

**MINUTES  
TRI-COUNTY MEETING  
DOUGLAS, LANCASTER AND SARPY COUNTY BOARDS  
NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (NSAA) BUILDING  
500 CHARLESTON STREET, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008  
8:30 A.M.**

Douglas County: Mary Ann Borgeson, County Commissioner; Clare Duda, County Commissioner; Chris Rodgers, County Commissioner; Kathleen Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer; Patrick Bloomindale, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Steve Walker, Fiscal Administrator; Rick Kubat, Administrative Specialist; Ellen M. Sechser, Administrative Assistant, Douglas County Clerks Office; Mike Kelley, Douglas County Lobbyist

Lancaster County: Bernie Heier, County Commissioner; Deb Schorr, County Commissioner; Ray Stevens, County Commissioner; Bob Workman, County Commissioner; Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Minette Genuchi, Administrative Secretary to the County Board; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office; Gordon Kissel and Joe Kohout, Lancaster County Legislative Consultants.

Sarpy County: Inez Boyd, County Commissioner; Joni Jones, County Commissioner; Deb Houghtaling, County Clerk; Fred Uhe, Chief Deputy County Clerk and Lobbyist; Mark Wayne, Board Administrator; Brian Hanson, Fiscal Administrator; Mike Smith, Deputy County Attorney

The Lancaster County Board met with representatives of Douglas and Sarpy Counties on November 6, 2008 at the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Building at 8:30 a.m. Also in attendance were Larry Dix, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director; and Andre Mick, Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA).

**1 RECEPTION & BREAKFAST**

Bob Workman, Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Chair, opened the meeting and announced the location of a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A continental breakfast was served.

**2 WELCOMING REMARKS** - Dr. Jim Tenopir, Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Director

Dr. Jim Tenopir, Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Director, welcomed the group to the facility.

### 3 REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

#### A. Lancaster County

Kerry Eagan, Lancaster County Chief Administrative Officer, gave an overview of Lancaster County legislative priorities (Exhibit A):

- \* Property Tax Relief through Appropriate State Funding for County Government
- \* Authorize a Fee for Community Corrections
- \* Amend Nebraska Revised Statute §23-120(3)(b) to Authorize Twenty (20) Year Projects
- \* Investigate Creation of the Position of Magistrate
- \* Other Priorities
  - \* Allow Reuse of Bubble Packs by Jails
  - \* Authorize Transfer of Noncontiguous Residential Development Rights
  - \* Require Tax Stickers on Mobile Homes

Kathleen Kelley, Douglas County Chief Administrative Officer, said Douglas County asks participants in Community Corrections to pay a fee.

Eagan said it is not authorized in statute.

K. Kelley said it is her understanding there is already statutory authority for a magistrate system.

#### B. Douglas County

Mike Kelley, Douglas County Lobbyist, said jail reimbursement will be a priority issue for Douglas County.

K. Kelley said Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) funding is also an area of concern and said the Governor and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) may try to shift the costs to counties administratively.

It was noted Mike Boyle, Douglas County Commissioner, would like to look at the issue of county ordinance authority.

Eagan said Legislative Bill (LB) 961 calls for studies of the legal defense system and the guardian ad litem system. He said he was informed that Douglas County had opposed the legislation and asked the reason for that position.

K. Kelly said the Douglas County Board did not take a position on the bill but said Tom Riley, the Douglas County Public Defender, may have. She said there are a number of issues of concern, including the role of the guardian ad litem system.

#### C. Sarpy County

Fred Uhe, Chief Deputy County Clerk and Lobbyist, gave an overview of the Sarpy County legislative agenda (Exhibit B):

- \* Funding County Government
- \* Economic Development
- \* County Ordinance Authority
- \* Other Areas of Interest/Concern
  - \* Storm Water Runoff Fees
  - \* Flood Control Issues

#### D. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

Larry Dix, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director, gave an overview of legislative issues NACO plans to pursue (Exhibit C):

- \* Examine jail reimbursement, county property tax relief and other mechanisms for providing state aid to counties
- \* Eliminate reference to the issuance of distress warrants on real property
- \* Provide for the transfer of a homestead exemption when residence changes but the parcel is not sold
- \* Provide for voluntary issuance of receipts for property tax payments
- \* Enact residency requirements for clerks of the district court
- \* Adopt specifications for filed documents
- \* Require property taxes to be paid before parcels are split, replatted or combined
- \* Authorize treasurers to cancel motor vehicle registrations upon receipt of a bad check
- \* Revise procedures to change from township to commissioner form
- \* Harmonize sanitary and improvement district election time lines
- \* Expand the hours that polling places are open for drainage district elections
- \* Increase sheriffs' fees for civil and criminal actions

Copies of the 2009 NACO Legislative Platform (Exhibit D) were also disseminated.

Dix noted efforts to remove the statutory cap on jail reimbursement last year were unsuccessful. A Joint Appropriations/Revenue Committee Study looked at state aid to counties and a couple of funding formulas were suggested that would hold counties harmless. He said he met with Governor Heineman and the Governor indicated he may be willing to put additional money into funding, if it eliminates jail reimbursement. Dix said he does not believe the Governor will bring forth an alternative. It would need to come from the counties.

Discussion followed with general consensus to propose funding under the heading of public safety. Funding in the amount of \$15 million, with a built-in inflation factor, was suggested.

**4 LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY MANUAL FOR STATE ROAD PROJECTS**  
- Jim Wilkinson, Nebraska Department of Roads

Jim Wilkinson, Nebraska Department of Roads, said the Nebraska Department of Roads will now provide oversight for all Local Public Agency (LPA) Project Administration (city and county) projects to insure compliance with all applicable state and federal laws (see Exhibit E). He said there will be three areas of focus: 1) Bridges; 2) Environmental process; and 3) Right-of-way acquisition. Wilkinson said training for cities and counties will begin by February, 2009 and attendance will be a requirement for receipt of federal funds.

Deb Schorr, Lancaster County Commissioner, asked which staff should receive the training.

Wilkinson said that has not been determined yet. He added that the training would be beneficial for project consultants as well.

**5 OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Emergency Protective Custody (EPC)

Brief discussion took place regarding concerns that the State will discontinue funding for EPC costs.

B. Pandemic Flu Policy

Pandemic flu measures were discussed.

C. Lancaster County Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (JPA)

Eagan relayed the reasons why the Lancaster County Board decided to form a Joint Public Agency (JPA) with the City for the purpose of funding a new jail.

## **6 LUNCH (OPEN DISCUSSION)**

Topics discussed were greenbelt exemptions, tax exemptions, special permit regulations, a purchase card program and possible introduction of legislation to make changes to the Commission of Industrial Relations (CIR) to allow an exception for ability to pay and comparability to similar jobs in the local community.

## **7 TOUR OF HAYMARKET PARK - Charlie Meyer, Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball President**

Charlie Meyer, Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball President, conducted a tour of Haymarket Park for meeting participants.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk