

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2010  
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  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2010 STAFF MEETING**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded approval of the August 5, 2010 Staff Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Heier abstained from voting. Motion carried 4-0, with 1 abstention.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Region V Governing Board Meeting
- B. Report on a Visit to the Nebraska District Church of the Nazarene's Coffeehouse on the University of Nebraska Campus
- C. Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**3 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS QUARTERLY MEETING - Mike Thurber, Corrections Director**

Separate minutes.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

A. Region V Governing Board Meeting

Workman said they discussed revisions to personnel policy forms.

B. Report on a Visit to the Nebraska District Church of the Nazarene's Coffeehouse on the University of Nebraska Campus

Stevens noted the Board of Equalization (BOE) took action on a tax exemption application submitted by the Nebraska District Church of the Nazarene Advisory Board at its meeting on Tuesday. He said he subsequently visited their coffeehouse on the University of Nebraska campus and toured the facility. Stevens said he had a good discussion with Reverend Meisner and said Meisner seems to have a better understanding of what the BOE can and cannot do. He said Reverend Meisner indicated the need for a pedestrian overpass over the nearby railroad tracks and he suggested Meisner contact Roger Figard, City Engineer.

Workman asked Stevens whether he believes the County Assessor's Office was correct in its recommendation to give the Nebraska District Church of the Nazarene a 25% tax exemption after viewing the facility.

Stevens said he does.

Hudkins said he also visited the coffeehouse and believes a 50% tax exemption would have been more appropriate.

**EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Mark Koller, Personnel Director, appeared and clarified, in response to a question raised at a previous meeting, that part-time employees are not subject to a comparability analysis by the Commission of Industrial Relations (CIR).

**4 MEDICAL INSURANCE RENEWAL - Kim Lobato, Senior Vice President and Julie Mosley, Vice President, AON Consulting; Ashely Adams, Account Specialist, Aon Consulting; Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager; Mark Koller, Personnel Director**

Kim Lobato, Senior Vice President, AON Consulting, reviewed options for the medical plan renewal and options to “buy down” the premium increase next year with a subsidy from the Health Insurance Fund (Exhibit A).

Schorr said she favors “stair stepping” participation by employees and utilizing a portion of the Health Insurance Fund to offset the cost to employees.

Stevens asked whether plan design is relative to the Commission of Industrial Relations (CIR) or “outside” considerations of comparability.

Mark Koller, Personnel Director, said the labor contracts do not address that issue but said the CIR has ruled that plan design can be a negotiated item.

Schorr and Workman indicated support of Option 3 (\$400 Deductible and 85/15 Coinsurance).

Hudkins said he favors Option 1 (\$400 Deductible and 80/20 Coinsurance) but would be willing to accept Option 3.

Stevens said he prefers Option 4 (\$500 Deductible and 85/15 Coinsurance) and suggested that if the Board wants to fund better coverage and a larger subsidy it consider instituting employee layoffs as a way to offset that cost.

Workman asked whether Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, has expressed concern regarding the budget impact.

Schorr said Meyer indicated the Contingency Fund could cover any of the options.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to proceed with Option 3 (\$400 Deductible and 85/15 Coinsurance) with a subsidy from the Health Insurance Fund to hold the premium increase to 5%. Hudkins, Workman, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Stevens voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

**5 A) COUNTY ROAD WEIGHT LIMITS; AND B) SET HEARING DATE FOR ONE AND SIX YEAR ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - Don Thomas, County Engineer**

**A) County Road Weight Limits**

Don Thomas, County Engineer, presented a map of bridge locations in the County (Exhibit B). He said his office plans to offer two different types of permits that address weight limits. One will apply to roads and the other to bridges. Thomas said a permit cannot be issued if the load can be made legal (there is an exception for harvest time).

## **B) Set Hearing for One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program**

Board consensus was to schedule the hearing for Tuesday, November 16, 2010.

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

- B. Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Emergency Meeting  
- Heier, Stevens

Stevens said changes to funding were approved to take advantage of federal funding. The changes only involved city projects. He said he questioned why there were no county projects and was told the city projects had been pre-approved.

Thomas said cities and counties operate differently in terms of federal aid and are funded differently.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- C. Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct

Heier noted he had requested information regarding the Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct project and said he received a copy of a letter from Tom Shafer, Design/Construction Manager, Public Works and Utilities, to Roger Figard, City Engineer, indicating he did not see the viaduct project being completed until the spring of 2014.

Thomas said the project was stopped for several reasons, including soil conditions and environmental issues, and said Figard intends to give a report to the Board at a future Staff Meeting.

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

- A. Waverly Community Meeting to Discuss Quiet Zone/Overpass -  
Workman

Workman said discussion focused on whether to move forward with a "quiet zone" (a railroad grade crossing at which trains are prohibited from sounding their horns in order to decrease the noise level for nearby residential communities) or an overpass on 148<sup>th</sup> Street. He said the quiet zone is estimated to cost \$900,000 and said Roger Figard, City Engineer, has indicated he would like the City of Waverly and the County to share in the cost of the funding. The overpass is estimated to cost \$14,000,000. Workman said a related issue is the proposal for a pedestrian walkway on the Cannongate Overpass that spans Highway 6 (estimated cost is \$1,400,000).

**6 TOUR OF NEW JAIL CONSTRUCTION SITE (SOUTHWEST 40<sup>TH</sup> AND WEST "O" STREET)**

Separate minutes.

**7 ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

**8 CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no consent items.

**9 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board of Directors Appointment

Board consensus was to schedule reappointment of Bernie Heier to the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board of Directors on the August 17, 2010 County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- B. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Legislative Conference (October 14, 2010)

Heier said he would like to attend the conference and said there is a NACO Board of Directors Meeting the next day.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to authorize Commissioner Heier to attend the conference.

Eagan said Heier just needs to submit a request for reimbursement of expenses.

The maker of the motion and the seconder withdrew their motion.

- C. Proclamation for Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children (Monday, September 27, 2010)

Informational only.

- D. Deputy Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent

The Board discussed the request from Russ Shultz, Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent, to proceed with hiring a deputy weed control superintendent who will transition to his position when he retires. Shultz has suggested a two or three month overlap to allow for training.

Board consensus was to authorize Shultz to begin the hiring process.

## **10 PENDING**

There were no pending items.

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

- A. Waverly Community Meeting to Discuss Quiet Zone/Overpass - Workman
- B. Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Emergency Meeting - Heier, Stevens

Items A and B were moved forward on the agenda.

- C. Monthly Meeting with Mayor - Heier, Stevens

Stevens said they asked the Mayor whether he has veto power if the City Council votes to move to a 2:00 a.m. closing time for bars. He said the Mayor indicated he does but indicated he will likely go along with whatever the City Council decides.

- D. Public Building Commission (PBC) Meeting with Mayor - Hudkins

Hudkins said he was not able to participate in the meeting. He said Linda Wilson, PBC Vice Chair, and Don Killeen, County Property Manager, met with the Mayor and discussed how to re-do Room 303 (Conference Room).

- E. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Hudkins, Schorr

Hudkins said they approved the budget. He said they also discussed furnishings for Room 303 and noted a recommendation that if new furnishings are purchased, they be placed in Room 113 and the furniture in that room be moved to Room 303.

Schorr reported the following: 1) A bid has gone out for remodel of space on the first floor of the County-City Building for the Human Services Department; 2) A laptop computer has been requested to run the digital recording software in the City Council/County Commissioners Hearing Room; 3) Space in the City Attorney's Office is being remodeled to accommodate two employees moving over from the Human Rights Commission; and 4) The HoneyBaked Ham Store has submitted a proposal to offer box lunches in the County-City Building's deli area one day a month.

F. Board of Health - Schorr

Schorr reported on the Summer Food Service Program, noting 95,000 meals were served throughout the summer. **NOTE:** The program was established to ensure that children, ages 2-18, would received nutritious meals during summer months when schools are not in session.

**12 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

**13 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m. Hudkins, Workman, Heier, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk