

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2015**  
**10:30 A.M.**

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on June 26, 2015.*

Commissioners present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair; Bill Avery and Todd Wiltgen

Commissioner absent: Deb Schorr

Others present: Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Kelly Lundgren, County Clerk's Office

*The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., the pledge of allegiance was recited and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.*

**1) MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Avery seconded approval of the minutes. Avery, Hudkins, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**2) CLAIMS: Approval of all claims process through June 30, 2015.**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Avery seconded approval of the claims. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**3) PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. Amusement license application for Matt Kleinschmit on behalf of Home Builders Association of Lincoln to hold a grill out/Fun Fest on August 7-8, 2015 at 11401 Van Dorn Street, Walton, Nebraska. (See correlating item 4A)**

Matt Kleinschmit was administered the oath. Kleinschmit informed the Board the BBQ is an annual event to raise money for the Lincoln Care Foundation. It is being held on Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. with approximately 200 people attending. Kleinschmit said the Family Fun Fest is a new event on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and approximately 800 people are expected to attend. He noted that both events are family oriented and will have ample parking available.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Amusement license application for Matt Kleinschmit on behalf of Home Builders Association of Lincoln to hold a grill out/Fun Fest on August 7-8, 2015 at 11401 Van Dorn Street, Walton, Nebraska.**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the amusement license. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- B. **Approval for Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, to submit a grant application for the National Association of Counties "County Leadership in Juvenile Justice Reform Action Academy" to be held in October, 2015. If funded the grant would provide expenses for a team of four Lancaster County Juvenile Justice team to attend.**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval to submit a grant application. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- C. **Resolution in the matter of adopting benefits for the Deputy Sheriff Captains in the Unclassified Service. The resolution provides for a payout of 100% of sick leave upon retirement, and deletes the section on parental leave. The resolution replaces and rescinds Resolution No. R-12-0040. (R-15-0029)**

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, said this resolution provides the five captains in the office with benefits in line with the deputy sheriffs.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the resolution. Wiltgen, Hudkins, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- D. **Agreement with Homefront Protective Group, Inc., for Criminal Street Gang Identification and Interdiction training, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Funding for the training is from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Office of Violence Prevention Grant #13-VP-5001 for this purpose. Dates for this training are June 24-26, 2015. Approximately 50 law enforcement officers will attend. (C-15-0310)**

**MOTION:** Avery moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the agreement. Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- E. **Grant contract with the City of Lincoln Police Department "LPD" to provide funding in the amount of \$40,000 for a Youth Community Outreach position with LPD. Term of the grant contract is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. (C-15-0311)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the grant contract. Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

- F. Agreement with Southeast Community College to conduct five-week sessions on-site food handling and food preparation instruction for Lancaster County Corrections inmates. The County will pay up to \$10,144. Term of the agreement is July 31, 2015 to August 4, 2016. (C-15-0312)**

**MOTION:** Avery moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the agreement. Avery, Wiltgen, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- G. Interlocal agreement with the State of Nebraska Probation Administration for two probation officers to provide additional presentence investigation report services to decrease the time needed to complete presentence investigations of inmates housed by the Lancaster County Corrections Department. The County will pay \$61,885 for the services. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2015 to July 30, 2016. (C-15-0313)**

Amundson commented the presentence investigations (PSI) have been increasing to fifty-five days as opposed to the recommended thirty days. The increase number of days to retain inmates results in an increase in expenses.

Dennis Meyer, Budget & Fiscal Officer, noted that cooperation between the probation officers and judges could result in decreasing the number of days. He suggested a discussion with the judges would be a good starting point.

Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney, told the Board there was no need to vote today. She said the Probation Department does use this to budget for their staff members and discussion should be done in a timely manner.

Wiltgen commented that he would be in support of a conversation with judges about probation services as well as sentencing to get a better sense of the direction that corrections is going.

