

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Ray Stevens, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Bob Workman
Deb Schorr

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier, Chair

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY,
MARCH 19, 2009**

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval of the March 19, 2009 Staff Meeting minutes.

Stevens noted that the vote on the motion in Item 1 should reflect that he voted aye, rather than Hudkins.

ROLL CALL: Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins abstained from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Request for Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to serve on The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net (Exhibit A)
- B. Lancaster County 2009 Group Long-Term Care Open Enrollment Marketing Campaign (Exhibit B)
- C. Report on the May 24, 2009 Hickman City Council Meeting

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Schorr, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel and Joe Kohout, Kissel/E&S Associates (Legislative Consultants)

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, presented a legislative update and a report on bills of interest (Exhibits C & D).

Kissel said the Legislature's Appropriation Committee will hold a hearing today on Legislative Bill (LB) 680, the stimulus package bill, and said there will be a "battle" between the Appropriations Committee and the Governor on who is in charge of the funds.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and said he testified on LB 294 (Change the length of time for county building levies).

Kissel said the bill will likely be amended into another bill, possibly LB 218 (Change, eliminate and provide state aid to various political subdivisions).

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Request for Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to serve on The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net (Exhibit A)

There was no objection to Eagan serving on the task force.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. City-County Common Meeting Agenda (April 6, 2009)

It was suggested that discussion of the smoking policy and an update from the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) be added to the agenda.

- B. Notice from City of Waverly Regarding Zoning Change (See Agenda Packet)

There was no objection to the zoning change.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- C. Claim for Review, PV#211663, Travel Reimbursement for County Attorney (\$15.52 Over Established Per Diem)

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, appeared and said he was there at the request of the American Bar Association and said they will reimburse the County for his expenses.

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded to handle the claim through the regular claims process at the March 31, 2009 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Stevens noted the County has a policy in place for travel reimbursement and said individuals should stay within those guidelines, even if there is reimbursement.

ROLL CALL: Workman and Schorr voted aye. Stevens and Hudkins voted no. Vote tied. Motion failed due to the lack of a majority.

The claim was scheduled as a claim for review on the Tuesday, April 7, 2009 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- D. Meeting with Lancaster County Senators (Tuesday, March 31, 2009)

Brief discussion took place regarding the invitation to the Board to meet with the Lancaster Senate Delegation to discuss Lancaster Manor (see agenda packet).

Eagan suggested that Medicaid reimbursement rates would be an appropriate item of discussion.

Stevens noted that having more than two Board members attend would constitute a public meeting.

MOTION: Hudkins moved to attend the meeting as a body and give notice of the meeting to the public.

It was suggested that Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator; and Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, also attend the meeting.

The motion failed for the lack of a second.

4 CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE - Gary Lacey, County Attorney; Dennis Keefe, Public Defender; Carl Richie and Gordon Kerr, Justice Works, L.L.C. (Formerly defenderData, L.L.C.)

Carl Richie, Justice Works, L.L.C. (formerly defenderData, L.L.C.) estimated it will take an additional 400 hours of development time to complete implementation of the case management system for the County Attorney's Office (see Exhibit E). He said Justice Works made a verbal commitment to provide case management systems to the Public Defender and County Attorney's Office with no up-front costs but said the company cannot afford to continue to do so at the current development pace/cost structure.

NOTE: The Public Defender system was implemented January 1, 2008. The County Attorney's Office has a target implementation date of July 1, 2009. Richie proposed to continue under one of the following agreements:

1. Continue the system development at no cost to the County, but extend the projected development date 18 months to January 1, 2011.
2. Receive a one-time payment of \$40,000 to pay for the additional hours of development needed to complete the project by July 1, 2009.
3. Spread the development cost over a 12-month period, with a payment of \$3,600 per month. Projected completion date would remain July 1, 2009.

Richie said Information Services (IS) has estimated savings of over \$60,000 a year for the County Attorney's Office once the system is implemented and said if implementation of the system is delayed by 18 months the actual cost to the County would be significantly higher than the \$40,000 Justice Works is proposing to bill.

Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, said his annual operational costs under IS, for the fiscal year prior to implementation, were \$22,000. They are now \$1,800.

Terry Lowe, Project Manager, IS, appeared and said it costs the County \$6,500 for every month that the County Attorney's Office remains on the mainframe and said his department would have charged \$85,000 to "write" the system. He said he supports the proposal, based on cost savings.

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, stated it is his intent to have his department go "paperless" at the time of implementation, which will result in other savings.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to accept the recommendation of the Public Defender and County Attorney and proceed with Option 2.

In response to a question from Schorr, Lowe said IS will not reset other department's rates, even though it will have a loss in revenue.

Workman inquired about the funding source.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and said there are sufficient funds in the General Fund to fund the expense, but questioned what would happen if the target date is not met.

Stevens suggested the County pay \$20,000 up-front and the remaining \$20,000 when the system is up and running

Richie said he would be willing to accept those terms.

The maker of the motion and the seconder agreed to add the stipulation that \$20,000 will be paid up-front and the remaining \$20,000 will be paid upon completion.

ROLL CALL: Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

5 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BUDGET ISSUES - Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director; Jerod Gavin, Drug Court Coordinator

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, said she would like to make several changes to her budget in terms of contracts and services (Exhibit F):

- Add an addendum to the monitoring service agreement with Behavioral Interventions (BI) Inc. to rent a portable supervision receiver (additional \$600 per year).
- Change the way treatment is provided to Adult Drug Court by adopting the Matrix Model and providing in-house substance abuse treatment for Adult Drug Court males (possible partnership with the Community Mental Health Center). It may also be opened up to individuals participating in Pre-Trial and Jail Diversion. Community Corrections would terminate its contract with Lutheran Family Services and decrease its contract with Parallels.

Etherton noted that the County Attorney has offered to pay for a trainer with Drug Forfeiture funds.

- The Jail Screener Pilot Program is not working as expected, although it has freed up staff time. Etherton will continue to assess.

6 COPS HIRING GRANT PROGRAM - Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Captain Don Young

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, requested authorization to submit an application for a Cops Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant to fund an additional deputy for the City of Hickman (Exhibit G). He said the grant provides full funding of the entry-level salary and benefits for a three (3) year period. The grant requires the agency to retain the deputy and assume those costs at the end of three years and Wagner said his department could absorb the position through attrition if Hickman does not have the population to sustain it.

Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said Hickman has agreed to pay for a patrol vehicle and equipment, but does not have the funds at this time. He said Hickman would like the County to front the costs and will reimburse the County over a three (3) year period.

MOTION: Hudkins moved authorization of the grant.

After further discussion, Hudkins withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the County Sheriff's Office to submit an application for a Cops Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant to fund an additional deputy for the City of Hickman. Schorr, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the purchase of a patrol vehicle and equipment, if the grant is received, with reimbursement by the City of Hickman over a three (3) year period. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Wagner said he has received requests from the Criminal Division and Special Services Division to apply for CHRP grant funding of additional personnel (Exhibit H).

In response to a question from Schorr, Wagner said he would prioritize the requests as follows: 1) City of Hickman (One (1) deputy position); 2) Special Services Division (Four (4) court security and transport positions); and 3) Criminal Division (One (1) investigator position).

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the County Sheriff's Office to submit an application for a Cops Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant to fund four (4) court security and transport positions and one (1) investigator position.

Schorr noted there will be a cost to equip the officers. She also expressed concern regarding the number of positions requested and the future budget impact.

ROLL CALL: Hudkins, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Schorr voted no. Motion carried.

NOTE: It was later determined that the grant could not include court security or transport deputies, therefore the Sheriff's application was only for two deputies (one for the City of Hickman and the other for the Criminal Division).

7 MILLIMAN CONTRACT RENEWAL - Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney; Mark Koller, Personnel Director; Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager

Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager, said the contract with Milliman USA for consulting services for the Lancaster County medical and dental employee benefit plan provides the option of two, one-year renewals. The contract was renewed once and the next (final) renewal term will cover the period of June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010. He said their work has been satisfactory and recommended the County renew the contract.

The Board requested clarification of the fee adjustment for renewal.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- B. Lancaster County 2009 Group Long-Term Care Open Enrollment Marketing Campaign (Exhibit B)

Informational only.

- C. Report on the May 24, 2009 Hickman City Council Meeting

Schorr said the main topic of discussion was the proposal to seek a grant to fund another deputy for the City of Hickman. She also reported that: 1) Hickman has qualified for stimulus funds to help pay for their new water treatment plan; and 2) Hickman has adopted the City of Lincoln's commercial and residential building codes.

8 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Request for Support Letter to Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) for Future Athletic Events to be Held in Lincoln

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded approval of the request. Schorr, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Microcomputer Request C#53348, \$2,2062.29 from Lancaster Manor Budget for Two (2) PC's, 19" LCD Monitors and Software

A revised request was presented (Exhibit I). The total amount is actually \$2,062.29.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the request. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

RETURNING TO ITEM 10D

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to accept the invitation to meet with the Lancaster Senate Delegation to discuss Lancaster Manor and to advertise the meeting as a Special Staff Meeting. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

NOTE: The Special Staff Meeting was later cancelled by direction of the Vice Chair. It was decided that Commissioners Schorr and Hudkins will meet with the Lancaster Senate Delegation.

9 CONSENT ITEMS

There were no Consent Items.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. City-County Common Meeting Agenda (April 6, 2009)
- B. Notice from City of Waverly Regarding Zoning Change
- C. Claim for Review, PV#211663, Travel Reimbursement for County Attorney (\$15.52 Over Established Per Diem)
- D. Meeting with Lancaster County Senators (Tuesday, March 31, 2009)

Items A, B, C and D were moved forward on the agenda.

11 PENDING

There were no pending items.

12 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District Meeting - Hudkins, Workman, Schorr

Schorr said a representative from the Federal Highway Administration was present and discussed difficulties they have had with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) with regards to compliance on road projects.

- B. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) - Stevens

Stevens said there were presentations on plans for Assurity Life Insurance Company's new headquarters in the Antelope Valley redevelopment area and redevelopment of the Hardy Building on "O" Street.

- C. Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Advisory Committee - Stevens

Stevens said grant opportunities and the problem of clients not keeping their appointments were discussed.

13 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Workman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk