

**MINUTES
BUDGET MONITORING COMMITTEE
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2003
12 P.M.**

PRESENT: Ray Stevens and Larry Hudkins, County Commissioners; Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer; Don Thomas, County Engineer; Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; Jim Gordon, Nebraska Bar Association; Ron Krejci, First State Bank of Hickman; Jim Nissen, Chamber of Commerce; John Boehm, Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA)

ABSENT: Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff

ALSO PRESENT: Bruce Bohrer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, gave an overview of the following (Exhibit A):

- Lancaster County Comparison FY04 to FY03 Expense Budget
- Lancaster County Comparison FY04 to FY03 Revenue Budget
- FY04 Valuations & Tax Rates
- Lancaster County, LC-3 Supporting Schedule
- Lancaster County Property Tax Requirement Estimate as of 7-8-03 (Does Not Include Bryan Hospital Claim)
- Major Changes - FY04 Budget Request
- Correspondence from Charlie Claus Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Executive Vice President Regarding Budget
- Documents Relating to Claim of BryanLGH Medical Center for Reimbursement for Medical Treatment Provided to City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) Prisoners
- Lancaster County Year End Fund Balances From Budgets
- Corrections Statistics

Stevens said some items could be financed through bonding or Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) leases.

Hudkins asked for input from the committee on whether to finance improvements or to pay for them up front.

Krejci said low interest rates make this an opportune time to move items to bonded

indebtedness.

Stevens noted the County Board's efforts to invest money back into the community, explore alternatives to incarceration and reduce spending.

Hudkins said the County Engineer's budget is one area that has been reduced when money is tight, but said the County Board has remained cognizant that roads and bridges need to be built. He said many of the County Engineer's projects are in the growth areas and will benefit the City in the future.

Krejci asked whether the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) could assist in some areas by constructing road dams.

Thomas said the NRD has to assess whether the cost to build is justifiable in terms of the benefit received. He expressed concern regarding projections of the Highway Fund balance, noting the potential for a reduction of \$900,000.

Hudkins said infrastructure is crucial as the community continues to grow and said "it's either pay now or pay later".

Nissen noted that personnel is one of the County's biggest expenses and asked whether benefits are in line with those of other political subdivisions.

Hudkins said Lancaster County ranked a little low (82%) in a survey of comparable counties.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 5, 2003 at 12 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.