

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2006

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated May 11, 2006. Stevens, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Pending Litigation (Executive Session)

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

3 PUBLIC DEFENDER ANNUAL REPORT - Dennis Keefe, Public Defender

Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, presented 2005 Annual Report of the Lancaster County Public Defender (Exhibit A).

Keefe noted that juvenile cases accounted for 41% of indigent defense expenditures in 2005 and said a substantial portion of the costs is in assigned counsel for abuse/neglect cases. He said the legal contracts save the County money and said the judges appear to be utilizing the contracts, but are also making a number of private attorney appointments. Keefe stressed that it is crucial to track those numbers in order to predict future costs and suggested that the Board discuss this issue further with the Juvenile Court Judges. Keefe also recommended that the County seek legislation to shift the indigent defense costs of juvenile court proceedings to the State.

Keefe also reviewed the following (see Exhibit A):

- ▶ New Open Felonies By Type
- ▶ Attorney Time Devoted to Felonies
- ▶ Growth in Selected Misdemeanor Charge Categories From 2000-2005
- ▶ Juvenile Case Openings by Case Type
- ▶ Lancaster County Public Defender's Office Open/Closed Caseload Report 2005
- ▶ Lancaster County Public Defender's Office Historical Comparison of Cases Opened Since 1995

- 4 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS** - Don Taute, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:10 a.m. for purposes of labor negotiations and pending litigation. Heier, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

- 5 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS QUARTERLY MEETING** - Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

Separate minutes.

- 6 VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT** - Gary Chalupa, Veterans Service Officer/General Assistance Director

Gary Chalupa, Veterans Service Officer/General Assistance Director, reported three nominations for the vacancy on the Lancaster County Veterans Service Committee: 1) William A. Bowman; 2) Richard J. Williams; and 3) Ronald D. Melbye. He said the Veterans Service Committee posed a series of questions to the applicants and reviewed their responses and applications. The Veterans Service Committee recommends appointment of William A. Bowman.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to authorize Gary Chalupa, Veterans Service Officer/General Assistance Director, to go forward with the name William A. Bowman and secure a public official bond. Heier, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board will take formal action on the appointment at a Tuesday, Board of Commissioners Meeting.

7 CLAIM FOR EYEGLASS REPLACEMENT UNDER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY & MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) CONTRACT - Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, reported on a request from Melvin Moore for replacement of eyeglasses under the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) contract.

Board consensus was to ask to see the broken eyeglasses and to seek a recommendation from the County Engineer.

8 PURCHASE OF CARS - Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds

Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, requested authorization to purchase two vehicles from the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) at around \$1,500 each (salvage value). He said if the purchase is approved, he will turn in two vehicles from his fleet (former Sheriff's vehicles) for auction and the proceeds can be used to offset the purchase price.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to authorize Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, to purchase the vehicles from the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) and to consult Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, regarding the funding source. Heier, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

9 ACTION ITEMS

A. Draft Letter to the City of Lincoln Regarding Withdrawal from Interlocal Agreement for Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (Exhibit B)

Bonnie Coffey, Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) Executive Director, appeared and distributed copies of the LLWC Director's Reports for January, February, March and April, 2006 (Exhibit C). She said the reports are sent to the Board every month with the LLWC agenda and minutes and said it was noted in the reports that LLWC will be hosting the 2006 annual convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) (July 19-22, 2006). **NOTE:** A statement was made at the Tuesday, May 16, 2006 Board of Commissioners Meeting that at least three members of the County Board were not aware that the convention will be held in Lincoln and that LLWC was not keeping the Board apprised of activities. Coffey expressed concern that the Board may not have sufficient information to make a decision on whether to eliminate LLWC if Board members are not reading the reports. She said Commissioner Workman had referenced the League of Women Voters at the Tuesday meeting and suggested that there might be a duplication of services in terms of "Ready to Run", a workshop geared toward women who want to learn more on the details of running for an elected office. Coffey said she contacted the League of Women Voters and verified that they have not provided this type of training.

