

AGENDA

JOINT CITY/COUNTY/LPS MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

7:30 A.M.

COUNTY- CITY BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM 113

RECEIVED

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LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 12, 2002 Joint City/County/LPS Meeting
- II. STATE ISSUES - (30 Min)
 - A. LB335 - Changing the City of Lincoln Annexation/LPS Boundary Principle (Ed Zimmer)
 - B. LB 80 - Changing Provisions relating to sale of real estate for delinquent taxes (delay sale for one year after delinquency) (K.Eagan)
 - C. Governor's Proposed Budget (K.Eagan)
- III. PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES - (20 Min)
 - A. Deteriorating Conditions of Streets Around Lincoln High School (Jim Garver)
 - B. Update on Sidewalk and Traffic Light Construction for North Star High School (Lillie Larsen)
- IV. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES - (20 Min)
 - A. Whittier School Building (Ed Zimmer) (10 Min)
 - B. Defibrillator (K.Eagan) (10 Min)
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. FUTURE MEETING DATE
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
for the
JOINT LPS/CITY/COUNTY MEETING

February 10, 2003 - 7:30 a.m.

County-City Building - Conference Room 113
Lincoln, Nebraska

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Cook, Chair; Jon Camp, Vice-Chair; Glenn Friendt, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng, Ken Svoboda, Terry Werner; ABSENT: None; MAYOR: Mayor Don Wesely (late for Minutes approval), in Attendance

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Larry Hudkins, Deb Schorr, Ray Stevens, Bob Workman; ABSENT: Bernie Heier, Chair

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Doug Evans, President; Kathy Danek, Jim Garver, Lillie Larsen, Ed Zimmer (late for Minutes approval); Superintendent Philip Schoo (late for Minutes approval); ABSENT: Don Mayhew, Keith Prettyman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: [Noted from Sign-In Sheet - Others in attendance not noted] Scott Opfer, Karl Frederickson, Public Works; Larry Worth, StarTran; Stephen Henrichsen, Planning; Dean Settle, Community Mental Health; Kerrey Eagan, Gwen Thorpe, County Commissioners' Office; Jim Strand, Citizen; Joan Ray Council Secretary, Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp, Friendt and Svoboda.

I Approval of Minutes - November 12, 2002 Joint City/County/LPS Meeting

Mr. Cook called for a motion to approve those minutes. A motion for approval was made by Bob Workman. The motion was seconded by Ken Svoboda and carried by the following vote: AYES: Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Glenn Friendt, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng, Ken Svoboda, Terry Werner, Larry Hudkins, Deb Schorr, Ray Stevens, Bob Workman, Kathy Danek, Doug Evans, Jim Garver, Lillie Larsen; NAYS: None; ABSENT FOR VOTE: Mayor Wesely, Superintendent Schoo, Ed Zimmer; ABSENT: Bernie Heier, Don Mayhew, Keith Prettyman

THIS MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

II STATE ISSUES - (30 Min)

- A. LB335 - Changing the City of Lincoln Annexation/LPS Boundary Principle (Ed Zimmer)
- B. LB 80 - Changing Provisions Relating to Sale of Real Estate for Delinquent Taxes (delay sale for one year after delinquency) (K.Eagan)
- C. Governor's Proposed Budget (K.Eagan)

III PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES - (20 Min)

- A. Deteriorating Conditions of Streets Around Lincoln High School (Jim Garver)
- B. Update on Sidewalk and Traffic Light Construction for North Star High School (Lillie Larsen)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES - (20 Min)

- A. Whittier School Building (Ed Zimmer) (10 Min)
- B. Defibrillator (K.Eagan) (10 Min)

STATE ISSUES:

A. LB335 - Changing the City of Lincoln Annexation/LPS Boundary Principle - Since Mr. Zimmer had not yet arrived, it was agreed to come back to this item, if necessary. Mr. Zimmer, upon his arrival, reported that there was a hearing on this bill a couple of weeks ago. There was strong testimony on both sides, with both the City and Schools testifying. While the short description of this bill refers to Class III and Class IV School Districts, in the arcane language of the Nebraska School Organization, the detailed description of the bill also effects Class V Districts, which includes the Lincoln Public Schools and the City of Lincoln. They change the current procedure which moves LPS boundaries with City of Lincoln boundaries following annexation; it would instate a different procedure involving votes by both sub-divisions and would put a lot of other procedural machinery in place. The testimony against, addresses specifically, our Comprehensive Plan that urges continuation of that policy. The bill has not yet come out of Committee. But, Lincoln and LPS should continue to be one district, one unit, one community. It is, as it currently reads, an important bill for both the City of Lincoln and LPS. After the testimony, there may be some changes in some of the provisions proposed.

Mr. Hudkins noted that this bill that was presented by Senator Kramer and the specific change right now offers a 60 or a 90-day period, after a district assumes additional property, before the two districts have to get together to decide how the funding will be handled. Mr. Zimmer noted that certain classes of districts would be effected. Mr. Hudkins went on to say that the essence of the bill is that it changes those days. Right now the acquiring district has that time period in which, if they do not come to an agreement with the acquired district, the acquiring district's method is adopted. Senator's Kramer's language reverses that to state that the district that is losing the property has that advantage if the acquiring district does not agree to a mutual decision. Mr. Hudkins stated that in Lancaster County, the Board would agree that the boundaries of the City of Lincoln and the boundaries of the School District need to stay the same. The only concern is that our rural districts, which we have heard from, is that something is worked out - such as happened with the Malcolm District two years ago when the Kawasaki property was acquired. The property value left the Malcolm District and went to the Lincoln District and Lincoln was good enough to set down and negotiate the transfer. The first year that a large property like that leaves a district's valuation rosters - State aid does not pick that up. It takes one year for equalization to take effect. And that is assuming there is money in the State Equalization budget. That makes a tremendous hardship on those outside the district - such as Waverly, Norris, Malcolm and possibly even the Crete Schools in the west side of the County. So as those acquisitions are made, he felt the concern is that the bill put forth an equitable formula to compensate those districts through the transition.

Mr. Zimmer added that the Class III and Class IV districts, which would not include Lincoln Public Schools, are affected one way by the bill. The effect on the current status of Lincoln schools is greater. It doesn't speak to issues of concern such as were worked out between Malcolm and LPS, as good neighbors. We recognize that this would need to be worked out by both sides. This bill doesn't correct that, so Mr. Zimmer believed that there are some issues that need to be separated out and addressed.

Mr. Hudkins stated that LPS had a very able lobbyist, Virgil Horn, who could probably speak to this in more detail, but as Mr. Hudkins understood the issue, there would probably be a little give-and-take in the compromise. Retaining the City's district is a good point - there is wisdom in keeping one, unified school district. If the issues could be divided, the compromise might be to retain on those boundaries, but make sure there is a formula in place to compensate those districts. Mr. Zimmer agreed that the uniqueness of Lincoln's one district serving the whole community holds great advantage for the community and should always be guarded.

Mr. Zimmer clarified Lincoln's position in the Classification listings. Lincoln is a Class IV District. Omaha is a Class V; little High Schools are Class VI. Mr. Virgil Horn commented that the bill is currently in the Education Committee. It was his understanding that there has been some discussion of placing the bill that was written two years ago, when the Malcom/Lincoln arrangement was made, to fix that situation. That will be amended in LB335. He didn't know if that was currently happening, however.

It was asked if that were the provision that would keep the boundaries of Lincoln and the School District that same? Mr. Horn stated that it was his understanding that that provision would 'go away'. Mr. Zimmer, in a good-hearted attempt at interpretation, noted that Mr. Horn's "shorthand" remark of "going away", means that the provision changing that would go away.

It was noted that this situation should be watched. Everyone recognizes that we're in bad times right now, so funding comes and goes. But this is the kind of legislation that affects a community forever. It was doubted that there was any other community the size of Lincoln, or larger, that has this division. It's not just Douglas County, but large communities such as Kansas City, Des Moines, where you get the "doughnut effect", it has a very bad impact on the community. We don't want that to happen in Lincoln. It would have an adverse effect on the quality of life in our community. A compromise has been mentioned, but it was felt that there were different kinds of things that happen in the legislature - some that affect us from year to year, and some that affect us forever. This is a forever bill. So, be vigilant.

Mayor Wesely indicated that Marvin Krout, Planning Director had gone to the Legislature today to testify against the bill.

B. LB 80 - Changing Provisions Relating to Sale of Real Estate for Delinquent Taxes (delay sale for one year after delinquency) Mr. Hudkins stated that LB80 is a bill which was requested by the County Treasurer's Office and the Sarpy County Treasurer's Office. They had gone through NĒCO (Nebraska Association for County Officials). What the bill would do is delay the sale of taxes for one year. There are some large companies that have been coming into the State that buy up the taxes. We have an advertising cost of approximately \$8,000 per year for when these taxes are advertised. According to Terry Adams of the County Treasurer's Office, about 70-80% of those taxes are redeemed within that second year. These taxes accrue a penalty of 14% interest. That is the reason these outside companies are coming in and buying these taxes. In a lot of cases, these are out-of-state companies. So, what this bill is designed to do is to keep those tax certificates from not being sold for one more year in the hopes that they will be redeemed. They would still accrue the 14% interest penalty and if and when those taxes are redeemed, that portion of the 14% interest

would go to those political sub-divisions - like the Lincoln Public Schools- which typically gets about 60% of the taxes collected. They would also get 60% of that 14%; the County's share of the NRDs and the other sub-divisions would get the remaining percentage. It's a fairly simple approach. At the end of the 2nd year, those taxes that have not been redeemed, then would go for sale. Those are often-times your problem taxes...those that would be the ones that may have IRS liens, or have somewhat of a clouded title to the extent that they're not normally redeemed. That, in essence, is what the bill does.

The bill is in the Revenue Committee at this time. Senator Raikes has asked the Committee to take a look at the Colorado plan which puts these taxes up and they bid by interest rate. Right now, they just go around the table of qualified bidders and each has an opportunity to buy the taxes as they come out. They either bid or pass. Senator Raikes would like to see Nebraska look at that Colorado Plan where they actually bid the amount of interest that they will pay on it.

There was some misunderstanding at first that perhaps the political sub-divisions wouldn't be able to get their money. They may not have all of it available to them at this time, however, it would be accruing in that first year at 14% interest. In the current economic structure, it's much more efficient to go out and borrow and issue a [inaudible] tax anticipated note or a registered warrant at bond rates which currently are between 3- and 5%.

Mr. Cook asked if this change would affect all counties in Nebraska? Mr. Hudkins indicated that as the bill is written, it gives every county in the State of Nebraska the opportunity to participate. Mr. Camp asked if there has been any understanding, or study, of the tax liens that are more prone to trouble or problems? Would this chill the market if we waited two years to sell those? Would there be as many buyers? Mr. Hudkins answered "who knows?" He noted that they wouldn't necessarily all have to sell now, and didn't know that they do. Mr. Camp stated that that was his next question - Do they now? Mr. Hudkins indicated that if there is something that is clouded to the point that it has an IRS lien on it, or it's a piece of property that has disputed boundaries, then usually the people who would buy these are the out-of-state companies. They come in ahead of time and research these properties and decide which ones they'll buy & which ones they want. There is an element of risk.

Mr. Stevens noted that there is also a potential negative cash flow impact on the political sub-divisions. The way it stands now, when those certificates are sold, the money is immediately given to the political sub-divisions. Under this plan, that money would be deferred until the taxes are actually paid. While you're making 14% on the money, you will not have the cash for whatever the average period of time it would take for those taxes to be paid. You'd have to balance that off. If the political sub-divisions have cash reserves, then there is probably no down side at all, but there would be a period of time until those taxes were paid that the money is not available.

Mr. Hudkins stated, to cover that more fully, that problem could be fulfilled with either a tax anticipated note at a lower rate of the bonding, of which political sub-divisions can avail themselves. So, while you were sure of getting that 14%, though delayed, you could replace it with funds at the current bonding rate. Mr. Friendt asked if the Lancaster County Board is supportive of this legislation? Mr. Hudkins answered that the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners did support the legislation, as well as did NECO.

C. GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET Mr. Eagan stated that he had scheduled this item at the request of the County Board for a general discussion among the three bodies here today regarding the Governor's Budget and how it will affect the School District, the City and the County. He noted that Mr. Gordon Kissel knows a little about this and would give a brief presentation.

Mr. Kissel stated that he was the lobbyist for the County. He noted that the Governors' Budget is \$175,000,000 away from being balanced. He reported that he had attended a meeting where the numbers were reported to have increased to around \$900,000,000. The January receipts were down 8%, so we may be looking at a greater cut than we first thought would be necessary.

He reported that the Appropriations Committee is going through a process of talking to all agencies. They are staying along the line with the Governor right now, making a statement that there is no extra money. It is essentially a 10% across-the-board, but there are some agencies such as the State Patrol that would not have a 10% reduction. The big hits are the University of Nebraska -probably \$200,000,000plus. It's dire straits....not much good news from the State.

Mr. Hudkins asked Mr. Eagan and Mr. Kissel expound a little more on the 10% reduction on the County side of it. He felt on the 10% reduction, the County could, along with everybody else, step up to the plate and carry that one. But what is more damaging is that we found out that we're not going to be re-imbursed for housing State prisoners....which will add about another \$639,000 in expenses for the County. Mr. Kissel stated that the projected cost would be \$700,000 for this year. The unfortunate thing for the County is that that was the compromise when they re-did the State aid to Counties....including the reimbursement to counties like Lancaster and Douglas with aid for holding prisoners who eventually are convicted and sent to prison or placed on probation. That funding will be eliminated entirely and the effect on Lancaster County is accelerated, because we get the 10% reduction in the aid, plus the \$700,000 hit on the prisoners. This money was intended to be our portion of the State aid. The Total State impact is about 3.9 million, but it really falls primarily on Douglas and Lancaster Counties. There is a bill in the legislature to repeal the other part of that, which is the County Road Miles and distribution to the rural counties on that. That is about a 3 million dollar hit. That is not in the Governor's budget, but those two programs have always been tied together and if one goes, they all go.

Mr. Zimmer commented that this is a way of trying to get a handle on the impact of public education in Nebraska. The budget reduction is over 200 million dollars. The current legislation programs in a certain level of increase...the 10% comes of State Assistance to Special Education, a very large item which is required by law. The reduction is really in the neighborhood of \$300,000,000 and the impact per child in Nebraska is about \$1,000.

Discussion continued with the mention of a coalition being formed [tentatively titled "Fair Funding"]. The idea would be that the tax increase of last year (LB1085) which included income tax/sales tax increase, would continue. That would add \$150,000,000 per year. Senator Brashear's idea on a food tax, (depending on where the cut-off for those under the poverty line might be fixed, the plan has a \$65.00 credit per person per year) would raise about \$100,000,000 per year. The Coalition is talking about meeting to see what areas of revenue could be generated. Obviously, cutting to \$900,000,000 will be devastating to so many things in the State. There has been some discussion with some Senators on the Appropriations Committee that are talking about what else can be done besides cutting. But, don't anticipate too much in terms of revenue vs. cut. There are going to be some substantial cuts made.

Mr. Ray Stevens asked how much of this \$900,000,000 might be off-set by increased revenues? Mr. Kissel stated that it is a little early in the game to say. He said that we are still at the stage between the Revenue Committee and the Appropriations Committee - they're still sparing...."I'll show you mine, if you show me yours". No one really wants to make the initial step. Appropriations has played close to the vest with the Governor's budget. The Revenue Committee will talk this week about business tax incentive bills, plus a number of other revenue generating bills, such as increasing the income tax and raise the sales tax. By the end of February or the first part of March, we'll begin to get a better feel for where the Senators want to come. There is a core group

of senators who will not vote for any tax increases. They want to see that 1085 sunset & want nothing but cuts. The question is whether or not we'll be able to form a 30-vote coalition on a substantial tax increase.

Mr. Stevens noted that there are some political subdivisions up against the money lids. Is there a possibility of reducing the lids that some of us are dealing with, so -if the State Legislature doesn't have the fortitude to raise taxes- perhaps some of the rest of us could if we find that those services are essential to our political sub-division? Mr. Kissel stated that the answer is yes. There are some bills in the legislature on that issue. There are some bills as well that would allow a county (for example) to impose an income tax for the first time. So, there is a wide range of things on the plate. Mr. Kissel noted that he did not think there would be a lessening of the lids or the levy limits.

Ms. Lillie Larsen commented that this relates to education in the funding that we receive for mandated programs. Several of the LPS Board members were in Washington, D.C. last week attending a National School Boards meeting. Our lobby effort was to plead for funding at the 40% level for funding for children who have special needs. It currently is at 17%....so there is a big gap there. It comes out of our operation budgets to make up whatever costs are related to a mandated program. When this cut comes from the State, it cuts even deeper, because we're not receiving coverage for the mandated programs.

It was asked what the dollar amount is now that we're actually paying taxes instead of not paying taxes - how much of a difference would that make? Mr. Kissel noted that Senator Landis has a bill that would be a percentage surcharge based on the amount of credit. They are projecting that if that surcharge (which he thought was at 4%) would generate about 30-35,000,000 dollars if they implemented that. There are a lot of other options as well. From the sur-charge to doing away with most of the incentives. So, if you do away with most of the incentives, then you're generating a significant amount of money. He did not think those bills would pass. He thought there might be something in the middle range that would require more reporting and perhaps some form of surcharges. The dollar amount is between \$80-160,000,000.

Mr. Doug Evans stated that, regarding the special hits the counties would be taking, the same thing happens in a variety of ways in the schools, because we wind up taking care of a lot the States kids, too. When the Federal government doesn't pay property tax, but "in lieu" of tax, has the county looked at anything -any kind of bill- that would have the State doing something similar? The State doesn't pay taxes. Has an "in lieu" of taxes arrangement been looked at for the State? The answer was no.

Mr. Hudkins noted that in the past, we were more concerned about entities owned by the University of Nebraska Foundation. With legislation in the last couple of years, we've at least gotten those properties identified and partially back on the tax rolls. But, you're right...Lincoln, being the seat of government, and by the same token, Lancaster County takes a special hit, having all those facilities such as the Regional Center and the Penitentiary. When there is an infraction in those facilities, Lancaster County has to try those cases.

Mr. Kissel stated that perhaps in the future, we could look at getting some sort of "in lieu of taxes" initiated. Mr. Hudkins noted that he has been pushing for this for some time. The answer he continues to receive is that there is just not the money there.

Ms. Schorr asked who the leading partners behind the Fair Funding coalition were, and what route do you see them taking? Mr. Kissel stated that he was in a meeting with the "powerful lobbyists" - the "big guys". And we were just talking about it....it's still in the forming stage.

Mr. Eagan stated, in response to legislation having the State pay property tax, that is probably not a realistic possibility. Non-governmental uses, which they've done in the last couple of years, have put some property back on the tax rolls, but where we've had more success is within our

interlocal agreements where there are State functions - for instance, with F-3 [Families First Foremost]. We're running out of Federal grant money on that and we're doing interlocal agreements with the State to leverage Federal and State funds for either child protection or medicade funds to replace that. It has been successful so far and we think that may be a better route to go. It works on mutual interest with the State to try to do the inter-locals and run the programs more efficiently and save money that way. But, as far as getting property taxes on governmental property for governmental purposes, that can cut two ways too. They could say then that the City & County & School District could pay also....that would be a double-edged sword.

PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES -

A. DETERIORATING CONDITIONS OF STREETS AROUND LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - Mr. Garver gave a little background on the area. Right now they are projecting 1900 students at Lincoln High, even with the opening of the two new high schools. All the schools are evening out at about 1600, but Lincoln High continues to draw from the city-wide population and has the largest number of transfer students. That creates a lot of traffic around Lincoln High especially since they no longer provide special-ed transportation anymore.

We've added parking. There was an addition to the east side of the school, and we've asked staff to look for additional parking. With the City's assistance, we've added parking along "K" Street, at the old oil company site at 21st and "J" and to the south. We're also trying this summer for field turfing at Beecher Field. Ninth-graders are coming in this year and there will be a lot of parents--- probably 500 parents---who will be dropping their kids off. Traffic is going to be increasing. So, we inquired as to some of the main feeder streets around Lincoln High at 21st & "J". We've been asking about this for 10-12 years. He thought 21st Street was the number one ranked arterial in terms of traffic and deterioration for a number of years...then it was taken off the list. It was deemed to no longer be an arterial. We have heard that Public Works will be doing some sewer work in the area - maybe they can give us an update on how to address this.

This year there will be an additional rehabilitation on 21st Street from Capitol Parkway to "D" Street. That will also be done on "J" Street from 21st and "J" Street Circle. It is also planned to rehabilitate "E" Street from 21st & Capitol Parkway this year. We'll continue to monitor the condition of these and all of our streets under our Pavement Management System. We'll enhance that system and continue to monitor all of the streets as well as those near Lincoln High for future rehabilitation.

Mr. Garver pointed out that the Finance Committee is looking at some drop-off lanes from 21st Street to serve Beechner Field. He noted that he appreciated the Public Works Department working with his staff on that project.

He understood that the sewer project will be started this Spring, while school is in session. Hopefully, it would be concluded before school starts and those ninth graders show up with so much additional traffic - our target will be to try to minimize the chaos around the school.

Mr. Hudkins had a question on Goodrich Junior High and its tremendous over-crowding problems, noting that it is a traffic nightmare as people try to drop/pick-up the kids. He asked if there were any plans with Public Works to alleviate those problems in the 14th & Superior area? It was answered that there are no street improvement plans around Goodrich. Mr. Hudkins reiterated that it needs to be looked at since it is a real problem. Staff answered that they are not looking at a signal at Lewis and Superior, for instance. Some people may look at that as an improvement for circulation

around the school, but a signal would probably make it worse in front of the school. Right now we have a lighted "no left turn" sign that comes on during the peak traffic hours. This tells people they have to make a right-hand turn. That has worked well. The biggest problem in the neighborhood is parents coming from the west and trying to get back to the west. The dilemma of whether or not to "signalize" residential streets and draw more traffic into the residential streets is a serious concern. There is a driving plan for the school which the parents should try to adhere to. Try to avoid left-hand turns. We need to educate the parents to help become part of the solutions. A signal at Lewis and Superior would back-log traffic even further at that intersection.

The school is in a poor location for the driving traffic that is there today. The school was built for walk-in traffic. The busing cuts cause even more of a problem. It isn't that bad when compared with other schools, however. With the talk of moving some of the students to Dawes, that might help alleviate the problems. Other options to alleviate the congestion were discussed briefly; both those being considered and those that have been implemented.

It was noted that the relationship between LPS and the Public Works Traffic Department was a good one, with cooperation between the two groups on specific issues being very productive.

Mr. Werner asked if the pedestrian flow was discussed in conjunction with the vehicular traffic problems. Staff reported that both were discussed with no higher priority placed on one than the other. This is done in the planning stages.

An interim solution still being discussed is to remove the sixth grade from Goodrich, that would move 200-300 students from the population which would drop to about 650 students. That should eliminate a third of the traffic flow. A long-term solution will have to be pursued.

B. UPDATE ON SIDEWALK AND TRAFFIC LIGHT CONSTRUCTION FOR NORTH STAR HIGH SCHOOL (Lillie Larsen) Ms. Larsen reported that she had requested this issue for discussion. She has had problems with two-income families having problems dropping students off early in their commute to work., or having the children walk to school. With the second option, the need for sidewalks at the school increases. An aerial map of the area around the school was reviewed for the Common Members. with an explanation of the Street Configurations and the traffic signal plans. At 27th and Folkways, the traffic signal design is virtually complete. That will be constructed and operating by the time school opens. Ms. Larsen asked if it might be in place in time for the registrations in August. City Staff stated that the goal is to try to have it done by the end of July, but there aren't any guarantees by August 1st - but by the time school opens, it could be definitely guaranteed.

The signals at two other locations have been designed with some preliminary work already done for future signals (the intersections are 33rd and Folkways and also at the school drive which is the main entrance to the high school and 33rd Street). Underground work has been done. The poles are there and the equipment has been ordered. It has been our position that we would wait and not signalize that intersection initially. But, there will be discussions with the City Traffic Engineer on having the installation of the signal at 27th & Folkways. The more we see 14th Street at Southwest, it convinces us that a signal needs to be there (27th & Folkways) at Day One. It wouldn't be a huge issue, and we will probably move forward with that.

We are currently in discussion with the attorney's of the development to offer them the opportunity to put sidewalk in along the undeveloped lots in the area around the school where, currently, none exist. If they don't, we will come to Council within the next 30 days and request that sidewalks be ordered in. It would be a minimum time to be allowed to be put in after which the City would build it and assess the cost against the property. We hope the developer will cooperate and put the sidewalks in. There will be more sidewalk there before school opens.

The developer has up to four years to put sidewalks in along the other undeveloped, vacant lots within the area. The other piece that is a critical puzzle piece is at Ridge Park. It is the Lower Platte South NRD property. We will work out a way, either with City temporary lots or some thing, because that abuts right up against the major entrance to the school. That area will probably be identified as a major school crossing. That is another reason to push for the traffic signal. If all else fails, we can put temporary walks in near the school.

Ms. Seng commented that she is pleased to see this, because she knows there will be lots to the west of 27th Street. She also noted concern about the area to the north. The more building that goes on, and it *will* continue to grow, - what is the sidewalk situation around Fletcher there? It was noted that everything from the area just south of Fitch Park, on both sides of Fletcher, have sidewalks all the way around. There is sidewalk along the school property and along their drives.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

A. *Whittier School Building* Mr. Zimmer stated that this issue was on the agenda to bring forward the project that may involve many different governmental and community agencies. Whittier belongs to the University of Nebraska Foundation. The University and the City have entered into an agreement to discuss building within the Antelope Valley framework. Part of the planning effort is revolving around Whittier in 'the next couple of years' time-frame. Whenever discussion comes up with LPS, it is always noted that 'it sure looks a lot like a school'. [Laughter] Central Administration representatives note that it remains one of our community issues that will take all of our best efforts to find a good use for the building and return it to the category of a community asset. We hope that through the Antelope Valley process and further discussion with all the entities involved we can do that.

B. *Defibrillator* Mr. Eagan stated that at a January 16th Staff Meeting, the County Board had requested this item be scheduled for discussion at this Common meeting. We had a presentation on the Automatic External Defibrillator project. There was a committee being put together to pursue this project. Mr. Bruce Dart is here from the Board of Health and could probably give you a pretty good update on where this project is right now.

Mr. Dart came forward and stated that they had been working very hard on this issue. He explained that the Committee has really come together and we're preparing a concept paper to actually fund a number of these units. We're working hard to decide where these units will be, whether in County Sheriff's cars, police cruisers, or with first responders. They will be stationed throughout the community at various areas where the public gathers.

The committee has done a great job on the concept paper. We're just waiting to see if we get the funding. Mr. Werner stated that Chief Casady had attended the last meeting. The focus is...the committee is not going to decide where these go, necessarily. The idea is to have a staff person that will be half-time who will bring all of the involved parties together (the Red Cross, American Heart Association, Bryan/LGH., Health Department and so on) together to coordinate that part; but also to do the research as to where these units would be most effectively placed for the community. It has been an amazing group. The grants are in now, and we're waiting to see if we can get some funding.

Mr. Dart noted that part of the concept paper included money to fund that part-time coordinator, so that we have it centralized and we have someone who could really work with the community to decide where these units should be placed.

V - VII *Continuing/New Business* Mayor Wesely stated that he would like to mention that South 14th Street by Southwest High School will be re-built next year, so we've moved that up. It should have been done prior to the building of the school, but that project will start this time next year.

- *Future Meeting Date* - The next Joint Meeting of the Lincoln Public School Administration, the City Council and the County Board will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Common area at the North Star High School (5801 North 33rd Street)

VIII Adjournment: 8:38 a.m.

jointlps05-13-02