

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009  
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
and Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009**

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the April 30, 2009 Staff Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

A. "Be a Tourist in Your Own Home Town" Conference (Exhibit A)

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

**3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel and Joe Kohout, Kissel/E&S Associates (Legislative Consultants)**

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, presented a legislative update and a report on legislative bills of interest (Exhibits B and C).

Schorr inquired about mental health funding.

Joe Kohout, Legislative Consultant, said all legislative bills related to that issue were consolidated into Legislative Bill (LB) 603 (Change medical assistance and behavioral health provisions). He said there are various funding components and agreed to e-mail further information to the County Board's Office.

Stevens inquired about the status of LB 134 (Change natural resources districts eminent domain powers).

Kohout said the bill never came up.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested a magistrate system would be an appropriate topic for interim study.

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

- A. "Be a Tourist in Your Own Home Town" Press Conference (Exhibit A)

Hudkins agreed to represent the County Board at the press conference

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Microcomputer Request, \$1,604.47 from County Assessor's Budget for Dell 5330 and Laser Printer & Paper Tray

Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, appeared and gave a brief explanation of the request.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the request, with the stipulation that the County Assessor/Register of Deeds check with the Purchasing Department to see if his office would qualify for a free printer by using credits. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Claim for Review, PV217048 from Public Defender, \$21.00 for Mileage (Claim is Beyond 90 Days)

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Workman seconded to handle the claim through the regular claims process at the May 12, 2009 County Board of Commissioners Meeting. Schorr, Heier, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Girls' State (June 4, 2009)

Schorr agreed to meet with Girls' State participants.

C. Management Team Meeting (May 14, 2009)

The following agenda items were suggested: 1) Budget review; 2) Impact of LB 403 (Require verification of lawful presence in the United States for certain public benefits, public employment, contracting with public bodies, and tax incentive programs; 3) The future of Information Services (IS); and Roundtable discussion.

D. Walk For Your Life Challenge

Board consensus was to have Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant, coordinate the County's participation (see agenda packet for details).

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

A. Lancaster Manor Tour - Schorr

Schorr said she and Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator, gave State Senator Haar and his administrative assistant a tour of the facility.

B. Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) - Heier

Heier said the EAC supports the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan on sustainability (see Exhibit D) and endorses the geothermal energy project at the new jail. He also reported the following: 1) The EAC will investigate the Biosolids Program; and 2) The EAC has received a request from State Senator Haar to do a study of small capacity wells.

C. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) - Heier

Heier said he was unable to attend the meeting.

Stevens indicated there was a presentation on plans for Assurity Life Insurance Company's new headquarters, which will be one of the first developments in the Antelope Valley redevelopment area.

D. City/County Chamber Coffee - Stevens

Stevens said he discussed the new jail; City Councilman Camp discussed police and fire pensions; and representatives of the Lincoln Airport Authority discussed the addition of Delta Air Lines flights to Salt Lake City, Utah, beginning in June.

Stevens also reported the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a "fly-back" of elected representatives from Washington D.C. on August 20th.

E. Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) - Heier

No report.

F. Joint Budget Committee - Stevens, Schorr

The meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2009.

**4 BUDGET OVERVIEW** - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, gave an overview of the following documents, noting figures are preliminary:

- Lancaster County, Comparison of Budgeted Expenditures, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Requested Compared to Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Adopted

Meyer said \$2,312,960 in General Fund dollars are requested, above what was adopted last year. He said the County has been paying some of the jail architect's and construction manager at-risk's fees out of the General Fund and said that amount will be pulled out, which will have a positive effect on the fund.

Hudkins questioned why there is a 10.16% increase in Data Processing since the County Attorney and Public Defender have reduced their data processing costs significantly.

Meyer explained that software development for the new jail was built into the budget this year. He estimated that cost at \$100,000 to \$110,000.

Workman questioned the \$940,687 increase for Corrections.

Meyer said it is mainly attributed to personnel and boarding costs.

- Lancaster County, Comparison of Budgeted Expenditures - Personal Services, FY10 Requested Compared to FY09 Adopted
- Lancaster County, Comparison of Budgeted Revenues, FY10 Requested Compared to FY09 Adopted

Schorr questioned the 11.40% decrease in revenue for the County Attorney.

Meyer said it may be due to loss of grant funds. He also stated the 10.61% decrease in revenue for the County Treasurer is due to lower interest payments.

- Lancaster County, Property Tax Funded Budgets, FY10 Requested Compared to FY09 Adopted
- Lancaster County, Request for Increase in Personnel FY10

Meyer said the request for a Deputy Budget and Fiscal Officer can be postponed, if necessary.

- Lancaster County, Inheritance Tax Collections

Meyer reported that inheritance tax collections have been higher than anticipated.

- Lancaster County, Keno Collections

Meyer said there has not been much variance in Keno collections.

- Lancaster County, FY08-09 Keno Fund Budget
- Lancaster County, FY09-10 Keno Fund Budget

Meyer said County Engineering has informed him two large acquisitions are coming up: 1) \$800,000 for the East Beltway Project (50/50 split with the City of Lincoln); and 2) \$100,000 for the Arbor Road Project.