The Board also received written comments from Judy Hart in support of LLWC (Exhibit D).

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to reconsider a motion taken at the Tuesday, May 16, 2006 Board of Commissioners Meeting and the draft of a letter to the City terminating the interlocal agreement creating the Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women. Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Workman voted no. Motion carried.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to fund the Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women through June 30, 2007.

Heier asked LLWC to provide the Board a list of human services that are needed in the community and to indicate what services are appropriate for the County to provide.

Stevens asked whether it is Heier's intent to change the effective date in the letter of termination or to hold off sending the letter for one year.

Heier said the action is effective today.

Workman reiterated that this is a non-mandated function and said the Board needs to prioritize needs and provide relief to the taxpayers.

Stevens said he believes there are other non-mandated items in the budget that can be cut that would generate a comparable amount of money, in particular paid parking for certain employees. He encouraged the County Board, City Council and Public Building Commission (PBC) to implement a policy charging \$30 a month for parking under the City-County Building, which he estimated would generate \$75,000 in revenue per year.

Schorr said she will support the motion saying "I believe it is the best we can do at this time." She also asked that she be allowed to refrain from signing the letter.

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

Other minor changes to the wording were suggested.

There was also general consensus to copy Bonnie Coffey, LLWC Executive Director, and Tami Soper, LLWC President.

B. Draft Letter Regarding Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC)

Item was held at the request of Commissioner Workman.

C. Letter Regarding Asphalt Paving in County Right-of-Way

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the letter. Heier, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

D. Press Release Regarding Tuesday Board Meeting Time

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to authorize the press release and to have a spokesperson announce the change in meeting time on the City Focus Program on 5-City TV. Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

E. Address Change Follow-Up Requests

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, reported the following:

- ▶ A request from Bruce Woods, to delay the change in his address from 9100 West Agnew Road to 8978 West Agnew Road for a two month period for security reasons

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to hold the change in address for a period of 60 days with review at the end of that period.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Schorr offered a friendly amendment to extend the time period to 90 days.

The maker of the motion and the seconder agreed to the friendly amendment.

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

- ▶ A request from Peggy & Ken Hain to change their address to 1811 North 98th Street instead of 1821 North 98th Street

Thorpe said the request fits with the geocoding.

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

- F. Microcomputer Requests:
 1. \$953.64 from the Human Services Budget for a PC
 2. C#2006-188, \$1,944.08 from Corrections Budget for Three (3) Laser Printers and Two (2) Video Cards

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval. Stevens, Heier, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Grant Update - Mental Health Jail Diversion Program

Thorpe reported a request from Travis Parker, Project Director, for authorization to complete the standard forms, supporting documents and letters of support and to submit the grant application electronically.

There was no objection to the request.

- B. Notice of Investment Changes for Pension and Deferred Compensation

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to direct Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to send a letter of notification to plan participants that the Franklin Balance Sheet Fund (Class A) will be closed July 1, 2006 and that remaining funds will be mapped to the Diamond Hill Fund (Small Cap A). Stevens, Heier, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Correspondence from Lynn Darling, 2601 Southwest 23rd Street, Regarding Dead Scotch Pines

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to request a County Attorney's opinion on the matter. Stevens, Heier, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

11 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Juvenile Justice Review Committee - Heier

No report.

- B. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Stevens

Stevens reported that the State may buy laptop computers for the District Court Judges.

- C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Stevens

Stevens said the proposed funding cut for the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) and Emergency Medical Services were discussed.

- D. General Assistance (GA) Monitoring Committee - Stevens, Schorr

Schorr said there was an update on the National Drug Assistance Program and review of proposed revisions to the GA Policies/Guidelines. She said oral surgery services for GA clients remain a problem and said GA is working with the University of Nebraska Dental College to develop a contract.

12 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The Board recognized Sarpy County officials and staff that were touring the facilities.

13 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. Heier, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk