

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007
8:30 A.M.**

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated August 30, 2007. Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Agreement with David Thompson to Assume Juvenile Cases Assigned by the Public Defender
- B. Microcomputer Request, \$480.20 for Upgrade of Commissioner Stevens' Laptop Computer (Exhibit A)
- C. Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator
- D. Jail
- E. Fire Chief
- F. Interlocal Agreement with City for Economic Development Position

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

3 SOUND TESTING - Scott Holmes, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Environmental Health Division Chief

Heier requested a sound test at a distance of ½ mile from a racetrack facility, such as those in Eagle and Greenwood.

Scott Holmes, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Environmental Health Division Chief, said it would not be reflective of drag racing. He said testing has been done in multiple venues that would give an indication of sound levels and agreed to provide that information to the Board.

Hudkins arrived at the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- B. Microcomputer Request, \$480.20 for Upgrade of Commissioner Stevens' Laptop Computer (Exhibit A)

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said the update is necessary for access to the TRIM Electronic Recordkeeping System.

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

- C. Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator

Heier asked that the Board be provided with the list of final candidates for the position.

- D. Jail

Heier noted that City Councilman Jon Camp had expressed concerns about the cost to city taxpayers for the new jail and said he will provide him with updated information on the percentage of inmates that live within the city limits.

- E. Fire Chief

Board consensus was to schedule introduction of the new Fire Chief on a future agenda.

- F. Interlocal Agreement with City for Economic Development Position

The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to ask the Mayor in their monthly meeting what he intends to do with the position.

4 TREES PLANTED IN RIGHT-OF-WAY - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, said Rich Lodus, forester for the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD), informed him that he spoke with Bob Wehyrich, who lives in the Yankee Hill Lake Estates Subdivision and signed the agreement to have the NRD plant the trees in the subdivision's right-of-way, and said they will have the trees moved. He said Lotus indicated that it would be better to move the trees in the spring.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to send a letter to Bob Wehyrich, Yankee Hill Lake Estates Subdivision, giving notice that the trees should be moved within a year.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Stevens offered a friendly amendment to indicate that the trees should be moved as soon as practical, not to exceed one year from now.

The maker of the motion accepted the friendly amendment.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

D. Correspondence from Doyle D. Beavers Regarding 148th Street and Highway 2 Intersection Access

Thomas said he will respond in writing, with a copy to the Board, and indicate that the County Board does not have any authority in the matter.

Hudkins asked Thomas whether he has sufficient funds in his budget for the right-of-way on 98th Street and for the Alvo Road project.

Thomas stated that he has enough for the engineering.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Agreement with David Thompson to Assume Juvenile Cases Assigned by the Public Defender

Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, said he has hired a lawyer to replace Reggie Ryder, who was appointed to serve as a Juvenile Court Judge, and asked that the contract with Thompson be extended for one month to allow time for training. He said he will fund the expense out of his budget with salary savings.

The Board scheduled the amendment to the contract on the September 11th County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

5 STATE AND COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS -
Steve Rowoldt, Chief Probation Officer in Adult Probation; Kim Etherton,
Community Corrections Director

Extensive discussion took place with Steve Rowoldt, Chief Probation Officer in Adult Probation; Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, and John Krejci, a writer for the Nebraska Criminal Justice Review, regarding plans for a new jail and programs such as Probation, Community Corrections, and the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program.

Rowoldt presented Adult Probation statistics (Exhibit B). He also presented a list of offender programs available at The Reporting Center in Trabert Hall (see Exhibit B) and invited the Board to tour the facility.

Krejci questioned the need to move forward with a new jail and suggested that the Board could do more to address overcrowding, such as placing more offenders in Community Corrections, speeding up pre-sentence investigations, getting detainees to bond out earlier and housing more prisoners out-of-county.

Board members explained that the Courts determine who goes to jail and said the Courts have been provided with alternatives to incarceration through Adult Probation and Community Corrections. It was also noted that the Board has agreed to fund two additional probation officers in an effort to reduce the time of completion for pre-sentence investigations from 8 weeks to 4 weeks.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said housing prisoners out-of-county is the most inefficient way to house prisoners and is only a temporary solution.

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, said more Felony III and IV offenders could be moved out of jail if adequate housing were available. She said initially the focus on who to take out of the jail was on the largest population, the individuals who were sitting there the longest, and suggested that it is time to look at other "pockets" that could be pulled out, such as individuals who may spend less time in incarceration.

Krejci was encouraged to view information about the jail on the County's website.

6 HEALTH INSURANCE FOLLOW-UP - Leisa Futo, Milliman USA; Don
Taute, Personnel Director; Bill Thoreson, Benefits Specialist; Bill Kostner,
City Risk Manager

Leisa Futo, Milliman USA, presented Historical Claims Analysis of X-Ray and Laboratory Charges, 1/06 - 6/07 (Exhibit C).

Board consensus was to not make any changes at this time.

Futo said her company recommended removing the aggregate stop loss, because the risk is minimal, but discovered that State Statutes prohibit self-insured governmental entities, other than metropolitan class cities, from doing so.

Board consensus was to seek legislative change. It was suggested that the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) might want to partner with the County in the effort.

7 POTENTIAL LITIGATION - Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Schorr moved and Heier seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. for discussion of potential litigation. Hudkins, Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. Hudkins, Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Staff Meeting (Tuesday, September 11, 2007)

The Board scheduled a Staff Meeting immediately following the regular County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

B. Pre-Architectural Study (Juvenile Court Move to Youth Detention Facility)

Board consensus was to schedule a briefing by Sinclair Hille & Associates Inc. on the Master Plan.

C. Alvo Road Planning

Hudkins said the City needs a half mile of Alvo Road opened between 1st and 14th Streets and said the County Engineer is not sure the work will be completed by the time the new school is scheduled to open.

D. Correspondence from Doyle D. Beavers Regarding 148th Street and Highway 2 Intersection Access

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

9 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Chamber Coffee - Stevens, Schorr

Stevens and Schorr reported discussion of the jail, Event Center expansion plans, the Yankee Hill Road project, the proposal by a Lincoln Board of Education subcommittee to close Hawthorne Elementary School and Dawes Middle School and re-draw school boundaries and school security. An cost benefit analysis of City construction-type projects, in which the City has made an investment such as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), was presented. The report indicates the number of years it will take to payback the investment through property and sales tax and annual revenue from jobs.

10 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. Hudkins, Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk