

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited, roll call taken: Baker, Cullers, DeRiso, Stunkel, Petska, VanSlyke present, absent Ference. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. Committee assignments for the board members were discussed, to include addition of Purchasing Committee and Historian Committee and requirements of the County Physician to have privileges with VCHS, with Baker questioning why both Dr. Stevens do not have privileges there. Committee assignments were read, with a comprehensive list to appear online. Motion by Petska to approve all committee assignments and to keep Dr McClanahan as County Physician, unless needed to change to the chief of staff, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, VanSlyke. No: Stunkel, Baker. Absent: Ference. The Minutes of January 14, 2025, were approved with the correction to note that Stunkel abstained from voting for the Fund Request on motion of Baker, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Ference. Petska moved to adopt the agenda, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: Ference. Open Meetings Act posted on the west wall; public copies available on the counter. David Johnson from Scotia appeared with public comment with questions and input on Livestock Friendly designation, with concerns about water quality.

The board entered the Board of Equalization at 9:31am on motion of Baker, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Ference. Tax corrections for parcel #s 880037241 and 880036540 that were made by the Department of Revenue were presented. Motion by Baker to approve tax corrections, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: Ference. Motion by Baker to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:34am, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: Ference.

Assessor Linda Waltman presented the board with a letter of intent to retire on August 31, 2025. Motion by Petska to accept the letter, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: Baker, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: Ference. Discussion followed on requirements to be appointed as Assessor and the need to begin advertising now.

Road Superintendent Jay Meyer and Secretary Simpson appeared. Simpson gave report on claims and balances for January. Meyer spoke on bridge buyback program with the State, changing to carbide blades for graders, had concrete crushed when the city was having it done with a lot of savings in rates, signs being half done, plans to maintain roads this week, and switching to a propane heater at the shop after the failure of the gas furnace. Further discussion with the road office transporting and selling copper from the HVAC replacement, Vanek had cleaned off all copper, proceeds deposited back with the Treasurer. The board thanked Meyer and Vanek for their extra work. An unreported accident recently occurred with a vehicle hitting a bridge, sheriff's office still investigating, hopeful the responsible party can be found and able to pay restitution so that the taxpayers don't have to pay for the bridge repair.

Valley County Health System appeared and gave December Financial Report and report for Annual Meeting. A donation from Secondhand Rose was highlighted, the board thanked those volunteers. Baker questioned what issues are present that prevent both Dr Stevens from gaining admitting privileges with VCHS. CEO Woodward suggested a meeting with both County and VCHS board members in the future to discuss this issue.

Caleb Pollard appeared for Valley County Economic Development and gave a report on development projects that have occurred as well as projects that weren't developed. Discussion followed on possible barriers, possible solutions, and examples of how economic development with

working with the City of Ord. Decision to hire Jan Howard with Valley Title to perform a title report on the entire Mortensen Tract. Will continue discussion at the next meeting.

The board recessed at 10:52am for a short break and resumed at 10:59am with Baker and Ference both absent.

Berggren Architect appeared to give update on tax credit application and repair of exterior of the courthouse. A proposed contract was presented. Discussion followed with changes being made to reflect not needing to hire a geotechnical engineer unless needed. Motion by Petska to approve the contract with the changes, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Cullers. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference.

County Attorney Brandon Hanson gave report with proposed contract for new residence that was recently built without a driveway, with plans to request the homeowners presence at the next board meeting, possible extradition from Arizona coming up, sentencing of an inmate occurring that had been housed at a different facility, Prochaska contract is ok to be approved without seeking bids as there are new rules in place effective 1-1-25.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Danny Vanek appeared with concerns about use of portable heaters in offices in the courthouse now that the new HVAC system is complete. Motion by Petska to not allow the use of portable heaters, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference. Vanek reported on working on amounts for replacement of toilets, window caulking holding up good, seeing savings on electrical rates with new HVAC system. The board thanked Vanek for his efforts with the copper being sold and the extra work he did for the retirement party for Cullers and Cetak.

Motion by Stunkel to approve County Clerk to sign paperwork with American Funds/Capital Guardian Trust on behalf of Valley County, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference. Clerk Poland gave report on moving forward with plans to perform marriage ceremonies in the courthouse for interested couples.

Reported that Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski submitted a letter to the State legislature in support of new bill LB145. Discussion followed on resignation of State Inspector and on error with how Kaminski's annual wages were figured for current budget year, a cost of living raise of 2.5% had been approved by the board but was not entered correctly, with the board wanting to correct that error.

Contract with Prochaska & Associates was presented for study on possible expansion of county jail. Motion by Stunkel to approve, second Petska. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Cullers, Petska. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference. Stunkel reported that he had conducted the quarterly jail inspection on January 14, 2025. Review of Thompson Contract for employment with Valley County. Motion by Stunkel to approve and sign the contract, second Cullers. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference.

Motion by Cullers to approve the claims and fund request of \$425,413.26, Second Petska. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference.

Discussion on application and meeting dates for Wozab Fund. Applications will be available beginning February 3, 2025, with a deadline to submit of March 3, 2025. Special meeting for review of applications set for March 10, 2025, at 7pm. Discussions and voting will take place at the March 11, 2025, board meeting. Request that a copy of the trust document be distributed to all board members.

The draft audit from Contryman Associates for fiscal year 23-24 has been reviewed. Motion by DeRiso to approve and sign representation and draft financial statement transmittal and approval letters, second Petska. Carried. Yes: Cullers, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference.

Signatures were collected from board members for annual signatures and seals report to be turned into the State.

Upcoming Central District Meeting and budget conference were discussed.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator Sheri Goodrich appeared. Packet for Livestock Friendly designation has been sent to the State, currently awaiting signage. Goodrich has plans to meet with homeowners of new residence that was built without a driveway, review proposed contract with them, and invite them to the next board meeting.

Petska began the committee reports with questions on how to recognize employees' time with the county and extra efforts. Cullers gave report on Region 3 to include how many individuals within different categories are served. DeRiso reported for MidPlains on a trend of having more child services being provided.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm, to reconvene on February 11, 2025, at 9:00am in regular session and 9:30am as Board of Equalization. Complete minutes of the January 14, 2025, meeting and an agenda for the January 28, 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.

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KeShara Poland, Valley County Clerk