

Valley County Board Minutes



VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 30, 2022 in the Courthouse Boardroom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call: Baker, Cetak, Cullers, DeRiso, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Waldmann present. Clerk verified meeting notice published in the Ord Quiz on July 20, 2022 and posted on the County website, agenda posted. The minutes of the August 8 budget meeting and the August 9 regular meeting were approved on motion of DeRiso, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann. No: none. Absent: none. The agenda was adopted on motion of Waldmann, second Cetak. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none. Sevenker noted Open Meetings Act posted on west wall, public copies on counter. No public comment offered.

In the absence of Road Secretary Simpson, Road Superintendent Meyer presented the Road Claims and Balances Report for August: accounts payable \$180,251.35; payroll \$51,362.07; allocation for August was \$85,879.06; transfer from General Fund \$133,657.26; larger expenses included painted quonsets, diesel, gravel, HFE, parts, pavement marking, rock, oil, tires. Receiving more requests to trim trees overhanging roads, have received conflicting opinions on who is responsible for the trees in the County right-of-way, will get an opinion from County Attorney Hanson

Meyer's general report included: almost finished on South Avenue; finished striping nineteen and half miles, still work to be done on Sargent-Ord Road before striping; still waiting for supplies for one bridge; will pick up truck that was repaired. VanSlyke has received complaints about the minimum maintenance roads in his area, Meyer will take care of the roads this week, need at least one more employee to be able to maintain the minimum maintenance roads.

Scott Philbrick, Emergency Management, would like the Board to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to present to churches, schools and other building sites so can use the facility in an emergency by contacting a point of contact, Attorney Hanson will draw up the MOU. The LEOP is now only online, updates will be finished by the end of the year.

Will Zoucha from Applied Connective said the County phone system will be paid for in November, there have been some problems with the phone system, proposed changing the phone and internet provider from Spectrum to Great Plains internet and Applied Connective phone service, savings for the County with higher speed internet. Cullers made the motion to move the internet and phone service from Spectrum to Great Plains and Applied Connective, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, DeRiso, Cetak. No: none. Absent: none.

CFO Ashley Woodward presented the monthly Hospital report. An open house was held for Dr. Ward, participated in National Night Out, Erica White was chosen employee of the year, will apply for ARPA funds to pay nurses a retention bonuses of \$2,000-\$2,500 if still employed after two years, buying new printers, single audit for ARPA funds approved, insurance renewal, Celebrate Being a Woman in October. Woodward reviewed the financial and statistical information: census low, ER up, OR up, CT scans up, MRI down, PT down, Hospice and home health down, clinic down, revenue up, salaries and temp help down, COVID funds at \$0, cash on hand at 346 days. Hospitals do not buy ambulances because it is not profitable, does save lives, the ambulance was managed by the County in the past.

County Attorney Hanson said he would have to check statutes about trees in the County right of way but believes that the trees are the land owner's responsibility, Sevenker stated the County needs to have a consistent policy for removing trees and mowing the roadside. Hanson said he has a call into Lancaster Emergency Management and NEMA about drafting the MOU for Emergency Management. There will be two jury trials in September.

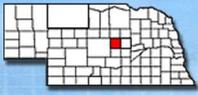
Meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m., reconvened at 10:35 a.m. with all members present.

The Veteran's Service Office presented an estimate of \$1,215 to have the office painted, would also like to install two mini-blinds at the cost of \$75 a piece, Custodian Vanek will paint the office and install the blinds.

The County Clerk monthly fee report was reviewed. A dead tree was removed from the Courthouse lawn.

The fall NACO Central District meeting will be held at the Leadership Center in Aurora on September 15 with Valley County as the host County, Baker will ask Veterans Service Officer Dale Beethe to present the flag, VanSlyke will lead the flag salute, Sevenker will introduce the Valley County officials in attendance, Becky Ries will speak on Economic Development in Valley County, Cullers will offer the lunch invocation.

