

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007  
8:30 A.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
John Glynn, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007**

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated June 7, 2007. Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Labor Negotiations (Executive Session)
- B. Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) Phone System
- C. Planning Commission Terms

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

**3 BUDGET WORK SESSION - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, presented the following documents (Exhibits A, B, C & D):

\* Lancaster County, Property Tax Funded Budgets, FY08 Requested Compared to FY07 Adopted

Schorr noted that Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director, had indicated at the Management Team Meeting that his budget was the same as last year's, but said this document indicates a 9.31% increase.

Settle appeared and said the increase reflects personnel adjustments that were approved during the year. He said a slight increase for physicians was also included.

Meyer said revenues are not covering expenditures.

Settle said there will be additional behavioral health (2% increase) and Medicaid funds that were not factored into the budget. He also reported a delay of Medicaid payments, estimating it is in excess of \$1 million.

The Board asked Settle to refine his budget figures.

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Heier seconded to send a letter to Vivianne Schaumont, State Medicaid Director, informing her of the delayed Medicaid payments and asking that they be made as soon as possible to assist Lancaster County in the budget planning process.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** Stevens offered a friendly amendment to direct Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, to draft the letter for the Chair's signature.

The maker of the motion and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment.

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

\* Lancaster County, Request for Increase in Personnel (FY08)

There was general consensus to reduce the County Sheriff's request for two deputies for security for new judges to one, since only one new judge is anticipated (a reduction of approximately \$50,000).

Heier suggested that the Board schedule discussion with Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, about the possibility of appointing a security agency for the security detail, as a possible cost savings measure.

\* Lancaster County, Nebraska Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2006

In response to question from Workman, Meyer said he does not anticipate any cash balance issues.

\* A budget accounting for 2005 -2008

Board consensus was to schedule detailed discussion of the following budgets on the June 21<sup>st</sup> Staff Meeting agenda and asked that the department heads be present to answer questions: County Assessor, County Court, Public Defender, County Sheriff, Corrections, Adult Probation and County Engineer.

Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, appeared and he will not be available on that date. He said Rob Ogden, Chief Field Deputy Assessor/Register of Deeds, and Scott Gaines, Chief Administrative Deputy Assessor/Register of Deeds, will also be unavailable.

The Board rescheduled discussion of the County Assessor's budget on the June 28<sup>th</sup> Staff Meeting agenda.

Meyer was asked to revise Exhibit A to show additional appropriations and final expenditures.

Meyer said he will be able to run the actuals after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

D. Compensation Increase Under Proposed Amendments to Standards for Appointed Counsel

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Stevens seconded to send a letter to the Nebraska Supreme Court indicating opposition to the proposed increase.

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, was asked to draft the letter.

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

#### **4 FUNDING FOR PSYCHOLOGIST POSITION** - Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director; Scott Etherton, Crisis Center Program Manager; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, said making Dr. Daniel Leggiadro, Phd an employee, rather than a contractor, will save the County money and provide greater control. He said the change is reflected in the budget request.

Heier asked whether Leggiadro would be available to evaluate individuals in the jail to determine whether they are suicidal.

Settle said both Leggiadro and Dr. Klaus Hartmann can be called upon to help implement the new suicide prevention protocols at the jail.

**5 PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATIONS** - Steve Rowoldt, Chief Probation Officer in Adult Probation

Steve Rowoldt, Chief Probation Officer in Adult Probation, presented a proposal to reduce the time of completion for pre-sentence investigations from 8 weeks to 4 weeks, reducing days of incarceration (Exhibit E). He said two additional probation officers would be required for implementation, at a cost to the County of \$98,242. Cost savings from the anticipated reduction in jail days are estimated at \$408,240. **NOTE:** The calculations were based on adult felony offenders awaiting sentencing.

Stevens said a committee was formed to look at ways to reduce the jail population and said this is one option that could be implemented on a short term basis.

Heier suggested expanding it to misdemeanants. He also suggested looking at implementation of booking fees as a way to offset the expense.

There was consensus to bring the item back for further discussion.

**6 PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE** - Don Killeen, County Property Manager; Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Heier seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:37 a.m. to discuss labor negotiations and the purchase of real estate. Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Schorr exited the meeting.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Heier seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. Heier, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Labor Negotiations (Executive Session)

See Item 6.

Schorr returned to the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

**7 PURCHASE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE (GPS) EQUIPMENT** - Larry Worrell, County Surveyor; Ken Schroeder, County Engineering; Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent; Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent

Larry Worrell, County Surveyor, noted there is a difference of \$2,070 in the bids for the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) equipment (Exhibit F). He recommended that the County go with Transit Works, the local distributor, as they can provide services, such as the ability to loan equipment to the department during down times, that he believes justifies the additional fee.

Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent, said the County Purchasing Act requires the County to go with the low bid.

Heier requested a legal opinion on whether the County can accept a higher bid for intangible cost considerations.

Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent, noted that Laser Specialists, Inc., the low bidder, serves as the repair center for the equipment. He said Laser Specialists, Inc. has indicated that they have loaner equipment available, both during and after warranty, and will provide next day delivery for maintenance and repairs, at their expense.

Additional options discussed were to: 1) Rebid the equipment with more specific language on warranty and maintenance; and 2) Encumber the funds in the budget.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Workman seconded to direct the Purchasing Department to prepare the appropriate documents to award the bid to Laser Specialists, Inc. Stevens and Workman voted aye. Schorr and Heier voted no. Vote tied. Motion failed due to the lack of a majority.

Board consensus was to schedule the award of bid on the June 19<sup>th</sup> County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda, with the two alternatives.

**8 ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Request from Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) to Send Letter to Mayor Beutler Regarding the Catalyst Project

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to authorize the Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) to send the letter to Mayor Beutler, with copies to Urban Development and members of the City Council and Vision 2015. Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Execution of County Resolution No. R-07-0045, County Special Permit No. 07011, Wild Acres Community Unit Plan (Approved June 12, 2007)

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to approve execution of County Resolution No. R-07-0045, County Special Permit No. 07011, Wild Acres Community Unit Plan that was approved at the June 12, 2007 County Board of Commissioners Meeting. Stevens, Workman, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Microcomputer Request C#2007-216, \$779.10 from the Public Defender Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget for a Digital Camera and Memory Card

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Heier seconded to not authorize the expenditure from the Fiscal Year 2007-08 budget at this time. Heier, Schorr and Workman voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

## **9 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. County Sheriff Participation in City Byrne Grant Application (Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program)

Informational only.

- B. Installation of New TRIM (Electronic Recordkeeping System) Licenses

Board consensus was to authorize payment of the invoice for the licenses.

Thorpe said a presentation will be scheduled on a Staff Meeting agenda. A training seminar will also be provided.

- C. Lancaster County Agricultural Society Bond Issue for Expansion of Lancaster Event Center

Schorr said the Agricultural Society has submitted a request to the Visitors Promotion Committee for \$500,000 from the Visitors Improvement Fund for hard surface parking at the Lancaster Event Center and asked how that would impact the bond issue.

Alan Wood, Lancaster County Agricultural Society Counsel, appeared and said the bond issue could be reduced accordingly.

Workman noted that the request for funding indicated if the \$500,000 is not received, the project would be scaled back and the parking lot eliminated.

Financing options were briefly discussed and Workman said he would like to see the Agricultural Society participate in payment of the bonds, possibly with a percentage of the net cash flow.

The economic impact was also discussed and Woods said the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) may have someone on the faculty that could do a mock-up study. Stevens suggested that it would be appropriate for the City to make a contribution, based on projected increased sales tax revenues. He also suggested that it would be appropriate for the hotel and restaurant industry to make a contribution.

Stevens questioned whether it is a conflict of interest for Woods appearing before the Board since Schorr's husband is his law partner.

Woods said he does not believe it is.

Schorr indicated that she will seek an opinion from the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

The Board tentatively scheduled a public hearing on the bond issue on July 3, 2007.

D. Compensation Increase Under Proposed Amendments to Standards for Appointed Counsel

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

E. Guidelines for Drag Strip Public Hearing (County Special Permit No. 06051)

The Board made the following revisions to the guidelines:

- \* Start the public hearing at 11:30 a.m., with breaks as needed
- \* Require advance notice of special presentations and coordination with 5-City TV Studio
- \* Alternate pro and con testimony, with a four minute limit

- \* Requests for time extensions must be made up-front
  - \* Provide separate sign-in sheets for pro, con and neutral positions
  - \* Require speakers to provide their name, address and location in relation to the proposed drag strip
  - \* Request maps for each of the commissioners from the Planning Department
- F. Correspondence from Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, Regarding Smoking on County Property (See Agenda Packet)

Workman indicated that the Public Building Commission is considering a smoking ban.

- G. Reappointments to Air Pollution Control Advisory Board (Wayne Heyen and Carol Swigart) and Appointment of Jay Snyder

The Board scheduled the item on the June 19, 2007 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- H. Six Month Review for Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

There was Board consensus to schedule approval of a five percent increase for Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, on the June 21, 2007 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- I. Draft of Lincoln-Lancaster Office of Women and Economics Interlocal Agreement (Exhibit G)

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to schedule approval of an interlocal agreement with the City for the Lincoln-Lancaster Office of Women and Economics on the June 19, 2007 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda. Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Workman voted no. Motion carried.

#### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- B. Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) Phone System

Thorpe said Windstream Communications has indicated that the phone system has no particular value.

There was general consensus to transfer the phone system to Region V in consideration of services provided to Lancaster County youth. **NOTE:** The Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) was transferred to Region V.

- C. Planning Commission Terms

Item was dropped from the agenda.

## **10 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

- A. Monthly Meeting of Mayor, County Board Chair and Vice Chair - Workman, Heier

Workman and Heier reported discussion of the Planning Commission, bonding for the jail and the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission.

- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Stevens

Stevens said there was a presentation from a group that is looking at the concept of unstructured playgrounds.

- C. Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) - Heier

Heier said Dave Nabbity, former candidate for governor, spoke and encouraged development of destination centers along Interstate-80.

- D. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Committee - Heier

No report.

- E. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board - Heier

Heier said health insurance issues were discussed.

- F. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) - Workman, Stevens and Schorr

Schorr said the budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) were reviewed. There was also an update on the Quiet Zone Study.

Stevens gave an overview of RTSD projects.

- G. Region V Governing Board - Schorr

Schorr reported on the Out-of-Region Referral Policy (billing other regions for treatment costs). She also reported that the State has reduced the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) case rate and has changed the focus to families who are involved in abuse and neglect cases.

H. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Hudkins, Workman

Workman reported on a proposal to open part of the third floor of the County-City Building and to move the City Attorney's Office into that space to make room for a new Juvenile Court judge. A connecting ramp to the Justice and Law Enforcement Center is also proposed. He also reported that smoking has been banned on the deck on the first floor of the County-City Building. **NOTE:** A change in the resolution is required.

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

Schorr said there was a pharmacy update. She said Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, will not allow Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) patients to sign releases that would allow Lancaster County Medical Society staff to file on their behalf for enrollment in the National Drug Assistance Program, which is a cost savings measure, and asked that Fox appear before the Board to discuss his concerns.

J. Air Pollution Control Advisory Board - Hudkins

No report.

K. Board of Health - Schorr

Schorr said discussion focused on the West Nile Virus and the Avian Flu.

## 11 ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Heier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk