

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021  
8:30 A.M.**

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

Commissioner Absent: Deb Schorr, Vice Chair

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer and Dan Nolte, County Clerk

*Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website and emailed to media on July 28, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on July 26, 2021.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 22, 2021**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the July 22, 2021, Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**2. COLA FOR UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES** – Doug McDaniel, Director, Nicole Gross, Compensation and Classification Manager, and Amy Sadler, Human Resources Specialist, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources

Doug McDaniel, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources, discussed various unrepresented employee classes affected by the COLA (cost-of-living adjustment). He recommended a 2.75% increase, noting that each 1% increase results in approximately \$250,000 in expenditure.

Consensus of the Board was to move this item to a Tuesday meeting for action.

McDaniel noted there is currently a low labor pool. He also indicated that following labor negotiations, Human Resources may be forwarding pay range adjustments to the Board for certain positions in the Unrepresented class due to concerns with salary compression and employee retention.

**3. APPLICATIONS FOR THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM AND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR WILDERNESS PARK PROJECTS (please see correlating Action Items A and B below)** – Sara Hartzell, Park Planner II, Lincoln Parks and Recreation

Sara Hartzell, Park Planner II, Lincoln Parks and Recreation, provided information on the grant applications. She explained the land and water conservation grant will repair a connector bridge on the Jamaica Trail in Wilderness Park. The Great Plains Trails Network will also be providing funding for the project and other fundraising will be held.

The second grant will be funded by Federal Highway Administration dollars through the Recreational Trails Program. It will be utilized to place a bridge on a trail in Wilderness Park near Highway 77 and Roca Road. The grant will fund 80% of the project and the remainder will be covered by private fundraising and CIP funds from the City of Lincoln.

It was noted that both grants will be administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Letter of Support for City of Lincoln's Land and Water Conservation Fund Application**

**MOTION:** Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to approve a letter of support for the City of Lincoln's Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application. Flowerday, Amundson, Yoakum and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

### **B. Letter of Support for City of Lincoln's Recreational Trails Program Application**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to approve a letter of support for the City of Lincoln's Recreational Trails Program grant application. Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

## **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **A. Reappointments to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Board (APCAB) for terms to expire September 1, 2024:**

- 1. Joselyn Luedtke**
- 2. Tim Schultz**
- 3. Piyush Srivastav**

The Board voiced no concerns about the reappointments. David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer, will place them on a Tuesday agenda for County Board action.

## **DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

### **A. Emergency Medical System Oversight Authority Committee Meeting – Flowerday**

No report was given.

### **B. Human Services Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Meeting – Schorr/Yoakum/Derbin**

Yoakum said a process for distributing ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to non-profit organizations is being developed.

**C. Monthly Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair and Planning Department – Vest/Schorr/Derbin**

Vest said the vote at the Planning Commission was 4-1 to support the change in zoning for solar farms, noting it takes five votes to advance. Therefore, the Planning Commission will be discussing the item again at its next meeting on August 4, 2021. Derbin noted 30x30 was also discussed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, appeared and discussed the previous day's graduation ceremony at the jail for recovery program recipients. This program encourages active engagement for substance recovery and an education component is involved. It is hoped that the participants will seek substance abuse treatment when they leave the jail.

Amundson exited the meeting at 8:56 a.m. and returned at 9:00 a.m.

**4. SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SENDD) HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM UPDATE – Ryan Bauman, SENDD; and Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

Ryan Bauman, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist, SENDD, said there were nine applications for funding including ones from Malcolm, Waverly, Raymond and Sprague. Two applications were eliminated either because they were from Lincoln or due to exceeding income requirements. Two projects will be forwarded to the County Board for approval at an upcoming Tuesday meeting. One project includes some electrical upgrades and window replacements. The other is for electrical upgrades and a basement window.

Flowerday exited the meeting at 9:09 a.m. and returned at 9:12 a.m.

**5. BUDGET UPDATE – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

Meyer informed the Board that he would be filing the proposed budget with the County Clerk's Office later today. He said the expense portion of the budget is \$246,000,000 and last year's was \$201,000,000. He noted that ARPA and CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funds have impacted the budget and the cash reserve will initially be \$44,000,000. Meyer summarized various line items of the proposed budget. He said the 15-cent allocation for various political subdivisions will need further discussion. The public hearing on the budget will occur at the end of August and then the Board will take action.

Vest noted the significant COLA increase will impact the budget.

Meyer said the contingency fund will remain at \$2,000,000 and this can be used to cover COLA and health insurance increases.

**6. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE**

No update was provided.

**7. ACTION ITEM**

- A. Letter of Support for City of Lincoln’s Land and Water Conservation Fund Application**
- B. Letter of Support for City of Lincoln’s Recreational Trails Program Application**

Items 7A-B were moved forward on the agenda.

**8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Reappointments to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Board (APCAB) for terms to expire September 1, 2024:**
  - 1. Joselyn Leudtke**
  - 2. Tim Schultz**
  - 3. Piyush Srivastav**

Item 8A (1-3) was moved forward on the agenda.

**9. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- A. Emergency Medical System Oversight Authority Committee Meeting – Flowerday**
- B. Human Services Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Meeting – Schorr/Yoakum/Derbin**
- C. Monthly Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair and Planning Department – Vest/Schorr/Derbin**

Items 9A-C were moved forward on the agenda.

**10. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

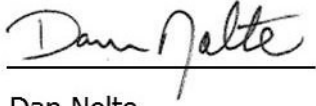
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**11. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

There were no emergency items.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 9:26 a.m. Flowerday, Yoakum, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

