

VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited, roll call taken: Baker, Cullers, DeRiso, Ference, Stunkel, Petska, VanSlyke present, absent none. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. On motion of Cullers, VanSlyke was nominated for Chairman and Petska Vice Chairwoman of the county board, second Deriso. There were no other nominations. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none. Committee assignments for the board members was discussed, with final decisions tabled until the next regular meeting. The Minutes of December 31, 2024, were approved on motion of Petska, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Abstain: Stunkel. Absent: none. Ference moved to adopt the agenda, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Open Meetings Act posted on the west wall; public copies available on the counter. No public comment offered.

The board entered the Board of Equalization at 9:24am on motion of Baker, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Tax corrections for parcel #s 880030821, 880025746, 880034650, 880037222 that were made by the Department of Revenue were presented. Motion by Petska to approve tax corrections, second Baker. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by Ference to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:30am, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none.

Road Superintendent Jay Meyer appeared. Motion by Stunkel to appoint Jay Meyer, License #S-1162 Class A, as Highway Superintendent for 2025, second Baker. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: none. After discussion on the needs and reasons to restrict the use of county roads during the year, motion by Ference to adopt Resolution #25-01, Authorization to Restrict use of county roads when necessary, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none. Meyer presented a potential agreement with Oak Creek Engineering, LLC, for structure #C008811310P. Motion by Stunkel to approve the agreement, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: none. Easement #25-468 was presented for a water line near 801 Road and Round Barn Road. Motion by Stunkel to approve the easement, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Meyer gave general report to include installation of bypass culvert later in the day, road signing being completed in 3 townships, bridge inspections, new culverts, and a new hire in the roads department. Further discussion was held on increased regulations with regards to inspecting and QC of bridges, increased regulations anticipated in 2028, currently Valley County and Sherman County are working together to inspect and QC bridges rather than to hire an outside firm to perform the duties.

Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski appeared with various 2024 and 2025 reports, plans, and a roster, and gave a general report, to include that cedar trees cannot be considered noxious weeds and the possible use of a drone in the future. Motion by Baker to approve the Noxious Weed Infestation Report for 2024 and the Activity Report for 2024, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by Ference to approve the 2025 Board Roster, the 2025 Budget Form, and the 2025 Weed Control Plan, second Petska. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: none.

Caleb Pollard and Katie Walmsley appeared for Valley County Economic Development. Discussion of Mortensen Site Development occurred, including potential reasons for lack of current development, intent when the land was donated to the County, current farm leases, utilities to the area, and possible zoning regulations. It was agreed that discussion would continue at future meetings.

Jacob Hurla with Community Building Solutions appeared. Hurla and all board members discussed the new heating and cooling system, window caulking that was completed, and all participated in a final walk through of the courthouse to inspect the system. Heating and cooling units are now located in the attic of the courthouse instead of the roof with the intention of extending the life expectancy. Motion by Petska to approve the completion, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: none.

Sheri Goodrich appeared for Planning and Zoning. The recent construction of a residence in rural Arcadia before the driveway was completed was discussed. The address for the residence is on the highway. Goodrich and Meyer suggested an interim agreement be made, to include allowing for access for emergency personnel, a timetable for completion of the driveway, and release of the County. County Attorney Hanson will draft an agreement to also include the regulations and statutes for not having to upgrade a minimum maintenance road. Discussion followed about creating a written contingency plan in case of emergencies during inclement weather to be shared with Region 26 and other appropriate agencies. Goodrich also spoke on livestock friendly designation for the County, will have updates after reviewing regulations at the next meeting.

Sheriff Dave Scheideler appeared and discussed a potential jail project to include possible expansion and update of current jail. Currently, the jail is grandfathered in on many different regulations, but there is speculation that the designation could change in the future. Discussion followed on being able to adequately care of certain types of inmates as well as providing for the overall safety all inmates and staff. Motion by Ference to send a letter of intent to Jail Standards for looking at possible expansion and improvements and for contracting with Prochaska & Associates to do a special assessment, and for the fee of \$15,000 to be paid for out of inheritance, second Baker. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: none.

County Attorney Brandon Hanson gave report to include upcoming felony sentencing for some inmates.

The December Fees and Fines Reports for District and County Court were presented and reviewed.

Clerk KeShara Poland gave the December month end report for Register of Deeds and information about the HI Buydown account, an account that was created by resolution of the board to be funded and have restricted use money to go towards employee health insurance buydown, on suggestion of auditors to be declared a petty cash account with the restrictions. Motion by Stunkel to approve Resolution 25-02, to authorize the Clerk to hold petty cash in the form of HI Buydown Account up to \$250,000, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none.

The month end fund report, trial balance listing, and semi-annual statement that was published in the Quiz, were presented for the Treasurer and reviewed. Fund balance amounts as of December 31, 2024, include a balance of \$343,055.47 for General Fund, \$255,468.68 for Road Fund, and \$1,125,879.89 for Inheritance.

Motion by Baker to approve the claims and fund request of \$66,580.44, Second Ference. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none.

A contract with Berggren Architects, PC, was presented and reviewed. Discussion followed. With questions present, it is tabled until the next board meeting when Berggren Architects, PC, will be present.

The draft audit from Contryman Associates for fiscal year 23-24 was reviewed. It was tabled until the next board meeting.

Information from NACO with upcoming budget rules and regulations was discussed. A special conference for board members for budgeting is coming up.

Ference gave a committee report for Maximus and their calculations for child support enforcement. A retirement party for Cetak and Cullers will be held on January 25, 2025, from 1pm-4pm at the courthouse lobby. The whole community is invited to celebrate their service.

The meeting adjourned at 12:44pm, to reconvene on January 28, 2025, at 9:00am in regular session and 9:30am as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the December 31, 2024, meeting and an agenda for the January 14, 2025, meeting are available for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk and on the County website <https://valleycountyne.gov>.

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.

KeShara Poland, Valley County Clerk