Valley County received \$1,801.87 from the National Opioids Settlement Fund, County Attorney Hanson advised the money is to be used for control of opioids, after consulting with Chuck Abel, County Accountant, the money was placed in the Sheriff's budget. The County Auditor Contryman Associates is requesting preliminary information to



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prepare for the audit, need skills, knowledge and experience of the Clerk, Treasurer and Board Supervisors; Board members need to provide information to the Clerk.

The Board moved into Board of Equalization at 11:00 a.m. on motion of Baker, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Waldmann, DeRiso, Cetak, Sevenker. No: none. Absent: none. The Assessor, Clerk and Theresa Petska were present.

Billy Bower spoke about land use discrepancies, land is classified as dry land but should be grass, Assessor needs two more years of land use reports from FSA; Assessor will review the buildings, four of the buildings do not exist, only a house and storage shed, last reviewed in 2010; land use is certified at the FSA office every year; the land use and buildings will be corrected. Cullers moved to hold the joint public meeting for the LB644 Property Tax Request on Monday, September 26 in the District Courtroom at 7:00 p.m., second Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, DeRiso, Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. The Valuation Summary Sheet was reviewed, total valuation 991,172,390. Certification of Taxable Values for Political Subdivisions were reviewed and compared to 2020. Tax List Correction #3899 for David Plugge due to mobile home being sold and moved to Madison County was approved on motion of VanSlyke, second Waldmann. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Waldmann, DeRiso, Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

The Board moved out of BOE at 11:25 a.m. on motion of Waldmann, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Waldmann, DeRiso, Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

The following informational items were reviewed: Operation Green Light for Veterans; NIRMA Self Defense for County Officials Conference, October 20-21 in Kearney; Tactical Pipeline Response Training; Carla Kimball named CNEDD Deputy Director; new NIRMA Law Enforcement and Safety Specialist and NACO Legislative Conference, October 28 in Gering.

Accountant Chuck Abel stated the ending cash balance would be negative \$198,770 after budget changes, would have to transfer from inheritance Tax or take out of ARPA fund. Will have to transfer more to Roads due to purchase of equipment. Valuation for Valley County is up 10.34%, tax collections will increase by \$315,833, each one cent change in the levy would increase/decrease assessed taxes by \$99,170. Cullers would like to offer full family insurance coverage to the employees, other businesses require employees to pay part of the premium, cannot be competitive in the employee market without offering family coverage, need to get information to Benefit Management to determine cost. Waldmann moved to increase the levy to \$.35 for the published budget, second Cullers. Not carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Waldmann. No: DeRiso, Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke. Absent: none. Sevenker would like to fund the full family coverage through the Inheritance Tax fund. Waldmann left the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Need to pursue full family coverage, Abel will add \$200,000 to health insurance in budget.

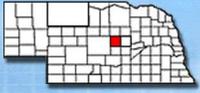
DeRiso questioned who pays a garnishment, paid by employee; Building and Grounds claim for filter and sharpening blades for lawn mower; Cullers said Court costs increasing every month. The Claims and Fund Request in the amount of \$568,709.04 were approved on motion of VanSlyke, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Cetak, Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Waldmann.

NACO nominations forms for 2022 County Official of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Next Generation Awards are available. Cullers was asked by Melani Flynn to write a letter of support for the Valley County Creative District, can receive \$250,000. Baker moved to approve the letter in support of the Valley County Creative District, second VanSlyke. Carried. Yes: Sevenker, VanSlyke, Baker, Culler, DeRiso, Cetak. No: none. Absent: Waldmann. County office inventories were reviewed by the Board and signed by all Supervisors present.

Committee Reports: DeRiso reported Mid-Plains has hired a new CEO.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.; to reconvene on September 13, 2022 following the Budget Hearing in regular session. Complete minutes of the August 30 meeting and an agenda for the September 13 meeting are available for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk. Complete minutes are also available on the County website, www.co.valley.ne.us.

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



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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.

Paula Musil, Valley County Clerk