**MOTION:** Avery moved and Hudkins seconded to place the agreement on hold until discussions can be held. Wiltgen, Hudkins, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- H. Interlocal agreement with Educational Service Unit (ESU) No. 18 for educational services to youth detained at the Youth Services Center. The County will reimburse the ESU up to \$934,750 for the services provided. Term of the agreement is August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016. (C-15-0314)**

Melissa Hood, Youth Services Center, informed the Board this provides education for youth detained at the facility as well as personal services and physical activities. Hood noted that 100% of the expenses incurred are submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for reimbursement. The reimbursement is broken down per youth per day in school.

Hudkins stated the educators are from the Lincoln Public Schools.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the agreement. Avery, Hudkins, Wiltgen and Avery voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- I. Interlocal agreement with the Office of Probation Administration in the amount of \$10,000 for electronic monitoring services as part of the operation of the Lancaster County Juvenile Drug Court. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. (C-15-0315)**

Lori Griggs, Chief Probation Officer, informed the Board Judge Thorson's preference to utilize a juvenile drug court officer and electronic monitoring as opposed to the electronic monitoring that is used for youth on regular probation.

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the agreement. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- J. Agreement with Legal Aid of Nebraska for the representation of indigent parents and juveniles in the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County. The County will pay Legal Aid \$1,337,030 for the service provided. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. (C-15-0316)**

Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney, told the Board that Joe Nigro would be able to address questions the Board might have regarding this item at a future meeting.

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded to place the agreement on hold until further information can be obtained. Avery, Wiltgen, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- K. Agreement with Bryan Health, on behalf of its Independence Center, for non-physician substance abuse treatment services for adolescents placed in the Lancaster County Juvenile Drug Court. The County will pay up to \$8,000 for the services. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. (C-15-0317)**

Lori Griggs, Chief Probation Officer, clarified that this agreement is for administrative services that are not billable to insurance.

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Avery seconded approval of the agreement. Avery, Hudkins, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- L. Agreements with the following individuals for referee services provided to hear valuation protests filed for 2015 tax year and to transmit information to the LancasterCounty Board of Equalization.**

<i>Referee</i>	<i>Rate</i>	
Jane Hermsmeyer	\$40	(C-15-0318)
John Haney	\$85	(C-15-0319)

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the agreement. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- M. Renewal of an agreement with Ameritas Group for the administration of the Lancaster County vision plan from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. The current plan and rates will be the same for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. (C-15-0320)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the agreement. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- N. Renewal of an agreement with Ameritas Group for the administration of the Lancaster County self-insured dental plan from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. The monthly fee of \$4.47 per enrolled employee will be applicable for the stated term. (C-15-0321)**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the agreement. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- O. Addendum to County Contract C-14-0244 with Pharmerica for pharmacy services at Youth Services Center. The addendum provides for use of the EZ MAR system at no additional cost to the County. (C-15-0322)**

This item was placed on hold per County Attorney Brittany Behrens.

- P. Amendment to County Contract C-06-0201 with Global Software, Inc., for computer software "Spreadsheet Server for JD Edwards". The amendment provides for the purchase of an additional user license for \$1,900, which increases the total number of users to eleven and the total amount paid by the County for user licenses to \$19,900. (C-15-0323)**

Dennis Meyer, Chief Budget & Fiscal Officer, told the Board the software saves time and increases efficiency.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the amendment. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- Q. Amendment to County Contract C-11-0252 with Correct Care Solution, LLC, for health care services for Lancaster County Department of Corrections. The amendment decreases the management fee by 0.49% for the period of June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016, and provides for the anticipated costs to the County for medical care during 2015/2016 contract year. (C-15-0324)**

Mike Thurber, Corrections Administrator, said this provides for medical care, with around the clock nursing, as well as physician coverage and mental health services. He noted, with a large organization such as Correct Care, the cost savings is substantial for pharmaceuticals.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

Wiltgen commented that during a recent visit to the jail he observed a range of patients being treated in the infirmary. He commended Thurber on the efforts to decrease the management fee and cost savings.

