

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008
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
Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008 LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (LCDC) DESIGN WORKSHOP #2 AND THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008 STAFF MEETING

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the minutes of the Wednesday, March 26, 2008 Lancaster County Department of Corrections (LCDC) Design Workshop #2 and Thursday, April 3, 2008 Staff Meeting. Hudkins, Stevens, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Pending Litigation
- B. Report on Lancaster Manor
- C. Lancaster Event Center Press Conference
- D. Change to Comprehensive Plan for Highway 2 and South 148th Street
- E. Salary for Mary Meyer, Office Assistant

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

3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant; Kristin Crawford, Kissel/E&S Associates

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, gave a legislative update (Exhibit A).

Hudkins noted plans to move the State Fair from Lincoln to Grand Island and asked what will happen to the Heritage Village buildings at the fairgrounds.

Kissel said relocation of the buildings is part of the discussions.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

B. Report on Lancaster Manor

Ron Fetters, Lancaster Manor Administrator, appeared and thanked the Board for authorizing a new fire alarm system.

In response to a question from Stevens, Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, said the County received the Medicaid reimbursement from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Wednesday.

C. Lancaster Event Center Press Conference

Hudkins reported on a press conference City Councilwoman Robin Eschliman held at the Lancaster Event Center on Wednesday. He said Eschliman noted plans to move the State Fair from Lincoln to Grand Island and asked what can be done to retain the Heritage Village buildings that are located at the fairgrounds and enhance the Lancaster County Fair. Eschliman said she will ask the City Council to take Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 05011 off pending. The proposed amendment would change a 14-acre portion of the overall site of the Lancaster Event Center at 84th and Havelock Avenue (location of the Lancaster County Fair) to commercial development.

Stevens asked whether City approval of the zoning change would have enhanced the attractiveness of that area for location of the State Fair.

Schorr said the Mayor's Arena Task Force discussed that possibility and said there were concerns about having commercial development in the middle of the State Fair property if the two sites were combined.

D. Change to Comprehensive Plan for Highway 2 and South 148th Street

Heier said he believes the area of Highway 2 at 162nd Street should be reviewed with the new Comprehensive Plan and suggested the Board ask the Planning Department for suggested changes.

Schorr said any changes to the Comprehensive Plan in the area of Highway 2 and 162nd Street would impact the Village of Bennet and said it needs to be included in the discussions.

Stevens suggested inclusion of Highway 77 and Highway 33, at the Crete corner.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to direct the Planning Department to review the Highway 2/162nd Street and Highway 77/Highway 33 intersections and suggest possible changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Hudkins said he would also like the Planning Department to look at Highway 34 and Highway 79.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Schorr offered a friendly amendment to ask the Planning Department to work with the Village of Bennet in assessing that area.

The maker of the motion and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment and inclusion of Highway 34 and Highway 79.

Stevens suggested the Board schedule discussion of alternatives with the Planning Department rather than ask them to prepare anything at this point.

Heier said the 98th Street corridor should also be looked at for long-range planning.

Hudkins said Highway 77 and Interstate 80 is another key area.

Board consensus was to initiate the Planning Department's review of the Highway 2/162nd Street, Highway 77/Highway 33 and Highway 34/Highway 79 areas by scheduling discussion with the Board.

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

E. Salary for Mary Meyer, Office Assistant

Heier said Meyer has assumed additional work, due to the County Board Administrative Secretary vacancy, and said she should receive additional compensation.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said there are several ways to compensate her and said an Exceptional Circumstance Award might be the best option. Eagan noted Meyer is also picking up additional work for the City Council.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to ask Bob Workman, County Board Chair; Dan Marvin, City Council Chair; and Kerry Eagan, who is Mary Meyer's supervisor, to meet and discuss her workload and possible renegotiation of the payment rate or reassignment of job functions. Schorr, Heier, Stevens, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

4 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS - Don Taute, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Nicole Gross, Compensation Technician; Kristy Bauer, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:02 a.m. for discussion of labor negotiations. Schorr, Heier, Stevens, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

Schorr exited the meeting.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. Stevens, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

5 COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER (CJC) - James Jones, Executive Director

James Jones, Community Justice Center (CJC) Executive Director, appeared and said the CJC is a non-profit, public safety organization that assists crime victims and offenders in recovery through the following programs and services:

- * Crime Victims Support Message Boards: An internet-based or write-in program which allows crime victims a safe place to share their feelings, helping themselves and other victims.
- * Community Safety: Crime prevention and policies promoting public awareness and safety of all Nebraska communities.
- * OASIS (Crime Victims Impact and Accountability Classes): Provides educational classes to incarcerated persons and individuals on probation, holding them accountable for the damage they caused their victims, indirect victims and the community.

Schorr returned to the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Jones said CJC has worked with 830 offenders in the State Penitentiary and the Women's Prison since 2001. Of that number, 492 offenders have been released and only 39 have returned to prison.

Heier inquired about funding.

Jones said CJC has received funding from the Woods and Cooper Foundations in the past. He said CJC currently receives funding from United Way and fees from Adult Probation's Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) Program.

Packets of information regarding CJC and sheets of facts and statistics were also distributed (Exhibits B & C).

**6 A) OUTSIDE WARNING SIRENS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM;
AND B) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH NEBRASKA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) FOR GRANT MANAGEMENT FOR
COUNTIES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION OF NEBRASKA - Doug
Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director; Tom Fox, Deputy County
Attorney**

A) Outside Warning Sirens and Public Address System

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, requested authorization to purchase an outdoor warning siren from Federal Signal with a range of 5,280 feet that can also be used as a public address system with a range of 2,500 feet. The siren will be placed on the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) campus as a prototype and he and the UNL Police Department will have access through a dedicated phone line. Ahlberg said this might also be an appropriate application for floodplain areas.

