

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2013
COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM, ROOM 112
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
10:30 A.M.

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on July 19, 2013.

Commissioners present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
Brent Smoyer, Vice Chair
Roma Amundson
Jane Raybould
Deb Schorr

Others present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The location announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was given and the meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the minutes. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2) **CLAIMS: Approval of all claims processed through Tuesday, July 23, 2013.**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Schorr seconded approval of the claims. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

3) **PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. **County Change of Zone No. 12038 – AG to AGR (NW 126th Street and W. Bluff Road).**

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Sara Hartzell, County Planner, was administered the oath. She said the initial application raised concerns with the County Engineer on proper site distance for access points and with the Village of Malcolm on water supply. Planning requested the applicant bring in a Community Unit Plan (CUP) with a sketch of the lot layout, access points and additional water information. Without those questions answered, Planning recommended denial.

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:

Hartzell said the applicant later provided a sketch plan (not an official CUP) that provided an access point the County Engineer identified as safe along NW 126th Street, but it did not contain water information. The Planning Commissioners then unanimously recommended approval since there was enough information to move forward. If the property changes from AG to AGR, State Statute allows creation of subdivision lots greater than 10 acres without going through the subdivision process. This could result in a piece of land that would not have a safe access point and the sale of the property could result in the new owner not providing a CUP. Because of this, Planning recommended moving forward with a zoning agreement containing conditions that the applicant would sign and record. The conditions recommended include the following: 1) any subdivision of ten or more acres should be done through a final plat so it could be reviewed and 2) lots smaller than ten acres would require a CUP or preliminary plat so water information could be obtained.

Raybould asked if a drainage study could be included as a condition. Hartzell said grading and drainage plans are part of a CUP and preliminary plat, which would be required for lots less than ten acres. She did not think there would be much need for grading on a parcel over ten acres.

Those present who wished to testify were administered the oath.

Richard Kleist, 12300 W. Bluff Road, stated his opposition to the change of zone. He sold the Robeys (the applicants) the two 20-acre tracts with the understanding that one home would be built on each tract; however, it was not a written condition of the sale. He discussed the three informal subdivision proposals submitted to Planning Commission showing six or seven additional homes. He expressed concern over traffic, noise, dust and drainage problems created by the extra homes. In response to Raybould's question, Kleist discussed the drainage flow and the effect of changing the layout.

Joe Lefler, 13505 W. Waverly Road, said he would like to see a water study done. He felt more houses and traffic could increase accidents. Amundson referenced a comment from Planning that said all annexed lots are required to be on the village water and sewer systems making individual wells and septic systems/lagoons obsolete. Lefler thought it was because the property was outside the village limits and added houses would create a water shortage.

Nadine Link, Malcolm Village Clerk, said the water tables and wells decreased a little bit last year in the drought and noted complaints from a subdivision east of Malcolm when the hydrants and water tower are flushed. She felt it would be best to keep lots at a uniform ten-acre size. In response to Amundson's question, Link said studies are done every three to four years and wells are tested frequently; she did not have this information with her to reference but there is concern more water pull would cause Malcolm's supply to decrease.

Darwin Eucker, 11140 NW 121st Street Place, opposed the zoning change. He felt dividing into smaller lots would not be consistent with the area and water testing should be submitted prior to a zoning change. He discussed safety concerns with adding access to NW 126th Street.

Randy Tonkinson, 11101 NW 126th Street, discussed the history of his property as a fourth generation feedlot. He felt added houses could bring about more disruption to his livestock and did not think NW 126th Street and W. Bluff Road could handle a traffic increase. Schorr asked Tonkinson if he would be comfortable with a ten-acre lot division. Tonkinson felt that would be the best option if the property did not stay in 20-acre tracts.

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:

Raybould questioned if anyone lived directly east of the feedlot and if anyone would want to purchase land there. Tonkinson said the Robeys built their house beside the lot, but they currently live in Florida. He knew there could be issues with properties built too close to a feedlot.

Don Matthes, 11303 NW 112th Street, expressed concern over water quality and contamination to wells.

Dennis Robey, 11080 NW 126th Street (applicant), stated he originally wanted to purchase one 20-acre lot but he purchased two 20-acre lots to have more freedom of land use. He expressed his desire to work with Planning and to take the required steps, but he wanted to have the land changed to AGR before he pays money for studies or provides an official plan.

Schorr asked Robey if he was living at the NW 126th Street residence. Robey said he has that house and one in Florida. He confirmed the property has been for sale for around six months. Schorr questioned if lots would be marketable with a feedlot across the road. Robey said he was not sure yet if the property would be sold in smaller lots; he currently was only looking at a change of zone.

Hudkins questioned if his house is on a 20-acre lot. Robey said it is but is being advertised as a ten-acre lot; he would prefer a five-acre lot to make it more sellable but did not want to deal with the extra requirements for smaller lots. Hudkins asked about the plans submitted to Planning. Robey said they were rough plans, but if the zoning change is approved, he could work on a CUP and preliminary plan.

Raybould asked for comments on traffic from Robey and the County Engineer's Office. Robey said he did not encounter any problems other than a neighbor who became stuck in the ditch. Doug Pillard, County Engineer's Office, was administered the oath. He said the proposals shown had one access point on NW 126th Street adequate for site distance, but he wanted to include a condition that there is no access from W. Bluff Road.

Schorr asked if conditions to an agreement would be retained if the property were sold. Hartzell said conditions would be included and recorded with the property record, as well as be shown on the GIS system. Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney, was administered the oath. She said the Board has authority to add conditions to an agreement, and the agreement would run with the land. A condition on access could be placed in the final plat.

Schorr asked Nadine Link how two ten-acre lots would affect the Village of Malcolm. Link said the Malcolm Board felt ten-acre lots would be consistent with the area.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

Hudkins expressed his concerns over density, particularly by an established feedlot. He said two ten-acre lots would be better than six or seven lots, but he worried about the effect on drainage. He noted access should be made on NW 126th Street and not W. Bluff Road.

Raybould felt completing the water and drainage studies would have provided better direction to the Board in making a decision on the change of zone. She expressed concern over granting a change of zone without proper direction on land use. Behrens clarified that if a rezone contract would proceed, the resolution approving the change of zone would be contingent upon the acceptance of the rezone contract. The actual change of zone would not occur unless the landowner agrees to the conditions.

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:

Schorr asked Robey what his next step would be if he were granted a change of zone with the condition of one access point along NW 126th Street. Robey said he would need to do more research to see what is equitable.

Amundson questioned Robey's purpose for this process. Robey said his primary goal is to sell the house and retain the land. He said the CUP and the preliminary plat should protect from unusual layout and drainage issues.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded denial of the change of zone.

Raybould reiterated her concerns over not having studies and plans for the property. She supported the recommendation of denial and encouraged Robey to complete the studies.

Smoyer thought future changes would affect this land and did not feel it was necessary to change the zoning at this time.

Schorr said she would support the motion for denial, but she would have supported the application if it were for 10-acre lots, which coordinate with the surrounding area.

ROLL CALL: Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Amusement license renewal application from Raymond United Methodist Church to operate a swap meet at 11505 N. 14th Street, Raymond, on August 24, 2013.**

Jan Hauser, property owner at 11505 N. 14th Street, said there have not been parking issues. She agreed to post signs on turning vehicles as recommended.

MOTION: Raybould moved and Amundson seconded approval of the amusement license renewal application. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- B. **Resolution in the matter of approving a keno satellite location at Kramer Bar & Grill, 11365 W. Kramer Street, Kramer, Lancaster County, Nebraska. (R-13-0041)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the resolution. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- C. **Utility Permit No. 1117 with Black Hills Energy for the installation of approximately 900 feet of a new 12-inch natural gas main along Arbor Road from N. 27th Street to an existing gas line east. There is no cost to Lancaster County. (C-13-0334)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the utility permit. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- D. **Recommendation from the Purchasing Agent and County Corrections to award bids to Wise Safety and Environmental for self-contained breathing apparatuses at a cost of \$24,800 and to Aramsco, Inc., for wall-mount cases to store the self-contained breathing apparatuses at a cost of \$4,345.40. (B-13-0032)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the recommendation. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- E. **Agreement with Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC, d/b/a ICSolutions, for inmate phone services. The County will be paid a commission of 70.1% of the gross revenues generated by the phone services with a guaranteed annual minimum commission of \$320,000. The County will also be paid a signing bonus of \$50,000. Term of the contract is four years from the date of execution by both parties. (C-13-0335)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the agreement. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- F. **Contract between Maxwell Products, Inc., Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln for the annual supply of asphaltic joint sealant. The County will pay for products according to the pricing as listed in the contractor's proposal. Term of the contract is one year from the date of execution by all parties. (C-13-0336)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Raybould seconded approval of the contract. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- G. **Amendment to County Contract C-11-0744 with PrestoX for pest control services. The amendment adds service for current and future parking garages and County Corrections. (C-13-0337)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Amundson seconded approval of the amendment. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- H. **Amendment to County Contract C-08-0665 between Recycling Enterprises of Nebraska, Inc., Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for recycling services. The amendment renews the agreement for an additional three-month period from August 1, 2013, to October 31, 2013. (C-13-0338)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the amendment. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- I. **Amendment to County Contract C-12-0344 between iPrint Technologies, Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for the annual supply of toner cartridges. The amendment renews the agreement for an additional one-year term from August 1, 2013, to July 31, 2014. (C-13-0339)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Schorr seconded approval of the amendment. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- J. **Amendment to County Contract C-12-0345 between The Tree House, Inc., Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for the annual supply of toner cartridges. The amendment renews the agreement for an additional one-year term from August 1, 2013, to July 31, 2014. (C-13-0340)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the amendment. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- K. **Contract with Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C. for auditing services for all Lancaster County funds/offices and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016. (C-13-0341)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Raybould seconded approval of the contract. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- L. **Agreement with Spectacor to provide specialized medical care and assistance to Lancaster County General Assistance clients who have pending claims with the Social Security Administration and may be eligible for retroactive Medicaid benefits. (C-13-0333)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the agreement. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- M. **Grant contract with Volunteer Partners to provide funding in the amount of \$6,500 for the Youth Volunteer program. Term of the contract is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0342)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Schorr seconded approval of the contract. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- N. **Grant contract with Malone Community Center to provide funding in the amount of \$17,000 for the Talented Tenth Scholar's program. Term of the contract is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0343)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the contract. Schorr, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- O. **Grant contract with El Centro de las Americas to provide funding in the amount of \$19,963 for the Golden Warriors program. Term of the contract is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0344)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- P. **Grant contract with Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the High Risk Youth program. Term of the contract is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0345)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Schorr seconded approval of the contract. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- Q. **Grant contract with The HUB, Inc., to provide funding in the amount of \$36,200 for the Back on Track program. The HUB will provide \$8,000 in non-federal matching funds. Term of the contract is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0346)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- R. **Grant contract with Voices of Hope to provide funding for the project coordinator of the Violence Against Women program, "A Coordinated Response to Reducing Domestic Violence." The County will expend federal grant funds in the amount of \$55,026. Term of the contract is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0347)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- S. **Memorandum of understanding between Lancaster County, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Miles Ahead Consulting, Heartland Big Brother Big Sisters, The HUB, Families Inspiring Families, Lincoln Public Schools, Cedars Youth Services and the University of Nebraska at Omaha – Juvenile Justice Institute to outline the parties' collaborative efforts as part of the Lancaster County Re-entry Program. The agreement will be effective through December 31, 2014. (C-13-0348)**

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Juvenile Justice Coordinator, said this is part of the \$600,000 reentry grant from the federal government. It is an understanding among the parties to share information and to keep the information among the parties.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the memorandum of understanding. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- T. **Subgrant agreement with the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for child support enforcement services provided by the Lancaster County Attorney's Office for the period of October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. The County shall be reimbursed an estimated amount of \$1,152,882 for these services. (C-13-0349)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the agreement. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- U. **Child and adult care food program application and agreement with the Nebraska Department of Education, Nutrition Services for Program Year 2014 on behalf of the Lancaster County Community Mental Health Center, Midtown Center. (C-13-0350)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Raybould seconded approval of the application and agreement. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- V. **Agreement with Joy Medical Group, LLC, for supplemental nursing services at the Community Mental Health Center and Mental Health Crisis Center. The County will pay for services based upon the rates provided in Attachment A. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. (C-13-0351)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the agreement. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- W. **Memorandum of understanding between Region V Systems, OMNI Behavioral Health and Lancaster County for the purpose of defining the duties and responsibilities of the parties during the transition of the provision of behavioral health services from the County to a private provider. (C-13-0352)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the memorandum of understanding. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- X. **Memorandum of understanding between Region V Systems, Lutheran Family Services and Lancaster County for the purpose of defining the duties and responsibilities of the parties during the transition of the provision of behavioral health services from the County to a private provider. (C-13-0353)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the memorandum of understanding. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- Y. **Memorandum of understanding between Region V Systems, CenterPointe and Lancaster County for the purpose of defining the duties and responsibilities of the parties during the transition of the provision of behavioral health services from the County to a private provider. (C-13-0354)**

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

MOTION: Raybould moved and Schorr seconded approval of the memorandum of understanding. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- Z. **Political subdivision tort claim filed against Lancaster County by Jason Stastny for towing expenses in the amount of \$97.08.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the tort claim. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- AA. **Political subdivision tort claim filed against Lancaster County by Ronald Nattress for alleged battery, arrest, confinement and unlawful force in the amount of \$1,000,000.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded denial of the tort claim based on the County Attorney's recommendation. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- BB. **Political subdivision filed against Lancaster County Corrections by Adrian Casares for lost property in the amount of \$49.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded denial of the tort claim based on the Corrections Director's recommendation. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- CC. **Political subdivision filed against Lancaster County Corrections by Luis Ceja for lost property in the amount of \$40.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded denial of the tort claim based on the Corrections Director's recommendation. Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- DD. **Political subdivision filed against Lancaster County Corrections by Robert Schuster for lost property in the amount of \$5.75.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded denial of the tort claim based on the Correction Director's recommendation. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- 5) **CONSENT ITEMS: *These are routine business items that are expected to be adopted without dissent. Any individual item may be removed for special discussion and consideration by a Commissioner or by any member of the public without prior notice. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners. These items are approval of:***

- A. **Receive and place on file the Nebraska Surface Transportation Program Book for Fiscal Years 2014-2019.**

CONSENT ITEMS CONTINUED:

MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the consent item. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- 6) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Those wishing to speak on items relating to County business not on the agenda may do so at this time.

No one appeared for public comment.

7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at 8:30 a.m., in Room 113 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).
- B. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln) with the Board of Equalization immediately following.
- C. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold public hearings on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln), regarding the following:
 - 1. County Text Amendment No. 13008 (Lancaster County Zoning Resolution, Articles 2, 3, 15 and 22)
 - 2. County Text Amendment No. 13010 (Lancaster County Land Subdivision Resolution, Section 2.22)
 - 3. County Change of Zone No. 13012 (AG to AGR and AGR to AG around S. 68th Street and Martell Road)
- D. The Lancaster County Board of Equalization will hold a meeting on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln) to take final action on real property valuation protests for 2013.
- E. The County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or commish@lancaster.ne.gov.
- F. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live. It is rebroadcast on Tuesday and Saturday on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5. In addition, the meeting may be viewed on the internet at lancaster.ne.gov under 5 City-TV, Video on Demand or 5 City-TV on YouTube.

8) **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 12:15 p.m. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Dan Nolte

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk



**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2013
COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM, ROOM 112
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Advance public notice of the Board of Equalization meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on July 19, 2013.

Commissioners present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
 Brent Smoyer, Vice Chair
 Roma Amundson
 Jane Raybould
 Deb Schorr

Others present: Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds
 Scott Gaines, Deputy County Assessor/Register of Deeds
 Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
 Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
 Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney
 Dan Nolte, County Clerk
 Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
 Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The location announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was given and the meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

- 1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded approval of the minutes. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- 2) **ADDITIONS AND DEDUCTIONS TO THE TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS (See attached additions and deductions)**

MOTION: Raybould moved and Schorr seconded approval of the additions and deductions. Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- 3) **MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS:**

**Developmental Services of Nebraska, Inc.
First Presbyterian Church
Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, d/b/a Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary**

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS CONTINUED:

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded approval of the motor vehicle tax exemption applications. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4) **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS:**

**Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska
Guardians, Inc.
Immanuel Retirement Communities
Nebraska 4-H Foundation**

Scott Gaines, Deputy County Assessor/Register of Deeds, recommended a 40% exemption approval for Guardians, Inc., and full exemption approval for Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska, Immanuel Retirement Communities and Nebraska 4-H Foundation.

Hudkins said he would excuse himself from this matter since he is a member of the Grand Lodge; he asked the Vice Chair to take over direction of the meeting.

Andrew Loudon, Attorney for Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska, highlighted its functions. Schorr verified the application was new since the organization moved to a different facility and asked how the old facility would be used. Gaines said the old location would be recommended to go back on the tax roll once the Grand Lodge has completed its move.

David Levy, Attorney for Immanuel Retirement Communities, said a new application was submitted because the property was subdivided to develop a long-term care facility.

Bob Van Valkenburg read a letter on his objection to the exemption for the Grand Lodge (Exhibit A). He asked the Board to deny the exemption or to hold the application for further review.

Mike Thew, Deputy County Attorney, referenced instances where Van Valkenburg had brought forth allegations against the Grand Lodge, including a Nebraska Court of Appeals case and prior County Board of Equalization meetings. He submitted a letter dated April 22, 2006, from then Property Tax Administrator Catherine Lang supporting the County Board of Equalization's decision to exempt the property (Exhibit B). Since 1932, Nebraska law says Masonic organizations qualify as charitable, educational and religious organizations (Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry vs. Board of County Commissioners of Lancaster County, 122 Neb. 586, 241 NW 2nd 93, 1932).

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded approval of the property tax exemptions for the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska, Immanuel Retirement Communities, Nebraska 4-H Foundations and a 40% property tax exemption for Guardians, Inc. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson and Smoyer voted aye. Hudkins abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with one abstention.

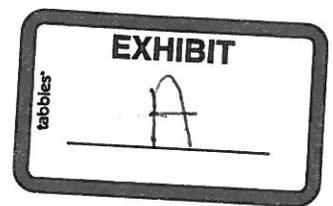
5) **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Raybould seconded to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 12:33 p.m. Schorr, Raybould, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk





DATE: 23 July 2013
SUBJECT: Objection to Property Tax Exemption - 301 North Cotner Blvd
FROM: Robert J. Van Valkenburg
TO: Members of the Lancaster County Board of Equalization

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My objection to the granting of an exemption from payment of property tax by the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska (Grand Lodge) on its new office building is based on the very honesty Freemasonry teaches its members. The Grand Lodge is not qualified for exemption from payment of property taxes for any of the reasons set forth in the governing Nebraska Statute Chapter 77-202 (See Attachment 1)

The leader of that body would have you believe the Grand Lodge is a "CHARITABLE" organization. That simply is not true! Individual Masons are probably more charitable than most citizens, however, that does not qualify their lodges as "Charitable" organizations. Attached you will find copies of the actual budgets approved by the representatives from around Nebraska attending annual meetings of the Grand Lodge in 2007 through 2012. (Attachments 2 thru 7) Both Statutory Law and Case Law, in an abundant number of references it is made clear - the burden of proof of an organization being Charitable resides with the requesting authorized party. The Grand Lodge simply can not prove that it qualifies for exemption.

People sometime confuse the rating given a corporation by the Internal Revenue Code as being "proof" of an organizations business nature. Even if the Grand Lodge had a 501 c (3) rating with the Internal Revenue Service - WHICH IT DOES NOT - such would not be relevant in matters involving property tax exemption. In fact, the Grand Lodge is a 501 c (10) corporation. This would tend to show "charitable" not being an applicable rating by federal authority.

Therefore, I request the Grand Lodge's application be denied, or in the alternative, that such be held over for a competent investigation and review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Van Valkenburg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. Van Valkenburg.

TO BE FILED WITH
YOUR COUNTY
ASSESSOR

Exemption Application

for Tax Exemption on Real and Personal Property by Qualifying Organizations

Read instructions on reverse side.

FORM
451

Failure to properly complete or timely file this application will result in a denial of the exemption.

Name of Organization Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska			County Name Lancaster	Tax Year 2013
Name of Owner of Property Reginald S. Kuhn, Grand Secretary			State Where Incorporated Nebraska	
Street or Other Mailing Address of Applicant 301 N. Cotner Blvd			Total Actual Value of Real and Personal Property \$ 522,500.00	Parcel ID Number 17-21-300-016-000
City Lincoln	State NE	Zip Code 68508	Contact Name Reginald S. Kuhn, Grand Sec	Phone Number 402-475-4640

Type of Ownership

Educational Organization Religious Organization Charitable Organization Cemetery Organization

Name	Title of Officers, Directors, or Partners	Address, City, State, Zip Code
Thomas L. Hauder	Grand Master	7718 Phares Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516
Joe D. McBride	Dep Grand Master	87212 St Highway 7, Ainsworth, NE 69210
John T. Maxwell	Grand Sr Warden	15205 Drexel St, Omaha, NE 68137

Legal description of real property and general description of all depreciable tangible personal property, except licensed motor vehicles:

Building located at S21, T10, R7, 6th Principal Meridian, LOT 220 SW

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2013

NORMAN H. AGENA
LANCASTER COUNTY ASSESSOR/
REGISTER OF DEEDS

Property described above is used in the following exempt category (please mark the applicable boxes):

Agricultural/Horticultural Society* Educational Religious Charitable Cemetery

Give a detailed description of the use of the property:

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska is a fraternal charitable organization. The Grand Lodge of Nebraska is the state headquarters for its subordinate Masonic Lodges in the state of Nebraska and operates out of the building located at 301 N. Cotner Blvd., including the state lodge room.

All organizations, except for an Agricultural/Horticultural Society, must complete the following questions.

Is all of the property used exclusively as described above? YES NO

Is the property used for financial gain or profit to either the owner or organization making exclusive use of the property? YES NO

Is a portion of the property used for the sale of alcoholic beverages? YES NO

If Yes, state the number of hours per week _____

Is the property owned or used by an organization which discriminates in membership or employment based on race, color, or national origin? YES NO

Under penalties of law, I declare that I have examined this exemption application and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is correct and complete. I also declare that I am duly authorized to sign this exemption application.

sign here

Thomas L. Hauder
Authorized Signature Title: Grand Master Date: 5/7/2013

FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR'S RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL COMMENTS: _____

APPROVAL OF A PORTION _____

DENIAL _____

Signature of County Assessor Date

FOR COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION USE ONLY

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the determination made by the County Board of Equalization is correct pursuant to the laws of the State of Nebraska.

APPROVED COMMENTS: _____

APPROVAL OF A PORTION _____

DENIED _____

Signature of County Board Member Date

COUNTY CLERK: A legible copy of this form showing the final decision of the County Board of Equalization must be delivered electronically to the Nebraska Department of Revenue within seven days after the Board's decision.

RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

ATTACHMENT 1

Grand Lodge

A.:F.: & A.:M.:
of Nebraska



2007

11-13-07

FINAL REPORT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Scott J. Howerter, Chairman

In the absence of Scott Howerter, M.:W.: Philip A. Lorenzen, gave the report.

The Appropriations Committee met at the Grand Lodge office in Lincoln, Nebraska on December 27, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. Committee members present were Dave Emry and David Krogh. Also attending were Dean Skokan, Deputy Grand Master, Russ Reno, Grand Senior Warden, Bruce A. Watkins, Grand Secretary, and Michelle Fulmer, Grand Lodge Office Manager. Email was used for follow-up approval from those members who were not in attendance.

The committee approved the proposed budget for 2007. This budget will be presented at the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Annual Meeting to be held in Kearney, Nebraska, February 1 - 3, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
 Scott J. Howerter, 256, Chairman
 Thomas A. Brazer, 11 & 1
 David A. Emry, 11
 Jack G. Frahm, 204
 David G. Krogh, 5

Lodge Income	
4100.000 Membership Dues	\$214,095.00
4100.000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$5,000.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$7,136.50
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$200.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$28,546.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,100.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$7,136.50
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$180.00
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason	\$7,136.50
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason - from Perp	\$100.00
4175.000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$3,800.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$900.00
4240.000 CHIP Assessment	\$14,828.00
4300.000 Surety Bond Premium	\$2,540.00
4350.000 Liability Ins Premium	\$19,217.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$900.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	\$314,015.50
Sales Income	
4400.000 Donations for Supplies	\$10,000.00
4620.400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$2,900.00
4620.600 Sale of Memb. Banquet Tickets	\$7,475.00
4625.400 Sale of PGM Ladies Lunch	\$187.50
4625.500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$910.00
4625.600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,275.00
4625.700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,625.00
4631.400 Sales of Men's Sat. Ed. Breakfast Tickets	\$2,280.00
4632.400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$750.00

4633.400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$200.00
4633.500 AC Registration Fee	\$1,000.00
4875.000 Miscellaneous Income	\$1,600.00
4910.000 Interest - General Fund	\$200.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	\$31,402.50
Program Income	
4450.725 Band Clinic Registration	\$56,250.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$7,500.00
4640.000 CHIP Reimbursement	\$10,686.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$750.00
4905.000 Masonic Unity Meetings	\$200.00
Subtotal-Program Income	\$75,386.00
Participatory Income	
4650.000 NE Masonic Home-Admin	\$7,500.00
4655.000 NE Masonic Home-Paper	\$5,000.00
4660.000 OES & Fremont -Paper	\$5,000.00
Subtotal-Participatory Income	\$17,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$438,304.00
Annual Communication	
5104.400 Guest Room Rental	\$1,600.00
5110.400 Grand Master's Banquet	\$7,395.00
5111.400 Entertainment - Grand Master's Banquet	\$700.00
5120.400 Proceedings	\$4,000.00
5130.400 Membership Banquet	\$6,812.00
5131.400 Entertainment - Membership Banquet	\$500.00
5150.400 Ladies Program	\$300.00
5170.400 Misc Incidental Expense	\$3,500.00
5171.400 Other Meals	\$50.00
5172.400 Grand Lodge Officer Breakfast	\$0.00
5173.400 Dignitaries Breakfast	\$1,665.00
5177.400 Secretaries Lunch	\$863.80
5174.400 Mens' Lunch	\$2,159.50
5175.400 Ladies Lunch	\$1,542.50
5176.400 PGM Ladies Lunch	\$185.10
5179.400 Ladies Saturday Brunch	\$739.50
5178.400 Men's Saturday Education Breakfast	\$1,873.40
5180.400 Red Cross Breakfast	\$197.20
5440.400 Printing & Copying - Ann. Comm.	\$2,700.00
Subtotal-Annual Communication	\$36,783.00
Installation	
5170.425 Misc. Incidental Expense	\$2,100.00
5220.425 Meals	\$1,500.00
5440.425 Printing & Copying - Installation	\$625.00
Subtotal-Installation	\$4,225.00
Travel & Related	
5200.000 Travel-GL Office Staff	\$0.00

5200.100 Travel-Grand Master	\$0.00
5200.150 Travel-Dep Gr Master	\$0.00
5200.200 Travel-Grand Secretary	\$0.00
5200.350 Travel-Other Officers	\$0.00
5210.000 Auto Allowance	\$800.00
5210.100 Auto Allow-Grand Master	\$3,000.00
5210.150 Auto Allow-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5210.200 Auto Allow-Gr Secretary	\$500.00
5210.250 Auto Allow-Gr Custodian	\$500.00
5210.300 Auto Allow- DGC's	\$1,000.00
5210.350 Auto Allow-Other Officers	\$3,500.00
5220.000 Meals-GL Office Staff	\$150.00
5220.100 Meals-Grand Master	\$300.00
5220.150 Meals-Dep Gr Master	\$325.00
5220.200 Meals-Gr Secretary	\$0.00
5220.250 Meals -Gr Custodian	\$0.00
5220.300 Meals-DGC's	\$0.00
5220.350 Meals-Other Officers	\$0.00
5230.000 Motels-GL Office Staff	\$0.00
5230.100 Motels-Grand Master	\$1,000.00
5230.150 Motels-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5230.200 Motels-Grand Secretary	\$300.00
5230.250 Motels-Gr Custodian	\$200.00
5230.350 Motels-Other Officers	\$2,500.00
5230.300 Motels-DGC	\$100.00
5235.150 Retreat-Dep Gr Master	\$1,200.00
5240.500 Conference of GM/GS	\$5,600.00
5240.550 Midwest Conference	\$3,900.00
5240.600 Rocky Mountain Conference	\$250.00
5240.650 Masonic Renewal Conference	\$750.00
5640.700 Shrine Membership Seminar	\$1,000.00
5240.100 Conf & Conv -Gr Master	\$500.00
5240.150 Conf & Conv-Dep GM	\$750.00
5240.200 Conf & Conv-Gr Secretary	\$750.00
5240.350 Conf & Conv-Other Officer	\$2,000.00
5250.300 Per Diem-DGC's	\$800.00
5260.300 School of Instruction	\$2,000.00
Subtotal-Travel & Related	\$35,175.00
Occupancy & Related	
5400.000 Office Rent-Storage	\$300.00
5400.100 Office Rent	\$21,600.00
5410.000 Utilities	\$4,600.00
5412.000 Trash Removal	\$300.00
5413.000 Grounds Maintenance	\$1,000.00
5414.000 Building Maintenance	\$5,000.00
5490.000 Corporate/Legal Fees - Sect'y of State	\$130.00
5415.000 Telephone	\$7,000.00
5420.000 Equipment Maintenance	\$6,500.00
5425.000 Equipment Rental	\$2,500.00
5430.000 Equipment Purchase	\$1,500.00
5435.000 Postage	\$8,000.00

5435.250 Postage-Gr Custodian	\$50.00
5440.000 Printing & Copying	\$4,000.00
5440.250 Printing & Copying-GC	\$100.00
5445.000 Office Supplies	\$3,750.00
5450.000 Office Maintenance	\$300.00
5455.000 Computer Supplies	\$2,000.00
5460.000 Computer Repair & Maint	\$2,000.00
5465.000 Computer Software Sup	\$2,150.00
5470.000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$700.00
5475.000 NE Mason Pub Exp	\$34,000.00
5480.000 Bank Service Charge-Unrestricted	\$250.00
5485.000 Professional Fees - Actng Audit	\$3,500.00
5500.000 Lodge Supplies-Printed	\$4,000.00
5505.000 Lodge Supplies-Other	\$2,000.00
5505.250 Supplies Lodges-GC	\$500.00
5510.000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$1,000.00
5515.000 Lodge Ofcrs Directory Printing	\$1,850.00
5525.000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$3,200.00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	\$123,780.00
Insurance & Administrative	
5600.000 Workers Compensation	\$554.00
5605.000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$28,550.00
5610.000 Surety Bond	\$2,540.00
5620.000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,529.00
5625.000 Liability Insurance	\$19,217.00
5635.000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$1,130.00
5650.000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$2,000.00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	\$57,520.00
Committees and Programs	
XXXX.450 Masonic Education	\$500.00
5240.450 Conv & Conf	\$1,500.00
5200.525 Committee On Work-Travel	\$50.00
5835.550 Masonic Relief Committee	\$500.00
5650.600 Trial Commissions	\$500.00
5220.650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$50.00
5650.700 Public Relations Committee	\$750.00
5650.710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$1,000.00
5650.720 Band Camp Expenses	\$61,250.00
XXXX.750 Youth Committee	\$0.00
5220.750 Meals	
5875.750 Scholarships Awards	\$4,000.00
XXXX.800 Membership committee	
5650.800 Other Administrative	\$500.00
5520.800 Awards & Rec	\$150.00
5650.900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$800.00
XXXX.950 Lodge Advisory Committee	\$300.00
5650.970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$200.00
5650.980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$5,000.00
5650.440 Child Identification Program-Mileage	\$0.00
5650.940 Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee	\$5,000.00

5800.000 GL Education Programs	\$750.00
5805.000 Masonic Unity Meetings	\$200.00
Subtotal-Committees	\$83,000.00
Contributions	
5820.000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$2,600.00
5810.000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$1,850.00
5811.000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$1,850.00
5812.000 Rainbow Donation	\$1,850.00
5830.000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$750.00
5835.000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$200.00
Subtotal-Contributions	\$9,100.00
Salaries & Related	
6561.000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$92,418.00
6561.100 Salary-Gr Custodian	\$6,000.00
6561.200 Salary-Part-time Staff	\$9,880.00
6680.000 Contract Labor	\$500.00
6560.000 Performance Incentive	\$3,000.00
6562.100 FICA-Employer Share	\$8,284.80
6562.200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$275.00
6562.300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$120.00
6570.000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$3,439.00
6580.000 GL Office Staff-Training	\$0.00
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	\$123,916.80
Pass Through	
5704.000 Fremont Home Dues	\$7,336.50
5705.000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$29,646.00
5706.000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$7,316.50
5650.100 CHIP Expense	\$14,828.00
Subtotal-Pass Through	\$59,127.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$532,626.80
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	-\$94,323
Investment Income	
4700.000 Int & Div FNB - Omaha	\$94,322.74
Subtotal-Investment Income	\$94,323
ADJ. BALANCE PLUS INVEST. INCOME	\$0

M. W. : Brother Lorenzen moved for the adoption of the report of the Appropriations Committee. The motion was seconded and carried favorably.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NEBRASKA WORK

Philip A. Lorenzen, Chairman

Ritual is of general good quality within the jurisdiction of Nebraska, with many lodges working industriously on both floor work and ritual presentation. Yet there are still

lodges not yet capturing the spirit for consistent quality ritual. Each lodge knows the quality and capability of its officers and members. Quality of work is a matter of pride – and it is a key to membership growth – it can subconsciously be a reason to not push for a petition for that new member. It is still too easy to sit idly and watch the world pass by. If your lodge does not feel comfort in the ritual, there are many brothers in other lodges who are willing to help. The Grand Custodian and Deputy Custodians are always ready to suggest names of others in your area to help in the ritual. Many lodges do just that and those that do not ask are encouraged by the Committee to ask. The support and encouragement of Most Worshipful Brother Scott Krieger and each of the Grand Lodge Officers is appreciated. Worshipful Brother Gerald D. Verbeek, Grand Custodian, continues to take a good hands-on approach to provide incentive and encouragement to each subordinate lodge and its officers. Jerry's example encourages Deputy Custodians and proficient Masons in providing leadership in setting a high standard for proficiency in Nebraska. As the Nebraska Grand Lodge finds ongoing success in both one day conferrals and in one-on-one in the lodge degree work, the Committee appreciates the efforts of the officers and members of subordinate lodges willing to take the time to learn the ritual, including lectures and to deliver them with feeling and understanding, enabling the new candidate to better appreciate the beauty and profound content of the Masonic degrees.

The Committee still emphasizes and encourages individuals to invest the time to learn and to deliver a lecture well. Everyone who engages in the ritual clearly understands the self-satisfaction of his achievement and the joy of sharing the ritual with the new member. Many Masons are much closer to proficiency than they realize—while it takes courage to perform, the feeling of accomplishment is rewarding—so take the time to learn and to grow.

Members of the Committee on Nebraska Work attended and participated in the annual Deputy Custodians' School in Hastings in September. The efforts of the Deputy Custodians and their apprentices are pleasing. Committee members also attended and participated in the Grand Custodian's schools of instruction held throughout the State. The schools of instruction are a great fellowship opportunity as well as a learning opportunity. Masters are encouraged to find ways to increase attendance—it is good to have several members of each lodge in attendance.

Several One-Day Classes were held for degree conferral for multiple candidates in 2006. Those classes and the resultant new Masons were as follows:

<u>Date Held</u>	<u>Host Lodge</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Total Raised</u>	<u># Courtesy</u>
Jan 28	Capitol 3	Omaha	35	33
Apr 15	Lining 268	Omaha	10	9
May 13	Liberty 300	Lincoln	8	8
July 15	Covert 11	Omaha	11	9
Oct 7	Omadi 5	S. Sioux City	10	6
Oct 28	Nebraska 1	Omaha	13	13
Nov 11	Liberty 300	Lincoln	20	8
	Total		107	86

Grand Lodge

A.:F.: & A.:M.:
of Nebraska



2008

Deacon, and Michelle Fulmer, Grand Lodge Office Manager. Committee members Email was used for approval from those members who were not in attendance.

The committee approved the proposed budget for 2008. This budget will be presented at the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Annual Meeting to be held in Kearney, Nebraska, January 31, February 1 - 2, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
David G. Krogh, 5, Chairman
Thomas A. Brazer, 11
David A. Emry, 11
Jack G. Frahm, 204
Paul D. Rutherford, 327

Lodge Income	
4100 000 Membership Dues	\$234,515 00
4100 000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$5,700.00
4110 000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$6,897.50
4110 000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$225.00
4120 000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$27,590.00
4120 000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,300.00
4130 000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$6,897.50
4130 000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$220.00
4140 000 Dues-Educ. Pub - NE Mason	\$6,897.50
4140 000 Dues-Educ. Pub - NE Mason - from Perp	\$150.00
4175 000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,150.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$6,000.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$900.00
4240 000 CHIP Assessment	\$14,391.00
4300 000 Surety Bond Premium	\$1,931.00
4350 000 Liability Ins Premium	\$20,340.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	\$335,104.50
Sales Income	
4400.000 Donations for Supplies	\$9,000.00
4620 400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$4,350.00
4620 600 Sale of Memb Banquet Tickets	\$8,160.00
4625 400 Sale of PGM Ladies Lunch	\$156.00
4625 500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$910.00
4625.600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,275.00
4625 700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,560.00
4631 400 Sales of Men's Sat Ed Breakfast Tickets	\$1,980.00
4632 400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$900.00
4633 400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$300.00
4633 500 AC Registration Fee	\$1,000.00
4645 000 150 Anniversary Income	\$0.00
4875 000 Miscellaneous Income	\$10,000.00
4910.000 Interest - General Fund	\$200.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	\$40,791.00
Program Income	
4450.725 Band Clinic Registration	\$61,500.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$8,000.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$750.00
4905 000 Masonic Unity Meetings	\$200.00
Subtotal-Program Income	\$70,450.00

Participatory Income	
4650 000 NE Masonic Home-Admin	\$5,000 00
4655 000 NE Masonic Home-Paper	\$5,000 00
4660.000 OES & Fremont -Paper	\$5,000 00
Subtotal-Participatory Income	\$15,000 00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$461,345 50
Annual Communication	
5104 400 Guest Room Rental	\$1,600.00
5110 400 Grand Master's Banquet	\$8,172.20
5111 400 Entertainment - Grand Master's Banquet	\$900.00
5120 400 Proceedings	\$4,000.00
5130 400 Membership Banquet	\$7,952.25
5131 400 Entertainment - Membership Banquet	\$500.00
5150 400 Ladies Program	\$850.00
5170 400 Misc Incidental Expense	\$3,500.00
5171 400 Other Meals	\$50.00
5172.400 Grand Lodge Officer Breakfast	\$252.78
5173 400 Dignitaries Breakfast	\$1,917.00
5174 400 Mens' Lunch	\$2,236.50
5175 400 Ladies Lunch	\$1,378.80
5176 400 PGM Ladies Lunch	\$153.00
5177 400 Secretaries Lunch	\$863.80
5178 400 Men's Saturday Education Breakfast	\$1,895.85
5179 400 Ladies Saturday Brunch	\$861.75
5180 400 Red Cross Breakfast	\$287.25
5440 400 Printing & Copying - Ann. Comm	\$2,700.00
Subtotal-Annual Communication	\$40,071.18
Installation	
5170 425 Misc Installation	\$1,500.00
5220 425 Meals	\$3,000.00
5440.425 Printing & Copying - Installation	\$900.00
Subtotal-Installation	\$5,400.00
Travel & Related	
5200 100 Travel-Grand Master	\$0.00
5200 150 Travel-Dep Gr Master	\$0.00
5200 200 Travel-Grand Secretary	\$0.00
5200 350 Travel-Other Officers	\$0.00
5210 000 Auto Allowance	\$500.00
5210 100 Auto Allow-Grand Master	\$3,000.00
5210 150 Auto Allow-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5210 200 Auto Allow-Gr Secretary	\$500.00
5210 250 Auto Allow-Gr Custodian	\$500.00
5210 300 Auto Allow- DGC's	\$1,000.00
5210 350 Auto Allow-Other Officers	\$3,500.00
5220 000 Meals-GL Office Staff	\$150.00
5220 100 Meals-Grand Master	\$300.00
5220 150 Meals-Dep Gr Master	\$325.00
5220 200 Meals-Gr Secretary	\$0.00
5220 250 Meals -Gr Custodian	\$0.00
5220 300 Meals-DGC's	\$0.00
5220 350 Meals-Other Officers	\$0.00
5230 000 Motels-GL Office Staff	\$0.00

5230 100 Motels-Grand Master	\$1,000 00
5230 150 Motels-Dep Gr Master	\$750 00
5230 200 Motels-Grand Secretary	\$300 00
5230 250 Motels-Gr Custodian	\$200 00
5230 350 Motels-Other Officers	\$2,500 00
5230 300 Motels-DGC	\$100 00
5235 150 Retreat-Dep Gr Master	\$1,200 00
5240 500 Conference of Grand Masters/Grand Secretaries	\$5,700 00
5240 550 Midwest Conference	\$3,400 00
5240 600 Rocky Mountain Conference	\$1,000 00
5240 650 Masonic Renewal Conference	\$750 00
5640 700 Shrine Membership Seminar	\$750 00
5240 100 Conf & Conv -Gr Master	\$1,500 00
5240 150 Conf & Conv-Dep GM	\$1,500 00
5240 200 Conf & Conv-Gr Secretary	\$750 00
5240 350 Conf & Conv-Other Officer	\$2,000 00
5250 300 Per Diem-DGC's	\$800 00
5260 300 School of Instruction	\$2,000 00
Subtotal-Travel & Related	\$36,725 00
Occupancy & Related	
5400 000 Office Rent-Storage	\$300 00
5400 100 Office Rent	\$21,600 00
5410 000 Utilities	\$4,600 00
5412 000 Trash Removal	\$350 00
5413 000 Grounds Maintenance	\$1,600 00
5414 000 Building Maintenance	\$5,000 00
5415 000 Telephone	\$7,000 00
5420 000 Equipment Maintenance	\$6,500 00
5425 000 Equipment Rental	\$2,300 00
5430 000 Equipment Purchase	\$1,500 00
5435 000 Postage	\$6,000 00
5435 250 Postage-Gr Custodian	\$50 00
5440 000 Printing & Copying	\$4,000 00
5440 250 Printing & Copying-GC	\$100 00
5445 000 Office Supplies	\$3,750 00
5450 000 Office Maintenance	\$300 00
5455 000 Computer Supplies	\$2,000 00
5460 000 Computer Repair & Maint	\$2,000 00
5465 000 Computer Software Sup	\$2,150 00
5470 000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$700 00
5475 000 NE Mason Pub Exp	\$40,000 00
5480 000 Bank Service Charge-Unrestricted	\$250 00
5485 000 Professional Fees	\$3,500 00
5490 000 Corporate/Legal Fees	\$20 00
5500 000 Lodge Supplies-Printed	\$4,000 00
5505 000 Lodge Supplies-Other	\$1,500 00
5505 250 Supplies Lodges-GC	\$250 00
5510 000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$750 00
5515 000 Lodge Ofc's Directory Printing	\$2,200 00
5525 000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$2,300 00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	\$126,570 00
Insurance & Administrative	
5600 000 Workers Compensation	\$711 00
5605 000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$24,000 00

5610 000 Surety Bond	\$1,931 00
5620 000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,524 00
5625 000 Liability Insurance	\$20,340 00
5635 000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$1,130 00
5650 000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$2,000 00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	\$53,636 00
Committees and Programs	
XXXX 450 Masonic Education	\$500 00
5240 450 Conv & Conf	\$1,000 00
5835 550 Masonic Relief Committee	\$0 00
5650 600 Trial Commissions	\$500 00
5220 650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$50 00
5650 700 Public Relations Committee	\$750 00
5650 710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$250 00
5650 720 Band Camp Expenses	\$69,500 00
XXXX 750 Youth Committee	\$5,000 00
5220 750 Meals	
5875 750 Scholarships Awards	\$4,000 00
XXXX 800 Membership committee	
5650 800 Other Administrative	\$500 00
5520 800 Awards & Rec	\$50 00
5650 900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$2,000 00
XXXX 950 Lodge Advisory Committee	\$300 00
5650 970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$500 00
5650 980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$2,500 00
5650 990 Fraternal Relations Committee	\$0 00
5650 440 Child Identification Program Committee-Mileage	\$0 00
5650 930 Lodge Facilities Matching Fund	\$4,000 00
5800 000 GL Education Programs	\$750 00
5805 000 Masonic Unity Meetings	\$200 00
Subtotal-Committees	\$92,350 00
Contributions	
5820 000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$2,400 00
5810 000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$2,000 00
5811 000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$2,000 00
5812 000 Rainbow Donation	\$2,000 00
5830 000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$750 00
5835 000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$175 00
Subtotal-Contributions	\$9,325 00
Salaries & Related	
6561 000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$76,730 00
6561 100 Salary-Gr Custodian	\$6,000 00
6561 200 Salary-Part-time Staff	\$8,000 00
6680 000 Contract Labor	\$200 00
6560 000 Performance Incentive	\$2,400 00
6562 100 FICA-Employer Share	\$6,940 85
6562 200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$250 00
6562 300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$250 00
6570 000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$2,302 00
6580 000 GL Office Staff-Training	\$0 00
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	\$103,072 85
Pass Through	
5704 000 Fremont Home Dues	\$7,122 50

5705 000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$28,890 00
5706 000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$7,117 50
5650 100 CHIP Expense	\$14,391 00
Subtotal-Pass Through	\$57,521 00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$524,671.03
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	(\$63,326)
<i>Investment Income</i>	
4700 000 Int & Div FNB - Omaha	\$63,326 00
Subtotal-Investment Income	\$63,326
ADJ. BALANCE PLUS INVEST. INCOME	\$0

After clarifying a few line items on which there were previous questions, W.:B.: Krogh moved for the adoption of the report of the Appropriations Committee. M.:W.: Phil Lorenzen made remarks about the investment income that is utilized to cover operating expenses each year and encouraged the Brethren to consider dues increases in future years to alleviate that necessity. After discussion, the motion was seconded and carried favorably.

