

**MINUTES  
MID YEAR BUDGET RETREAT  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
3140 "N" STREET  
ROOM 0212 (LOWER LEVEL)  
FEBRUARY 1, 2007  
AFTERNOON SESSION**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair  
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Ray Stevens  
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW** - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Items A-C were covered in the morning session.

D. Five-Year Budget Forecast

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, gave an overview of the following (See agenda packet. Revisions showing \$94 Million for the jail project are in Exhibit A):

- \* Lancaster County, No Increase in Staffing Over FY07 Budget, Five Year Budget Forecast - Property Tax Funds Only (For Discussion Purposes Only) (Pages 4-1 and 4-2)
- \* Funding Issues Next Five Years (Pages 4-3 and 4-4)
- \* Lancaster County Group Insurance, County Share of Cost (Page 4-5)
- \* Lancaster County, General Fund History of Budgets (Page 4-6)
- \* Lancaster County, History of Tax Requirements (Page 4-7)
- \* Lancaster County, General Fund Budgeted Payroll Costs (Page 4-8)
- \* Change in Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), 1989 to 2006 (Page 4-9)
- \* Lancaster County, Change in Taxable Assessed Valuation, Last Ten Years (Page 4-10)

Hudkins requested information regarding the impact of LB 366 (the bill would reduce the assessed value of agricultural and horticultural land from 75 percent of actual value to 70 percent).

- \* Lancaster County, Change in Unused Budget Carryforward Authority, Last Seven Years (Page 4-11)
- \* Cost of New Jail, Tax Rate Cents Per \$100 of Value, 2010 Is When New Jail Completed Using Option C With 3% Annual Inflation (Page 4-12)

Hudkins questioned the projected increase in Jail operating costs and suggested that the Board press the consultants for an answer.

Stevens suggested that consideration be given to selling Lancaster Manor and applying the proceeds to the new Jail.

Brief discussion took place on how to determine Lancaster Manor's value .

Schorr suggested that the Board look at selling the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) instead.

Board consensus was to hire Dave Kroeker, former Budget and Fiscal Officer, to gather information regarding Lancaster Manor's worth, in consultation with Pat Snyder, The Nebraska Health Care Association.

Meyer said the Board could look at allocating less to the other miscellaneous political subdivisions.

**NOTE:** A 15 cent levy is authorized for certain political subdivisions, including the Rural Fire Districts and the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD). Lancaster County has also included the Rural Library in that levy.

Hudkins noted that the Malcolm and Raymond Rural Fire Districts have the highest levies and said the County could save at least 4 cents of the levy if they would form an interlocal.

Stevens suggested that the Board ask the consultants whether the jail could be built in 200 bed increments.

Heier requested additional information regarding the number of cells needed for mental health housing.

The Board scheduled a meeting with the consultants on February 13, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

#### E. Letters from Agencies

Discussion took place regarding a request from the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) to purchase a used van for \$15,800 (see Staff Meeting minutes of December 14, 2006). It was noted that CMHC has budgeted for the purchase of three minivans (see Page 63-1).

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to: 1) Authorize Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, to purchase the used van out of the department's existing funds; and 2) Indicate that Board review is required before the Community Mental Health Center can proceed with purchasing additional vans. Schorr, Stevens, Hudkins, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Meyer noted that Corrections has requested four (4) correctional officers, at a rate of one per month for four months (see Page 5-1).

F. Department Budget Hearing Schedule for FY2007-08 (Pages 1-3)

There was no objection to the proposed hearing schedule.

G. Fiscal Year 2007-08 Instruction Letter to Agencies (Page 4)

The following changes were requested:

- \* Change Item 1 to read as follows: *In FY07 we will begin budgeting our share of the debt service for the new addition to the Health Department Building. This will be an additional yearly cost of \$525,00 for the next 10 years.*
- \* Change the second sentence in Item 2 to read as follows: *The County has concluded pre-architectural services as the first step towards planning for an addition to the correctional facility.*

## **OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING STRATEGIC PLANNING ISSUES**

Item was not covered.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Long-Term Facility Needs - Don Killeen, County Property Manager

1. Additional Judges

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, said there is no room to add additional courtrooms in the Justice and Law Enforcement Center and said the most logical solution would be to convert space in the Jail Facility.

Schorr asked whether it would be less expensive to retrofit space in the Jail or finish the third floor of the County-City Building.

Killeen said that would have to be studied.

Heier suggested moving the Juvenile Court to the Youth Services Center and locating the new judges in the vacated space.

## 2. New Jail

Killeen said five possible sites have been identified and will go through the filtering process.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer said Dave Landis would like to interview him and JoAnne Kissel, The Clark Enersen Partners, about the jail project on a public access program.

There was Board consensus to allow them to participate in the program, provided it is after February 13<sup>th</sup> (the Board has scheduled discussion of the project on that date).

## 3. Old Jail

The Board discussed reusing the kitchen equipment or continuing use of the kitchen in the existing facility for several years and "roughing in" space for a new kitchen in the new facility.

## 4. Other

Killeen presented an estimate of the space allocation for Courthouse Plaza and the 9<sup>th</sup> & J Street Building (Exhibit B). The budget impact is estimated to be \$150,000.

Schorr said Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director, has requested additional space for case managers and asked if there are plans for the space that Region V is vacating in Trabert Hall.

Killeen said the space could potentially serve Settle's needs.

The Board asked Killeen to also put the word out to non-profit agencies that the County has space available in Trabert Hall.

Killeen said if Trabert Hall fills up, the County will need to look at providing additional parking to the south.

Killeen also presented plans for the CMHC parking lot (Exhibit C). He said City Public Works/Utilities suggests an internal circulation pattern and would like the north entrance limited to entry for those parking spaces.

## B. Economic Development Funding

Meyer said there is approximately \$103,000 remaining in the Economic Development Fund, as of December 31, 2006.

Hudkins said the County is investing almost \$887,000, per year, for visitor promotion through the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

Schorr clarified that those funds are raised through the Lodging Tax.

It was noted that the City contributes \$500,000, per year, to the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) and the County contributes \$2,500.

In response to a question from Stevens, Meyer said the County's LPED contribution and the County's share of Darl Naumann's salary are paid out of the Economic Development Fund.

**NOTE:** Naumann is Administrative Assistant to the Mayor/Economic Development.

Schorr urged the Board to increase its level of funding for LPED.

Hudkins said he would rather consider projects on their merit.

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to increase the County's contribution to the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) funding to \$100,000, and to split funding between the Economic Development Fund and the Keno Fund.

Heier said he might be willing to consider increasing the County's contribution after the mayoral election.

**ROLL CALL:** Schorr and Stevens voted aye. Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted no. Motion failed.

C. Long-Term Planning for Information Services (IS)

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said the County will need more TRIM (Electronic Recordkeeping System) licenses and suggested this may be an appropriate time to bring in a consultant to look at how the County is spending its technology dollars.

Eagan noted that the County has a number of remote sites and said the County needs to address fiber optic connectivity and long-term needs.

Board consensus was to have Eagan and Thorpe investigate the next step (available consultants and costs).

D. Court Administrator (District and Juvenile Courts)

The Board discussed the requests from the District and Juvenile Courts for Court Administrators with general consensus to: 1) Wait to see if the Nebraska Legislature grants additional judges for Lancaster County; 2) Investigate the State Court Administrator's responsibility in this area; and 3) Seek input from Sue Kirkland, Clerk of the District Court.

E. Grants Management

Thorpe said the County Grants Coordinator job description is still being developed.

Brief discussion also took place regarding on where to locate the person within the County Board of Commissioners' Office.

F. Juvenile Representation Standards Study

Board consensus was to place the item on hold, at the request of Dennis Keefe, Public Defender.

**BUDGET WRAP-UP**

Meyer gave an overview of Lancaster County, FY07 Projected Additional Appropriations, Mid-Year FY07 Budget Review (Page 5-1).

Stevens and Schorr exited the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Hudkins, Workman and Heier voted aye. Stevens and Schorr were absent from voting. Motion carried.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk