

VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00am, Tuesday, January 27, 2026, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited, roll call taken: VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel present. Absent: Baker. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. The minutes of January 13, 2026, regular meeting was approved on motion of Petska, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: Baker. Stunkel moved to adopt the agenda, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera. No: none. Absent: Baker. Open Meetings Act posted on the west wall, public copies available on the counter.

Arielle Brinkman gave public comment on childcare, current shortages on availability in childcare spots, especially for infants, and the impact on the workforce. Ference gave public comment received regarding FLOCK cameras, with concern over regulation of access of data.

Road Superintendent Jay Meyer and Secretary Sandy Simpson appeared. Simpson gave report on January claims and balances. Meyer reported on new culverts receiving bridge match reimbursement, continuing sign inventory, and continuing tree cutting. Stunkel was absent from the board meeting at 9:34am and returned at 9:35am. Further discussion on snowblower with expensive repairs and considering surplus sale. VanSlyke reported on receiving compliments for road crew performance.

County Attorney Brandon Hanson reported on a couple of trials set for February and March and more juvenile filings at the beginning of the year. Discussion on Prohaska report.

There were no items for the board of equalization.

Clerk KeShara Poland reported to the board on township vacancies. A hearing will be held on March 10, 2026, at 10:00am during the regular board meeting to appoint vacant positions in the Eureka, Elyria, Noble, Michigan, Springdale, Liberty, Vinton, Enterprise, Yale, Davis Creek, and Independent Townships.

Caleb Pollard and Corey Schaaf appeared for the Mortensen Site. Motion by Ference to enter executive session at 9:57am for possible contracts, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: Baker. Motion by Stunkel to exit executive session at 10:16am, second Ference, with no decisions made. A Hearing for review and modification of leases for the Mortensen Site will be at 10:00am on February 24, 2026, during the regular board meeting. An updated letter of understanding with Olsson was tabled until the next board meeting.

Ashley Woodward and Chelsea Ortmeier with VCHS appeared. Woodward gave January board report to include the gala recently taking place, upcoming meeting in Lincoln with Rural Medicine, and working on new EMR software. Ortmeier gave December financial report. Discussion on title of new ambulance with no changes being made.

Brad Spilinek, Dana Spilinek, Larry Masin, and John Smedra appeared for the Veteran's Memorial. Brad Spilinek gave update on memorial, will meeting with the building and grounds committee.

Sheriff Dave Scheideler and Secretary Ashley Spanel appeared. Quarterly report for the jail was given, with jail inspection by jail committee occurring after the board meeting. Report included discussion on budget and the interlocal agreement with the City of Ord for law enforcement ending. Review of Draft Copy of Needs Assessment Study for the Valley County Jail and Sheriff's Office that was done by Prochaska & Associates. DeRiso was absent from the board meeting at 11:02am. Discussion on contacting Jail Standards about the study.

The board took a short break at 11:02am and reconvened at 11:12am, with Baker absent.

Further discussion on Needs Assessment Study. VanSlyke was absent from the board meeting at 11:14am. Petska took over control of the board meeting. Ference was absent from the board meeting at 11:15am. Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski will have training coming up in Norfolk in February. Ference returned to the board meeting at 11:18am. Needs Assessment study will be tabled until the next board meeting, awaiting clarification from Jail Standards. Ference questioned Scheideler on FLOCK cameras policies and regulations for access of information.

Motion by Stunkel to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Ference, Magiera, DeRiso, Stunkel, Petska. No: none. Absent: VanSlyke, Baker. Veteran of the Month for January is Gerald John.

Discussion on emails for board members. Awaiting response from Applied Connective. Tabled until the next board meeting.

Motion by Stunkel to approve the fund request of \$397,244.81, second Magiera, with discussion on tracking vacation and sick time. Carried. Yes: Magiera, DeRiso, Stunkel, Petska, Ference. Absent: VanSlyke, Baker.

Discussion of recent phone outage. Outage was short term, with sheriff calls being correctly forwarded to Region 26 during outage.

Discussion on County Government Day, with updated date of April 14.

Committee Reports. Magiera reported on Region 3. Stunkel reported on Jail, with questions on other potential sites for potential jail. Petska reported for industrial development, with desire to honor donor intent of industrial development at Mortensen Site. Ference reported on position with the extension office being filled. Petska reported on Wozab funds update and on Region 26.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56am, to reconvene on February 10, 2026, at 9:00am for a regular meeting, and at 9:30am for board of equalization. Complete minutes of the January 13, 2026, meeting and an agenda for the January 27, 2026, 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