month extension. Vogeler noted applicant number 11 is missing on summary sheet. Kuntz said it is likely that this applicant either dropped out or did not qualify, however, those duties are handled by CDS. Cullers moved to approve housing rehab requests for VC-08, VC-10 and VC-12, seconded by Cetak. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Housing Admin. Invoice for CDS was approved on motion of Vogeler, seconded by Baker. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Van Slyke moved to approve drawdown #21, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none. Kuntz noted the state will conduct the grant monitoring visit on Sept. 1, meeting with her, the County Clerk and CDS. To meet state requirements Kuntz advised the County consider appointing an ADA Coordinator, adopt a written grievance policy and a 504 plan (checking all county owned facilities for ADA compliance and developing a transition plan). The Clerk can fill out a self-evaluation form to meet the 504 requirements for purposes of the Housing Grant monitoring visit.

BCBS Rep., Gary Streeks, spoke to the Board regarding their renewal with NACO/BCBS which was completed in June. Streeks noted that the renewal rates were up 8.4% and the Blue Partners program has been eliminated. They continue to work to increase the size of the pool to keep premiums down. Treasurer Suminski said the County would like to see Streeks prior to renewal time. Streeks said he represents many counties and is not able to meet with all of them during that time. Discussion was held regarding self insuring and partial self insuring. Streeks said it may work well for a while but odds are it would eventually catch up with you. Several counties would like to return to BCBS but are unable to payout their self insured costs. Streeks asked what the County's plan was and the number of participating employees, Chairman Sevenker said he thought Streeks should know this. Streeks admitted he should have reviewed the County's information before appearing before the Board. Sevenker also noted it would be appreciated if Streeks could appear at a Board meeting prior to renewal time to advise them on the available options.

North Loup approved the Law Enforcement Agreement at \$1800 per month.

Sheriff Hurlburt was present for discussion of the Partial Communications Agreement between Ord and the County. Hurlburt and Supervisors Cetak and VanSlyke met with City representatives, Police Chief Kirby and Emergency Manager Simpson regarding the agreement. Discussion included: Region 26 will provide communications for the City at

the same \$7500 cost but will not do the logging the Sheriff's Office does, requires a lot of time for Sheriff dispatchers in addition to their duties to prisoners, appears Region 26 would charge City \$7500 for the service as well as increase County usage charges, desire to continue to provide service to City to facilitate interlocal cooperation. VanSlyke will find out what services Region 26 will provide and the cost at tonight's meeting and another meeting of the representatives will be scheduled. Hurlburt is to determine the amount he feels his office needs to continue the agreement.

County Attorney Clark presented a new Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Law Enforcement Services between Valley and Adams County for Mental Health Board Hearings due to an increase in rates for Mental Health Board members and the need to incorporate changes made by the Nebr. Mental Health Commitment Act from the 2006 Session. Also, Adams County has decided to bill the county that places a subject in EPC. The billed county can pursue reimbursement from the county of legal residence if they wish to. Cullers moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Adams County for Mental Health Board Hearings, seconded by Vogeler. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Regarding the letter received from Nebraska State Bar Association advising that counties should have an EEO Policy, Clark noted that the County Personnel Policy states the County "shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, ethnic origin, age, or any other constitutionally forbidden basis" which constitutes an EEO Policy.

The Walker lawsuit was not discussed. On advice of Clark, the Claim of Wendy Bronson in the amount of \$6377.28 was denied on motion of Vogeler, seconded by VanSlyke. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Clerk has 5 days to notify Bronson and Attorney Jensen of the Board's action.

County Attorney Clark advised that the Public Hearing on Proposed Land Acquisition scheduled for Sept. 9 at 8:30 a.m. should be included on the County Board agenda. Chairman Sevenker is to notify Schrage of this and the Clerk will advertise the change in the Board meeting start time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 9. The hearing is to be held in the County Courthouse Boardroom and the hearing notice has been published.

County Inventories were reviewed and approved on motion of Baker, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none.

The Claims and Balances Report and Claims List for August were reviewed. The Clerk reported that the fund request approved by the Board on August 12 for Housing Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$9804.80 has not been submitted to the Treasurer yet as the grant funds have not been received from the state. The August Claims and Fund Request were approved on motion of Vogeler, seconded by VanSlyke. Carried. Yes: Vogeler, Cetak, Waldmann, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Attorney Clark submitted Resolution 08-21 authorizing the Treasurer to invest County Funds with Nebr. Liquid Asset Fund. Resolution 08-21 was approved on motion of Cullers, seconded by Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, Vogeler, Cetak, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

The following informational items were reviewed with no action taken: Regional/local Communications Information from NEMA, PSC information regarding the Nebr. Internet Enhancement Fund, Natural Resources Conservation Service information on a study done in Iowa on the economic impact of organic farming.

Supervisor Cullers reported that at the NIRMA conference she attended they advised that employees should be involved in emergency planning.

Mail folder items available for review: KARR Tuckpointing, Region 26 Council Agenda, CNCS Annual Report 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m., to reconvene on September 9, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in regular session. Complete minutes of the August 26 meeting and an agenda for the September 9 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