

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00am, Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited, roll call taken: VanSlyke, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel present. Ference, Baker absent. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. The Minutes of July 14, 2025, were approved on motion of Petska, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Ference, Baker. Stunkel moved to adopt the agenda, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: Ference, Baker. Open Meetings Act posted on the west wall; public copies available on the counter. No public comment.

Road Superintendent Jay Meyer and Secretary Sandy Simpson appeared. Simpson gave report on July claims and balances. Simpson was recognized for her 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Valley County. Motion by Petska to set date for receiving culvert bids for September 9, 2025, at 9:15am, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: Baker, Ference. Motion by Petska to approve resolution 25-08, Certificate of Completion – Statewide upgrading existing stop sign locations of rural roads, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Magiera. No: none. Absent: Ference, Baker. Meyer discussed removal of trees and shrubs from the county right of ways, requesting to adjust budgeted amounts with a reduction for asphalt and increase amount by the same for tree removal. Discussion followed on concentrating efforts on one township at a time. Ference arrived at 9:28am. Motion by Petska to hire The Green Tree Co for up to \$150,000 for tree removal for areas to be determined by road superintendent, second Ference. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: Baker. Motion by Stunkel to approve easement 25-469, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker. Meyer gave a general report to include repair of roads from rain, hoping to start asphalt work, replace transmission in pickup, replace culverts from heavy rain/corn stalks, and a new hire.

Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski gave report on equipment that was originally purchased by Sandhills Weed Management Area that was transferred to Custer County. Motion by Stunkel to approve Sandhills Weed Management Area waiver, release and hold harmless agreement for use of equipment, second Ference. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: Baker.

Motion by Ference to enter board of equalization at 9:36am, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: Baker. Assessor Linda Waltman and Aurora Griebel were present. A representative from Vanguard gave a presentation on computer programming used for property assessments. Benefits include costing manual regionally based and have commercial appraisers on staff that can be contracted out. Ference was absent from 10:14am and returned at 10:15am. A representative from Eagleview gave a presentation on imagery used for property assessments. Benefits include georeferencing of images, ortho and oblique imagery, and disaster imagery available. Stunkel was absent from 10:32am and returned at 10:35am. Discussion of recent opinion from State Attorney General stating that county tax assessors are not exempt from the general law of trespass. Chapter 50 of Assessment code and technology available for property assessments were discussed. Griebel gave report on 2025 Assessment Plan. The State Opinion on trespass was further discussed. Motion by Stunkel to exit board of equalization at 10:55am, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: Baker.

A camera for the Assessor's Office was discussed and a quote was reviewed. Further discussion will occur during upcoming budget meetings. Waltman presented a letter of retirement effective August 31, 2025. Motion by Stunkel to accept the letter of retirement of retirement, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera. No: none. Absent: Baker. Walman

was thanked for her years of service. A retirement party will be held in the courthouse lobby on Friday, August 8, 2025, from 1pm-4pm. The community is invited. Certify taxable valuations and growth value by August 20 was discussed. Assessor will get information from the State by August 10.

The board took a short break at 10:00am and reconvened at 11:08am.

Clerk KeShara Poland gave report on potential health cafeteria plan available for employees. A representative from GlobeLife gave a presentation.

Caleb Pollard appeared with Valley County Economic Development and gave quarterly report to include exciting upcoming projects. Ference was absent from 11:30am and returned at 11:31am. Advertising signs for Mortensen site were discussed.

Ashley Woodward and Chelsea Ortmeier appeared with Valley County Health System. Woodward gave July board report to include discussion of ambulance recently hitting a deer. Ortmeier gave June financial report. VanSlyke was absent from 11:44am and returned at 11:46am.

Planning and Zoning administrator Sheri Goodrich and Holly Everett with the Nebraska Department of Ag appeared. Valley County is officially approved Livestock Friendly. Signs were presented to the board and will be installed in the county.

Luke Bonkiewicz with NACO appeared and gave updates to include salary study for officials completed in the fall, use of primers – one-to-two-page documents on specific topics – that are given to State legislators, dramatic cuts to broadband funding, NACO West building in Ogallala, and photography contest.

Sheriff Dave Scheideler and Secretary Ashley Spanel appeared. Discussion to add line item in budget specifically for jail needs assessment. Will look into possible grant with NIRMA for camera in Assessors Office.

Opioid Settlement was discussed. County Attorney Brandon Hanson stated we will be receiving additional documents on settlement. Hanson also gave TERC updates.

Motion by Ference to approve Interlocal Agreement for cooperative law enforcement services by and among the county of Adams and the county of Valley, focused on mental health board proceedings, second Petska. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: Baker.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Danny Vanek gave report on a tree that has died and will need to be removed. Discussion on possible types of trees to replant. Another tree is receiving an infusion.

Broadband was discussed.

Petska gave a report on Nebraska Historic Tax Credit. Part 4 application is almost complete.

Discussion on purpose and responsibilities of county board committees to include level of involvement. Stunkel was absent from 12:53pm and returned at 12:55pm.

Motion by Ference to designate MIPS as printing service for joint public hearing postcards, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker. Motion by Ference to set a date for Joint Public Hearing for Monday, September 22, 2025, at 7pm, if needed, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker.

Motion by Petska to approve funding request of \$518,456.27, to include fee due for Nebraska Historic Tax Credit, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: Baker. Discussion on unfunded State mandates.

The Budget Committee will meet to look over budgets before the first budget meeting. Budgeting for Mortensen Site was discussed. Ference left the meeting at 1:05pm. First of fiscal year expenditures before budgets are formally approved were discussed. Petska will send an email to all office and department heads. The first budget hearing will be on August 12, 2025, at 10:00am in the boardroom. Motion by Stunkel to set further budget hearing dates of Monday, August 18, 2025, at

7:00pm and Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 10:00am, both occurring in the boardroom, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: Ference, Baker.

A representative with Congressman Smith's office will appear on August 26, 2025, at 11:00am, at the board meeting to give updates and report. Mobile office hours will be held from 11:15am – 12:15pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

Committee report include Wozab annual report being published in the newspaper.

The meeting adjourned at 1:16pm, to reconvene on August 12, 2025, at 9:00am in regular session with a budget hearing at 10:00am. Complete minutes of the July 14, 2025, meeting and an agenda for the July 29, 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