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the amendment. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- R. Appointment of Tara Tesmer Paulson to the Lancaster County Personnel Policy Board for a term commencing June 30, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020, replacing Jerry Sellen.**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the appointment. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- 5) CONSENT ITEMS: These are routine business items that are expected to be adopted without dissent. Any individual item may be removed for special discussion and consideration by a Commissioner or by any member of the public without prior notice. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners. These items are approval of:**

- A. Receive and place on file Lancaster County Election Commissioner's report on the All Mail Special Election conducted for the Village of Bennet on Tuesday, June 9, 2015.**

**MOTION:** Avery moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the consent item. Wiltgen, Hudkins, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- 6) PUBLIC COMMENT: Those wishing to speak on items relating to County business not on the agenda may do so at this time.**

Coby Mach, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) appeared before the Board and thanked them for their work to avoid property tax increases and holding the County levy rate steady since 2012. He stated there is work to be done in regards to the recent deficit. Mach presented the Board members with a list of questions from LIBA addressing balancing the budget. (Exhibit A)

Gary Aldridge, 7112 S. 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68516 appeared and expressed his concerns with the budget process and public participation during budget public hearings. He noted that citizens expect that those taxing authorities will wisely spend public money.

- 7) ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Bill Luxford Studio (Room 113) of the County-City Building (555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln).**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:**

- B. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln) with the Board of Equalization immediately following.**
- C. The County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov).**
- D. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live. It is rebroadcast on Tuesday and Saturday on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5. In addition, the meeting may be viewed on the internet at [lancaster.ne.gov](http://lancaster.ne.gov) under 5 City-TV, Video on Demand or 5 City-TV on YouTube.**

**8) ADJOURNMENT**

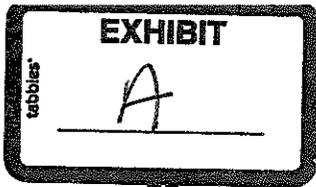
**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:25 a.m. Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

*Dan Nolte*

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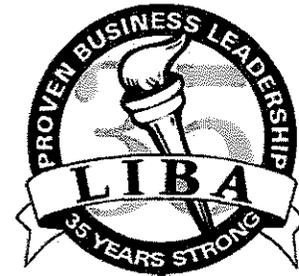
Dan Nolte, County Clerk





**TO:** Lancaster County Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** The Lincoln Independent Business Association  
**RE:** 2016 Budget  
**DATE:** June 30, 2015

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The Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) would like to recognize and thank the Lancaster County Commissioners for their work to avoid property tax increases. We know that last year you had to reclaim part of the RTSD levy in order to do that, and we supported you. You have held the county levy rate steady since 2012 and we sincerely appreciate your efforts.

This year, the early projections contain a deficit when compared with requests from county officials and department heads. Already the county jail has worked to reduce its increase by \$400,000 which will help you close the gap. However, more work needs to be done to avoid a tax increase. LIBA is not going to suggest it has all the answers, but we have questions that may help your efforts to balance the budget. We have listed our questions below and hope you will take the time necessary to investigate each item.

1. What would be the effect of cutting the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) by 5%? The JBC web site on Lancaster.ne.gov does not have any newsletters posted after 2012, and the budget page has not been updated since 2013. We recommend keeping this page current so the citizens of the community know what the JBC is doing.
2. Last week, Commissioner Bill Avery asked a question that we find important. He asked what would happen if you asked department heads to come forward with a 10% cut to their "increased spending" requests. This could be a good exercise for the county. In fact, a zero based budget might be a better place to start.
3. Does Lancaster County have an effective grant writing program? When was the last time a year-over-year comparison was done to see if we are bringing in more or fewer dollars from grants?
4. Has the county attempted to outsource specific duties such as:
  - A. Security Guards
  - B. Building Cleaning (janitorial)
  - C. Crisis Center Services
5. The Lancaster County Jail is spending \$90 per day to house prisoners. When we were last contracting-out our prisoners, we were paying \$45 per day. We understand that we had to pay transportation and medical costs; however, we believe it would be appropriate to issue an RFP to area jails to again house our prisoners. This year we will have a \$21 Million jail budget. Since 2011, our jail costs are up over \$7 Million. That is a 33% increase in 5 years.
6. The State of Nebraska is embarking on a prison study. We are wondering if the Lancaster County Jail should conduct its own study. This might give us some ideas on how to save resources.

7. Would the County Commissioners consider eliminating their personal PEHP plans?
8. Does Lancaster County need to continue to fund the County Extension Office to the extent we currently do? According to their web site, in Lancaster County we have five Extension Educators, an Extension Educator Leader, sixteen Extension Assistants, and six support staff.
9. LIBA would like to encourage the County to work with the state legislature to seek an alternative to the state Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR). The current rules and regulations under the CIR make it nearly impossible to control employee expenses and benefits. Between Fiscal years 2014 and 2015 the County anticipated reducing employment by 55 employees yet budgeted payroll costs are increasing by over \$6,000 per employee.
10. The County Board should halt all discussion about changing the retirement plan. If you implement your new idea, it will cost you more than the old 150% retirement plan. (see attached)

Finally, we would ask that you explore all opportunities to save costs on Health Insurance. This should include lowering the percentage paid on health plans and vigorously shopping your plan to all viable insurance providers.

Again, today LIBA is only recommending that you continue to ask tough questions as you attempt to balance your budget.

**Lancaster County**

1:1.5 match at 13% of salary

Employee Contribution	5.2%	\$2,600
County Contribution	7.8%	\$3,900
Total:	13%	\$6,500

1:1 match at 13% of salary

Employee Contribution	6.5%	\$3,250
County Contribution	6.5%	\$3,250
Total:	13%	\$6,500

1:1 match at 16% of salary

Employee Contribution	8%	\$4,000
Employer Contribution	8%	\$4,000
Total:	16%	\$8,000

Examples assume a yearly salary of \$50,000

Previous to 2012 Nebraska statute required Lancaster County to match employee contributions to their retirement plan 1:1.5 with a maximum combined contribution of 13% of employee salary

In 2012 the law was changed to allow Lancaster County to move to a 1:1 match with a maximum combined contribution of 13% of salary. As of 2015 all new hires except those in the sheriff's deputies union receive this level of retirement benefit.

In 2015, at Lancaster County's request, LB 126 was passed increasing Lancaster County's maximum combined contribution to 16% of salary.

If and when this provision is implemented the county would pay a higher retirement benefit under the 1:1 match than previously paid under the 1:1.5 match.

This change could cost the County an additional \$125,000 per year.

This number was calculated using the County average salary of \$46,910 applied to the 793 employees currently receiving the 1:1.5 match and 80 employees receiving a 1:1 match and assumed all employees would switch to the 1:1 at 16% retirement contribution.

Lancaster County does allow retired employees to stay on County health insurance. The retired individual must pay the entire premium cost. Currently 14 retired County employees remain on County health insurance.

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112  
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2015  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANCASTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

*Advance public notice of the Board of Equalization meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on June 26, 2015.*

Commissioners present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair; Bill Avery and Todd Wiltgen

Commissioners absent: Deb Schorr

Others present: Scott Gaines, Deputy Assessor/Register of Deeds; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Kelly Lundgren, County Clerk's Office

*The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m., and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.*

**1) MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the minutes. Avery, Hudkins, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**2) ADDITIONS AND DEDUCTIONS TO THE TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS: (See attached additions and deductions.)**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the additions and deductions. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**3) PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption Applications**

**The American Legion, Department of Nebraska  
The Bridge Behavioral Health, Inc.  
Child Guidance Center  
Good Neighbor Community Center  
Immanuel Temple Apostolic Church  
Indian Hills Community Church  
Resources for Human Development**

The Chair opened the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

No one appeared to testify in support, opposition or in a neutral position.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the exemptions. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**4) NOTICE OF TAXABLE STATUS:**

**Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska**

Scott Gaines, Chief Deputy Assessor/Register of Deeds, explained the two parcels at the Innovations Campus that the Board of Regents have entered into ground leases with private developers. He stated the Board of Regents were notified that the ground and buildings will be subject to tax.

**MOTION:** Avery moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the notice. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**5) PUBLIC COMMENT:** Those wishing to speak on items relating to County Board of Equalization business not on the agenda may do so at this time.

No one appeared for public comment.

**6) ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Avery seconded to adjourn the Lancaster County Board of Equalization meeting at 11:28 a.m. Wiltgen, Hudkins, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

*Dan Nolte*

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Dan Nolte, County Clerk