Workman noted the City of Waverly has requested \$65,000 for a floodplain study.

Eagan said the Board is still awaiting a legal opinion on that issue.

- Lancaster County, Building Fund Budget -51

Meyer said this year's expenditures were lower than normal.

- Lancaster County, Microcomputer Requests FY10
- Lancaster County, Change in Taxable Assessed Valuation, Last Ten Years

Meyer said he projected the change in valuation at 0.00% and said that may be optimistic since the abstract the County Assessor/Register of Deeds filed with the State showed valuations at slightly below that amount.

**5 LANCASTER MANOR UPDATE** - Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator, said the Chair will need to sign the paperwork for her new provisional license (Exhibit E).

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the necessary documents for a new provisional license for Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator.

Hudkins stated he would prefer to look for a permanent administrator.

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

Thorpe also reported the following:

- The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is changing the way it handles Medicaid nursing home clients.
- Medicare is proposing an adjustment in FY 2010 that will reduce reimbursement for care. There will also be additional revisions to the guidelines for surveys.
- The Manor reimbursed HHS \$24,286.86 for an incorrect billing and HHS indicated it cannot accept the payment, as submitted.
- The Business Office is still working to resolve past due accounts.

In response to a question from Stevens, Thorpe said she is comfortable with the revenue projection in the budget. She said her estimate on capital improvement expenditures will probably be low because she may have underestimated the cost of a total nursing home care software package, which includes software, hardware and training.

**6 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW** - Marvin Krout, Planning Director; Mike DeKalb, Planner

Discussion took place regarding Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) No. 09004 (Amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to adjust the text in the Residential Chapter regarding Rural Area/Acreage Policy) (see Exhibit F). The following changes were requested:

- Change the first two sentences in the third bullet point to read as follows: **New acreage development generally is not encouraged in the Urban Growth Tiers of Lincoln’s three-mile extra territorial jurisdiction except for areas already platted, zoned, or designated for low density residential development. Development in these tiers should only be permitted under the “build-through” model that has been established, and without use of Sanitary Improvement Districts (S.I.D.’s).**
- Delete the following language in the fourth bullet point: **Furthermore, the future demand for acreages is likely to be dampened by the increasing cost of energy and an aging population.**
- Combine the first and second sentences in the fifth bullet point to read as follows: **All proposals for acreages on land not already designated on the future land use map for acreages should be evaluated based on factors such as water quality and quantity, soil conditions, roads, agricultural productivity, land parcelization, pattern of existing acreages, and plans for future urban development.**

The Planning Department was also asked to provide the Board with a copy of the minutes of the Planning Commission’s Retreat and studies that indicate the future demand for acreages is likely to be impacted by the increasing cost of energy and an aging population.

## **7 COUNTY DIRT ROADS** - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, said all of the dirt road segments in the County were inventoried in 1988. At that time there were 178 segments totaling 134 miles. Removing county-line roads and special circumstance roads, such as those that are frequently flooded, left a balance of 154 segments totaling 119 miles. He said there are currently 61 segments totaling 46 miles and said that number includes some farm access roads that dead-end and will never be paved. Thomas said most of the “easy ones” have been taken care of and suggested the County continue to “plug away” at the remainder.

Board members agreed to forward specific requests for road improvements to Thomas.

**8 NEW JAIL FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT** - Mike Thurber, Corrections Director; Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator; Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, presented a list of furniture, fixtures and equipment items that are outside the \$65,000,000 number for the new jail (Exhibit G). **NOTE:** The list of items total \$2,413,306. Thurber said Corrections will reuse any furniture and equipment it can from the existing jail.

In response to a question from Heier, Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent, recommended the County hold off on bidding for at least a year.

Heier asked whether consideration should be given to building more beds if costs come in below the amount of the bond issue.

Hudkins said he would be willing to consider at least putting up a shell.

Schorr asked whether that could delay the project.

Thurber suggested the Board talk to the architect and construction manager-at risk.

Stevens said he believes excess funds could be used to make principal and interest payments on the bonds that are outstanding, until such time as they are callable.

Hudkins said the bond document need to be reviewed to see whether there is a pre-payment exclusion.

**9 ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Microcomputer Request, \$1,604.47 from County Assessor's Budget for Dell 5330 and Laser Printer & Paper Tray

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

**10 CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no consent items.

**11 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Claim for Review, PV217048 from Public Defender, \$21.00 for Mileage (Claim is Beyond 90 Days)
- B. Girls' State (June 4, 2009)

- C. Management Team Meeting (May 14, 2009)
- D. Walk For Your Life Challenge

Items A, B, C and D were moved forward on the agenda.

## **12 PENDING**

There were no pending items.

## **13 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

- A. Lancaster Manor Tour - Schorr
- B. Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) - Heier
- C. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) - Heier
- D. City/County Chamber Coffee - Stevens
- E. Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC) - Heier
- F. Joint Budget Committee - Stevens, Schorr

Items A, B, C, D, E and F were moved forward on the agenda.

## **14 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m. Schorr, Heier, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk