

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair
Larry Hudkins
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier, Vice Chair
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney
Dan Nolte, County Clerk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m..

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 14, 2008;
MID-YEAR BUDGET RETREAT, JANUARY 31, 2008 AND
LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
VISIONING WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the following: Staff Meeting minutes dated February 14, 2008; Mid-Year Budget Retreat minutes dated January 31, 2008 and the Lancaster County Department of Corrections Visioning Workshop dated February 11, 2008. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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

a. Monitoring Equipment - Kim Etherton, Community Corrections

Stevens gave an overview regarding the need for additional monitoring equipment for individuals on home detention through Community Corrections. He stated as of February 20, 2008 Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, was anticipating she would have approximately 90 individuals on home detention with the equipment they currently have.

Etherton disseminated documentation (Exhibit 2) denoting second quarter data and stated she currently has 92 individuals on house arrest, with only two individuals coming off. She added that some individuals have been rescheduled because there is not enough equipment. Etherton explained she thought she would have some short term individuals (two to seven days), however, the average stay on house arrest is 15 to 18 days.

In response to a question asked by Hudkins, Etherton stated she feels she would need 25 additional units (15 cell units and ten LAN lines). Each unit cost is approximately \$1,326 for a total of \$45,000 which includes monitoring.

Discussion followed regarding monitoring costs per day and how the monitoring process works.

Hudkins asked if the contract for monitoring services could be renegotiated and suggested that Etherton talk with Purchasing and the Budget & Fiscal Officer regarding possible advantages of leasing the equipment versus owning/purchasing.

MOTION: Stevens moved approval of authorizing Community Corrections to purchase 25 additional electronic units for monitoring house arrests.

Dennis Meyer, Budget & Fiscal Officer, suggested the units be purchased out of the Community Corrections budget with review of that budget by the County Board in June.

It was also suggested that Etherton meet with Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, as well as Purchasing and the Budget & Fiscal Officer.

There was no second and the motion failed.

**b. Purchase of Medicare Speciality Printer - Ron Feters,
Lancaster Manor**

Ron Feters, Lancaster Manor Administrator, distributed documentation regarding the cost of a medicare specialist printer (Exhibit 6). Total system cost, he said, will be \$1,002.50.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the purchase of a medicare specialist printer, in the amount of \$1,002.50, from Lancaster Manor's budget. Stevens, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

c. Continuation Grant Proposal - Kit Boesch, Human Services

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the County Board Chair to sign documentation relating to the continuation of a SAMHSA grant proposal, in the amount of \$100,000. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

d. Commons Items

No items from the County Board.

e. Youth Services Center - Bob Workman

Workman reported he and Royce Jeffries, Vice President of Cornhusker Bank, toured the Youth Services Center.

3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel and Kristen Crawford, Kissel/E&S Associates

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, presented a legislative update (Exhibit 1).

Kissel also reported that the Revenue Committee heard LB777 (Change provisions relating to property valuation for taxation purposes) stating it would give direction to assessors on the use of primary use.

Kissel added that the Transportation Committee heard bills related to expressway financing: LR232 (Authorize the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee to review the uncompleted segments of the 1988 Expressway Plan) and LB1129 (Change provisions relating to highway planning).

Other legislative bills Kissel briefly discussed were as follows: LB734 (Change employee benefit plan provisions for certain political subdivisions), LB759 (Change provisions relating to re-labeling and re-dispensing prescription drugs) and LB979 (Change county building levy tax provisions) noting they would be trying to procure committee executive sessions for next week.

Stevens inquired about LB268 (Change election provisions for county board members).

Kissel responded that it had advanced from select file to final reading.

Hudkins asked if an amendment could be offered to raise the population limit by 25,000 for Lancaster County.

Kissel stated he would need to research the issue first, but feels it would be difficult to achieve the amendment because it's on final reading.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to direct Gordon Kissel to voice Lancaster County's concerns and oppose the legislative bill.

Workman asked if they would be jeopardizing other bills if they pursue LB268.

Kissel stated it was possible.

Workman stated he couldn't support the motion.

Hudkins withdrew his motion and the seconder concurred.

4 **REPORT FROM PENSION REVIEW COMMITTEE REGARDING
RENEWAL OFFER FROM NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS**
- Pension Review Committee

Copies of the Pension Review Committee recommendation were distributed (Exhibit 3).

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, gave a brief overview stating that a letter was sent to Nationwide notifying them of the County's intent to not renew the contracts for administration of the defined contribution and deferred compensation programs. He stated Nationwide was given the opportunity to give the County their best offer which they returned February 5, 2008. After reviewing Nationwide's best offer it was determined to go out for a request for proposal for a provider for a new defined contribution and deferred compensation administration service and fee agreement.

Eagan informed the County Board that Frank Picarelli, Pension Plan Consultant with Segal Advisors, feels there will be interest in the County's plan because of the approximate \$100,000,000 in a defined contribution plan, the deferred compensation and the average high balances.

In response to a question asked by Hudkins, Doug Cyr, Deputy County Attorney and member of the Pension Review Committee, stated he agreed with a comment made by Kerry Eagan at the Pension Review Committee meeting that the recommendation is to ensure that the County is doing their due diligence.

Board consensus was to place the recommendation from the Pension Review Committee to issue a request for proposal seeking bidders to provide administrative services for the Lancaster County Employees Retirement Plan and Deferred Compensation Program, and to authorize Segal Advisors to provide bidding assistance pursuant to Phase 3 of the contract between Lancaster County and Segal Advisors.

5 JAIL CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

a. Financing

Workman stated he would favor putting the issue of financing the jail on the ballot. He stated he has talked with Dennis Meyer regarding a 25-year amortization rate versus a ten-year rate. He reported that a ten-year amortization rate on \$65,000,000 would be approximately 4.3 cents per \$100 of value. A 25-year amortization rate on \$65,000,000 would be between 2.5 to 2.75 cents per \$100 of value.

Hudkins asked about the cost an special election.

Eagan stated a special election would cost approximately \$170,000 to \$200,000. If the item were on a primary ballot it would be more costly and the general ballot would be less.

Discussion continued on possible verbiage relating to the financing issue for the ballot and how the decision of the voters could affect the allocation of the 15 cent lid.

Board consensus was to place the item back on the Staff Meeting agenda when all Commissioners are present (Thursday, February 28, 2008).

b. Communications Plan

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, reported she and Joanne Kissel, with Clark Enerson Partners, are working on a communication plan which will play a large role in educating the public about the jail and that the County Board's office needs a contact person to assist in handling information requests. She said she would be willing to be that person if the Board agrees.

Board consensus was to designate Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, as the County Board's contact person for information pertaining to the jail.

c. Project Manager

Stevens stated he feels the County needs an employee with construction experience who would work directly for the County Board and be the on-site person to monitor the construction of the jail facility. He stated the position would be a full-time temporary employee through the duration of the construction project with an estimated salary of \$65,000 to \$100,000 a year.

Discussion followed regarding the hiring of a temporary full-time individual versus a current employee with Corrections.

Stevens suggested they request Personnel to create a job description, to be prepared to solicit applications for the position and place back on the Staff Meeting agenda for Thursday, February 28, 2008 further discussion.

6 Letter to Lincoln Senators Regarding Adolescent Treatment Centers - Kit Boesch, Human Services Director

Boesch distributed a copy of a letter to be sent to the Lincoln Senators pertaining to the lack of referrals to adolescent treatment centers (Exhibit 4).

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to send the letter to the Lincoln Senators regarding adolescent treatment centers.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Hudkins offered a friendly amendment to also send a copy to the Health and Human Services Committee.

The maker of the motion accepted the friendly amendment.

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

7 98th Street and Old Cheney Roundabout - Roger Figard, City Engineer; Don Thomas, County Engineer

A copy of a site map of South 98th Street and Old Cheney Road (Exhibit 5) was distributed.

Roger Figard, City Engineer, gave an overview of the issues evaluated in determining the use of a roundabout, noting that a roundabout will operate more efficiently for a longer period of time and eliminate the need for left turn lanes and traffic signals.

8 County Road Issues - Don Thomas, County Engineer

a. South 68th Street Safety Issues

Eagan stated representatives of Hickman voiced safety concerns at a meeting held with the villages in Lancaster County regarding depth of ditches, width of the road, and a school intersection.

Don Thomas, County Engineer, stated they are attempting to address Hickman's issues and stated that they need to notify him if there is a specific issue.

b. Alvo Road (North 98th to North 148th Streets)

John Hestermann, Waverly City Council, addressed concerns relating to Alvo Road. He stated he would like to see Alvo Road paved from North 98th to North 148th Streets due to the school and several residential developments being located in the area.

Doug Rix, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk, stated he would like Amberly Road at Highway 6 to be reviewed. He stated there is strip mall which will be completed soon and it will access onto Amberly Road causing increased congestion.

