

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
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 August 22, 2014.

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
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office
Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m., the pledge of allegiance was recited and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014.**

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

2) **CLAIMS: Approval of all claims processed through Tuesday, August 26, 2014.**

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

3) **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. **Keno Fund Projects.**

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Dennis Meyer, Budget & Fiscal Director, was administered the oath. He reviewed the Keno Fund expenditures, including \$50,000 for prevention grants (5% of receipts), \$160,424 for video conferencing; \$1,500 for community index/vital signs; \$100,000 for the East Beltway; and \$1,250,000 for transfer to the General Fund (property tax relief). With a balance going into the budget year at just over \$1,600,000, \$42,335 will remain. No funds are spent until received; an estimated receipt of \$900,000 will be collected throughout the fiscal year but those funds will not be budgeted to spend until the next fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS CONTINUED:

The Chair closed the public hearing.

B. Lancaster County's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. (See 4A-4C for correlating items.)

The Chair opened the public hearing and read a statement regarding the proposed 2014-2015 budget (Exhibit A).

Coby Mach, Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA), was administered the oath. He read a statement regarding LIBA's concerns and recommendations for the budget (Exhibit B). Mach agreed to work with the County Board on legislative priorities, lending support on unfunded mandates and reviewing Medicaid.

Gary Aldridge, 7112 S. 45th Street, was administered the oath. He discussed the budget hearing process and uses of property tax money.

Richard Halvorsen, 6311 Inverness Road, was administered the oath. He expressed concern over bond refinancing for the Lancaster County Agricultural Society. He questioned using funds for things such as Wi-Fi connection and camping services. (This is in reference to Item 4I.)

The Chair closed the public hearing.

- C. Amendment of Section XIII of County Resolution R-13-0062, Procedures for the Regulation of On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems in Lancaster County, Nebraska, by increasing various fees and clarifying refund of fees. (See 4D for correlating item.)**
- D. Amendment of Sections VI, XV and XXIX of County Resolution R-13-0063, Regulations for the Operation of Body Art and Piercing Establishments in Lancaster County, Nebraska, by increasing various fees and clarifying where such funds shall be deposited. (See 4E for correlating item.)**
- E. Amendment of Section XI of County Resolution R-13-0064, Procedures for the Inspection of On-site Water Supply Systems and On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Prior to the Sale, Transfer, or Conveyance of Property in Lancaster County, Nebraska, by increasing various fees and clarifying refund of fees. (See 4F for correlating item.)**
- F. Amendment of County Resolution R-13-0072, Lincoln-Lancaster County Air Pollution Regulations and Standards, Article 1, Section 6, to increase the fees for asbestos project notifications, area sources of hazardous air pollutants and emergency electrical generators. (See 4G for correlating item.)**
- G. Amendment of County Resolution R-13-0073, Lancaster County Air Pollution Control Resolution, Section 13, to increase the fee for open burning permits for industrial or commercial businesses and clarifying where such funds shall be deposited. (See 4H for correlating item.)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS CONTINUED:

The Chair opened the public hearings.

Judy Halstead, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Director, was administered the oath. She explained that the amendments include two years of fee increases at approximately 3%. This is attributed to Health Department wage and benefit increases over the next two fiscal years, which primarily drives the program costs. The Board of Health has approved the amendments and the City Council will vote on the amendments at their September 8 meeting. Halstead noted a few changes in an effort to reduce employee costs. She added that the emission fee increases are not included in the current amendments since they are still being reviewed by the Air Pollution Control Advisory Board.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Resolution in the matter of exceeding the budgeted restricted funds limit for the 2013-2014 fiscal year by an additional one percent. (R-14-0051)

Dennis Meyer said the lid can grow an additional 2½% each year, but the Board can vote on an additional 1%. The 1% lets the base amount grow.

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

B. Resolution in the matter of final allocation of levy authority to all political subdivisions subject to County levy authority. (R-14-0052)

Dennis Meyer said the political subdivisions are part of a 15-cent allocation. This would allow the subdivisions build their own budget.

Hudkins noted that Raymond Fire Department went over the ten-cent limit this year, but everything still fit under the 15-cent allocation so nothing was cut.

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

C. Resolution in the matter of approving the Lancaster County budget for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. (R-14-0053)

Dennis Meyer said the resolution attachment shows the changes from the proposed budget. The grand total is \$422,345, which is based off the additional 0.54% increase of the valuation base over the projected amount and how it was allocated to the Crisis Center.

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- D. Resolution in the matter of amending Section XIII of County Resolution R-13-0062, Procedures for the Regulation of On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems in Lancaster County, Nebraska, as provided in Attachment "A". (R-14-0046)**

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

- E. Resolution in the matter of amending Sections VI, XV and XXIX of County Resolution R-13-0063, Regulations for the Operation of Body Art and Piercing Establishments in Lancaster County, Nebraska, as provided in Attachment "A". (R-14-0047)**

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

- F. Resolution in the matter of amending Section XI of County Resolution R-13-0064, Procedures for the Inspection of On-Site Wastewater Supply Systems and On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Prior to the Sale, Transfer or Conveyance of Property in Lancaster County, Nebraska, as provided in Attachment "A". (R-14-0048)**

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

- G. Resolution in the matter of Amending Article 1, Section 6, of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Air Pollution Control Program Regulations and Standards, as provided in Attachment "A". (R-14-0049)**

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

- H. Resolution in the matter of amending the Lancaster County Air Pollution Control Resolution, to increase the fee for open burning permits, as provided in Attachment "A". (R-14-0050)**

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

- I. Resolution approving: (1) the issuance of not to exceed \$9,900,000 aggregate principal amount of Limited Tax Facility Bonds, Series 2014, of the Lancaster County Fairgrounds Joint Public Agency (JPA); (2) acknowledgement to the Continuing Disclosure Undertaking of the County; and (3) the Amended and Restated Joint Public Agency Agreement (JPA) between the County and Lancaster County Agricultural Society. (R-14-0054)**

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Amy Dickerson, Lancaster Event Center Managing Director, discussed the history of the Lancaster Event Center and the events taking place there. She explained that the annual levy amount for the bonds would remain the same but additional funds would be added. Taking advantage of this refinancing opportunity could help maintain the investment for County taxpayers and provide additional revenue opportunities. Dickerson addressed questions on funding certain services (Item 3B). She explained that adding wireless would help service larger events, noting a satellite truck had to be used to service the Farm and Power Show. In addition, campers do pay for using the facility, but an initial capital investment would be needed to provide services for them. Dickerson added that increasing the concession capacity would also help service larger events.

Scott Keene, Ameritas Investment Corp, said the Series 2007 bonds are callable as of December 14, 2014. With reduced interest rates, \$550,000-600,000 minimum should be saved. By applying these savings to new projects, the tax levy can remain the same. The maturity will extend by five years and nearly \$2,500,000 worth of projects can be funded. If the bonds were not refinanced, the tax asking would increase by at least \$90,000 and be repaid through property tax dollars.

Lauren Wismer, Gilmore & Bell PC, said the resolution would approve the JPA resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds, approve an amended and restated JPA agreement and direct the County representatives on the JPA Board to vote at the direction of the County Board.

Schorr announced she would abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

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

J. Resolution in the matter of the 2014-2015 annual cost of living wage adjustments for unrepresented classified employees. All wage adjustments are to be effective August 21, 2014. (R-14-0055)

Raybould discussed increasing the wage by 2.25% rather than 3%, referencing a recommendation by the City-County Human Resources Department. She expressed concern over equal adjustments for the different employee classes and noted an additional \$500,000 expense for the 3% increase. She stated she would vote no on the resolution.

Per Schorr's request, Nicole Gross, Human Resources, confirmed the market increase is at 2.25% and the average union projected increase this year is 2.55%. She said an official recommendation was not made, but there had been discussion on increasing the wage adjustment to help the unrepresented class catch up to represented classes that have received a larger adjustment in the past.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded approval of the resolution. Smoyer, Schorr, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

Raybould exited the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- K. **Agreement between Fish Window Cleaning, Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for the annual requirements of window cleaning services. Term of the contract is four years from the date of execution by all parties. (C-14-0422)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the agreement. Schorr, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- L. **Amendment to County Contract C-14-0294 with BI Incorporated for the annual supply of offender monitoring products, services and solutions. The amendment adds additional products per Attachment A. (C-14-0423)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the amendment. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- M. **Amendment to County Contract C-12-0177 with Allan Enterprises for the annual supply of microfilming supplies. The amendment provides for a price increase and an additional item per Attachment A. (C-14-0431)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the amendment. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- N. **Grant contract with CEDARS Youth Services, Inc., to provide funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the Day, Evening and Weekend Reporting Centers Program. Term of the grant contract is July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. (C-14-0424)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Smoyer, Schorr, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- O. **Grant contract with Christian Heritage to provide funding in the amount of \$14,878 for the Designation Dad Program. Christian Heritage will provide \$60,606 in matching funds. Term of the grant contract is July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. (C-14-0425)**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the contract. Schorr, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- P. **Grant contract with Clyde Malone Community Center, Inc., to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the Talented Tenth Scholar's Program. Term of the grant contract is July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. (C-14-0426)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- Q. **Amendment to County Contract C-12-0706 with Families Inspiring Families to extend the end date to September 30, 2014. (C-14-0427)**

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the amendment. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- R. **Interlocal agreement with the State of Nebraska Probation Administration for two probation officers to provide additional presentence investigation report services to decrease the time needed to complete presentence investigations of inmates housed by the Lancaster County Corrections Department. The County will pay \$58,939 for the services. Term of the agreement is July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. (C-14-0428)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the agreement. Smoyer, Schorr, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- S. **Agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Children and Family Services and Lancaster County Youth Services for the provision of detention services for youth committed to or placed with DHHS. The County will be paid \$307 per youth per day. Term of the agreement is September 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. (C-14-0429)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the agreement. Schorr, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- T. **Agreement between Lancaster County, Region V Systems and The Bridge Behavioral Health for The Bridge to assist the County and Region V by including in the services it presently provides, the detention of individuals who are in Emergency Protective Custody (EPC). Term of the agreement is July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. (C-14-0430)**

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the agreement. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- U. **Appointment of Scott Helvie to the Pension Review Committee, effective August 26, 2014.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the appointment. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- V. **Political subdivision tort claim filed against Lancaster County Corrections by Kim Henriksen for lost property in the amount of \$21.95.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded denial of the tort claim based on the Corrections Director's recommendation. Smoyer, Schorr, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

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 July 2014 report for the County Sheriff.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the consent item. Schorr, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Brian Halstead, 7633 Bobcat Circle, thanked the County Engineer and the County Board for completing a project in his neighborhood, removing dirt and debris from the bridge on Cardwell Road.

7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A. The Lancaster Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2014, at 8:30 a.m., in the Bill Luxford Studio of the County-City Building (Room 113, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).

B. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 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 County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or commish@lancaster.ne.gov.

D. 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: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:48 a.m. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk



**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
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 August 22, 2014.

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

Commissioners absent: Jane Raybould

Others present: Connie Ahlschwede, County Assessor/Register of Deeds' Office
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office
Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m. and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014.**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded approval of the minutes. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

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

MOTION: Amundson moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the additions and deductions. Smoyer, Schorr, Amundson and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

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

**Capitol City Christian Church
Christ Lutheran Church and Schools
Christ United Methodist Church
Grace Lutheran Church
Lincoln Christian School
Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
St. Marks United Methodist Church**

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS CONTINUED:

University of Nebraska Foundation

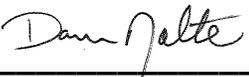
MOTION: Schorr moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the motor vehicle tax exemption applications. Schorr, Amundson, Smoyer and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- 4) **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.

5) **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Smoyer moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 11:50 a.m. Amundson, Smoyer, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Raybould was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk



2014-2015 Lancaster County Budget Hearing

Before we start, I would like to make some comments relative to the budget process and the proposed 2014-2015 budget:

The Lancaster County Board's proposed budget that was filed with the County Clerk's office on July 31 was completed using the property tax rate of 28.13 cents along with a projection of a 1.75% increase in valuation.

Lancaster County does not receive any sales or income tax and relies heavily on property tax to fund the budget. The general fund also receives a substantial amount of inheritance tax. Inheritance tax is deposited in the general fund and is utilized to decrease the amount of property tax required. Lancaster County received \$4.1 million in inheritance tax for fiscal year 2013-14. If it were not for the use of inheritance tax, an additional 2 cents would have been needed in property tax in order to maintain the current level of services that are both mandated under state law and that our county taxpayers deserve and expect. The problem for the county budget was the amount received was \$4.4 million less than the previous year which then resulted in the general fund balance decreasing by \$2.1 million.

The budget numbers have changed from the proposed budget because the actual valuation increase was 2.29%. The additional .54% will generate \$354,272 which will be used to offset the Crisis Center's loss of Region V revenue since the completion of the proposed budget.

The total budget of expenditures for the proposed budget is \$164,999,956 which is a .40% decrease from last year. The amount of property taxes for the proposed budget is \$59,993,487.

The total budget of expenditures in the general fund has increased by 2.24%. Property tax for the general fund will increase by \$1.3 million. The County will utilize 1.3 cents from the Railroad Transportation Safety District's tax rate. There will be a \$1.25 million transfer from the Keno Fund for property tax relief.

Here are some of the notable changes to the General Fund:

- The Corrections budget has increased by \$720,991. Fiscal year 2014-15 will be the first full year of operations for the new correctional facility.
- The transfer amount to the Crisis Center will be \$1,169,664 which is an increase of \$651,796 from last year. The increase is due to a decline in revenue which includes less funding from Region V.

- The match amount paid to Region V has been reduced by \$400,000. The match will be based on population and calculated in the same manner as the other counties in the region.
- The STOP program administered by the Community Corrections department will be in operation for the full budget year. Expenditures will increase by \$549,275 while revenues will increase by \$788,000.

Here are some notable changes in other funds:

- Fund balance is still a concern for the County's self insurance funds so there will be a \$250,000 transfer to the Workers Compensation Fund and a \$532,781 transfer to the Other Self Insurance Fund from the Lancaster Manor Fund. This will close out the Manor Fund.
- The County reduced funding from the General Fund to the Bridge and Special Road Fund to help balance the budget. This results in limited funding for bridge replacement and paving.

The complete 2014-2015 proposed budget can be found on the County's website.

We appreciate the cooperation of the elected officials and appointed department heads in arriving at this year's budget. Also, a special thanks to all county employees for their assistance in providing the necessary services within the budget restraints.

At this time, we welcome any comments you may have relative to the County proposed budget.



TO: Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Lincoln Independent Business Association
DATE: August 26, 2014
RE: County Budget

Once again this year the Lancaster County Commissioners, and the county staff, have had to make tough choices in funding programs and services.

Lancaster County Commissioners have worked hard to preserve vital services, while maintaining a hold on the property tax levy.

While a hold on taxes is important, so is funding for roads and bridges. The LIBA Budget Monitoring Committee is concerned that the County will only pave 1 mile of road and overlay 10 miles in the coming year. Additionally the County has reduced the Engineering budget by a quarter of a million dollars. Lancaster County has deteriorating bridges and roads. LIBA is not criticizing Board decisions, but suggesting that any unanticipated funds, from sources such as higher than anticipated property values or inheritance taxes be dedicated to roads. Additionally LIBA suggests the County inform department directors that mid-year budget requests are likely to be denied.

LIBA thanks Commissioners for their continued support for providing RTSD funds for the South Beltway. As you know, in the past 12 years 18 people have died on the stretch of Highway 2 that falls within Lincoln city limits. We applaud Lancaster County's commitment to community safety.

LIBA would like to address another area of community safety. The budget for the new jail and corrections department has increased dramatically. Just a few years ago, the 2011 budget contained approval for 169 employees at a cost of \$14 million. The new 2015 budget shows jail funding at \$20 million with 220 employees. LIBA understands that costs increase, and we all want a safe working environment for county corrections employees. Therefore, LIBA recommends a cost analysis be done to determine how Lancaster County may benefit by housing our prisoners at other county jails as was done prior to 2013.

While some have cautioned the County on the use of Keno funds, LIBA would like to express support. The 2015 County budget uses \$1.2 million in Keno funds to make ends meet. The Board appears to be turning Keno funds into a permanent solution to a funding gap. LIBA believes this is a reasonable alternative to a property tax increase.

Finally, LIBA would like to encourage the County to work with the state legislature to seek an alternative to the state Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR). The current rules and regulations under the CIR make it nearly impossible to control employee expenses and benefits. Between Fiscal years 2014 and 2015 the County anticipates reducing employment by 55 employees yet budgeted payroll costs are increasing by over \$6,000 per employee.ⁱ One union contract even restricts the County from terminating (RIF) a full time employee unless all part-time employees are fired first. That does not allow the flexibility to staff at proper levels. This Union rule is in effect even in the case of an emergency. Other Union rules say that the County must remove written reprimands and employee warnings from the employee file after a year. Plus the County is forced to give pay raises based on what other cities in other states pay. This is an archaic system. We encourage the County ask to staff to explore alternative methods used by other states to find a better means of solving labor "impasse."

ⁱ Summary of Lancaster County Budget; pgs. 7 and 10