

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS
9:30 A.M.**

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

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 July 19, 2019.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 18, 2019

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the July 18, 2019 Staff Meeting minutes. Schorr, Vest, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Amundson abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with one abstaining.

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

Meyer stated the proposed budget will be discussed at next Thursday's meeting.

Regarding the balancing of the General Fund, Meyer said the budget has had additions of revenues, and \$1,000,000 in Keno funds, \$1,500,000 in department cuts, and removal of additional Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). The County Engineer's original budget increase request of \$4,200,000 has been decreased to \$3,000,000. A \$.015 levy increase has been proposed with \$.075 of it offset by a decrease to the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) levy. Additionally, there is a 6.5% projected increase in property valuations.

Eagan read Nebraska State Statute 23-914 (Unexpended balances; expenditure; limitation; county board powers). Since the budget has not been approved, and due to the need for construction, the Board needs to authorize that additional funds can be spent by the County Engineer's Office. Pam Dingman, County Engineer, requested \$5,617,000 in spending authority for chemical supplies, salt, rock, gravel, dump trucks, motor graders, and other small equipment.

Schorr stated she could not recall authorizing additional spending like this before and asked what makes this year unique. Dingman answered the significant weather last winter has depleted the

materials and usability of some equipment.

A resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$5,617,000 will be on an upcoming agenda.

Meyer noted there are not enough funds to cover the intended bridge and road projects. Dingman added she would like to combine Bridges F-88, F-82, F-86 and F-78 for best project efficiency; however, with \$800,000 in a sinking fund and \$529,000 from the bridge buyback fund, the project is still short approximately \$500,000. With the proposed budget funding, Bridges E-171, N-164, Y-181, Q-110, R-210 and R-228 along with others would remain closed. The proposed 2020 Box Culvert program would be eliminated. Additionally, paving on South 82nd Street would have to be cut with the reduction in requested funds, and there would be deferred pavement maintenance on West Adams Road, West Coddington Avenue, and Waverly Road.

Meyer said the budget proposal will include a \$2,600,000 cash reserve in the Bridge and Special Road Fund (Fund 21), which will eventually be used, with budget amendment, for bridges on North 14th Street outside the Lincoln city limits. These funds are separate from the County cash reserve.

Schorr asked what funding amount is needed to be able to match the Bridge Buyback Fund for Bridges F-88, F-82, F-86 and F-78. Dingman stated the estimated project cost for the North 14th Street bridges is \$2,750,000. Including this year's projected buyback funding, currently there is \$1,300,000 available in the sinking fund.

Regarding the funding for South 82nd Street, Dingman said the current funding gap is \$300,000. She added the buyback funds will be received during the second half of the fiscal year. This project would be bid in the spring.

Regarding the Budget Monitoring Committee, it was the consensus of the Board that there is no longer a need for that committee.

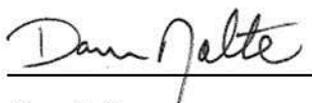
Flowerday stated this issue highlights the importance of LB267 (Provide a duty for the county board relating to deficient bridges and authorize a tax levy).

3) EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

4) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn at 10:08 a.m. Schorr, Vest, Flowerday, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

