

**MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND THE GAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009
HALLAM FIRE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
4200 WEST HALLAM ROAD, HALLAM
11:30 A.M.**

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

Gage County Supervisors Present: David Anderson, Vice Chair
Gary Barnard
Matt Bauman
Shirley Gronewold
Ron Fleecs

Others present: Cori Beattie, Lancaster County Deputy Clerk
Tom Fox, Lancaster County Deputy Attorney
Angela Zocholl, Lancaster County Clerk's Office
Dawn Hill, Gage County Clerk
Steven Reisdorff, Hallam Village Attorney
Tom Schuerman, Hallam Rural Fire District
Roger Koch, Hallam Rural Fire District
Victoria Polak, Hallam Village Clerk
AlDean Blome, Hallam
Kristin Jirovsky, Beatrice Daily Sun

The location announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was given and the meeting was called to order by each body at 11:34 a.m.

Gary Barnard moved and Ron Fleecs seconded that Bernie Heier serve as Chair for the joint meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

1) **PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A. A joint public hearing with the Gage County Board of Supervisors for the purpose of hearing testimony regarding the inclusion of the incorporated area of the Village of Hallam, Lancaster County, Nebraska, in the boundaries of the Hallam Rural Fire Protection District.**

1) **PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

The oath was administered to Roger Koch, President of the Hallam Rural Fire Protection District, who provided background information regarding the merger. He noted for many years, the Village of Hallam and the Hallam Rural Fire District have cooperated under an interlocal agreement to provide fire protection for the Village and the surrounding Fire District.

Koch said in 2002 and 2003, studies were done internally and with the University of Nebraska to determine the need for a new fire station. He said conversations began with the Village regarding a possible merger but, before plans were finalized, the 2004 tornado struck.

In going through the recovery process, Koch noted since the Village auditorium and fire station were used as one building, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) looked at this as one project. A bigger fire station and auditorium were needed but this was not possible with the structure of the existing building. The Fire District, the Village and FEMA met and negotiated a solution which split this into two recovery projects - one for the auditorium and one for the fire station - which allowed one of the buildings to be constructed at another location. Koch said the Village agreed to provide the money that FEMA gave them to rebuild the fire station and the Rural Fire Board provided the land and covered other additional costs.

Schorr arrived at 11:41 a.m.

Koch said a joint resolution was recently passed by the Village Board and Rural Fire District Board in support of the merger. It was also noted that no outside opposition had been previously voiced regarding this issue.

There being no further testimony, the Chair closed the public hearing.

2) **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. A resolution in the matter of including the territory within the incorporated area of the Village of Hallam, Nebraska, within the Hallam Rural Fire Protection District. (R-09-0016)

With regard to procedure, Lancaster County Deputy Attorney Tom Fox said each County Board should make their own motion with regard to the resolution. He added, per State Statute, each body is also required to make an order within 45 days of the public hearing which lays out the items appearing on Pages 3 and 4 of the resolution.

LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the joint resolution. Schorr, Stevens, Hudkins, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2) **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

GAGE COUNTY BOARD MOTION: Barnard moved and Bauman seconded approval of the joint resolution. Gronewold, Barnard, Bauman, Anderson and Fleecs voted aye. Motion carried.

3) **ADJOURNMENT:**

LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded adjournment of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:46 a.m. Schorr, Stevens, Hudkins, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

By order of the Vice Chair, the Gage County Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Dan Nolte
County Clerk