

VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00am, Tuesday, March 31, 2026, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited, roll call taken: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel present. Absent: none. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. Motion by Petska to approve the minutes of March 10, 2026, regular meeting, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: none. Baker moved to adopt the agenda, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magier, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none. 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. Motion by Baker to enter One and Six Year Highway and Street Improvement Hearing at 9:01am, second Ference. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none. Simpson reported on March claims and balances. Motion by Ferenc to approve Easements #26-473 for Matt Skaggs and #26-474 for Hamilton, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by DeRiso to approve easement deposit refunds for #24-466, #24-467, and #25-468, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: none. Discussion on one and six year highway and street improvement plans, weather will be a factor for completion of one year plans. No public comment. Motion by Stunkel to exit the hearing at 9:28am, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by Baker to approve the one and six year highway and street improvement plans, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by Petska to approve Resolution 26-02 to accept and adopt the One and Six Year County Road Plans, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: none. Meyer gave general report to include almost done cutting trees, repair cracks on Ashton Avenue coming up, looking for replacement equipment. Discussion on cleaning up road ditches to include fallen branches, cedar trees, and new growth encroaching on right of way and roads, land owner's responsibility to maintain. Further discussion on enforcement by county board for land owners to responsibly maintain ditches and county road right of ways. Discussion on bidding procedures with relations to future purchase of dump truck, used verses new, and state statutes.

Motion by DeBaker to enter board of equalization at 9:52am, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: none. Assessor Aurora Griebel reported on tax corrections due to Homestead Audits. Motion by DeRiso to approve tax corrections for Parcel #880030086 and #880035623, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by Baker to exit board of equalization at 9:55am, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none.

Motion by Petska to enter hearing for Opening of Sealed Bids for Sale of Nebraska Tax Credits at 9:55am, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none. No bids received. Motion by Petska to exit the hearing for Opening of Sealed Bids for Sale of Nebraska Tax Credits at 9:58am, second DeRiso. Discussion on starting process for hearing again. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none.

Assessor Griebel reported on commercial appraiser for potential TERC cases and review of prior contract with Standard Appraisal. Will check with new options and companies for commercial appraisal.

Emergency Manager Scott Philbrick gave report to include wanting to allow fire departments to use county's emergency management trailer as storage for bunker gear and water when traveling to other fires, recent fire by Elyria, cyber security, potential Facebook page for county emergency communications, and government email. Philbrick thanked all attendees of the recent emergency response class. Discussion on current LEOP, insurance coverage of trailer, and looking for nonprofit to be set up for receiving donations in event of an emergency.

Ashley Woodward with VCHS gave February board report and January financial report. Discussion on hospital board positions. Ference was absent from the board meeting at 10:34am and returned at 10:37am. County will advertise for openings.

Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski appeared. Motion by Ference to approve employment contract for Kaminski for 4/1/26 thru 3/39/27, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none. Review of environmental trust article. Motion by Stunkel to approve noxious weed reports and requirements summary, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Sheri Goodrich gave update on comp plan and legislative updates with potential land use bills.

Baker left the board meeting at 10:54am. The board took a short break at 10:55am and reconvened at 11:11am with Baker absent.

Pastor Doug Olson appeared and requested to use the courthouse steps on May 7 at noon for National Day of Prayer. Motion by Stunkel to approve use of steps and Wozab Gazebo for National Day of Prayer on May 7, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: Baker. Request for use of courthouse lawn and Wozab Gazebo speakers for Ord Farmers' Market was discussed. Motion by Stunkel to approve use of courthouse lawn and access to Wozab Gazebo speakers with Building and Grounds Superintendent Danny Vanek setting volume, second Ference. Motion denied. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, Ference. No: Petska, VanSlyke, Magiera. Absent: Baker. Motion by Petska to approve use of courthouse lawn for Ord Farmer's Market with ability to bring their own speakers for music, second Magiera. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: Baker.

Ord Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Heather Nebesniak reported on current State Legislature items with a desire to have open conversations and communications with county board about potential legislative bills and impacts. Discussion on potential changes to budget rules, reading retention legislation, and joint public hearings.

Sheriff Dave Scheideler and Secretary Ashley Spanel appeared. Reported on recent closure of fee account due to zero balance. Account operates with a zero balance as all fees collected are paid monthly to the treasurer. Motion by Ference to approve reinstatement of checking account with deposit of \$1 from petty cash to maintain a balance, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker. Scheideler reported will be receiving IDEMIA digital fingerprint machine from the State. Petska reported on putting in for grant for it. Sheriff Dave Scheideler and Secretary Ashley Spanel will be receiving award for small jail administration of the year during upcoming conference. Discussion on potential new jail, will be paused until after May Primary election.

County Attorney Brandon Hanson reported on upcoming jury trial scheduled in May, increase in juvenile filings, and other potential jury trial cases.

Potential Plats of Mortensen Site were reviewed. Discussion on well component on county land and need for environmental study for each lot under 3 acres with septic and water. Will be tabled until next meeting.

Clerk KeShara Poland reported on election update with ballots being ordered and early voting starting soon. Discussion on AFLAC representative assigned to county, checking into changing to a local representative. Stunkel was absent from the meeting at 12:28pm and returned at 12:30pm.

Review of contract with Eakes for copier for the extension office. Hanson recommended asking if Eakes can remove termination language for usage. Tabled until next board meeting.

Discussion on bidding process.

Discussion on claims. Motion by Petska to approve fund request of \$513,527.67 with includes a claim for publication of Penny Root's retirement as recognition for more than 30 years of service, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera. No: none. Absent: Baker. Discussion on county credit card with Sam's Club.

Backup plan for phone and internet outages reviewed. Motion by Ference to approve purchase and service for First Net device to be paid for out of miscellaneous general capital outlay, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: Baker.

Discussion on County Government Day for April 14.

Discussion of Township Board appointments. DeRiso was absent from the meeting at 12:49pm and returned at 12:51pm. Motion by Stunkel, second DeRiso to approve the following Township Board appointments: Springdale Township – Blake Augustyn, Jacey Augustyn; Vinton Township – Jacob Lange, Austin Knapp; Enterprise Township – Jay Knapp, Mark Hackel; Davis Creek Township – Larry Koelling; Independent Township – Paul Boyce, Homero Galegos. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: Baker.

Discussion on upcoming NACO events.

Committee reports included Petska also filed for Fischer Grant.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09pm, to reconvene on April 14, 2026, at 9:00am for a regular meeting, and 9:30am as board of equalization. Complete minutes of the March 10, 2026, meeting and agenda for the March 31, 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