Thomas stated he would place the paving of Alvo Road between North 112th and North 148th Streets in the six-year road program which will enable his office to begin reviewing it. He explained he wouldn't go all the way to North 98th Street because it's very poor and the fact that Novartis has talked about expanding their facilities.

9 Reverse Emergency Notification System - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, gave an overview of the Reverse Emergency Notification System stating it will allow five governmental entities onto the systems at no additional cost. He explained that the system will make 3,500 telephone calls per minute to primarily LAN lines, however, cell numbers can be requested to be added. Ahlberg said the system would be set up to make telephone calls by zip code. He added that he has received a supplemental grant from the Emergency Management Grant Program (EMPG) to pay for the system.

In response to a question asked by Hudkins, Ahlberg stated they would receive a EMPG grant, in the approximate amount of \$70,000, per year to use toward future costs.

Board consensus was to proceed with the purchase of the Reverse Emergency Notification System.

12 Administrative Officer Report

a. Correspondence from Gage County Highway Superintendent regarding Gage Road

Board consensus was to request Kerry Eagan to draft a letter to the Gage County Highway Superintendent regarding Gage Road thanking him for the correspondence and his assistance.

b. Claim for Review, Payment Voucher 156818, for \$638.50 (Emergency Management)

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to handle the claim through the regular claims process at the February 26, 2008 Board of Commissioners meeting. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

c. Board of Health Appointment (Heidi Stark, D.D.S.)

Item to be placed on a regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

d. Reappointment of Larry Hudkins to District Energy Corporation Board of Directors.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the reappointment of Larry Hudkins to District Energy Corporation Board of Directors. Stevens, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

Eagan stated the item would be placed on the regular Board of Commissioners agenda for Tuesday, February 26, 2008.

e. Date for next County Connections taping

Thorpe stated she has asked Steve Rowaldt, with Adult Probation, and Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, to appear on the taping and stated she would also like to have a Commissioner attend. Suggested taping date was March 4th or March 13th.

Workman agreed to attend the taping.

f. Meeting with County Engineer regarding Alvo Road Project between North 1st and North 14th Streets (Monday, February 25, 2008 at 10 a.m.)

Thomas requested that a County Board member attend the meeting with him and reported that Mark Hunzeker, attorney, has requested the City Council to delay the interlocal agreement for three weeks. He stated a landowner in the area, along with an abutting landowner, wants the trees which run along the section line between 7th and 1st Streets saved. In order to save the trees the road would have to be shifted north onto Danley. Thomas explained there is, in his opinion, one issue which would cause the road to be shifted to the north and that's the channel which presently runs along the section line. He stated the policy has been clear over the years that they shift a road to only to avoid high damages, either emotional or financial, not to avoid volunteer trees.

Board consensus was for Commissioner Stevens to attend the meeting with Don Thomas.

g. Request from Corrie Kielty-Wesely for Letter to Senator Nelson supporting St. Monica's Earmark

Stevens stated the County has funded approximately \$70,000 over the last year to St. Monica's to support their program and suggested it be incorporated into the letter.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded that a letter of support, signed by the County Board Chair, be sent to Senator Nelson supporting St. Monica's Earmark and to incorporate the \$70,000 of funding by the County. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

h. Request for Letter of Support from Olsson Associates for American Public Works Association (APWA) Award

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the County Board Chair to sign a letter of support from Olsson Associates for the American Public Works Association (APWA) Award. Stevens, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

13 Discussion of Board Member Meetings

a. Information Services Policy Committee Meeting - Stevens

No report.

b. Parks Advisory Board Meeting - Stevens

Stevens reported that the Advisory Board was requesting a Comprehensive Plan change regarding the number of acres for a neighborhood park. He stated the current minimum is eight to ten acres. The change would reduce the number of acres to four to five acres.

He also reported the advisory board would also like to upgrade Centennial Mall.

c. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Meeting

Stevens reported that LIBA discussed LES's budget.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported Karen Chinn, with Chinn Planning, is recommending that Board members visit the Corrections Department in Collin County, Texas (McKinney, Texas). He stated it is a direct supervision facility and was constructed in 1994 located on a 45-acre site. He reported that other similarities between the Texas facility and the Lancaster County Corrections Department are open bookings, suicide watches, an infirmary and an average length of stay of 16 days.

15 ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded adjournment of the Staff Meeting at 11:45 a.m.. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
County Clerk