

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING – ROOM 112
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

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 January 6, 2021 and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on January 6, 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 DECEMBER 15, 2020

MOTION: Vest moved and Yoakum seconded approval of the December 15, 2020 Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. A. SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS AMUNDSON AND YOAKUM

Judge Jodi Nelson, Lancaster County District Court, 3rd Judicial District, administered the oath of office to Commissioners Amundson and Yoakum.

B. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to nominate Commissioner Vest to serve as Chair.

Schorr, Flowerday, Yoakum, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Yoakum seconded to nominate Commissioner Schorr to serve as Vice Chair. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday, Yoakum and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE PRIORITIES – Joe Kohout and Brennen Miller, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC

Kohout reviewed the weekly report (Exhibit 1). He noted Lancaster County has a member on the Revenue Committee. Legislative bills will be introduced today. An announcement regarding the scheduling of hearings is expected. Also expected are limitations of 25 individuals in hearing rooms, continued COVID-19 safety precautions, and provisions for the presentation of letters as testimony.

Kohout said there will likely be changes to the Open Meetings Act.

Regarding the Tri-County Breakfast, Miller stated due to social distancing, the Tri-County Breakfast will be held via Zoom on either January 25 or 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. He is waiting to hear from Douglas and Sarpy counties before finalizing the date.

Vest reviewed the incoming gambling revenue where 12.5% will go to the City of Lincoln, 12.5% to Lancaster County, 5% to Gamblers Anonymous and 70% for property tax relief. He said Senator Geist has proposed a bill where 10% of the City and County's combined 25% would be designated for event centers in the counties where the gambling is taking place. The Lancaster Event Center (LEC) is supportive of the bill. Vest added he would like to see the Board support the bill.

Amundson felt it is necessary as the LEC has a large economic impact on the City and County, and it does not receive funds as in other places. Flowerday was also supportive.

Schorr stated she is not supportive at this time as she would like more community input, and the County's needs as a whole should be addressed. She felt the County roads are a priority. Additionally, she felt to have the Legislature make that financial decision on the County's behalf causes concern.

Yoakum said she anticipates seeing a dip in the KENO funds which are used to support many non-profits in the community. She would like to see those programs maintain funding.

Kohout added it is very important to remember that the money only comes when the casino is built. He will send the draft bill to the Commissioners for discussion at the future date. Also, Kohout noted the bill will take 33 votes to pass.

4. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss committee assignments rather than have a round robin session (see agenda packet for committee descriptions).

Schorr agreed to sit on the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board of Directors.

Regarding the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED), Vest said he would serve if no one else wants to serve.

Amundson stated she would like to sit on the Metropolitan Planning Officials (MPO) Technical Committee as an observer and bring information to the Chair and Vice Chair. Derbin said the Technical Committee is designed for people working in engineering. He suggested lobbying for an additional County technical expert on the committee.

Vest thought the Board should consider petitioning the MPO to change their bylaws so that the members do not rotate every two years, which would allow members to stay and gain expertise. If a petition were to happen, he would like Board support. Schorr added the City probably has the same issue.

Vest will continue on the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD).

Amundson will continue on the Realtor's Association and the Board will rotate another member through.

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Schorr seconded to nominate the following Commissioners to serve on the following boards and committees: Schorr to serve on the NACO Board of Directors; Vest to serve as the second position on LPED, Amundson to serve as a designated observer for the MPO Technical Committee, and all other committee assignments be maintained as they currently stand.

Ames clarified that Schorr will be attending Mutual Aid meetings, Vest will be attending Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND) meetings, Yoakum will be attending meetings of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee and the New Americans Task Force, Flowerday will be attending the Pension Review Committee and Emergency Medical System Oversight Authority (EMSOA) Board meetings, and Amundson will attend the Youth Crisis Response and Juvenile Alternative to Detention Initiative (JADI) Committees meetings.

Amundson inquired if there is any benefit to include juvenile concerns with Justice Council. Schorr said Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, feels the youth juvenile justice stakeholder group is formed and has been working well together. There have been presentations at the Justice Council concerning youth. Derbin added combining the two committees would stray from the original intent of the Justice Committee.

ROLL CALL: Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION (LEGAL ADVICE AND LABOR NEGOTIATIONS) – Kristy R. Bauer, Deputy County Attorney; Doug McDaniel, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; Brad Johnson, Director, Corrections

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:25 a.m. for the purposes of receiving legal advice, labor negotiations, and to protect the public interest.

The Chair said it has been moved and seconded that the Board enter Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Chair restated the purpose for the Board entering Executive Session.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:10 a.m. Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEM

A. Recommendation to award a contract to AutoMon for Case Management Software (RFP 20-246) in an amount of \$146,203.00 over the 4-year term

Etherton said, after looking for a new software management company, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was awarded to AutoMon. She said it will be more compatible for what Community Corrections does

and estimated it will save the County approximately \$20,000. The contract will be brought forward for Board approval at a future date.

When asked if Information Services (IS) will be supporting the system, Etherton answered they will not as it is a cloud-based system and information can be accessed from anywhere at any time.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to accept the recommendation. Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Vest said the vaccination process is underway.

Derbin said there is a Treasury program for emergency rental assistance. He is working with Hoyle on the application process and requested Board approval for continuation with the application process.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval for Derbin to continue with the application process.

When asked as to the possible dollar amount available, Derbin said he does not know. Flowerday added the City of Lincoln is also applying for the program and that the County pre-qualifies. Flowerday also felt that the County applying would include the cities, towns and villages within the County outside of Lincoln.

Ames stated she is working with Pat Lopez, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Director, to set up a Zoom meeting to discuss vaccines. Flowerday said the County is waiting on vaccines to extend giving them to people beyond health care workers.

Flowerday stated there will be Zoom COVID debriefings with the Lancaster County legislation beginning on Friday afternoon.

ROLL CALL: Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Schorr said she appreciated the Lincoln Journal Star article highlighting Lopez's receiving of the NACO President's Award.

7. ACTION ITEM

- A. Recommendation to award a contract to AutoMon for Case Management Software (RFP 20-246) in an amount of \$146,203.00 over the 4-year term**

Item moved forward on agenda.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. 2021 Lobbyist Memo

Derbin reviewed the memo (see agenda packet) and stated he will distribute it this afternoon.

B. Tri-County Breakfast

See discussion in Item 3.

C. Chief Deputy Salaries

Derbin reviewed the salaries (see agenda packet). These will be approved via resolution at a future Tuesday meeting.

9. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Lancaster 2021 Priorities

Ames discussed the layout of the priorities (see agenda packet).

After Board discussion, Amundson will discuss "Develop Facility Study for County Engineering Buildings" with Pam Dingman, County Engineer, and Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director, and the "Write County Planning Task Force SOP's" priority will have a July 1, 2021 deadline.

The "Introduce and Pass Legislation for Funding for Roads and Bridges" and "Stepping Up Initiative" priorities will be removed from the list.

10. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Visitors Promotion Advisory Committee – Amundson

Amundson said there was no meeting.

B. New Americans Task Force Meeting – Yoakum

Yoakum reported the My City Academy will start at the end of the month and meet virtually for six weeks.

11. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

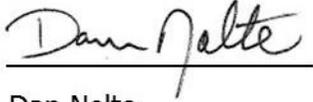
For informational purposes only.

12. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

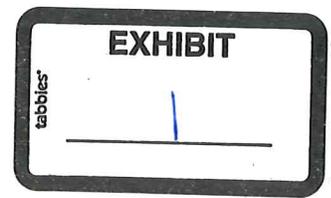
13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 10:34 a.m. Amundson, Schorr, Vest, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk





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LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Joseph D. Kohout
Brennen L. Miller
DATE: January 7, 2021
RE: Weekly Report

Good Morning. Please accept this as your weekly report for the 2021 session of the Legislature for the date noted above.

Yesterday saw the convening of the 2021 session on day one where members elected their leadership for the next two years. There were not a lot of surprises other than Senator Ben Hansen defeating Senator Matt Hansen for chair of the Business and Labor Committee, Senator Lynn Walz defeating Senator Mike Groene for the Education Committee chair position, and Senator Tony Vargas holding on to his Vice Chair position on the Executive Board over Senator Julie Slama.

Late in the day – as of the drafting of this report – the Committee on Committees was still meeting. Once we have the list we will get it to you.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

On the first day, members elected their leadership for the 2021-22 biennium. Here is the leadership for the next two years:

Speaker of the Unicameral:	Senator Mike Hilgers of Lincoln
Chair of the Executive Board:	Senator Dan Hughes of Venango
Vice Chair of the Executive Board:	Senator Tony Vargas of Omaha
Chair of Committee on Committees:	Senator Bob Hilkemann of Omaha
Chair of Agriculture Committee:	Senator Steve Halloran of Hastings
Chair of Appropriations Committee:	Senator John Stinner of Scottsbluff
Chair of the Banking Committee:	Senator Matt Williams of Gothenburg
Chair of Business & Labor Committee:	Senator Ben Hansen of Blair
Chair of Education Committee:	Senator Lynn Walz of Fremont
Chair of General Affairs Committee:	Senator Tom Briese of Albion

Chair of Government Committee:	Senator Tom Brewer of Gordon
Chair of HHS Committee:	Senator John Arch of Papillion
Chair of Judiciary Committee:	Senator Steve Lathrop of Omaha
Chair of Natural Resources Committee:	Senator Bruce Bostelman of Brainard
Chair of Retirement Systems:	Senator Mark Kolterman of Seward
Chair of Revenue Committee:	Senator Lou Ann Linehan of Elkhorn
Chair of Transportation:	Senator Curt Friesen of Aurora
Chair of Urban Affairs:	Senator Justin Wayne of Omaha
Chair of Enrollment and Review:	Senator Terrell McKinney of Omaha
Chair of Rules Committee:	Senator Rob Clements of Murdock

LANCASTER COUNTY PRIORITIES

Defeat Inheritance Tax Repeal. We anticipate a bill may be forthcoming on this issue.

Defeat changes to the Building Commission statutes. We anticipate legislation may be forthcoming on this.

Statewide 24/7 Sobriety. The bill is likely to be introduced by Senator Adam Morfeld in the coming days.

Sharing of Mental Health Information. The bill is likely to be introduced by Senator Suzanne Geist in the coming days.

Appropriation Bill to cover leased space by state. We are looking for a sponsor for this legislation.

Infrastructure Funding. We are working with Senator Tom Brandt's office on the drafting of this bill. We met this week with NACO who had some thoughts on the latest draft.

HEARING SCHEDULING

In light of the pandemic, the leadership of the Legislature is taking some steps to provide safety at their hearings. We do expect it to include the commencement of public hearings at 10am rather than 130pm starting on January 25, 2021; letters being accepted and placed on the committee statement; and a limit of 25 people in the room for hearings.

This concludes our report for this week.



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January 6, 2021

Mr. David Derbin, Administrator
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Client Update

Dear Mr. Eagan,

We are sending this letter pursuant to our contract with the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. Please be advised that we have registered for the following new clients for the 2021 Session:

AmeriHealth Caritas
Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Kohout

C: Board of Commissioners