

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010  
8:30 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  
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 MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2010  
STAFF MEETING**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded approval of the July 1, 2010 Staff Meeting minutes. Workman, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Stevens abstained from voting. Motion carried 3-0 with one abstention.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

A. 2010 Federal Fly-Back

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval of the addition to the agenda. Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**3 STREET NAME CHANGE NO. 10002, SOUTH 148<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND  
HIGHWAY 2 (HOOPER ROAD) - Brian Will, Planner; Julie Righter,  
911/Emergency Communications Director**

Brian Will, Planner, noted the Board was briefed on Street Name Change No. 10002 (a request to name two streets as a result of the newly constructed street realignment at South 158<sup>th</sup> Street and Nebraska Highway 2) at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff Meeting. It was suggested that the new connector from South 148<sup>th</sup> Street to Nebraska Highway 2 be named "Hooper Road" and a portion of the extension of South 158<sup>th</sup> Street, now identified as "Relocated South 162<sup>nd</sup> Street" on the County Sectional Maps, be renamed "South 158<sup>th</sup> Street". The Board indicated a preference for retaining a numbered street designation for the realigned South 158<sup>th</sup> Street, suggesting it be given one of the following names: South 148<sup>th</sup> Street Connector, South 148<sup>th</sup> Street Extension or South 148<sup>th</sup> Street Spur. He said the reviewing agencies have recommended the Connector suffix not be used as it does not conform to the naming policy and is not used anywhere else in the County. Will said they were also opposed to naming the new alignment South 148<sup>th</sup> Street and renaming the portion of South 148<sup>th</sup> Street that lies south of the new connector as South 148<sup>th</sup> Street Place or Court for the following reasons:

- It creates a duplication of address ranges which is confusing for emergency responders
- A residence north of Highway 2 on South 148<sup>th</sup> Street would need to be assigned a new address
- Three numbered streets (South 148<sup>th</sup> Street, South 158<sup>th</sup> Street and South 162<sup>nd</sup> Street) would intersect at one point
- Using a number designation for an east-west street is contrary to the naming policy

Will said 911/Emergency Communications requested review by Bennet Rural Fire and Rescue and said they also indicated a preference for a name designation.

Julie Richter, 911/Emergency Communications Director, expressed concern regarding duplication of addresses, explaining the suffix could be dropped by someone requesting emergency assistance which would hamper the ability of emergency responders to pinpoint their location.

In response to a question from Schorr, Will said the name "Hooper" has historical significance.

**MOTION:** Schorr moved to approve the Hooper Road designation, based on the recommendations of the Planning Department and 911/Emergency Communications.

Workman suggested using the name "Meier" instead of "Hooper" in recognition of the farmer who owned the parcel north of South 162<sup>nd</sup> Street and Highway 2 (Bennet Corner) that became the Fox Run Subdivision.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that a public hearing will be required.

The maker of the motion withdrew her motion.

Righter exited the meeting to check whether any other roads/streets in the County are named "Meier" or "Meyer".

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **A. 2010 Federal Fly-Back**

Stevens and Workman indicated they would like to attend the event which will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Air and Space Museum in Ashland, Nebraska.

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

#### **A. Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - Heier, Stevens**

Heier said they approved the 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program and received a briefing on the planning activities for the Lincoln MPO planning area. He said he asked about the East Beltway and Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct projects and said Monty Fredrickson, Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Director, contacted him after the meeting and said he anticipates work on the Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct project will begin after the first of the year.

Stevens inquired about bids for the South 68<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct.

Don Thomas, County Engineer, appeared and said the bid amounts were less than anticipated and said construction will begin in August.

### **RETURNING TO ITEM 3**

Righter returned to the meeting and said there is a Meyer Circle in Lincoln which is considered a duplication in terms of sound.

## **DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

### **B. Chamber Coffee - Schorr**

Schorr said there were briefings on the upcoming Special Olympics, the City's proposal to extend the occupation tax on cell phone service to phone equipment sold at any retailer and the academic benefits of the University of Nebraska moving to the Big Ten Conference.

### **C. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Stevens, Schorr**

See Item 4.

## **4 BUDGET UPDATE - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

### **A) RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BUDGETS**

### **B) BUDGET MONITORING COMMITTEE**

#### **A) Rural Fire District Budgets**

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, presented a draft of a letter to the Lancaster County Rural Fire Districts indicating budgets must be submitted by August 1<sup>st</sup> so the Board can make decisions on the 15 cent levy authorized for certain political subdivisions (see agenda packet).

Board consensus was to authorize the letter to be sent.

#### **B) Budget Monitoring Committee**

Meyer suggested the Board convene the Budget Monitoring Committee on July 27<sup>th</sup>, explaining fund balances will be available by that time.

Stevens suggested it may be beneficial for the Committee to meet earlier to provide enough time to incorporate suggestions.

#### **Additional Budget Discussion**

Meyer noted the County was projected to receive \$723,000 in State aid last year. The State reduced that amount by 2.5%, thus, the County only received \$705,000. He said the projection for the coming year is \$637,000.

Meyer said he received an email from Coby Mach, Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Executive Director, related to the budget. He said Mach asked whether the Board had taken any steps to address issues LIBA raised last year:

- Benefits to part-time employees working at least 20 hours per week

Meyer said there are 16 employees in this category and estimated the cost at \$100,000.

Board consensus was to schedule the issue for discussion on a Management Team Meeting agenda and to indicate it is the Board's intent to bring this issue up during labor negotiations.

- Bus passes for employees

Meyer said the County currently pays half the cost of bus passes. There are 15 employees taking advantage of this benefit. He estimated the cost at \$4,000 a year.

- Paid parking

Stevens said he believes those parking under the County-City Building should be charged a fee, with a couple of exceptions. He estimated the County's cost at \$50,000.

Meyer said departments pay for that cost as part of their rent and said information regarding which employees and officials receive the benefit could be requested.

Stevens said he would like to discuss the Sheriff's vehicle request. He said there are three vehicles that were funded from last year's budget that are still waiting to be equipped. Stevens said the Sheriff has requested eight vehicles from this year's budget and suggested it be reduced by two or three vehicles. He said if the Sheriff's vehicles are all equipped by the end of the fiscal year the Board could consider restoring the vehicles that were cut, with funding out of the Contingency Fund.

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, appeared and said his department is already down two vehicles. He also explained that orders are based on the State bid cycle.

In response to a question from Stevens, Wagner said he believes there are substantial cost savings from purchasing the vehicles off the State bid.

Heier said he has a problem taking funds from public safety and mandated services.

Schorr said the Board has been provided a list of County vehicles and said usage will be assessed to see if some could be eliminated.

Discussion then focused on the personnel request submitted by Corrections. **NOTE:** Corrections initially requested 14 additional employees. The request was subsequently reduced to eight. Stevens suggested the County could save approximately \$150,000 by postponing the starting date for all of those positions.

Heier said Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, should be consulted. He said Thurber also needs to define their need for a Human Resource position to see whether the Personnel Department could fulfill those duties.

Stevens noted the Board is still working on a furlough policy

Wagner asked whether consideration has been given to moving to a four day workweek.

Schorr said it would need to be done jointly with the City and suggested that discussion be scheduled with the City Council.

Stevens said there are several non-mandated services he would like to look at further: 1) Rural Transit Program; 2) Lancaster Agricultural Society's capital outlay request; and 3) County road maintenance.

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, appeared and presented the revised recommendations from the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) (Exhibit B). She said they reflect a reduction of \$224,924 in County funding and a sizable contribution (\$180,000) from Region V as a funding partner. Funding for three agencies (Madonna, Legal Aid of Nebraska and Volunteer Partners) was eliminated and no new agencies were funded. Boesch asked that the funding recommendations be accepted and the JBC be given six months to assess funding priorities. She also suggested that the appeal process be suspended, due to the lack of funds.

The Board concurred with the suggestion.

Heier said he is not willing to make a funding commitment until the budget is finalized.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Workman seconded to accept the recommendations of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and give them tentative approval of a budgeting process for \$1,392,500.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** Schorr offered a friendly amendment to notify the agencies that they can expect their funds to be released on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

The maker of the motion and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment.

**ROLL CALL:** Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Heier voted no. Motion carried 3-1.

Stevens noted the Board had requested an attestation review of one of the agencies and said their funding will be held pending that outcome.

## **5 ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

## **6 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Improvement Fund Grant for International Quilt Study Center and Museum (Budget Modification)

Eagan said the International Quilt Study Center notified him the budget for the program has been revised. He said the revisions will be attached to the contract.

- B. County Board Staffing

Further discussion took place on how to address the staff reduction (see July 1, 2010 Staff Meeting minutes). Eagan said the Board may need to hire a temp to fill in when their Administrative Assistant is on extended leave. Suggestions also included a sign to indicate the receptionist area is not being staffed because of budget cuts and asking the County Clerk's Office to assist with coverage.

- C. Village Meeting (July 15, 2010)

Eagan said a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan and discussion of liquor establishment hours have been scheduled on the agenda.

## **7 PENDING**

There were no pending items.

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

- A. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - Heier, Stevens
- B. Chamber Coffee - Schorr
- C. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Stevens, Schorr

Items A-B were moved forward on the agenda.

**9 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no emergency items or other business.

**10 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 4-0.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk