

MINUTES
MEETING OF PUBLIC GROUP (COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY CLERK AND COUNTY
TREASURER) TO FILL THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT #2 VACANCY
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019
10:00 A.M.
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
555 S. 10th STREET, ROOM 303

Advance public notice of the Public Group meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on June 5, 2019.

Group Members present: Dan Nolte, Lancaster County Clerk; Rachel Garver, Lancaster County Treasurer; Pat Condon, Lancaster County Attorney

Others present: Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's office

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

Other Business

Nolte announced Larry Scherer withdrew from consideration on June 6, 2019.

1) Approval of May 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Garver moved and Condon seconded to approve the May 31, 2019 meeting minutes. Condon, Garver and Nolte voted yes. Motion carried 3-0.

2) Interviews

Each candidate gave a 15-minute presentation on the following questions: "Why do you want to be a County Commissioner?" and "What do you hope to accomplish?"

a) David Boeckner

Nolte asked how to address the County's infrastructure needs. Boeckner answered by prioritizing the infrastructure needs and exploring other funding means.

Regarding Condon's question regarding improvements that can be made to the court system, Boeckner stated addressing the mental health needs of individuals in the judicial system is key.

Condon asked Boeckner how he would address funding for mental health and infrastructure. Boeckner answered by cooperating with other government and outside agencies.

b) James Herrold

Nolte asked what funds will be used to fix the road infrastructure. Herrold answered looking at quality technology and materials, and best practices for contracts.

Regarding county priorities, Herrold stated his priorities would be in line with those of the constituents and not any other affiliations.

Garver inquired as to Herrold's thoughts on the increasing jail population. Herrold suggested looking at sentences and prosecutions of non-violent crimes and the privatization of other county assets.

When asked about failed post-release supervision detainees, Herrold stated he would like to partner with County officials to develop a good solution.

When asked about reducing property tax, Herrold said other sources of revenue such as gambling should be explored with funds to be divided between the state and local governments. He also felt selling unused county property could be another revenue source.

c) Shane Jensen

Nolte asked Jensen to address funding and maintenance of rural roads. Jensen said the County needs to look at the infrastructure needs and identify resources to accommodate them while remaining committed to already allocated resources.

Regarding balancing windfarms and Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) with acreages, Jensen stated he would work on additional development in both wind and solar energy. He would better define zoning for CAFOs and increase farm-to-table relationships.

Condon asked how the County can help working-class citizens. Jensen answered he would make sure those who need services can get them and would explore funding the services with public and private partnerships

When asked how to address community safety versus mental and behavioral health services, Jensen said the County should invest in alternative community programs.

When asked how mental health, public safety, and infrastructure funding needs would be balanced, Jensen suggested identifying the needs first and funding second.

d) Cristy Joy

Joy distributed her presentation (Exhibit A).

When asked about infrastructure funding, Joy stated creative solutions such as a County wheel tax, grant funding and national funding should be explored. She added the County needs to know which roads are most valuable to the constituents.

Garver asked for Joy's perception on mental health services. Joy suggested using the existing County and City skill sets including community programs to benefit the services provided.

Condon asked what is "smart on crime?" Joy said a system that analyzes types of crimes committed and, using the safety of the public as priority, develops different levels of programs to allow individuals to be successful.

BREAK

Nolte recessed the meeting at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

e) Gregory Osborn

Osborn distributed his presentation (Exhibit B).

When asked about infrastructure issues, Osborn stated the County needs to work in collaboration with all stakeholders to shorten the longevity of the issues.

Regarding current community safety and mental health issues, Osborn suggested working collaboratively to give individuals the opportunity to have a positive relationship within the community.

Garver asked how Osborn would deal with the lack of funding to cover all the County's needs. Osborn responded by prioritizing needs.

f) Larry Scherer

The candidate withdrew from consideration.

g) **BREAK**

The meeting was recessed at 11:45 a.m. and resumed at 12:31 p.m.

h) Tami Soper

Soper distributed her presentation (Exhibit C).

When asked how to balance the community and infrastructure needs with the budget realities, Soper stated she would identify the priorities, streamline resources, make responsible investments and foster public and private partnerships to meet the needs of the people.

Condon asked Soper for specifics on merging City and County entities and for funding requirements relating to the court system. Soper said better communication between government agencies could streamline processes. Regarding unfunded County mandates, she suggested including funding requirements on the County's legislative agenda. Soper also stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships to address the mental and behavioral health needs of individual waiting in correctional facilities.

i) Brodey Weber

When asked about funding for infrastructure, Weber said additional funding is needed through wheel tax and sales tax. Additionally, a master plan for facilities and a capital improvement program are needed.

In response to Condon's inquiry, Weber stated the County should work with state officials to help reform the justice system.

Garver asked Weber about the County's responsibility of helping individuals with mental health needs. Weber felt the County needs to serve individuals before the privatization of the County's mental health facilities. He added incremental funding to improved services would be needed.

j) Michael Wilson

Nolte asked where roads and bridges fall as a priority in the budget and how one balances renewable energy and acreages. Weber answered he would prioritize roads and bridges. Regarding renewable energy, he said he would make sure constituents understand the full impact of renewable energy.

When asked about the Board's responsibility on mental health services, Weber felt the County should invest in public and private partnerships.

Condon questioned Weber's statistic from the American Civil Liberties Union-Nebraska regarding the number of individuals in jail who have not been charged with a crime. Weber clarified he is looking at issues within the criminal justice system to see what can be improved upon.

When asked how to fund mental health partnerships, Weber responded by prioritization and raising revenue.

k) Christa Yoakum

When asked how to balance infrastructure with public safety, Yoakum answered the community needs to come together to make decisions. Additionally, revenue will need to be raised.

Regarding the County's responsibility with mental health assistance, Yoakum stated more local community services, partnerships and funding are needed.

When asked about funding community safety programs, Yoakum said the County should look to both long-term and immediate results along with proven successes and guide funding solutions accordingly.

3) Public Comment (*Note: Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person*).

W. Don Nelson, 2430 South Canterbury Lane, spoke in support of Christa Yoakum.

Don Mayhew, 5041 South 30th Street, spoke in support of Christa Yoakum. (Exhibit D).

Robert Way, 801 El Avado Avenue, spoke in support of a female candidate.

James Michael Bowers, 4206 Touzalin Avenue spoke in support of Christa Yoakum.

Margaret L. Higgins, 2560 Arlene Avenue, spoke in support of Greg Osborn.

Nolte noted letters of support from the following were also received: Tammy Ward, MaryAnne Loos, Jennifer Rokeby-Mayeux, Jane Raybould in support of Christa Yoakum; Gerry Finnegan, Julie Mueller, Thomas Green, Monica Siebrandt and Jennifer Schultz in support of Shane Jensen; Deane Finnegan, Chris Funk, Jim Cada, Inonge Kasaji and Don Wesely in support of Cristy Joy; Inonge Kasaji in support of Brodey Weber; and Glenn Johnson in support of Greg Osborn (Exhibits E-T).

4) Next Meeting Date – Monday, June 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 303

5) Adjournment

MOTION: Condon moved and Garver seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m. Garver, Condon and Nolte voted yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by,

Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office