

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET ZOOM MEETING**  
**VIEWING AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE AT <https://www.youtube.com/lnktvcity>**  
**COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020**  
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Commissioners present: Sean Flowerday, Chair; Rick Vest, Vice Chair; Roma Amundson; Deb Schorr; and Christa Yoakum**

**Others present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk, and Monét McCullen, County Clerk's Office**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1) DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS**

**A) County Engineer (703, 21, 22)**

Dennis Meyer, Lancaster County Budget and Fiscal Officer, said the current year Bridge Fund will be amended. The amendment will be based off new revenues that were not included in the budget.

Pam Dingman, Lancaster County Engineer, provided a spreadsheet regarding the Bridge Fund (Exhibit 1). She discussed the Bridge Sinking Fund, Highway Buyback Funds and the number of reimbursements the County has received from the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Response (FHAER) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She noted these funds will be allocated to contracts already approved by the Board.

Schorr asked what flood qualified for the FHAER reimbursement. Dingman said the funds are for construction that took place this budget year related to the 2019 flooding.

Dingman discussed the Bridge Match Program and explained the County gets 80% of the funds when a project is bid and the remaining 20% when the project is fully constructed. She noted there are projects that are ready when these funds are available and requested the spending authority.

Meyer said based off publication notices that they will try to have another budget hearing in June to amend the County Engineer budget to be able to finish up the contracts for these funds.

Dingman provided an overview of the fiscal year 2021 budget (Exhibit 2). She discussed upcoming retirements and the need to fill those positions, as well as FEMA and NEMA (Nebraska Emergency Management Agency) funds. She also discussed the funding gap referenced in the 2018 Transportation Strategy Task Force report. She noted North 14<sup>th</sup> Street is a major paved corridor that needs to be stabilized for the future.

Dingman next discussed five functionally obsolete bridges which are not wide enough for modern traffic. She provided fact sheets regarding Bridge R-184 (Exhibit 3) and Bridge S-180 (Exhibit 4).

Schorr inquired about the plan for the obsolete bridges. Dingman said it would take a year to design each bridge. Bridge S-179 has already been bid and the plan is to move forward with that bridge, but there are two more bridges that need to be prioritized.

Dingman discussed Bridge N-114, which is the only access to Denton's wellfield. They are currently trying to prepare an interlocal agreement with the Village of Denton and Lincoln Parks and Recreation so the costs of this bridge can be shared. The Village's budget has been severely impacted due to loss of KENO revenue.

Schorr asked for clarification regarding the approved Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funds and the reimbursement for pavement projects on South 98<sup>th</sup> Street. Dingman explained this is a new process which allows the County Engineering Department to build the project prior to it being in the budget and when the federal money is allocated to the MPO, the County is then refunded 80% of the construction costs. In this case, there is a two-year gap. She reminded the Board that on 98<sup>th</sup> Street from A Street to O Street, the right-of-way agreement states that there is a commitment to opening the road prior to the year 2030. She clarified that the 80% reimbursement is the same whether the project is done this year or in future years.

Meyer reviewed the County Engineer General Fund (703) budget which reflects a 4% increase (Exhibit 5). Dingman said there are three open positions that need to be filled within the General Fund Budget. Dingman noted the Information Services charges have tripled and explained a number of fees associated with this increase.

Meyer discussed the Highway Fund (22). Expenditures and revenues are a little over \$17,000,000 which is a reduction of about 8% (Exhibit 6). Dingman explained the highway allocation projection.

Meyer said in order to get the Highway Fund to balance, the General Fund transfers have decreased and the FEMA grant transfers have increased. Dingman noted that no property tax dollars went into this Fund prior to fiscal year 2015. The General Fund transfers have helped catch up on maintenance costs.

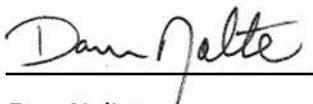
Meyer discussed the Bridge Fund (21). Expenditures are about \$12,600,000 and revenues are approximately \$9,500,000 (Exhibit 7). There is also some buyback money included in this Fund. Dingman noted concerns about the Highway and Bridge Buybacks. The majority of the Bridge Buyback funds have been received and are in the Sinking Fund. She said following the completion of the South 82<sup>nd</sup> Street project, she would like to use any leftover Highway Buyback funds on next year's paving projects.

The Zoom meeting timed out at 11:02 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11:43 a.m.

Due to technical difficulty, the Chair announced the County Engineer's budget meeting would resume either next Tuesday or Thursday.

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to adjourn the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Budget Meeting at 11:45 a.m. Vest, Amundson, Schorr, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

