

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113 - BILL LUXFORD STUDIO  
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Brinkman, Chair; Roma Amundson, Vice Chair; Sean Flowerday and Rick Vest

Commissioners Absent: Deb Schorr

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska web site and provided to the media on February 27, 2019.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1) APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the February 21, 2019 Staff Meeting minutes.

Brinkman suggested the following changes:

- Correct "Jenson" Park to "Jensen Park" on page 5, under County Board Meetings attended, Item B.
- Clarify that the "Etherton" referred to in the first paragraph is Kim Etherton, Director of the Community Corrections Department on page 8, Item 9B.
- Add "project" to "...33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker Highway" on page 8, Item 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph.

**ROLL CALL:** Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**2) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Joe Kohout and Brennen Miller, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC**

Joe Kohout, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC reviewed the weekly legislative report (Exhibit A).

Silas Clarke, City of Hickman Administrator, will testify at the LB525 (Change provisions relating to the sale of county land in fee simple) hearing.

Regarding LB631 (Create the Medicaid Expansion Implementation Task Force), Brennen Miller, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC, reported that while the Department of Medicaid and Long-Term Care opposed the bill, the Department said it is not their intent to implement an alternative Medicaid plan. Kohout felt the committee wanted some oversight of the expansion.

When asked about LR8CA (Constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions), Kohout felt there are concerns about the bill.

Senator Wishart will not push for the advancement of LB633 (Change provisions relating to real property owner information available to the public).

Kohout felt it would be beneficial to speak with Senator Cavanaugh regarding LB690 (Adopt the Healthy Pregnancies for Incarcerated Women Act). Flowerday offered his assistance if requested.

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, will testify in support of LB703 (Appropriate funds to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice).

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Vest seconded for Hoyle to testify in support of LB174 (State intent relating to appropriations for the Office of Violence Prevention). Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Kohout clarified the appropriations for LB446 (State intent relating to appropriations for the County Justice Reinvestment Grant Program) are \$1,000,000 per year of the biennium.

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, will testify in support of LB267 (Provide a duty for the county board relating to deficient bridges and authorize a tax levy).

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to support LB327 (State intent to appropriate funds for an increase in rates paid to behavioral health service providers). Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Amendments to LB616 (Provide for build-finance projects under the Build Nebraska Act and the Transportation Innovation Act) and LB230 (Provide for room confinement of juveniles as prescribed) were distributed (Exhibits B and C). Information on the legislative bills and hearing schedules was also available (Exhibits D and E).

### **3) BENEFITS TIMELINE – Doug McDaniel, Human Resources Director**

Paula Lueders, Human Resources Generalist, was also available for the discussion.

Doug McDaniel, Human Resources Director, reviewed the timeline of contracts (Exhibit F).

When asked, McDaniel said he feels there should be quarterly updates from AON and the medical insurance change has been going as expected.

A recommendation for the AON professional services contract will come before the Board later.

**4) PENDING & POTENTIAL LITIGATION** – Dan Zieg, Lancaster County Deputy County Attorney; Jen Holloway, Lancaster County Deputy County Attorney

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Vest seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:10 a.m. for the purposes of pending and potential litigation, and to protect public interest.

The Chair said it has been moved and seconded that the Board enter Executive Session.

**ROLL CALL:** Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

The Chair restated the purpose for the Board entering Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:24 a.m. Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**5) REPLACEMENT OF DESTROYED CRUISER** – Todd Duncan, Lancaster County Chief Deputy Sheriff; and Lancaster County Sheriff Captain John Vik

Todd Duncan, Lancaster County Chief Deputy Sheriff, reported due to the loss of a cruiser, the Sheriff's Office may ask the Board for replacement funds. Patrol cars are approximately \$30,000 without equipment. He noted insurance settlement checks run through the County's General Fund as opposed to the Sheriff's budget.

**ACTION ITEM**

- A.** Authorize County Attorney, Pat Condon to Sign Certificate of Compliance for U.S. Department of Justice FY2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Vest seconded to authorize Pat Condon, County Attorney, to sign the Certificate of Compliance. Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A.** Staff Meeting, Tuesday, March 12, 2019

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a staff meeting on March 12 after the regular Board of Commissioners meeting. There will not be a staff meeting on Thursday, March 14 due to the Board's attendance at the Southeast District Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) meeting.

- B.** Wilderness Park Title Report and Appraisal

It was the consensus of the Board for a title report and appraisal to be completed for Wilderness Park. The cost of the title search is approximately \$4,000.

## **CHIEF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A.** Board of Equalization Contract (BOE) and Tax Equalization Review Commission (TERC) Discussion, with Bob Walla, Purchasing Department

Dan Zieg, Lancaster County Deputy County Attorney, was also available for the discussion.

Bob Walla, Lincoln-Lancaster County Purchasing Agent, reviewed the following possible additions to a Board of Equalization (BOE) contract with Great Plains Appraisal: monthly invoices/payments, expense reimbursements, rate increases tied to the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Business and a referee hourly rate schedule. He added Great Plains Appraisal would like the contract to be tied to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) contract, in which case, they would be willing to renew the BOE contract for three years with the option of another three years.

There was general discussion on how to handle TERC appeals between Kubert Appraisal Group (the contractor for 2018 TERC appeals) and Great Plains Appraisal (the contractor for previous years' TERC appeals).

It was the consensus of the Board for Walla to send Great Plains Appraisal the contract with the additions.

### **6) REPORT ON ACLU BOND PROJECT – Danielle Conrad, Executive Director, Nebraska ACLU**

Danielle Conrad, Executive Director, Nebraska American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), distributed information regarding the County Bond Fund project (Exhibit G). During the six-month program, 100 individuals were assisted by the bond fund and 115 individuals were helped by warrant forgiveness opportunities. Preliminary data shows cases resolved themselves as they would have without the bail fund. With some funds remaining, the Nebraska ACLU will work with the donors and stakeholders to determine the next step.

Conrad thanked Brad Johnson, Lancaster County Corrections Director, and Joe Nigro, Public Defender, for their assistance during this project.

### **7) ACTION ITEM**

- A.** Authorize County Attorney, Pat Condon to Sign Certificate of Compliance for U.S. Department of Justice FY2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

Item moved forward on agenda.

### **8) CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A.** Staff Meeting, Tuesday, March 12, 2019
- B.** Wilderness Park Title Report and Appraisal

Items A-B moved forward on agenda.

**9) CHIEF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A.** Board of Equalization Contract (BOE) and Tax Equalization Review Commission (TERC) Discussion, with Bob Walla, Purchasing Department

Item A moved forward on agenda.

- B.** Strategic Planning Discussion

There was general discussion on how to start a strategic plan, including involving the public.

Ames will contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Public Policy Center to find out the process the City of Lincoln used for their strategic plan.

**10) DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- A.** Lancaster County Fairground JPA – Amundson/Vest

Amundson reported officers were elected and bills were paid.

- B.** Chair & Vice-Chair meeting with Planning – Amundson/Brinkman

Amundson stated they discussed the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) work group and the Bevans Broiler special permit.

- C.** Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Luncheon – Amundson/Flowerday/Vest

Flowerday said Wendy Birdsall is leaving the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

**11) SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

For informational purposes only.

**12) EMERGENCY ITEMS**

There were no emergency items.

**13) ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Vest seconded to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Brinkman, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

