

## VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

The Valley County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00am, Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in the Courthouse Boardroom. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Roll call taken: VanSlyke, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel present. Absent: Ference. Clerk verified meeting notice published; agenda posted. Motion by DeRiso to approve the minutes of May 12, 2026, regular meeting, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: Ference. Motion by Baker to adopt the agenda, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Baker. No: none. Absent: Ference. 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 reported on May claims and balances. Motion by Baker to set date and time for hearing to receive gravel bids for June 30, 2026, at 9:15am, second Magiera. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Baker, Magiera. No: none. Absent: Ference. Meyer reported on new dump truck coming soon and gave general report to include mixing asphalt, recent training for bridge inspection, spraying for noxious weeds, and picking up trees from Mira Valley Cemetery cleanup. Ference arrived at the board meeting at 9:25am. Stunkel was absent from the board meeting at 9:27am and returned at 9:28am.

Motion by Baker to enter board of equalization at 9:28am, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Abstain: Stunkel. Absent: none. Assessor Aurora Griebel appeared. TERC hearing decision with findings and order was reviewed, values accepted. Griebel reported on land values and 2026 value change reasonings. Motion by Petska to exit board of equalization at 9:38am, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none.

Weed Superintendent Darrell Kaminski reported on Leafy Spurge making a resurgence and visitations with railroads, irrigation districts, and county and city roads departments for spraying.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Sheri Goodrich appeared. Motion by Baker to set hearing for conditional use permit regarding the construction and operation of a kennel for June 30, 2026, at 10:00am, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none. Goodrich will have more information on proposed kennel at next board meeting. Discussion on new county cell phone.

Motion by Magiera to enter hearing on budget amendment for Visitor Improvement and Relief Funds at 9:58am, second DeRiso. Carried. Yes: Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke. No: none. Absent: none. Accountant Chuck Abel reported that Visitors Improvement fund budget would be increased from \$18,789 to \$46,000 and Relief Fund from \$14,410 to \$19,810, both for an anticipated increase in expenditures for the 2025-2026 budget year. Motion by Stunkel to exit the hearing at 10:04am, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference. No: none. Absent: none. Motion by Stunkel to amend the Visitor Improvement Fund to a new amount of \$46,000 and the Relief Fund to a new amount of \$19,810, second Petska. Carried. Yes: Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker. No: none. Absent: none.

Caleb Pollard appeared with Valley County Economic Development and gave quarterly report to include sales tax loans, new business in rural North Loup, hired a grant writer, revolving loans, and creation of a stipend for home 1 & 2 licensed daycare to encourage daycare expansion.

Ashley Woodward and Chelsea Ortmeier appeared with Valley County Health System. Ortmeier gave March financial report. Discussion on lifestyle spending account. Woodward gave April board report to include trauma redesignation and upcoming health fair.

The board took a short break at 10:30am and reconvened at 10:42am with all members present.

County Attorney Brandon Hanson reported an increase in juvenile cases and a potential increase in costs.

Clerk KeShara Poland reported on election update to include May Primary being certified. Discussion on invoice received for election publications. Discussion on new time clock system and board packets to include needing 10 copies of any handouts given during board meetings.

Kristi Hagstrom and Shelley Ruterbories appeared with Ord Township Library. Hagstrom introduced Ruterbories as the incoming library director and gave annual report. The board thanked Hagstrom for her years of service as library director.

Baker was absent from the board meeting at 11:18am. Review of two quotes received for removal of tree on courthouse lawn. Baker returned to the meeting at 11:20am. Motion by Stunkel to approve the quote for Griffith for \$1,100, second Ference. Carried. Yes: Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera. No: none. Absent: none.

Sheriff Dave Scheideler and Secretary Ashley Spanel appeared. Discussion on Phase 2 with Schemmer and pause until July 2027. The board will review a letter at the next board meeting to Schemmer for the pause.

Jon Cannon with NACO appeared and gave NACO updates to include Land Use forum, legislative updates, upcoming legislative conference in Burwell, budget webinar, and joint public hearing changes. Ference was absent from the board meeting at 12:14pm and returned at 12:17pm. Cannon also reported on lodging tax. Discussion on taxes and bonds.

Motion by Baker to approve use of courthouse restrooms on June 21<sup>st</sup> for Valley Rods Unlimited Car Club, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: DeRiso, Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska. No: none. Absent: none.

Discussion on claims. Motion by Petska to approve fund request of \$879,673.81, second Baker. Carried. Yes: Stunkel, VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso. No: none. Absent: none.

Motion by Ference to hire county surveyor Jesse Hurt with Olsson to survey existing lots at Mortensen Site, second Stunkel. Carried. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none.

Discussion on a county cell phone policy and possible updates to employee manual. Tabled until next board meeting.

No update on County Flag.

Berggren Contract tabled until the next board meeting.

Discussion on courthouse roof and Nebraska Historic Tax Credits.

Discussion on people who have been taking care of abandoned and neglected cemeteries in Valley County with requests of persons providing care to appear at board meetings. Will be discussed at the next board meeting.

DeRiso was absent from the board meeting at 1:03pm. Treasurer Peggy Brott reported on annual notice of delinquent taxes. Motion by Baker to approve Resolution 26-03 for Tax Sale Certificates, second Stunkel. Carried. DeRiso returned to the board meeting at 1:06pm. Yes: VanSlyke, Ference, Baker, Magiera, Petska, DeRiso, Stunkel. No: none. Absent: none.

Committee reports included DeRiso with MidPlains, Magiera with Region 3, Stunkel with building and grounds for the courthouse roof, Petska with handicap parking in the front of the courthouse, and Petska with Region 26 with discussion on property insurance.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18pm, to reconvene on June 9, 2026, at 9:00am for a regular meeting, and 9:30am as board of equalization. Complete minutes of the May 12, 2026, meeting

and agenda for the May 12, 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