M.:W.: Dean Skokan announced the appointment of the Deputy Grand Custodians as Tellers for this session, with W.:B.: Steve Green as Chairman.

DEMOLAY SPONSORING BODY OF THE YEAR AWARD AND THE MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

The lodge was declared at liberty to allow the admission of representatives of Nebraska DeMolay to present the awards.

State Master Councilor Bryan Kehler, State Senior Councilor Ryan Grazier and State Junior Councilor Travis Bader entered the room to present the DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year Award. The State Senior Councilor and State Junior Councilor presented the awards.

DeMolay Mason of the Year was presented to William H. Nelson. Bill Nelson has been a Master Mason for 29 years. He is a past master of Bennett Lodge No. 94 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a 33rd degree Mason in the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite, and served as the Potentate of Sesostris Shrine in Lincoln in 2007. As Master of Bennett Lodge, he helped to lay the foundation for the success his lodge has enjoyed for the past several years, and as Potentate he worked to promote Masonic unity in Lincoln. Under his leadership, Sesostris has moved to a marvelous new facility which will be the showplace of Masonry in Lincoln for many years to come. His commitment to the whole of Masonry proves that Masonry works best when we work together. His legacy is one of hard work, accomplishment, and fulfillment. He is truly deserving of this Award as DeMolay Mason of the year.

The Sponsoring Body of the Year Award recognizes a group who has gone above and beyond as the Nebraska DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year. The 2007 recipient of this award sponsors the newest DeMolay chapter in Nebraska. This group enthusiastically tackled all of the paperwork and minutia involved in forming a DeMolay chapter. They encouraged Master Masons to serve as advisors and made certain that all of the

preparations were completed before even seeking young men to join the organization. After the chapter was formed, this body continued to support the chapter, not only with financial resources, but also with encouragement and promotion. Thanks in part to the wonderful support provided by this body, their chapter has risen to one of the top chapters in the state in just three short years. The decision over this year's award was very difficult because there were several DeMolay sponsoring bodies doing a great job. Nebraska DeMolay is pleased to present the Sponsoring Body of the Year Award to Frank Welch Lodge No. 75 of Sidney.

After the guests departed, the Lodge was once again declared in session.

Grand Master Skokan asked Gale Kenney, Senior Grand Warden, to bring greetings from the Grand Lodge of Washington, R.:W.: Kenney presented Most Worshipful Skokan with a small bust of George Washington.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
Delmar A. Jones, Chairman

The Credentials Committee is pleased to report the following for this the 151st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

We have in attendance all Grand Lodge Officers, 13 Past Grand Masters, 16 Deputy Grand Custodians and 55 non-delegate Masons.

At the time of this Report there are the following Masters, Wardens and Secretaries registered:

There are 72 Worshipful Masters in person and 22 by proxy, there are 47 Senior Wardens in person and 47 by proxy, there are 33 Junior Wardens in person and 35 by proxy and there are 59 Secretaries in person and 26 by proxy.

Before announcing the lodges that are not registered, I wish to thank and recognize all that are present. We have 339 total possible votes with officers and proxies. Also we are recognizing the Lodges that have all four delegate officers in attendance in person. They are Lodges 2, 32, 46, 135, 279, 281, 302, 317 and 332. They will receive a certificate to display in their lodge. Thank you for your efforts to be present and be a part of this Grand Lodge Communication.

At this time there are no Masters, Wardens or Secretaries registered from the following Lodges: 21, 27, 34, 35, 43, 49, 75, 81, 89, 95, 104, 106, 110, 111, 159, 165, 173, 192, 209, 218, 220, 221, 264, 284, 285, 286, 294 and 314.

There have been no Masters, Wardens or Secretaries registered for the past two years from Lodges; 34, 49, 111, 192, 220 and 284; and for three years from 111, 192, and 220.

We are honored to have dignitaries present from the following jurisdictions, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Grand Lodges of Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming.

We are pleased to have in attendance the following Masonic related organizations; Eastern Star, Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, Nebraska DeMolay, and DeMolay International, York Rite of Nebraska, Social Order of the Beauceant, Scottish Rite of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, Tehama, Sesostris and Tangier Shrine Temples, Abu Bekr Shrine Temple of Iowa, Daughters of the Nile, National Sojourners, The Nebraska

Grand Lodge
A.:F.: & A.:M.:
of Nebraska



2009

2009

REPORT OF BALLOT

The Chairman of Tellers, W.:B.: Steve Green presented the report of the balloting on Grand Lodge Officers, stating that there were 215 ballots collected, 5 were rejected, 208 were counted with option 2 selected, and 2 were counted with names written in the blanks. The election was deemed proper. The following individuals received a majority of votes for the offices indicated:

Deputy Grand Master/
Grand Master-Elect..... R.: W.: John T. Parsons
Grand Senior Warden R.: W.: E. David Watts
Grand Junior Warden..... R.: W.: Bruce A. Baker
Grand Secretary R.: W.: Bruce A. Watkins

The Grand Master then elicited acceptance from each of the newly elected officers and congratulated them individually on their election.

Grand Master Kuhn asked R.: W.: Deputy Grand Master Russ Reno to approach the podium and announce the slate of officers for his 2009-2010 term as Grand Master.

Russell G. Reno, Grand Master
John T. Parsons, Deputy Grand Master / Grand Master-Elect
E. David Watts, Grand Senior Warden
Bruce A. Baker, Grand Junior Warden
Bruce A. Watkins, Grand Secretary
James C. Lapaseotes, Grand Chaplain
Patrick D. Barger, Grand Orator
Ben F. Hughes, Grand Historian
Scott J. Krieger, Sr., Grand Custodian
Joe D. McBride, Grand Marshal
Rex J. Moats, Grand Senior Deacon
Thomas L. Hauder, Grand Junior Deacon
John T. Maxell, Grand Senior Steward
John B. Ferguson, Grand Junior Steward
Philip O. Edwards, Grand Tyler

R.: W.: Reno made the following Special Appointments:

Mark K. Clinton, Grand Musician
S. Todd Harris, Personal Representative of the Grand Master
Gerald F. Sieck, Personal Representative of the Grand Master
Dennis E. Rix, Personal Representative of the Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master Reno moved for the approval of the aforementioned officers for 2009-2010. The motion was seconded and with no discussion, motion carried.

An Idea that Works Commercial was brought by Jim Lee of Papillion Lodge No. 39.

"Most Worshipful Master, Papillion Lodge holds an annual barbeque, formally known as the Wes Turcher Barbeque. Worshipful Brother Wes turned it over to a new generation. It has been suggested we call it the Wes Turcher Memorial Barbeque, but in the words of Mark Twain, that would be greatly exaggerated at

this point. The signature dish is river slaw and the recipe is so secret, we can't even tell whether it comes from the Missouri or the Platte River. Every member of the lodge receives two tickets in the mail, with a request for payment and a number of out of town brothers pay for tickets as an opportunity to support the lodge. Awards are presented at the barbeque, including our band scholarships and service awards to non-Masons active in the Papillion community. For more information on the Masonic community service award, go to the Grand Lodge web site at www.gln.org."

M.: W.: Reg Kuhn announced the appointment of the Deputy Grand Custodians as tellers for this session, with W.:B.: Steve Green as Chairman.

FINAL REPORT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

David G. Krogh, Chairman

Paul Rutherford, member of the Appropriations Committee, presented the report.

The Appropriations Committee met at the Grand Lodge office in Lincoln, Nebraska on December 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Committee members present were Jack Frahm and David Emry. Also attending were Russ Reno, Deputy Grand Master, John Parsons, Grand Senior Warden, Dave Watts, Grand Junior Warden, Tom Hauder, Grand Junior Deacon, and Michelle Fulmer, Grand Lodge Office Manager. Committee members Email was used for approval from those members who were not in attendance.

The committee approved the proposed budget for 2009. This budget will be presented at the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Annual Meeting to be held in Kearney, Nebraska, February 5-7, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
David G. Krogh, 5, Chairman
Thomas A. Brazer, 11
David A. Emry, 11
Jack G. Frahm, 204
Paul D. Rutherford, 327

<i>Lodge Income</i>	
4100.000 Membership Dues	\$241,092.00
4100.000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$6,000.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$6,697.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$225.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$26,788.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$6,697.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$210.00
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason	\$6,697.00
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason - from Perp	\$140.00
4175.000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,000.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$6,000.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$700.00
4240.000 CHIP Assessment	\$13,989.00
4300.000 Surety Bond Premium	\$1,931.00
4350.000 Liability Ins Premium	\$20,340.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	\$339,706.00

Sales Income	
4400.000 Donations for Supplies	\$9,000.00
4620.400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$5,400.00
4620.600 Sale of Memb. Banquet Tickets	\$10,880.00
4625.400 Sale of PGM Ladies Luncheon	\$204.00
4625.500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$1,050.00
4625.600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,625.00
4625.700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,800.00
4631.400 Sales of Men's Sat. Ed. Breakfast Tickets	\$1,980.00
4632.400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$900.00
4633.400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$300.00
4633.500 AC Registration Fee	\$1,000.00
4875.000 Miscellaneous Income	\$1,500.00
4910.000 Interest - General Fund	\$150.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	\$36,789.00
Program Income	
4450.725 Band Clinic Registration	\$61,500.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$7,500.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$750.00
4905.000 Masonic Family Summit	\$200.00
Subtotal-Program Income	\$69,950.00
Participatory Income	
4640.000 CHIP Foundation Admin Fee	\$15,600.00
4650.000 NE Masonic Home-Admin	\$5,000.00
4655.000 NE Masonic Home-Paper	\$5,000.00
4660.000 OES & Fremont -Paper	\$5,000.00
Subtotal-Participatory Income	\$30,600.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$477,045.00
Annual Communication	
5104.400 Guest Room Rental	\$1,500.00
5110.400 Grand Master's Banquet	\$9,674.40
5111.400 Entertainment - Grand Master's Banquet	\$600.00
5120.400 Proceedings	\$4,000.00
5130.400 Membership Banquet	\$10,191.30
5131.400 Entertainment - Membership Banquet	\$1,300.00
5150.400 Ladies Program	\$500.00
5170.400 Misc Incidental Expense	\$2,500.00
5171.400 Other Meals	\$75.00
5172.400 Grand Lodge Officer Breakfast	\$252.78
5173.400 Dignitaries Breakfast	\$1,900.50
5174.400 Mens' Lunch	\$2,439.50
5175.400 Ladies Lunch	\$1,672.80
5176.400 PGM Ladies Lunch	\$201.72
5177.400 Secretaries Lunch	\$975.80
5178.400 Men's Saturday Education Breakfast	\$1,881.00
5179.400 Ladies Saturday Brunch	\$861.75
5180.400 Red Cross Breakfast	\$287.25
5440.400 Printing & Copying - Ann. Comm.	\$2,500.00
Subtotal-Annual Communication	\$43,313.80

Installation	
5170.425 Misc. Installation	\$1,500.00
5220.425 Meals	\$4,000.00
5440.425 Printing & Copying - Installation	\$900.00
Subtotal-Installation	\$6,400.00
Travel & Related	
5200.000 Travel-GL Office Staff	\$650.00
5210.000 Auto Allowance	\$500.00
5210.100 Auto Allow-Grand Master	\$3,000.00
5210.150 Auto Allow-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5210.200 Auto Allow-Gr Secretary	\$500.00
5210.250 Auto Allow-Gr Custodian	\$500.00
5210.300 Auto Allow- DGC's	\$750.00
5210.350 Auto Allow-Other Officers	\$3,000.00
5220.000 Meals-GL Office Staff	\$150.00
5220.100 Meals-Grand Master	\$300.00
5220.150 Meals-Dep Gr Master	\$325.00
5230.100 Motels-Grand Master	\$1,000.00
5230.150 Motels-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5230.200 Motels-Grand Secretary	\$300.00
5230.250 Motels-Gr Custodian	\$200.00
5230.350 Motels-Other Officers	\$2,000.00
5230.300 Motels-DGC	\$200.00
5235.150 Retreat-Dep Gr Master	\$1,200.00
5240.500 Conference of Grand Masters/Grand Secretaries	
5240.550 Midwest Conference	\$3,430.00
5240.600 Rocky Mountain Conference	\$1,000.00
5640.700 Shhne Membership Seminar	\$750.00
5240.100 Conf & Conv -Gr Master	\$1,500.00
5240.150 Conf & Conv-Dep GM	\$1,500.00
5240.200 Conf & Conv-Gr Secretary	\$750.00
5240.350 Conf & Conv-Other Officer	\$1,500.00
5250.300 Per Diem-DGC's	\$800.00
5260.300 School of Instruction	\$1,500.00
Subtotal-Travel & Related	\$37,227.00
Occupancy & Related	
5400.000 Office Rent-Storage	\$300.00
5400.100 Office Rent	\$24,000.00
5410.000 Utilities	\$5,000.00
5412.000 Trash Removal	\$350.00
5413.000 Grounds Maintenance	\$1,600.00
5414.000 Building Maintenance	\$5,200.00
5415.000 Telephone	\$6,000.00
5420.000 Equipment Maintenance	\$6,500.00
5425.000 Equipment Rental	\$2,300.00
5430.000 Equipment Purchase	\$1,500.00
5435.000 Postage	\$4,000.00
5435.250 Postage-Gr Custodian	\$50.00
5440.000 Printing & Copying	\$2,000.00
5440.250 Printing & Copying-GC	\$100.00
5445.000 Office Supplies	\$3,750.00

5450.000 Office Maintenance	\$300.00
5455.000 Computer Supplies	\$2,000.00
5460.000 Computer Repair & Maint	\$2,000.00
5465.000 Computer Software Sup	\$1,000.00
5470.000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$700.00
5475.000 NE Mason Pub Exp	\$43,000.00
5476.000 Semi-annual Flyer	\$7,000.00
5480.000 Bank Service Charge-Unrestricted	\$100.00
5485.000 Professional Fees - Accting Audit	\$3,750.00
5490.000 Corporate/Legal Fees - Sect'y of State, etc.	\$20.00
5500.000 Lodge Supplies-Printed	\$4,000.00
5505.000 Lodge Supplies-Other	\$1,500.00
5505.250 Supplies Lodges-GC	\$400.00
5510.000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$750.00
5515.000 Lodge Ofcrs Directory Printing	\$2,200.00
5525.000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$4,750.00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	\$136,120.00
Insurance & Administrative	
5600.000 Workers Compensation	\$711.00
5605.000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$31,100.00
5610.000 Surety Bond	\$1,931.00
5620.000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,524.00
5625.000 Liability Insurance	\$20,340.00
5635.000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$1,000.00
5650.000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$2,500.00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	\$61,106.00
Committees and Programs	
5650.450 Masonic Education	\$1,200.00
5240.450 Masonic Education Conv & Conf	\$400.00
5650.600 Trial Commissions	\$500.00
5220.650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$50.00
5650.700 Public Relations Committee	\$2,500.00
5650.710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$100.00
5650.720 Band Camp Expenses	\$69,500.00
5650.750 Youth Committee	\$2,500.00
5875.750 Youth Scholarships Awards	\$4,000.00
5650.800 Membership committee	500.00
5520.800 Membership Awards & Rec	\$50.00
5650.900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$2,000.00
5650.950 Lodge Advisory Committee	\$50.00
5650.970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$350.00
5650.980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$1,000.00
5660.000 Digital Proceedings Project	\$5,000.00
5800.000 GL Education Programs	\$750.00
5805.000 Masonic Family Summit	\$5,200.00
Subtotal-Committees	\$95,650.00
Contributions	
5820.000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$2,400.00
5810.000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$2,000.00
5811.000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$2,000.00
5812.000 Rainbow Donation	\$2,000.00

5830.000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$750.00
5835.000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$175.00
Subtotal-Contributions	\$9,325.00
Salaries & Related	
6561.000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$86,611.57
6561.100 Salary-Gr Custodian	\$6,000.00
6680.000 Contract Labor	\$200.00
6560.000 Performance Incentive	\$2,400.00
6562.100 FICA-Employer Share	\$7,084.79
6562.200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$250.00
6562.300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$250.00
6570.000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$2,598.35
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	\$105,394.70
Pass Through	
5704.000 Fremont Home Dues	\$6,922.00
5705.000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$27,988.00
5706.000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$6,907.00
5650.100 CHIP Expense	\$13,989.00
Subtotal-Pass Through	\$55,806.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$550,342.50
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES (Net Loss)	(73,298)
Investment Draw to Cover Shortfall	
4700.000 General Fund Investments (5.291% of \$1,385,437.96 -	(73,298)
ADJUSTED BALANCE - WITH INVESTMENT INCOME DRAW	\$0

W.B.: Rutherford moved for the adoption of the report of the Appropriations Committee. The motion was seconded and carried favorably.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Delmar A. Jones, Chairman

The Credentials Committee is pleased to report the following for this the 152nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

We have in attendance all Grand Lodge Officers, 14 Past Grand Masters, 22 Deputy Grand Custodians and 61 non-delegate Masons.

At the time of this Report there are the following Masters, Wardens and Secretaries registered:

There are 80 Worshipful Masters in person and 25 by proxy, there are 51 Senior Wardens in person and 25 by proxy, there are 34 Junior Wardens in person and 40 by proxy and there are 54 Secretaries in person and 34 by proxy.

Before announcing the lodges that are not registered, I wish to thank and recognize all that are present. We have 381 total possible votes with officers and proxies. Also we are recognizing the Lodges that have all four delegate officers in attendance in person. They are Lodges 39, 46, 50, 135, 297, 302, 310, 317, 323 and 332. They will receive a

Rec'd 11-13-2010

Proceedings of 2-14-2010

Grand Lodge

A.:F.: & A.:M.:
of Nebraska



2010

ATTACHMENT 5

Deputy Grand Master/
 Grand Master-Elect..... R.: W.: E. David Watts
 Grand Senior Warden R.: W.: Bruce A. Baker
 Grand Junior Warden R.: W.: Rex J. Moats
 Grand Secretary R.: W.: Bruce A. Watkins

The Grand Master then elicited acceptance from each of the newly-elected officers and congratulated them individually on their election.

M.: W.: B.: Reno explained the origin of the gavel he used for the day. It was handcrafted by David Kipling and presented to M.: W.: Charles Amidon when he was installed Master of Florence Lodge No. 281 in 1967. In 2001, it was presented to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska and is intended as a traveling gavel for use by future Grand Masters during their terms of office. Grand Master Reno further stated, "It's been a pleasure to hold and use the gavel this year. It is a beautiful instrument."

Grand Master Reno asked R.: W.: Deputy Grand Master John Parsons to approach the lectern and announce the slate of officers for the 2010-2011 term, when he will serve as Grand Master.

John T. Parsons, Grand Master
 E. David Watts, Deputy Grand Master / Grand Master-Elect
 Bruce A. Baker, Grand Senior Warden
 Rex J. Moats, Grand Junior Warden
 Bruce A. Watkins, Grand Secretary
 Dennis E. Rix, Grand Chaplain
 Patrick D. Barger, Grand Orator
 Ben F. Hughes, Grand Historian
 Scott J. Krieger, Sr., Grand Custodian
 John T. Maxell, Grand Marshal
 Thomas L. Hauder, Grand Senior Deacon
 Joe D. McBride, Grand Junior Deacon
 John B. Ferguson, Grand Senior Steward
 Brett R. Bennett, Grand Junior Steward
 Ronald D. Stites, Grand Tyler

R.: W.: Parsons made the following special appointments:

Mark K. Clinton, Grand Musician
 James C. Lapaseotes, Personal Representative of the Grand Master
 Donald E. Rife, Personal Representative of the Grand Master
 Kent B. Broyhill, Personal Representative of the Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master Parsons moved for the approval of the aforementioned officers for 2010-2011. The motion was seconded and with no discussion, motion carried.

FINAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

John E. Lorenzen, Chairman

David G. Krogh, a member of the Finance Committee, presented the report.

Due to changes to the committee structure approved by recommendation in February 2009, this report will combine the actions of the 2009 Finance Committee with the budget approval for the 2010 Finance Committee.

The 2009 Finance Committee met during the past year to conduct its assigned duties as proscribed in Section 1-318 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. Those duties include a periodic review of the books and records of Grand Lodge procedures, which included the following:

1. Compared canceled checks to the check register, including an examination of endorsements, to assure proper accounting for payments.
2. Examined supporting documents, including invoices, expense records and other evidence of obligation, to ensure proper payment was made.
3. Reviewed accounts to which items were charged selecting all items in excess of \$500 and randomly reviewing other disbursements of lesser dollar amounts.
4. Reviewed monthly bank statement reconciliations to verify their accuracy.
5. Reviewed income items, including lodge assessments, and traced to bank statements.
6. Reviewed the following funds: General, Scholarship, Perpetual, and Relief.
7. Reviewed and discussed monthly financial statements.
8. Counted Petty Cash.

Following the close of each calendar year, the books and records of the Grand Lodge are audited by an independent certified public accountant.

Actual cash income and expenditures for 2009 are as follows:

	Actual	Budgeted
Revenue		
Investment Income Drawn	495,142	477,045
Prepaid Annual Communication	0	
Outstanding Accounts Receivable	12,364	
Cash on 1/1/2009	-1039	
Total Cash Received	514,656	
Expenses		
Prepaid Expenses	-516,616	-550,343
Inventory Assets Purchased in 2009	-9,476	
Lodge Facilities Grants Paid in 2009	-5029	
Expenses Carried Forward	-4000	
1 Yet Unclaimed Youth Scholarship		
MYLC Contribution	1,000	
Digital Proceedings Expense	2,500	
Cash on 12/31/2009	5,000	
Total Cash Expended	-10481	
Net Deficit	-537,102	
Amount of Investment Income Pulled in 2009 to Make up Shortfall	-22,496	-73,298
	22,496	73,298

The numbers show that \$22,496 of investment income was needed to make up the difference between actual revenue and actual expenses – \$50,802 less than the investment draw budgeted for 2009. The results of the fiscal year show that the Grand Lodge Officers and staff have been good stewards of the funds of the Grand Lodge operating budget during 2009; however, the expenses of the Grand Lodge continue to exceed the annual revenue and thus, Nebraska Masonry is operating at a deficit, making it necessary to draw from the general investment fund to make up the shortfall.

The Finance Committee found satisfactory documentation for expenditures within the books and records of the Grand Lodge Office and was able to conduct its work in a complete and timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
2009 Finance Committee
 John E. Lorenzen, 10 & 314
 Ben F. Hughes, 96 & 332
 Jeffrey C. Johnson, 19
 Steve B. Wetzel, 227
 Steven S. Nichols, 102

2010 Finance Committee
 John E. Lorenzen, 10 & 314
 Thomas A. Brazer, 11
 Jack G. Frahm, 204
 Jeffrey C. Johnson, 19
 David G. Krogh, 5
 Steven S. Nichols, 102
 Steve B. Wetzel, 227
 Thomas J. Schmidt, 288

Account	2010 Budget
Lodge Income	
4100.000 Membership Dues	\$237,595.00
4100.000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$6,000.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$6,252.50
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$225.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$25,010.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$6,252.50
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$220.00
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason	\$6,252.50
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason - from Perp	\$150.00
4175.000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$6,000.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$700.00
4640.000 CHIP Assessment	\$13,099.00
4300.000 Surety Bond Premium	\$2,000.00
4350.000 Liability Ins Premium	\$18,000.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	\$330,156.50

Sales Income	
4400.000 Donations for Supplies	\$9,000.00
4620.400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$4,000.00
4620.600 Sale of Memb. Banquet Tickets	\$9,520.00
4625.400 Sale of PGM Ladies Lunch	\$180.00
4625.500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$650.00
4625.600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,240.00
4625.700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,540.00
4631.400 Sales of Men's Sat. Ed. Breakfast Tickets	\$1,980.00
4632.400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$770.00
4633.400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$300.00
4633.500 AC Registration Fee	\$1,000.00
4875.000 Miscellaneous Income	\$1,500.00
4910.000 Interest - General Fund	\$300.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	\$32,980.00
Program Income	
4450.725 Band Clinic Registration	\$60,000.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$9,500.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$0.00
GM Program Income	\$4,500.00
4905.000 Masonic Family Summit	\$0.00
Subtotal-Program Income	\$74,000.00
Participatory Income	
4650.000 NE Masonic Home-Admin	\$5,000.00
4641.000 CHIP Foundation Admin Fee	\$15,600.00
4655.000 NE Masonic Home-Paper	\$5,000.00
4660.000 OES & Fremont -Paper	\$5,000.00
Subtotal-Participatory Income	\$30,600.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$467,736.50
Annual Communication	
5104.400 Guest Room Rental	\$1,500.00
5110.400 Grand Master's Banquet	\$7,415.30
5111.400 Entertainment - Grand Master's Banquet	\$900.00
5120.400 Proceedings	\$4,000.00
5130.400 Membership Banquet	\$8,380.05
5131.400 Entertainment - Membership Banquet	\$1,200.00
5150.400 Ladies Program	\$300.00
5170.400 Misc Incidental Expense	\$2,500.00
5171.400 Other Meals	\$0.00
5172.400 Grand Lodge Officer Breakfast	\$204.38
5173.400 Dignitaries Breakfast	\$1,720.50
5174.400 Mens' Lunch	\$2,231.25
5175.400 Ladies Lunch	\$1,530.00
5176.400 PGM Ladies Lunch	\$218.40
5177.400 Secretaries Lunch	\$802.90
5178.400 Men's Saturday Education Breakfast	\$1,892.55
5179.400 Ladies Saturday Brunch	\$757.50
5180.400 Red Cross Breakfast	\$232.25
5440.400 Printing & Copying - Ann. Comm.	\$2,500.00
Subtotal-Annual Communication	\$38,285.08

Installation	
5170.425 Misc. Installation	\$3,000.00
5220.425 Meals	\$4,000.00
5440.425 Printing & Copying - Installation	\$1,000.00
Subtotal-Installation	\$8,000.00
Travel & Related	
5200.000 Travel-GL Office Staff	\$0.00
5210.000 Auto Allowance	\$600.00
5210.100 Auto Allow-Grand Master	\$3,000.00
5210.150 Auto Allow-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5210.200 Auto Allow-Gr Secretary	\$500.00
5210.250 Auto Allow-Gr Custodian	\$500.00
5210.300 Auto Allow- DGC's	\$750.00
5210.350 Auto Allow-Other Officers	\$3,000.00
5220.000 Meals-GL Office Staff	\$150.00
5220.100 Meals-Grand Master	\$500.00
5220.150 Meals-Dep Gr Master	\$325.00
5230.000 Motels-GL Office Staff	\$0.00
5230.100 Motels-Grand Master	\$1,000.00
5230.150 Motels-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5230.200 Motels-Grand Secretary	\$300.00
5230.250 Motels-Gr Custodian	\$200.00
5230.350 Motels-Other Officers	\$2,000.00
5230.300 Motels-DGC	\$200.00
5235.150 Retreat-Dep Gr Master	\$1,500.00
5240.500 Conf of Grand Masters/Grand Secretaries	\$9,950.00
5240.550 Midwest Conference	\$3,500.00
5240.600 Rocky Mountain Conference	\$1,000.00
5240.650 Masonic Renewal Conference	\$0.00
5640.700 Shrine Membership Seminar	\$750.00
5240.100 Conf & Conv -Gr Master	\$2,000.00
5240.150 Conf & Conv-Dep GM	\$1,500.00
5240.200 Conf & Conv-Gr Secretary	\$1,250.00
5240.350 Conf & Conv-Other Officer	\$1,500.00
5250.300 Per Diem-DGC's	\$500.00
5260.300 School of Instruction	\$2,400.00
Subtotal-Travel & Related	\$40,375.00
Occupancy & Related	
5400.000 Office Rent-Storage	\$0.00
5400.100 Office Rent	\$24,000.00
5410.000 Utilities	\$5,000.00
5412.000 Trash Removal	\$500.00
5413.000 Grounds Maintenance	\$1,800.00
5414.000 Building Maintenance	\$5,300.00
5415.000 Telephone	\$5,200.00
5420.000 Equipment Maintenance	\$6,500.00
5425.000 Equipment Rental	\$2,500.00
5430.000 Equipment Purchase	\$1,500.00
5435.000 Postage	\$4,000.00
5435.250 Postage-Gr Custodian	\$0.00
5440.000 Printing & Copying	\$2,000.00

5440.250 Printing & Copying-GC	\$100.00
5445.000 Office Supplies	\$3,750.00
5450.000 Office Maintenance	\$300.00
5455.000 Computer Supplies	\$2,000.00
5460.000 Computer Repair & Maint	\$2,000.00
5465.000 Computer Software Sup	\$2,000.00
5470.000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$700.00
5475.000 NE Mason Pub Exp & Semi-Annual Flyer	\$42,000.00
5480.000 Bank Service Charge-Unrestricted	\$100.00
5485.000 Professional Fees - Accting Audit	\$4,000.00
5490.000 Corporate/Legal Fees - Sect'y of State, etc.	\$0.00
5500.000 Lodge Supplies-Printed	\$2,000.00
5505.000 Lodge Supplies-Other	\$1,500.00
5505.250 Supplies Lodges-GC	\$400.00
5510.000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$500.00
5515.000 Lodge Ofc's Directory Printing	\$2,200.00
5525.000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$6,700.00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	\$128,550.00
Insurance & Administrative	
5600.000 Workers Compensation	\$711.00
5605.000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$31,500.00
5610.000 Surety Bond	\$2,038.00
5620.000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,524.00
5625.000 Liability Insurance	\$18,019.00
5635.000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$832.00
5650.000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$2,500.00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	\$59,124.00
Committees and Programs	
XXXX.450 Masonic Education	\$1,500.00
5650.600 Trial Commissions	\$500.00
5220.650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$60.00
5650.700 Public Relations Committee	\$2,500.00
5650.710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$100.00
5650.720 Band Camp Expenses	\$69,500.00
XXXX.750 Youth Committee-MYLC	\$2,500.00
5875.750 Scholarships Awards	\$4,000.00
XXXX.800 Membership committee	\$500.00
5650.800 Other Administrative	\$500.00
5520.800 Awards & Rec	\$50.00
5650.900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$2,000.00
XXXX.950 Lodge Advisory Committee	
5650.960 GW Memorial Committee	\$200.00
5650.970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$350.00
5650.980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$1,000.00
Digital Proceedings Project	\$5,000.00
5800.000 GL Education Programs	\$1,000.00
5801.000 Grand Master Programs Expense	\$4,500.00
5805.000 Masonic Family Summit	\$200.00
Subtotal-Committees	\$95,960.00
Contributions	
5820.000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$3,400.00

5810.000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$2,000.00
5811.000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$2,000.00
5812.000 Rainbow Donation	\$2,000.00
5830.000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$750.00
5835.000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$175.00
Subtotal-Contributions	\$10,325.00
Salaries & Related	
6561.000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$89,210.13
6561.100 Salary-Gr Custodian	\$0.00
6561.200 Salary-Part-time Staff	\$0.00
6680.000 Contract Labor	\$500.00
6560.000 Performance Incentive	\$2,400.00
6562.100 FICA-Employer Share	\$6,824.57
6562.200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$200.00
6562.300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$150.00
6560.000 Payroll Expenses-Other	\$51.00
6570.000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$2,676.30
6580.000 GL Office Staff-Training	\$0.00
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	\$102,012.01
Pass Through	
5704.000 Fremont Home Dues	\$6,477.50
5705.000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$26,210.00
5706.000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$6,472.50
5650.100 CHIP Expense	\$13,099.00
Subtotal-Pass Through	\$52,259.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$534,890.09
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES (Net Loss)	(67,153.59)
Investment Income	
4700.000 Int & Div FNB - Omaha	\$67,153.59
4.337% of \$1,548,550 balance on 12/31/2009	
ADJ. BALANCE WITH INVEST. INCOME	\$0

W.:B.: Krogh moved for the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee. With no discussion, the motion was seconded and carried favorably.

♦

M.:W.:B.: Reno asked Craig Hummel, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, to approach the East to bring greetings.

♦

M.:W.:B.: Reno announced the appointment of the Deputy Grand Custodians as tellers for this session, with W.:B.: Steve Green as Chairman.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Delmar A. Jones, Chairman

The Credentials Committee is pleased to report the following for this, the 153rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

We have in attendance all Grand Lodge Officers, 14 Past Grand Masters, 19 Deputy Grand Custodians and 61 non-delegate Masons.

At the time of this Report there are the following Masters, Wardens and Secretaries registered:

There are 67 Worshipful Masters in person and 22 by proxy, there are 34 Senior Wardens in person and 37 by proxy, there are 32 Junior Wardens in person and 34 by proxy and there are 49 Secretaries in person and 25 by proxy.

Before announcing the lodges that are not registered, I wish to thank and recognize all that are present. We have 329 total possible votes with officers and proxies. Also, we are recognizing the lodges that have all four delegate officers in attendance in person. They are lodges 1, 39, 46, 54, 146, 297, 302, 310 and 332. They will receive a certificate to display in their lodge. Thank you for your efforts to be present and be a part of this Grand Lodge Communication.

At this time there are no Masters, Wardens or Secretaries registered from the following lodges: 9, 27, 35, 36, 38, 43, 53, 56, 57, 68, 73, 75, 81, 89, 104, 114, 154, 165, 177, 180, 192, 194, 200, 201, 209, 221, 236, 239, 241, 248, 284, 286, 291, 293, 305, 320 and 328.

There have been no Masters, Wardens or Secretaries registered for the past two years from lodges: 27, 36, 53, 68, 73, 81, 89, 114, 165, 180, 192, 209, 236, 239 and 291; and for three years from 27, 81, 89, 165, 192 and 209.

We are honored to have dignitaries present from the following jurisdictions, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Grand Lodges of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming and Washington; and also the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

We are pleased to have in attendance the following Masonic related organizations: Eastern Star, Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, Nebraska DeMolay, and DeMolay International, York Rite of Nebraska, Social Order of the Beauceant, Scottish Rite of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, Tehama, Sesostris and Tangier Shrine Temples, Abu Bekr Shrine of Iowa, Daughters of the Nile, National Sojourners, The Nebraska Masonic Home, and the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

Other attendance items that may be of interest are: There were 272 present at the Grand Masters Banquet on Thursday evening. There were 414 at the Public Opening on Friday morning, and 373 at the Membership Banquet Friday Night.

It has indeed been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Credentials Committee this year for M.:W.: Russ. I want to personally thank the other brothers on the committee who have spent many hours at the registration table to help make this an enjoyable Grand Lodge Communication. They are Frank Dougherty, Robert Mike Hoagland and Gordon Brown.

I also give a huge thank you to Michelle and Carol at the Grand Lodge Office who work so hard to make this Grand Lodge Session run smoothly.

FINAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

John E. Lorenzen, Chairman

The 2011 Committee on Finance met during the past year to conduct its assigned duties as proscribed in Section 1-318 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Following the close of each calendar year, the books and records of the Grand Lodge are audited by an independent certified public accountant.

Actual revenue and expenses, compared to budgeted, for 2011 are as follows:

	Actual	Budgeted
Revenue	500,310.32	499,111
Expenses	548,661.60	566,109
Net Deficit	(48,351.28)	(66,998)

After other activities affecting cash flow, such as prepaid Annual Communication, prepaid expenses, purchases of inventory assets and outstanding accounts receivable, an investment draw of \$30,000 was needed to cover operating expenses for 2011 – \$36,998 less than the investment draw budgeted for 2011. The results of the fiscal year show that the Grand Lodge Officers and staff have been good stewards of the funds of the Grand Lodge operating budget during 2011; however, the expenses of the Grand Lodge continue to exceed the annual revenue and thus, Nebraska Masonry is operating at a deficit, making it necessary to draw from the general investment fund to make up the shortfall.

The Committee on Finance found satisfactory documentation for expenditures within the books and records of the Grand Lodge Office and was able to conduct its work in a complete and timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
 John E. Lorenzen, 10 & 314, Chairman
 Thomas A. Brazer, 11 & 1
 Jack G. Frahm, 204
 Jeffrey C. Johnson, 19
 David G. Krogh, 5
 Steven S. Nichols, 102
 Thomas J. Schmidt, 288
 Steve B. Wetzel, 227

Account	2012 Budget
Lodge Income	
4100 000 Membership Dues	\$264,748.00
4100 000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$7,000.00
4110 000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$12,034.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$303.00
4120 000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$30,085.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,474.00
4130 000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$12,034.00
4130 000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$288.00
4140 000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason	\$6,017.00
4140 000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason - from Perp	\$215.00
4175.000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,100.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$4,875.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$900.00
4640 000 CHIP Assessment	\$12,716.00
4300.000 Surety Bond Premium	\$2,064.00
4350 000 Liability Ins Premium	\$19,814.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	\$375,667.00
Sales Income	
4400 000 Donations for Supplies	\$9,000.00
4620 400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$3,750.00
4620 600 Sale of Memb. Banquet Tickets	\$8,840.00
4625.400 Sale of PGM Ladies Lunch	\$201.50
4625 500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$852.50
4625 600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,800.00
4625.700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,750.00
4625.800 Sale of Vet's Luncheon Tickets	\$294.50
4631 400 Sales of Men's Sat. Ed. Breakfast Tickets	\$1,950.00
4632.400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$0.00
4633 400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$390.00
4633.500 AC Registration Fee	\$900.00
4875 000 Miscellaneous Income	\$1,000.00
4910 000 Interest - General Fund	\$500.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	\$32,228.50
Program Income	
4450 725 Band Clinic Registration	\$67,600.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$9,500.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$0.00
4465.000 GM Program Income	\$10,000.00
4905 000 Masonic Family Summit	\$0.00
Subtotal-Program Income	\$87,100.00

5510.000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$1,000.00
5515.000 Lodge Ofcra Directory Printing	\$1,700.00
5525.000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$2,400.00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	\$129,205.00
Insurance & Administrative	
5600.000 Workers Compensation	\$641.00
5605.000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$27,944.32
5610.000 Surety Bond	\$2,064.00
5620.000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,669.00
5625.000 Liability Insurance	\$19,814.00
5635.000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$839.00
5650.000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$2,500.00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	\$57,471.32
Committees and Programs	
5650.450 Masonic Education	\$350.00
5240.450 Masonic Education-Conv & Conf Education	\$400.00
5650.600 Trial Commissions	\$1,000.00
5220.650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$75.00
5650.700 Public Relations Committee	\$6,000.00
5650.710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$100.00
5650.720 Band Camp Expenses	\$77,100.00
5650.750 Youth Committee	\$2,500.00
5875.750 Youth Scholarships Awards	\$4,000.00
5650.800 Membership committee	\$100.00
5650.900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$1,000.00
5650.960 GW Memorial Committee	\$200.00
5650.970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$250.00
5650.980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$750.00
5660.000 Digital Proceedings Project	\$5,000.00
5800.000 GL Education Programs	\$0.00
5801.000 GM Program Expense	\$10,000.00
5805.000 Masonic Unity Meeting	\$500.00
Subtotal-Committees	\$109,325.00
Contributions	
5820.000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$3,400.00
5810.000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$2,000.00
5811.000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$2,000.00
5812.000 Rainbow Donation	\$2,000.00
5830.000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$750.00
5835.000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$175.00
Subtotal-Contributions	\$10,325.00

Salaries & Related	
6561.000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$96,480.76
6561.100 Salary-Gr Custodian	\$5,500.00
6680.000 Contract Labor	\$200.00
6560.000 Performance Incentive	\$2,400.00
6562.100 FICA-Employer Share	\$7,985.13
6562.200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$200.00
6562.300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$150.00
6560.000 Payroll Expenses-Other	\$60.00
6570.000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$2,894.42
6580.000 GL Office Staff-Training	\$0.00
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	\$115,870.31
Pass Through	
5704.000 Fremont Home Dues	\$12,337.00
5705.000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$31,559.00
5706.000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$12,322.00
5650.100 CHIP Expense	\$12,716.00
Subtotal-Pass Through	\$68,934.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$573,467.54
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES (Net Loss)	(\$45,672.04)
Investment Income	
4700.000 Int & Div FNB - Omaha	45,672.04
2.823% of \$1,617,590 balance on 12/31/2011	
ADJ. BALANCE WITH INVEST. INCOME	\$0

W.:B.: Lorenzen moved for the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee. With no discussion, the motion was seconded and carried favorably.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Delmar A. Jones, Chairman

The Credentials Committee Report for the 155th Annual Communication.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, and Brethren, the Credentials Committee is pleased to report the following for this the 155th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

We have in attendance all Grand Lodge Officers, 14 Past Grand Masters, 16 Deputy Grand Custodians and 32 non-delegate Masons.

At the time of this report there are the following Masters, Wardens and Secretaries registered: There are 61 Masters in person and 21 by proxy, there are 28 Senior Wardens in person and 38 by proxy, there are 33 Junior Wardens in person and 32 by proxy, and there are 52 Secretaries in person and 23 by proxy.

Grand Lodge

A.:F.: & A.:M.:
of Nebraska



2012

ATTACHMENT 7

We are also pleased to have in attendance representatives from the following Masonic-related organizations: Eastern Star, Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, DeMolay, York Rite, Red Cross of Constantine, Scottish Rite, Shrine International, Sesostriis, Tehama, and Tangier Shrine Temples, Daughters of the Nile, Social Order of the Beauceant, National Sojourners, The Nebraska Masonic Home and the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

Other attendance items that may be of interest are: there were 224 present at the Grand Master's Banquet on Thursday evening, there were 442 at the Public Opening Friday and 338 at the Membership Banquet Friday night.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Credentials Committee this year for you Most Worshipful John, and I would like to thank the other brothers on the committee that spend many hours at the registration table to help make this a smooth and enjoyable Grand Lodge Communication, they are Frank Dougherty, Phil Edwards, Mike Hoagland and Gordon Brown.

I also give a huge thank you to Michelle and Carol at the Grand Lodge Office for their hard work to make this Grand Lodge Session run smoothly.

With possible corrections or additions due to late registrations, I move for the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
 Delmar A. Jones, 46 & 65, Chairman
 Frank S. Dougherty, 297
 R. Mike Hoagland, 46 & 146
 Leroy Moats, 102 & 290
 Allan Rolfs, 102
 Gordon L. Brown, 146, Ad-hoc
 Philip O. Edwards, 326, Ad-hoc

The motion was seconded and carried favorably.

M. W. B. Parsons thanked Delmar and the Credentials Committee, and asked for reiteration of the lodges absent for three or more years, and then stated:

"Brethren, you have heard the report and noted the absence of representatives from lodges which have been absent for three or more years. At this point, in compliance with section 2-514 of the Grand Lodge Bylaws, I now declare that Lodges No. 73 and 165, having been absent for more than three years, they have forfeited their charters. They may regain those charters by attending the next annual communication. In the meantime, they are prohibited from engaging in any Masonic activity unless they first apply for and receive a dispensation from the Grand Lodge."

After the Credentials Report was given, it was found that a representative from Friend Lodge No. 73 did register Saturday morning while Chairman Delmar was giving his report. Grand Master Parsons amended his order to reflect that only the charter for Barneston Lodge No. 165 would be forfeited.

FINAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

John E. Lorenzen, Chairman

The 2010 Committee on Finance met during the past year to conduct its assigned duties as proscribed in Section 1-318 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Following the close of each calendar year, the books and records of the Grand Lodge are audited by an independent certified public accountant.

Actual revenue and expenses, compared to budgeted, for 2010 are as follows:

	Actual	Budgeted
Revenue	503,800.19	467,737
Expenses	(512,842.52)	(534,890)
Net Deficit	(9,042.33)	(67,153)

The numbers show that \$9042 of investment income was needed to make up the difference between revenue and expenses – \$58,111 less than the investment draw budgeted for 2010. The results of the fiscal year show that the Grand Lodge Officers and staff have been good stewards of the funds of the Grand Lodge operating budget during 2010; however, the expenses of the Grand Lodge continue to exceed the annual revenue and thus, Nebraska Masonry is operating at a deficit, making it necessary to draw from the general investment fund to make up the shortfall.

The Committee on Finance found satisfactory documentation for expenditures within the books and records of the Grand Lodge Office and was able to conduct its work in a complete and timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
 John E. Lorenzen, 10 & 314, Chairman
 Thomas A. Brazer, 11 & 1
 Jack G. Frahm, 204
 Jeffrey C. Johnson, 19
 David G. Krogh, 5
 Steven S. Nichols, 102
 Thomas J. Schmidt, 288
 Steve B. Wetzel, 227

Account	2011 Budget
Lodge Income	
4100.000 Membership Dues	\$247,580.00
4100.000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$6,000.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$6,189.50
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$250.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$24,758.00
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$12,379.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$250.00
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason	\$6,189.50
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - from Perp	\$150.00
4175.000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$4,875.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$900.00

4640.000 CHIP Assessment	\$13,038.00
4300.000 Surety Bond Premium	\$2,066.00
4350.000 Liability Ins Premium	\$19,512.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	\$346,537.00
Sales Income	
4400.000 Donations for Supplies	\$9,000.00
4620.400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$4,000.00
4620.600 Sale of Memb. Banquet Tickets	\$9,520.00
4625.400 Sale of PGM Ladies Lunch	\$216.00
4625.500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$650.00
4625.600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,240.00
4625.700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,200.00
4625.800 Sale of Vet's Luncheon Tickets	\$168.00
4631.400 Sales of Men's Sal. Ed. Breakfast Tickets	\$1,800.00
4632.400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$770.00
4633.400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$360.00
4633.500 AC Registration Fee	\$850.00
4875.000 Miscellaneous Income	\$1,500.00
4910.000 Interest - General Fund	\$300.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	\$32,574.00
Program Income	
4450.725 Band Clinic Registration	\$60,000.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$9,000.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$0.00
4465.000 GM Program Income	\$20,000.00
4905.000 Masonic Family Summit	\$0.00
Subtotal-Program Income	\$89,000.00
Participatory Income	
4650.000 NE Masonic Home-Admin	\$5,000.00
4641.000 CHIP Foundation Admin Fee	\$16,000.00
4655.000 NE Masonic Home-Paper	\$5,000.00
4660.000 OES & Fremont -Paper	\$5,000.00
Subtotal-Participatory Income	\$31,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$499,111.00
Annual Communication	
5104.400 Guest Room Rental	\$1,000.00
5110.400 Grand Master's Banquet	\$6,903.90
5111.400 Entertainment - Grand Master's Banquet	\$400.00
5130.400 Membership Banquet	\$8,380.05
5131.400 Entertainment - Membership Banquet	\$450.00
5150.400 Ladies Program	\$300.00

5170.400 Misc Incidental Expense	\$2,500.00
5172.400 Grand Lodge Officer Breakfast	\$204.38
5173.400 Dignitaries Breakfast	\$1,376.40
5174.400 Mens' Lunch	\$2,040.00
5175.400 Ladies Lunch	\$1,147.00
5175.410 Vet's Lunch	\$168.00
5176.400 PGM Ladies Lunch	\$218.40
5177.400 Secretaries Lunch	\$663.00
5178.400 Men's Saturday Education Breakfast	\$1,720.50
5179.400 Ladies Saturday Brunch	\$713.30
5180.400 Red Cross Breakfast	\$278.70
5440.400 Prinling & Copying - Ann. Comm	\$2,500.00
5120.400 Proceedings	\$3,600.00
Subtotal-Annual Communication	\$34,563.63
Installation	
5170.425 Misc. Installation	\$2,500.00
5220.425 Meals	\$4,000.00
5440.425 Prinling & Copying - Installation	\$800.00
Subtotal-Installation	\$7,300.00
Travel & Related	
5210.000 Auto Allowance-GL Staff	\$900.00
5210.100 Auto Allow-Grand Master	\$4,000.00
5210.150 Auto Allow-Dep Gr Master	\$1,000.00
5210.200 Auto Allow-Gr Secretary	\$650.00
5210.250 Auto Allow-Gr Custodian	\$650.00
5210.300 Auto Allow- DGC's	\$1,000.00
5210.350 Auto Allow-Other Officers	\$4,000.00
5220.000 Meals-GL Office Staff	\$150.00
5220.100 Meals-Grand Master	\$550.00
5220.150 Meals-Dep Gr Master	\$325.00
5230.100 Motels-Grand Master	\$1,000.00
5230.150 Motels-Dep Gr Master	\$750.00
5230.200 Motels-Grand Secretary	\$300.00
5230.250 Motels-Gr Custodian	\$200.00
5230.350 Motels-Other Officers	\$2,000.00
5230.300 Motels-DGC	\$200.00
5235.150 Retreat-Dep Gr Master	\$2,500.00
5240.100 Conf & Conv -Gr Master	\$2,000.00
5240.150 Conf & Conv-Dep GM	\$1,500.00
5240.200 Conf & Conv-Gr Secretary	\$1,250.00
5240.350 Conf & Conv-Other Officer	\$3,000.00
5240.500 Conference of Grand Masters/Grand	\$6,300.00
5240.550 Midwest Conference	\$3,750.00

5240.600 Rocky Mountain Conference	\$200.00
5240.700 Shrine Membership Seminar	\$750.00
5250.300 Per Diem-DGC's	\$500.00
5260.300 School of Instruction	\$1,300.00
Subtotal-Travel & Related	\$40,725.00
Occupancy & Related	
5400.100 Office Rent	\$21,600.00
5410.000 Utilities	\$5,100.00
5412.000 Trash Removal	\$500.00
5413.000 Grounds Maintenance	\$1,800.00
5414.000 Building Maintenance	\$5,500.00
5415.000 Telephone	\$5,200.00
5420.000 Equipment Maintenance	\$7,500.00
5425.000 Equipment Rental	\$2,500.00
5430.000 Equipment Purchase	\$2,000.00
5435.000 Postage	\$4,000.00
5435.250 Postage-Gr Custodian	\$0.00
5440.000 Printing & Copying	\$2,800.00
5440.250 Printing & Copying-GC	\$100.00
5445.000 Office Supplies	\$3,500.00
5450.000 Office Maintenance	\$400.00
5455.000 Computer Supplies	\$2,000.00
5460.000 Computer Repair & Maint	\$2,000.00
5465.000 Computer Software Sup	\$2,000.00
5470.000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$600.00
5475.000 NE Mason Pub Exp & Semi-Annual Flyer	\$41,000.00
5480.000 Bank Service Charge-Unrestricted	\$220.00
5481.000 Credit Card Fees	\$150.00
5485.000 Professional Fees - Accting Audit	\$4,000.00
5490.000 Corporate/Legal Fees - Sect'y of State, etc.	\$20.00
5500.000 Lodge Supplies-Printed	\$3,500.00
5505.000 Lodge Supplies-Other	\$1,500.00
5505.250 Supplies Lodges-GC	\$400.00
5510.000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$1,000.00
5515.000 Lodge Ofc's Directory Printing	\$2,200.00
5525.000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$2,400.00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	\$125,490.00
Insurance & Administrative	
5600.000 Workers Compensation	\$641.00
5605.000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$33,278.32
5610.000 Surety Bond	\$2,066.00
5620.000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,669.00
5625.000 Liability Insurance	\$19,512.00

5635.000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$839.00
5650.000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$2,500.00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	\$62,505.32
Committees and Programs	
5650.450 Masonic Education	\$250.00
5240.450 Conv & Conf-Masonic Education	\$400.00
5650.600 Trial Commissions	\$500.00
5220.650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$75.00
5650.700 Public Relations Committee	\$4,000.00
5650.710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$100.00
5650.720 Band Camp Expenses	\$69,500.00
5650.750 Youth Committee-MYLC	\$2,500.00
5875.750 Scholarships Awards	\$4,000.00
5650.800 Membership committee	\$500.00
5520.800 Awards & Rec	\$50.00
5650.900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$1,000.00
5650.960 GW Memorial Committee	\$200.00
5650.970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$0.00
5650.980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$2,200.00
5660.000 Digital Proceedings Project	\$5,000.00
5800.000 GL Education Programs	\$5,500.00
5801.000 GM Programs Expense	\$26,000.00
5805.000 Masonic Family Summit	\$500.00
Subtotal-Committees	\$122,275.00
Contributions	
5820.000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$3,400.00
5810.000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$2,000.00
5811.000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$2,000.00
5812.000 Rainbow Donation	\$2,000.00
5830.000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$750.00
5835.000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$175.00
Subtotal-Contributions	\$10,325.00
Salaries & Related	
6561.000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$91,886.44
6561.100 Salary-Gr Custodian	\$0.00
6561.200 Salary-Part-time Staff	\$0.00
6680.000 Contract Labor	\$100.00
6560.000 Performance Incentive	\$2,400.00
6562.100 FICA-Employer Share	\$7,029.31
6562.200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$200.00
6562.300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$150.00
6560.000 Payroll Expenses-Other	\$55.00
6570.000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$2,756.59

6580.000 GL Office Staff-Training	\$100.00
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	\$104,677.35
Pass Through	
5704.000 Fremont Home Dues	\$6,439.50
5705.000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$25,958.00
5706.000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$12,629.00
5650.100 CHIP Expense	\$13,038.00
Subtotal-Pass Through	\$58,064.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$565,925.80
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES (Net Loss)	(66,814.80)
Investment Income	
4700.000 Int & Div FNB - Omaha	\$66,814.80
3.96% of \$1,684,512 balance on 11/30/2010	
ADJ. BALANCE WITH INVEST. INCOME	\$0

W.:B.: Lorenzen moved for the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee. With no discussion, the motion was seconded and carried favorably.

NEBRASKA PILLAR AWARD

The Nebraska Pillar Award recognizes lodges that perform activities that lead to a successful year. Any lodge can earn this award. A plaque is awarded to lodges the first year they qualify and a plate is presented each subsequent year the award is earned.

M.:W.: Parsons asked for representatives of the following lodges to come forward to receive the awards:

Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 of Plattsmouth
 Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 of North Platte
 Lancaster Lodge No. 54 of Lincoln
 Geneva Lodge No. 79 of Geneva
 Custer Lodge No. 148 of Broken Bow
 North Star Lodge No. 227 of Lincoln
 Franklin Lodge No. 264 of Franklin
 George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 of Omaha
 Cotner Lodge No. 297 of Lincoln
 Bellevue Lodge No. 325 of Bellevue
 Centennial Lodge No. 326 of Omaha

VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was presented at the 153rd Annual Communication in February 2010:

Resolution No. 1

Amend Section 1-406 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS – by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken.

Sec. 1-406 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS – Commencing January 1, 2012, the per capita tax shall be divided as follows:

To the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children	\$.50	\$1.00
To the George Washington Masonic National Memorial	.50	
To the Nebraska Masonic Home	2.00	3.00
To the Masonic Education Newsletter	.50	
To the General Fund – January 2007	15.00	
commencing January 2010	19.00	
commencing January 2011	20.00	
commencing January 2012	19.00	28.50
commencing January 2013	20.00	33.50
commencing January 2014		38.50

The Initiation Fee shall be allocated to the General Fund.

Amend Sec. 2-601 – PER CAPITA TAX

And, accordingly, amend Section 2-601 to reflect that per capita tax shall accrue as follows:

2012	\$34.00
2013	\$39.00
2014	\$44.00

R.:W.:B.: Watts asked one or more of the signers of Resolution No. 1 to state their position and rationale for the proposal. Brother Paul Rutherford, a signer on Resolution No. 1, gave his rationale for proposing the Resolution. A motion for the adoption of Resolution No. 1 was made and seconded. After discussion, the vote, by a show of ballots raised, failed to achieve a required two-thirds majority vote.



Deputy Grand Master Watts requested to say a few words:

“Brethren, I had, first, I want to apologize to the Craft for any of the confusion that may have been caused on my part with yesterday. My installation was supposed to be held today at 5:30 pm. We are not going to hold that installation today, and depending on what happens with the ruling from Jurisprudence, it may be delayed maybe thirty days, I’m not sure. But under Section 1-101.01 of the Bylaws, as Grand Master-Elect, I am going to announce that the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers shall be held at 10:00 am, February 19, 2011, at the Scottish Rite Center in Alliance, Nebraska. Depending on Jurisprudence, that may change. But that’s the date set at this time. Again, I am sorry, brethren, for any of the inconveniences I have caused you. I appreciate the support and I look forward to working with you next year. Thank you, brethren.”



www.nebraska.gov

Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
Catherine D. Lang, Property Tax Administrator
1033 "O" Street, Suite 600
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
Phone: (402) 471-5984 • Fax (402) 471-5993
<http://pat.nol.org/>

April 27, 2006

Mr. Robert Van Valkenburg
P.O. Box 5522
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

RE: Tax Exemption/Masonic Lodges

Dear Mr. Van Valkenburg:

The Department has reviewed your correspondence and attachments in which you allege "dishonest conduct on the part of several individuals" regarding the filing/recommendation/approval of property tax exemption for the New Masonic Temple Association, ("NMTA"), and the Nebraska Masonic Foundation, ("NMF"). You have provided those materials to other governmental officials, including the Attorney General of the State of Nebraska. The Department will first set out the factual elements of your complaint before analyzing its merits.

A. TIMELINE OF EVENTS AS PROVIDED BY MR. VAN VALKENBURG

- 1957 to 1996: NMTA filed documents characterized by Mr. Van Valkenburg as "fraudulent tax exemption requests and reaffirmations"
- December, 1987: Articles of Incorporation for the NMTA were republished
- June 18, 1996: Letter from Norman Agena to Gary Lacey, requesting County Attorney Opinion regarding the exemption status of an organization based on the following circumstances:
- the organization is a 501(c)3 corporation
 - the organization does qualify as being charitable
 - the organization sold stock in the corporation to raise money to build a building in which to operate
 - the stockholders are not paid a dividend on their stock nor do the directors, etc. receive compensation for their involvement.
- June 18, 1996: Revised Articles of Incorporation of NMTA are adopted.
- June 19, 1996: Articles of Incorporation of NMTA which extinguished outstanding stock were filed with the Secretary of State.

- June 24, 1996: Letter from Michael E. Thew, Deputy County Attorney, to Norman Agena, advising that if the corporation can show no profit from the sale of the stock, they may retain their tax exempt status.
- August 27, 1996: Letter from Michael E. Thew, Deputy County Attorney, to Norman Agena, regarding the exempt status of charitable organization which issues stock certificates.
- issuance of stock, by itself, would not necessarily disqualify an organization from being exempt under the provisions Section 77-202.
 - Organization earlier issued stock, but stock was subsequently cancelled.
 - Articles of Incorporation clearly stated that no dividends would be paid
 - Subject property is not being used for financial gain or profit
 - Property qualifies for exemption
- July 10, 1996: Attorney Reginald S. Kuhn, (partner of attorney J.L. Spray), letter to Norman Agena, advising no dividends were paid by NMTA.
- November 19, 2003: NMTA files form 451, Exemption Application, indicating nonprofit corporation and use of property is charitable (used as meeting place for 3 Masonic Lodges – recommendation by Norman Agena on February 1, 2004, approved by CBE on May 25, 2004.
- December 10, 2003: Exemption application filed, signed by Ivan Vrtiska and reaffirmed by Attorney Reginald S. Kuhn on November 26, 2005 – NMF building is used as a museum and library for the general public – described by Mr. Van Valkenburg as being “patently false and fabricated” for the purpose of misleading Norman Agena to continue granting property tax exemptions.
- December 17, 2003: NMF files Form 451, Exemption Application, indicating nonprofit corporation – recommendation by Norman Agena on February 1, 2004, approved by CBE on May 25, 2004.
- There is a Statement “B” attached to this form setting forth that:
 - NMF is a nonprofit corporation which operates an educational, cultural, historical, literary, and charitable organization for the promotion and support of free masonry and for the benefit of the public at large.
 - The building is used as a museum and library for the general public.

- The building also provides office space for the Grand lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska and the Nebraska Masonic Foundation.

- December 26, 2003: College View Lodge #320, files Form 451, Exemption Application, indicating Masonic Lodge and use of property is educational (Masonic Lodge used for monthly business – social- educational) – recommendation by Norman Agena on February 1, 2004, approved by CBE on May 25, 2004.
- December 29, 2003: East Lincoln Lodge #210, files Form 451, Exemption Application indicating nonprofit corporation and use of property is charitable (meeting place for fraternal organization that provides scholarships and other charitable causes) – recommendation by Norman Agena on February 1, 2004, approved by CBE on May 25, 2004.
- November 28, 2005: NMF files Form 451A, Statement of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption, indicating nonprofit corporation - recommendation by Norman Agena on January 18, 2006
- November 28, 2005: Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska, files Form 451A, Statement of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption, indicating nonprofit corporation – recommendation by Norman Agena on January 18, 2006.
- November 29, 2005: College View Lodge #320, files Form 451A, Statement of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption, indicating Masonic Lodge – recommendation by Norman Agena on January 18, 2006
- December 30, 2005: East Lincoln Lodge #210, files Form 451A, Statement of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption, indicating nonprofit corporation – recommendation by Norman Agena on January 18, 2006.
- January 17, 2006: Telephone discussion with Scott Gaines – recorded value of 1635 “L” Street property was \$842,533.00 (parcel #10-25-122-001-000). No evidence exists showing property taxes were ever paid on this property by NMTA.
- 2nd property – adjacent parking lot (parcel #10-25-122-002-000), was valued at \$155,111.00, on which NMTA has paid \$3,100.00 in property taxes for 1 or more years.
 - Parcel #10-25-121-001-000 – east half of the block on the west side of 15th Street directly across the street from the NMTA parking lot -currently appraised at \$5,021,000.00 - building on this parcel is somewhat larger.

- January 24, 2006: Email note from Mr. Van Valkenburg to members of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners - Deb Schorr, Robert Workman, Larry Hudkins, and Ray Stevens - regarding unlawful exemptions of certain properties from taxation.
- alleges NMTA has filed "fraudulent tax exemption requests for at least 35 years"
- January 31, 2006: Letter from Mr. Van Valkenburg to Gary Lacey, Lancaster County Attorney, containing the foregoing allegations. Numerous city and county officials were sent copies of the letter. Copies were also sent to Catherine Lang and the Attorney General.
- January 31, 2006: Email note from Mr. Van Valkenburg to Catherine Lang, Jon Bruning, Deb Schorr, and Robert Workman, containing letter written to Gary Lacey and attached exhibits.

B. Mr. Van Valkenburg's Allegations

The allegations found in your letter are summarized as follows:

Complaint #1:

- NMTA has never been a 501(c)(3) Corporation
- NMTA has never qualified as a "charitable" corporation
- NMTA is not now or ever was a "lodge of Masons" - did not qualify for property tax exemption
- Exclusive use of Masonic Temple is for the benefit of the fraternal and social functions of the renting organizations and is not a direct benefit to the "public-at-large."
- Norman Agena did not engage in reasonable diligence in his review of the situation.
- Norman Agena categorized the "Structure Type" as "620 religious."
- Supreme Court held years ago that Masonic Organizations "were not religious."
- Thew relied upon Norman Agena's letter and Kuhn's letter in preparation of his own letter without doing any research on his own.
- NMTA Secretary/Treasurer, Bruce Watkins, acting in collusion with J.L. Spray and Reginald S. Kuhn for a period of at least 10 years, willfully violated the law by filing and reaffirming fraudulent tax exemption documents.

Complaint #2:

- NMF is not a "lodge of Masons" and does not meet the definition of "charitable."
- NMF owns property at 1240 North 10th Street (parcel #10-23-208-017-000) – used as the administrative office of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska.
- NMF is not non-profit
- NMF is not a chartered organization under Grand Lodge – even though have interconnecting officers and directors.
- A number of organization mentioned in Section 21-608 all pay property tax, according to Scott Gaines, Chief Administrative Deputy to Norman Agena
- Form 451 filed by Ivan A. Vrtiska, secretary/treasurer of NMF contains "double-speak"
- So-called "museum and library" amounts to one (1) rather small room in the building - hardly in any condition or order for viewing and study by the "general public."

Complaint #3:

- Even with the truth on a Form 451, filed for College View Lodge #320, Norman Agena recommended approval of the property tax exemption without question.
- Norman Agena either has no knowledge and appreciation of Section 77-202, or he operates by selective favoritism and ignores the law at his discretion.

Complaint #4:

- Even Gary Lacey's own lodge, East Lincoln Lodge #210, has been granted property tax exemption year after year – does not now and never did lawfully qualify for exemption.
- Monte D. Dietrick, the lodge's secretary followed the example of those before him and filed for exemption.

Conclusion:

- Time for legal authority to take due notice of blatant tax evasion resulting from certain "community leaders" obviously involved in an ongoing conspiracy with one another for the purpose of perpetuating ongoing fraudulent conduct which must be stopped.
- Requests appropriate penalties and sanctions

Analysis by the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation

Clearly the issues involved in this matter include the filing, reviewing, and granting of property tax exempt status to the NMTA and NMF in Lancaster County, Nebraska. Property tax exemptions are to be strictly construed and the burden of proof is on the party seeking the exemption to show that the property is eligible for exemption.

It is the primary or dominant use, and not an incidental use, of the property which is controlling in determining whether property is exempt from taxation under section 77-202. See, Bethesda Foundation v. County of Saunders, 200 Neb. 574, 264 N.W.2d 664 (1978), using, Lincoln Women's Club v. City of Lincoln, 178 Neb. 357, 133 N.W.2d 455 (1965). Further, the holding of tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service is not dispositive on the question of qualification for property tax exemption under Nebraska law. See, Nebraska State Bar Foundation v. Lancaster County Bd. Of Equal., 237 Neb. 1 (1991).

A five-part test for determining eligibility for educational, religious, or charitable exemption can be found in Nebraska statutes. The five part test is ownership, exclusive use, no financial gain or profit, restricted alcoholic liquor sales and prohibited discrimination. This five part test can be found in Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202(1)(d). The property must meet all five criteria of the test for the exemption to be allowed.

Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202 was enacted by the Nebraska legislature pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII, section 2 of the Constitution, and provides in pertinent part as follows:

(1) The following property shall be exempt from property taxes:

. . . (d) Property owned by educational, religious, charitable, or cemetery organizations, or any organization for the exclusive benefit of any such educational, religious, charitable, or cemetery organization, and used exclusively for educational, religious, charitable, or cemetery purposes, when such property is not (i) owned or used for financial gain or profit to either the owner or user, (ii) used for the sale of alcoholic liquors for more than twenty hours per week, or (iii) owned or used by an organization which discriminates in membership or employment based on race, color, or national origin. For purposes of this subdivision, educational organization means (A) an institution operated exclusively for the purpose of offering regular courses with systematic instruction in academic, vocational, or technical subjects or assisting students through services relating to the origination, processing, or guarantying of federally reinsured student loans for higher education or (B) a museum or historical society operated exclusively for the benefit and education of the public. For purposes of this subdivision, charitable organization means an organization operated exclusively for the purpose of the mental, social, or physical benefit of the public or an indefinite number of persons. . . .

Any organization or society seeking a property tax exemption shall file an Exemption Application, Form 451, with the assessor of the county in which the property is located. If the

exemption is approved by the county board or equalization, the exemption shall continue for a period of four years, beginning with years evenly divisible by four. The first year in each period is known as the application year. If the application for exemption is made and approved in an intervening year, the exemption shall continue for the remainder of the applicable four year period. *See, Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.03(1).*

Once the organization has been granted the exemption, on or before December 31 prior to each intervening year, the organization shall file a Statement of Reaffirmation of Exemption, Form 451A. The reaffirmation statement shall certify that the ownership and use of the exempted property has not changed from the ownership and use of the property at the time of the application for the application year. *See, Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.03(2).*

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.02, once the Form 451 or Form 451A are filed, the county assessor shall make a recommendation to the county board of equalization. Between February 1 and June 1, the county board of equalization shall have a hearing on the application, after a ten day notice to the applicant and publication of the notice. The county board of equalization then makes a decision as to whether the exemption shall be granted or denied. Then, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.04, a notice of the county board of equalization's decision granting or denying the exemption shall be mailed or delivered to the applicant and the county assessor.

It is important to point out that the county assessor ONLY makes a recommendation regarding the exemption application and the statement of reaffirmation of exemption, based upon the information provided, to the county board of equalization. The county board of equalization is given the authority to grant or deny the application or statement based on a hearing that is held after a ten day notice. The organization seeking the exemption has the burden of showing the county board of equalization that the property qualifies for exempt status. It is at this hearing that the county board of equalization can hear from interested citizens regarding the exemption application.

Persons, corporations, or organizations may appeal denial of an application for exemption by a county board of equalization. Only the county assessor may appeal the grant of such an exemption by a county board of equalization. Any such appeal shall be filed with the Tax Equalization and Review Commission within thirty days after the decision of the county board of equalization. The Property Tax Administrator does have the discretion to intervene in any such appeal. *See, Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.04.*

The entities at issue here are affiliated with the Masonic Temple of Lincoln, Nebraska. The Supreme Court of Nebraska, in *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry v. Board of County Com'rs*, 122 Neb. 586, 241 N.W. 93 (1932), defined masonry as follows:

. . .Masonry is traditionally and generally described as a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated in symbols. It teaches as a foundation principle faith in God and immortality of the soul. Masonry is not sectarian in its religious teaching. It aims to bring its devotees a deeper and more conscious contact with spiritual things. To the

Mr. Robert Van Valkenburg

April 27, 2006

Page 8

extent that religious purposes include the field of morals, masonry makes common cause with organized religion. Masonry is tolerant of all faiths and builds a moral and spiritual fellowship on the foundations of fundamental morality common to them. It brings its members to the altar of prayer, and by its every teaching and effort seeks to make real the invisible power of love, the intrinsic worth of harmony, and the beauty and eternal reality of the ideal. Outside of the activity of the Masonry which is devoted to charity, which constitutes a very substantial and major part of its endeavors, all of its activities in all of its bodies are devoted to those purposes which properly fall within the definition of "educational" and "religious."

Id., at 241 N.W. 95.

In that particular case, the Nebraska Supreme Court determined that Scottish Rite Temple in Lincoln, Nebraska, containing the general office quarters for the administration of the organization, a reception room, a lobby, a small and large lodge room, a banquet hall, paraphernalia rooms, music room, and storage, coal and heating rooms were exempt from property taxation because first, it was not owned or used for the financial gain of the owners and users and second, the property was primarily used for educational, religious and charitable purposes.

You have raised questions regarding the exemption status of these entities in Lancaster County since as early as 1996. (The issues raised in Lancaster County are separate and distinct from those you litigated in Buffalo County as a result of your expulsion from Liberty Lodge 300, a subordinate lodge of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. which is a fraternal association of Masons incorporated in Nebraska. See, *Van Valkenburg v. Liberty Lodge No. 300*, 9 Neb. App. 782 (2000) and *Van Valkenburg v. Liberty Lodge No. 300*, 2003 WL 42514 (Neb. App.)) At that time, Norman Agena, Lancaster County Assessor, requested an opinion of the Lancaster County Attorney regarding the eligibility of these entities for property tax exemption. In a letter date August 27, 1996, Michael E. Thew, Deputy County Attorney, opined that in fact the organization qualified for the exemption as a charitable organization.

Nebraska statutes define charitable organization as follows:

. . . charitable organization means an organization operated exclusively for the purpose of the mental, social, or physical benefit of the public or an indefinite number of persons. . .

See, Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202(1)(d).

The documentation that you have submitted reveals that both the NMTA and NMF meet all criteria of the five-part test found in Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202, and qualify for property tax exemption. Namely:

1. Ownership by an educational, religious, charitable, or cemetery purpose – there is no argument that NMTA and NMF own the parcels at issue here. Further, from the information provided it appears that these organizations are charitable organizations;
2. Used exclusively for educational, religious, charitable, or cemetery purposes – the parcels and buildings at issue here are used for the benefit of the public or an indefinite number of persons – attached to an exemption application was a statement summarizing the benefits to the public or indefinite number of persons – that it was used as a museum and library to illustrate and instruct the general public on the following:
 - a. The advancement of universal benevolence.
 - b. The promotion and improvement of good citizenship, patriotism, and the promotion of compliance with and respect for legal authority.
 - c. The promotion of moral and ethical conduct among individuals.
 - d. The promotion of moral and ethical conduct among individuals.
 - e. The advancement of public education and the promotion of the benefits thereof to the general public.
 - f. To publish and distribute addresses, reports, treaties, films, and other literary works on universal benevolence, ethical conduct, citizenship, patriotism, and public education, and to acquire, preserve, and exhibit rare books, documents, objects of art, and items of historical or Masonic interest which promote the above ideals. The museum is open to scholars and others interested in Masonic history and research.

The statement also indicated that the organization makes grants to other exempt organizations, provides education to individuals, and performs other activities which promote the purposes of the Foundation;

3. Not owned or used for financial gain or profit to either the owner or user – You have raised an argument that there was stock issued by NMTA that remained outstanding when Norm Agena wrote to the Lancaster County Attorney. However, the evidence before us does not indicate that dividends were paid on this stock and this issue was addressed in the Deputy Lancaster County's opinion letter, dated August 27, 1996. In fact, it appears that the ownership of the stock entitled the owner to nothing of financial value and the shares were ultimately cancelled by the organization. The rule in Nebraska is that a property is not considered used for gain or profit to the owner or user sufficiently to disqualify it from obtaining exemption if no part of the income from the property is distributed to the owner's or user's members, directors, or officers, or to private individuals. *Nebraska State Bar Foundation v. Lancaster County Board of Equalization*, 237 Neb. 1 (1991). Reasonable salaries do not constitute an impermissible distribution of gain or profit. *Bethesda Foundation v. County of Saunders*, 200 Neb. 574 (1978). Because it appears that the organization has not distributed income from the property to organization officers, directors, members or private individuals, the property is not owned or used for financial gain or profit to either the owner or user.

Further, the Supreme Court of Nebraska, in Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, supra., determined that the real estate consisting of the Scottish Rite Temple and grounds at the northeast corner of Fifteenth and L Street in the City of Lincoln, were used exclusively for educational, religious or charitable purposes, and not for financial gain or profit to either the owner or user, and therefore were exempt from taxation. Like the instant case before us, in Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the temple was not used for commercial purposes, but was devoted exclusively to the furtherance of the purposes of Masonry; the temple was used by different Masonic bodies without charge or financial remuneration. From these facts, the Supreme Court determined that the property was not owned or used for financial gain of either the owners or users, or of the individuals of the membership comprising the same. Id., at 241 N.W. 94.;

4. Not used for the sale of alcoholic liquors for more than twenty hours per week – there is no allegation of alcoholic use in this case; and
5. Not owned or used by an organization which discriminates in membership or employment based on race, color, or national origin – there is no allegation of discrimination in this case.

From the documentation and facts presented, it is the Department of Property Assessment and Taxations opinion that the entities at issue in this matter do in fact qualify for property tax exemption, as charitable organizations. Nebraska law has established tests, procedures and processes to be followed in the filing, reviewing, and granting/denying of applications for exemption. These tests, procedures and processes were followed in all of the applications or restatements at issue here. The county board of equalization has the authority to grant or deny property tax exemption applications and restatements.

If the property owner is dissatisfied with the county board of equalization's decision, an appeal may be filed with the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. There is no statutory authority for a citizen, other than the property owner, to file an appeal of the county board of equalizations granting of exemption status to an organization. Such appeals are limited to the assessor. *See*, Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.04. In the cases before us, no such appeal was filed regarding the applications and restatements filed by NMTA and/or NMF.

A citizen can participate in the property tax exemption process during an application year, by appearing before the county board of equalization when the hearing on the exemption application is being heard. This is the extent of the citizen's right to participate in the exemption process. Once the county board of equalization makes its decision regarding the application, to grant or deny it, only the property owner and/or the county assessor have the right to appeal. A citizen does not have the legal authority to participate in the appeal process.

Mr. Robert Van Valkenburg
April 27, 2006
Page 11

It should be noted that the issue of a citizen not having the legal authority to appeal the granting of an exemption application was addressed before the Revenue Committee of the Nebraska Legislature in 2001 (LB 61). It was proposed that the language "only the county assessor" be stricken from Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-202.04, and replaced with "any person" in order to permit any person to appeal a grant of exempt status by the county board of equalization. At that time LB 61 was indefinitely postponed. This issue has not been raised since 2001.

Department of Property Assessment and Taxation's Conclusion

Upon reviewing the documentation that has been submitted and the relevant law, no evidence of "dishonest conduct on the part of several individuals" was found. It is the opinion of the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation that the Lancaster County Board of Equalization was correct in the decision to grant the property tax exemption to the charitable organizations at issue here.

As set forth above, the county board of equalization has the authority to grant or deny Applications for Exemption or Statements of Reaffirmation of Tax Exemption. If the exemption is denied, the property owner has the authority to appeal the decision to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. If granted, only the assessor may appeal.

There is no legal basis for the appeal of the county board of equalization's decisions to grant the property tax exemption to NMTA and NMF.

Sincerely,

Catherine D. Lang
Property Tax Administrator

cc: Jon Bruning, Attorney General
Gary Lacey, Lancaster County Attorney
Lancaster County Commissioners