

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113 - BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
9:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Sean Flowerday, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr, Rick Vest and Christa Yoakum

Others Present: Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, 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 July 5, 2019.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 2, 2019

MOTION: Vest moved and Yoakum seconded approval of the July 2, 2019 Staff Meeting minutes. Schorr, Amundson, Vest, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2) BUDGET UPDATE – Dennis Meyer, Lancaster County Budget & Fiscal Director

Ron Rohde, Budget and Fiscal Accountant, was present for the discussion.

Meyer stated the General Fund balance is \$1,400,000 less than last year. This year's General Fund shortfall is \$14,000,000. The current cash reserve balance in the General Fund is \$6,190,000. He stressed the importance of having a higher balance in the cash reserve fund adding \$1,650,000 will be transferred.

Flowerday suggested moving 33% of the Inheritance Tax into the cash reserve each of the next three years until the balance has reached two months operating expense. Meyer added currently the cash reserve is approximately 6% of budgeted expenses.

Meyer said he budgets \$5,000,000 for Inheritance Tax each year which is deposited into the General Fund and used to offset lower revenues.

Meyer stated there are ten requests (two from the Public Defender's Office, one from the County Attorney's Office, one from the Sheriff's Office, one from Community Corrections and five from the Engineer's Office) for additional Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) at an estimated \$736,000 expense on which the Board will need to make decisions.

Meyer reported he will distribute a spreadsheet of \$1,750,000 in potential department budget cuts to the Board.

He projected \$825,000 in additional revenue from motor vehicle tax and in lieu of tax.

Meyer suggested \$1,000,000 in Keno funds be moved to the General Fund for property tax relief and for \$200,000 to be earmarked for the East Beltway. Funds for the new County website, roadside memorials and prevention grants will still be available.

When asked about the fund balance for the East Beltway, Meyer said it is \$2,400,000 including the additional funds. He said while properties have been bought, at this point, no funds from the East Beltway have been paid out from the fund.

When asked about valuations, Meyer stated if the levy is kept the same, the valuations would account for an increase of \$4,600,000. The final valuation is received August 20.

Regarding the Countywide Sinking Fund, last year \$425,000 was moved to the fund. Currently, additional funds are not projected to be added. The funds are allocated as follows: \$200,000 for the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) project, \$150,000 for vote tabulating machines, and \$75,000 to the Sheriff's Office for weapons replacement and body cameras.

Regarding the Building Fund, Meyer reviewed the following projects including air conditioning unit replacements at the Lancaster County Extension building, security upgrade at the Youth Services Center, Corrections digital video upgrade, and the District Court speaker and cabling upgrades in eight courtrooms. Future projects may include Juvenile Court courtroom upgrades, additional space for the County Attorney's Office, and the County Extension building addition.

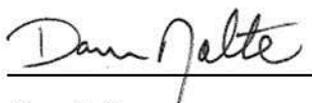
The Board will discuss the \$4,200,000 additional request from the County Engineer's Office at the Thursday, July 18 staff meeting. Meyer stated he felt if the full request is funded, the Board will need to consider a property tax increase.

Meyer reported the County has \$9,700,000 in encumbrances for this fiscal year. Schorr stated she wants the amount the Engineer's Office has encumbered in previous years.

The FTE's outside of the Engineer's Office will be discussed at the Thursday, July 11 staff meeting.

3) **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded to adjourn at 10:11 a.m. Schorr, Vest, Flowerday, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

