

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
VIEWING AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE
8:00 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; and Dan Nolte, County Clerk

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska web site and provided to the media on March 25, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM

1. ZOOM MEETING SET UP – Jamie Wenz, LNKTv City Communications

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. It was noted that the meeting would be covered by the Open Meetings Act (Neb.Rev.Stat. § 84-1407-1414) and that the public could view the meeting in Room 113 of the County-City Building.

2. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 19, 2020

MOTION: Amundson moved and Schorr seconded approval of the March 19, 2020 Staff Meeting minutes. Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Joe Kohout and Brennen Miller, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC, joined the meeting and provided a legislative update. It was noted that the Legislature reconvened on Monday, March 23. LB1198 provides emergency funding due to the pandemic. AM 2976 was attached to the bill and contains \$83,600,000. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services will receive \$38,000,000 with some of the funding used to provide protective clothing and equipment for local health departments. Another \$25,000,000 will be added to the Governor's emergency fund with portions reserved for flooding issues and COVID-19.

Flowerday suggested Lancaster County work with Douglas and Sarpy Counties regarding COVID-19's impact on corrections. Schorr also asked that the Mental Health Crisis Center track the impact on its clients.

Kohout said it is uncertain when the Legislature will reconvene again.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. New Americans Task Force

Yoakum said discussion took place on how to move projects forward under the current environment. She said they are also exploring how to make census information available to those they serve.

NOTE: The Clerk's Office lost connection to the meeting for several minutes.

- 4. GRANT APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST AND FACILITY DOG)** – Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; and Bruce Prenda, Chief Deputy County Attorney

Sara Hoyle provided an overview of the grant application (see agenda packet).

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the grant application. Vest, Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

Vest said there was an emergency meeting of the Keno Advisory Committee. He said the guidelines only allow funding to pay for support, not staff, for funding of general assistance expenses. He said the Lincoln Community Foundation is working on some short-term funding for non-profit entities during the pandemic crisis.

- 5. FOURTH QUARTER 2019 INVESTMENT REVIEW OF 401(a) and 401 (b) PLANS**
– Julie Klassen, Prudential Vice President, Key Accounts; Rob D. Craddock, Prudential Vice President, Investment Strategy; and Frank Picarelli, Segal Marco, Senior Vice President

Craddock provided an update for the first quarter of 2020 including the recent decline in the market. He said the developments in the past few weeks have been alarming and added that oil prices have also dropped. He said the trend is that growth is outperforming value.

For 2019, Craddock reviewed various returns as outlined in the plan summary (see agenda packet). He said the United Kingdom has had good returns even with Brexit issues. He also noted that technology stocks had a great year.

Craddock said the Vanguard Selected Value Fund did well in 2019, although, the Fidelity Advisor New Insights Fund and PGIM QMA Small-Cap Value Fund were not performing as strongly as in previous years.

Amundson asked if funds should be changed in Goal Maker. Klassen said she can analyze that information but any changes made by the County Board will need to follow recommendations from the Pension Review Committee.

Picarelli noted that if funds are deleted from the plan, alternatives will need to be identified. He said that with the current markets there are a lot of unknowns and that volatility will continue. He reported that Stable Value Fund investment is strong and that many challenges lie ahead.

Craddock discussed additional statistics from the County's plan.

Klassen said communication with participants has increased and, as a result, Prudential has increased call center staff and fees for overnight withdrawals have been waived. She also informed the Board that 851 active and 308 former employees are involved with the 401(a) plan. Sixty percent are enrolled in Goal Maker which provides participants with diversification.

6. PLANNING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – David Cary, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Director

Cary noted that Nebraska currently leads the nation in response to the 2020 census. He said the 2050 Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet today via Zoom. Public meetings, including district meetings, may be held in person in the future depending upon the pandemic situation. A virtual town hall may also be scheduled would give the public an opportunity to participate.

Schorr expressed concern that in some areas of the county there may be issues with broadband, making it more difficult for some citizens to participate. Cary said there may be other options, including live streaming. He said the timeline is such that public meetings could be held but there are too many unknowns at this time.

7. BREAK

No break was taken.

8. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Discussion took place on how to handle the signing of documents if the County Board meets by Zoom. Eagan said the Board can designate the Chair to do so.

Various meeting scenarios were discussed. The consensus was to continue with in-person Tuesday meetings at the County-City Building while Staff meetings would be conducted via Zoom.

Flowerday requested statistics on PR (personal recognizance) bonds, house arrests, requests and furloughs as the County explores alternatives for the corrections facility during the pandemic. He suggested the County Board meet with the Public Defender, County Attorney, and judges to seek ways to reduce the jail population.

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, said the People's City Mission continues to accept donations of clothing and household items at their 6800 P Street location.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Lancaster County Employee Recognition Breakfast – May Cancellation and New Date Discussion

Ames said the May 19th breakfast has been rescheduled for October 13th.

10. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. New Americans Task Force

Item moved forward on agenda.

11. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

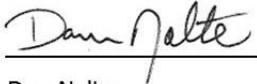
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12. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Amundson moved and Vest seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. Yoakum, Vest, Schorr, Amundson and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

