

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009
10:30 A.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

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 10:18 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the August 6, 2009 Staff Meeting minutes. Workman, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Schorr abstained from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Microcomputer Requests:

1. C#56366, \$4,399.000 for Four (4) Computer Laptops from Human Services Budget (County Aid Enhancement Grant)
2. C#56680, \$683.88 from Juvenile Court Budget for Three (3) Microsoft Excel 2007 Licenses
3. C#56758, \$984.14 from the Microcomputer Fund for Scanner for the County Attorney's Office
4. C#56759, \$1,918.00 from Drug Forfeiture Fund for Two (2) Scanners for County Attorney

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the microcomputer requests, with the stipulation that approval of the request from the Human Services Department be contingent upon receipt of the County Aid Enhancement Grant. Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) Report on Biosolids Program

Informational only.

- C. Little Salt Creek Master Plan

Board consensus was to decline the offer of an additional briefing on the Little Salt Creek Master Plan.

- D. Commissioners Award of Excellence Committee

The Board scheduled appointment of Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant, to the Commissioners Award of Excellence Committee on the August 25th County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- E. Lancaster Manor Editorial and Email Response (Milner)

Item was held.

- F. Rural Representative for Complete Count Committee for 2010 Census

Schorr nominated Brett Baker, Hickman City Administrator.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Stevens, Schorr

Stevens said calls to the 2-1-1 Information and Referral Line are trending upwards. He also reported that the Assessment Center at the Youth Services Center is ready to go.

- B. Meeting with Mayor to Discuss a Proposed Pedestrian Overpass on Northwest 12th Street - Heier, Stevens

Stevens said they discussed a proposal for a pedestrian overpass on Northwest 12th Street over Highway 34 to provide access to two new public schools. He said it appears it would not cost much more to include a two lane road and said bonding is a possibility. Stevens said he is reluctant to split the cost with the City and questioned why the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) is not contributing.

C. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare Safety Net - Stevens

Stevens said the Task Force is in the process of drafting recommendations in the following areas:

- Prevention, Wellness and Health Education
- Health Information Exchange
- Volunteers
- Resource Development
- Medical Home
- Safety Net Efficiencies and Enhancements
- Implementation

D. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) Investors - Heier

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

B. Memorandum of Support for Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC)

Marvin Krout, Planning Director, appeared and discussed the proposed memorandum of support for the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (NIZC). He noted the addition of language calling for cooperation when there is consideration of new I-80 interchanges.

The Board scheduled action on the August 25th County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- 3 BUDGET UPDATE - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**
- A) 15 Cent Rural Levy**
 - B) Lancaster Manor Staffing**
 - C) Horse Park Funding**
 - D) Uncollectible Court Costs**
 - E) District Court Remodel (Office Furniture)**

Uncollectible Court Costs

Lancaster County Court Judge Susan Strong appeared and said two years ago the Nebraska Supreme Court undertook an efficiency study of the County Court in an effort to assist with the caseload. She said they discovered there were a number of cases that had not been closed out and asked the County Court to clear them up. Judge Strong indicated the County Court will be dismissing all pending cases filed by the County Attorney's Office prior to December 31, 2004, with the exception of serious cases (Exhibit A). The majority involve "bad check" cases. She said the uncollected court costs totaling \$32,636.87 must be paid by statute and said there is a dispute as to whose budget should incur the expense.

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, appeared and said he doesn't believe the cases should be dismissed just to clear the docket.

Schorr suggested it may be more appropriate to dismiss cases that are 10 to 15 years old, as they may be more difficult to prosecute, and asked what the difference in cost would be.

Judge Strong said she would have to check.

Workman expressed concern that dismissing these cases would be setting a precedent.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that the Board does not have any authority in the matter.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Workman seconded to: 1) Send a letter to the Nebraska Supreme Court outlining the Board's concerns; and 2) Direct the Budget and Fiscal Officer to not include the expense in next year's budget.

Heier suggested that the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) be copied on the letter.

Stevens asked that the letter state this is an unfunded mandate.

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

District Court Remodel (Office Furniture)

Troy Hawk, District Court Judicial Administrator, appeared and reported receipt of a bid in the amount of \$6,710.80 for office furniture for the two new District Court offices. He requested authorization to proceed with the purchase.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, suggested the District Court pay for the furniture out of its current budget, with review at mid-year.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Workman seconded to authorize the District Court to purchase the furniture with funds in its current fiscal year budget. Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Horse Park Funding

Meyer noted the County has been asked to contribute \$50,000 to the proposed Horse Park at 84th Street and Havelock Avenue.

Eagan said the request was forwarded to the Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) for recommendation as to whether to fund the County's contribution out of the Visitors Improvement Fund. He said the VPC has not responded.

Schorr said she spoke to Jeff Maul, Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Executive Director, regarding this issue and said he expressed concern regarding the dollar amount. She suggested the cost be split equally between the Visitors Improvement Fund and the Keno Fund.

There was Board consensus to: 1) Ask the VPC to submit their recommendation and ask them to relay their philosophy regarding the Horse Park and the Haymarket Development Area; 2) Ask to see the VPC fund balances; and 3) Request clarification on who will control the Horse Park funds.

15 Cent Rural Levy

Meyer presented a preliminary allocation of the 15 cent levy authorized for certain political subdivisions, based on 0% valuation growth (Exhibit B). The tax requests push the County over the 15 cent levy. He said if the difference were taken from the Malcolm Rural Fire District, which has the highest tax request, it would reduce their tax asking by \$11,294. In comparison, taking the difference from the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) would reduce their tax asking by \$1,300,000. He noted that Commissioner Stevens has suggested reducing the Lancaster County Agricultural Society's capital request (\$111,454.00) and said it would still require a \$10,324.00 reduction in the Malcolm Rural Fire District's tax asking.

Meyer also presented information regarding the rural fire districts' fund balances (Exhibit C) and said it appears that several, including Malcolm, are saving up for equipment.

MOTION: Stevens moved to remove the Lancaster County Agricultural Society's capital request from the proposal.

The motion died for the lack of a second.

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded to make a reduction to the Malcolm Rural Fire District's budget to fit within the 15 cent levy and if there is a decrease in valuation, to also consider reductions to the Raymond Rural Fire District's budget.

Schorr said if there is a significant decrease in valuation she would also be willing to look at making reductions to the RTSD's and Ag Society's budgets.

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

Lancaster Manor Staffing

Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator, said she has been tracking overtime and temporary nursing agency costs and recommended the County hire one (1) full-time Registered Nurse (RN), seven (7) full-time Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) and one (1) part-time CNA to help reduce those costs. She estimated the annual cost of the new positions at \$313,000. Temporary agency and overtime costs ran \$55,000 last month.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Workman seconded to authorize Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator, to advertise for those positions, as outlined. Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

4 JAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - Chuck Richter, Sampson Construction Company, Inc.; Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

Chuck Richter, Sampson Construction Company, Inc., presented progress photos (Exhibit D). He said major earthwork is nearing completion and the building pad is completed. He said piles will be drilled, foundations will be laid and work will begin on the site utilities over the next couple of months.

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, said the census is currently 512, with 160 at the Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF).

In response to a question from Workman, Thurber said a webcam will be installed shortly, with access through the County's website.

5 ACTION ITEMS

A. Microcomputer Requests:

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Item was moved forward on the agenda.

6 CONSENT ITEMS

There were no consent items.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) Report on Biosolids Program
- B. Memorandum of Support for Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (I-80 Corridor Association)
- C. Little Salt Creek Master Plan
- D. Commissioners Award of Excellence Committee
- E. Lancaster Manor Editorial and Email Response (Milner)
- F. Rural Representative for Complete Count Committee for 2010 Census

Items A-F were moved forward on the agenda.

8 PENDING ITEMS

There were no pending items.

9 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Stevens, Schorr
- B. Meeting with Mayor to Discuss a Proposed Pedestrian Overpass on Northwest 12th Street - Heier, Stevens
- C. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare Safety Net - Stevens
- D. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) Investors - Heier

Items A-D were moved forward on the agenda.

- E. Meeting of Public Building Commission (PBC) Chair/Vice Chair/Mayor - Hudkins

No report.

- F. Public Building Commission (PBC) Budget Hearing - Hudkins, Workman

Workman said there was no public input at the budget hearing. He said the PBC levy is \$0.017.

- G. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Hudkins, Workman

Workman said all construction/remodeling projects are on schedule.

- H. Board of Health - Schorr

Schorr said she did not attend the meeting.

- I. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Stevens

Meeting was cancelled.

J. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Stevens

Meeting was cancelled.

K. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Stevens

Stevens said he mentioned the proposed pedestrian overpass on Northwest 12th Street over Highway 34.

L. Meeting with Mayor - Heier, Stevens

Stevens said discussion focused on the proposed pedestrian overpass on Northwest 12th Street over Highway 34, Planning Commission appointments and the Special Olympics. **NOTE:** Lincoln will host the 2010 USA National Special Olympics Games.

10 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk