

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00am, Tuesday, February 24, 2026, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited, roll call taken: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel present. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. The minutes of February 10, 2026, regular meeting was approved on motion of Ference, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: none. Abstain: Stunkel. DeRiso moved to adopt the agenda, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Magiera, 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.

Gary Peterson reported contemplating running for County Attorney with concerns about the position being considered full-time as he would have to close his private practice if elected. Also expressed concerns with neighboring counties not having filings for that office yet. VanSlyke questioned Peterson on if he understood the case load for Valley County. Petska reiterated State Statute stating that full-time county attorneys cannot have a private practice and expressed appreciation for current County Attorney Brandon Hanson's responsiveness.

Road Superintendent Jay Meyer and Secretary Sandy Simpson appeared. Simpson gave February claims and balances report. Meyer gave general report to include continuing cutting trees, cleared snow the previous Friday, and upcoming bridge replacement progress. Motion by Petska to go into executive session at 9:24am for personnel reasons, second Baker. Carried. All in favor. The board exited executive session at 9:40am with no decisions made.

There were no items for the board of equalization.

Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski reported on Sandhills Weed Management Area being approved for a grant for control along the rivers.

Extension Educator Kayla Hinrichs congratulated Penny Root on her retirement and on 36 years of total service between Greeley and Valley Counties. The board expressed congratulations and gratitude. Hinrichs introduced the incoming extension office manager, Jamie Thompson.

County Attorney Brandon Hanson reported one possible jury trial in May.

Clerk KeShara Poland gave January register of deeds report, reported on First Interstate Bank transition to Security First Bank, current county credit cards are with First Interstate Bank, will look into Security First Bank and other local banks, and reported on agent change for Colonial. Discussion on newspaper publications needing corrections and ordering printed supplies locally.

The board took a short break at 9:57am and reconvened at 10:05am with all members present.

Ashley Woodward and Chelsea Ortmeier appeared for VCHS. Woodward reported on pulmonary rehab service being back up, receiving report of data breach of Doctor Alliance program with the VA portal, and progress of upgrading software within VCHS. Ortmeier gave January financial report.

Sheriff Dave Scheideler and Secretary Ashley Spanel appeared. Scheideler reported on upcoming meeting with Jail Standards on March 3 and annual jail inspection on March 6. Spanel gave activity report.

The board reviewed a new residential development for planning and zoning and upcoming meeting will be at the fairgrounds on March 19.

Motion by Stunkel to approve use of courthouse law for placement of the Big Give Thermometer March 12-13, second Petska. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none.

Motion by Stunkel to approve the fund request of \$322,526.82, second Ference. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none.

A visual of Valley County's Share of Property Taxes was reviewed. Will be published in the paper and color copies posted.

Motion by Ference to enter Hearing for Review and Modification of Leases at the Mortensen Site at 10:30am, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none. County Attorney Brandon Hanson questioned the status of the having the Mortensen Site ag land surveyed and subdivided, current ag lease is through February 28, 2027. Corey Schaaf gave a presentation on a desired expansion that would use around 20 acres of the ag ground. Hanson reported on State Statutes regarding bidding on leases. Discussion on covenants and restrictions with the Mortensen Site. Motion by Ference to exit the Hearing for Review and Modification of Leases at the Mortensen Site at 11:25am, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: none.

Clerk KeShara Poland reported on recent phone outage and need for a permanent backup. Applied Connective will provide a quote for First Net.

Applied Connective reported having new government email addresses ready for board members, will be available to assist after the meeting.

Discussion on upcoming County Government Day.

Upcoming meeting on February 25 with the industrial development committee and tenants at Mortensen Site.

County Flag submissions will be reviewed on March 3, with a winner announced on March 10.

A quote from MIPS for time and attendance software was reviewed. Motion by Stunkel to approve the quote, with service beginning April 1, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: none. New software will run concurrently with current hours tracking until change to new system on July 1.

Upcoming NACO events: Central District Meeting March 19 in Kearney and County Legislative Day on April 1 in Lincoln.

Motion by Petska to set new hearing date and time for opening of bids for sale of Nebraska tax credits for March 31 at 9:45am, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Review of upcoming hearings: Appointment of Vacant Township Positions on March 10 at 10:00am and One- and Six-Year Highway and Street Improvement Hearing on March 31 at 9:00am.

Motion by VanSlyke to go into executive session at 11:48am for personnel reasons, second Baker. Carried. All voting Yes. The board exited executive session at 12:00pm with no decisions made.

Committee Reports included Stunkel on Loup Basin Health Department and DeRiso on MidPlains.

A letter from NPPD was reviewed for the mail folder.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04pm, to reconvene on March 3, 2026, at 9:00am for a regular meeting. Complete minutes of the February 10, 2026, meeting and an agenda for the February 24, 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.

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KeShara Poland, Valley County Clerk