There was no objection to the request.

**B) Interlocal Agreement with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
(NEMA) for Grant Management for Counties in the Southeast Region of
Nebraska**

Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, gave an overview of a proposed interlocal agreement for coordination of emergency management services (planning, exercising and training) among counties in the Southeast Region (Cass, Gage, Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York). He said Ahlberg will be appointed the grant administrator to accept and administer Federal Homeland Security grant funds on behalf of the Southeast Region.

7 THE HEATHER STAFFING - Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director, gave an update on The Heather staffing issue (Exhibit D). He said the State will not delay termination of the three state employees (a nurse supervisor and two mental health technicians) until August 31, 2008, as the Board requested (see March 27, 2008 Staff Meeting minutes). Their date of termination will be June 30th.

Stevens asked whether the resolution requesting transfer of their employment could stipulate the positions will be eliminated if the State withdraws funding.

Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, said the resolution facilitates the transfer, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute §23-2518.01, and said the employees will have seniority rights once they become county employees.

Settle noted funding is through a contract with Region V and suggested that would be a more appropriate place for the language.

In response to a question from Stevens, Fox said the State will pay out their accrued vacation hours and will pay the County 25% of their accrued sick leave.

Stevens said he believes 75% would be a more appropriate amount.

Fox said the percentage amount is statutory.

Stevens asked whether there are provisions for the State to pay the County for expenses involved with the transfer.

Fox said not to his knowledge.

Hudkins said he believes Region V should operate the program, not Lancaster County.

Settle said Region V can only provide direct service if there are no other providers in the community. He said it is a very difficult population to work with, explaining they are individuals who have been in an institution for a long time, with many still under commitment.

Heier asked whether the employees could be transferred to another county under Region V and continue to work at The Heather.

Settle said the statute is limited to Lancaster County.

Stevens asked Settle to provide the Board with a list of employees at CMHC who are funded by other entities so if the funding is eliminated, those positions could be terminated.

Settle said there will be a significant increase in mental health funding from the State. He said CMHC will have the opportunity to expand and said the Board needs to indicate if he should contract for, rather than hire, additional employees.

Schorr said she would not support hiring more staff and suggested it may be appropriate to funnel the funds to private providers in the community.

8 NEBRASKA INNOVATION ZONE COMMISSION (NIZC) - Phil Mullin, Garner Industries

Phil Mullin, a local businessman who represents Lancaster County on the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC), reported on the work of that body. He said the group, which is charged with pursuing economic development through the Interstate-80 corridor, commissioned a study that covers various aspects of development along I-80 (a copy of the report is on file in the County Board's Office).

Mullin noted there has been a lot of controversy regarding the proposed Pflug Road interchange and said plans for a new business park at the interchange will be announced shortly. **NOTE:** The proposed interchange is south and west of the I-80 exit at Gretna.

Board members expressed confidence in Mullin's representation and asked that he and Commissioner Heier, who represents the County Board on NIZC, continue to serve on the commission.

9 ACTION ITEMS

A. Microcomputer Requests:

1. C#2008-149, \$14,713.93 from Corrections Budget for Eleven (11) PC's, Thirteen (13) 19" Monitors, Software, Etc. (Exhibit E)

Board consensus was to hold the item and ask Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, to provide an explanation at the next Staff Meeting.

2. C#2008-159, \$671.58 from Microcomputer Fund for Four (4) Microsoft Excel Licenses for County Engineer's Office

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

- B. Authorize Issuance of Specification No. 08-115, Request for Proposals (RFP) Regarding Lancaster County's 401(a) and 457 Plans

Item was held.

- C. City Attorney's Records Disposal Request

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

10 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Food Bank Drive

Eagan said Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, has agreed to lead the 2008 County Campaign Against Hunger for the Food Bank.

- B. Planning Commission Appointment

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to forward a recommendation to Mayor Beutler that Charles Weber be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Stevens said he would not be comfortable recommending Weber until he has a chance to meet with him. He said they are scheduled to meet later in the day.

The maker of the motion and the seconder agreed to stipulate in their motion the recommendation is contingent upon a lack of concern on Stevens' part after meeting with Weber.

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

- C. Maintenance on Gage Road Between South 96th and 110th Streets

MOTION: Schorr moved and Heier seconded to direct the County Attorney's Office to draft a resolution regarding the issue of maintenance on Gage Road between South 96th and 110th Streets. Schorr, Heier, Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- D. Jail Architect Billings

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, said the County has received the first bill (\$58,000) from the architects for the period of January 19th through February 29th.

The Board authorized Meyer to pay the jail architect billings out of the General Fund, after review by Mike Thurber, Corrections Director.

E. Pension Review Committee Appointment

Eagan said the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) representative has resigned and said he will contact Melvin Moore, AFSCME Local #2468 President, regarding a replacement.

11 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) - Heier

See Item 8.

B. Meeting of Public Building Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Mayor - Hudkins

Hudkins said the new City Attorney will meet with the Mayor to discuss whether to move the City Attorney's Office.

C. Public Building Commission - Hudkins, Workman

Workman said Juvenile Court made a plea for additional office space.

Hudkins said Property Management will remind departments that Main St. (the café located on the first floor of the County-City Building) is to be contacted first regarding food service within the building, under the terms of its contract.

D. Air Pollution Advisory Board - Hudkins

Hudkins said air particulates are at a high level due to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) burnings in Lancaster County and prairie burnings in Kansas.

E. Board of Health - Schorr

Schorr said Hudkins was nominated for a National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) award.

Schorr said each Board of Health member has been assigned a division and will provide monthly reports to the Board of Health on a rotating basis. She was assigned the Information and Fiscal Management Division.

12 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m. Hudkins, Stevens, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk