

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present: Roma Amundson, Sean Flowerday and Rick Vest

Commissioners Absent: Deb Schorr, Chair; and Christa Yoakum, Vice Chair

Others Present: Kristy Bauer, 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 the media on April 20, 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on April 18, 2022.*

Amundson stated she would serve as Acting Chair for the meeting. She noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 14, 2022**

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the minutes. Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Kohout reviewed the weekly report (Exhibit 1). The Legislature adjourned sine die on Wednesday. The following bills have been signed: LB908 (Provide additional requirements for virtual conferencing under the Open Meetings Act), LB742 (Provide for minutes to be kept in an electronic record under the Open Meetings Act), LB876 (Change provisions relating to the State Racing and Gaming Commission, wagering on and conduct of horseraces, the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act, taxation of gaming activities, and public records), LB927 (Change provisions relating to the Civic and Community Center Financing Act, the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act, the Property Tax Request Act, and the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act), LB843 (Change provisions relating to elections), LB805 (Change provisions of the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act, the Nebraska Wheat Resources Act, and the Noxious Weed Control Act), LB921 (Provide for reimbursement for lodging of certain defendants, require medicaid enrollment assistance for inmates, change priority for admission to state hospitals for the mentally ill and require minimum numbers of beds at the Lincoln Regional Center, and create the Legislative Mental Health Care Capacity Strategic Planning Committee), LB750 (Change provisions relating to transportation) and LB1024 (Adopt the Economic Recovery Act, create the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division and Housing Division of the Department of Economic Development, change provisions of the Middle-Income Workforce Housing Investment Act, provide for grants, state intent regarding appropriations, and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund).

**3. LSO CRIME ANALYST POSITION REQUEST** – Ben Houchin, Chief Deputy County Sheriff; and Nicole Gross, Compensation Manager, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources

Houchin and Jon Vik, Sheriff Captain, requested one of the current open Deputy Sheriff positions be repurposed due to hiring difficulties as a Crime Analyst (see agenda packet). Houchin stated the duties are similar to an investigator. Gross recommended the position be set as a Class C14. There are no comparable positions in peer counties; however, the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) has a Crime Analyst. The position will need to go to the Personnel Policy Board and then, if approved, be brought to the Board for future action.

It was the consensus of the Board for the Crime Analyst position to be forwarded to the Personnel Policy Board.

Houchin said the position will be discussed with the union.

**DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**A. MPO Technical Committee – Amundson**

Amundson reported there were project plan revisions to the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) including changing priorities on South 68<sup>th</sup> Street from Firth Road to Stagecoach Road, West Van Dorn Street from Southwest 140<sup>th</sup> Street to Southwest 112<sup>th</sup> Street, and Southwest 42 Street to West Hallam to West Pella. There were also project date revisions to the Transportation Improvement Program. The 2022 self-certification review was approved. Additionally, Star Tran is adding 13 more buses to the routes.

**4. YOUTH SERVICES CENTER (YSC) MEDICAL CONTRACT** – Steve Wesley, Director, Youth Services Center

Melissa Hood, YSC Administrator, and Candace Berens, Deputy County Attorney, were available for the discussion.

Wesley stated the current medical contract needs to be revised to add evening and weekend hours to the current medical coverage as it does not meet the needs of the YSC (see agenda packet). The total cost increase is approximately \$340,000 from the current contract. He added the update would remove the Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs) from medication distribution.

Flowerday asked if JDOs are currently Medication Aides. Hood answered the JDO staff are not currently licensed Medication Aides as Jail Standards do not require it.

Vest inquired how medical needs are handled when the nurse is not available. Wesley said 911 is called, which impacts safety and staffing at the YSC.

Amundson stated there may be the potential to work with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with cost sharing between DHHS and the YSC.

Berens said the current contract expires in May. She felt the contract should be extended for 90 days.

Wesley requested any pending contracts with DHHS would have assurances that the YSC would have equal services available as DHHS.

**MOTION:** Flowerday moved to direct the County Attorney's Office to pursue a 90-day extension on the current YSC medical contract and to negotiate a contract with DHHS to assure parity of medical coverage.

Wesley requested shared governance of the contract be included in the motion.

Flowerday amended his motion to include shared governance of the contract.

Berens asked that the extended contract include the current Health Service Administrator position be increased from four hours per day, Monday through Friday, to eight hours per day, Monday through Friday, with a salary of \$50 per hour.

Flowerday amended his motion to also include increasing the Health Service Administrator position from four hours per day, Monday through Friday to eight hours per day, Monday through Friday, with a salary of \$50 per hour.

Vest seconded the motion as amended.

Amundson restated the motion to direct the County Attorney's Office to pursue a 90-day extension on the current YSC medical contract and to negotiate a contract with the DHHS to assure parity of medical coverage, for shared governance of the contract and to increase the Health Service Administrator position from four hours per day, Monday through Friday to eight hours per day, Monday through Friday with a salary of \$50 per hour.

**ROLL CALL:** Vest, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

**5. WEED AUTHORITY UPDATE – Brent Meyer, Superintendent, Weed Authority**

**A. Nebraska Department of Agriculture Reports and Requirements**

Meyer reviewed the report (see agenda packet). He noted the landowners have been working on containing phragmites.

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to approve the report. Vest, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

**B. Proposed Change to Nebraska Administrative Code Title 25 Chapter 10**

Meyer reported Falls City has a wastewater treatment plant that uses phragmites in its processes. There is a proposed change to the Nebraska Administrative Code exempting the water treatment plant from the Noxious Weed Control Act (see agenda packet). He is opposed to the proposed change.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Meyer to testify in opposition at an upcoming hearing.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION (PENDING AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND LEGAL ADVICE)**  
– Eric Synowicki, Deputy County Attorney

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:29 a.m. for the purposes of pending and potential litigation, receiving legal advice and to protect the public interest.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

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

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. Vest, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

**COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE**

No updates were given.

**7. ACTION ITEM**

- A. Submission of the Department of Justice - Violence Against Women Grant in the amount of \$500,000, for the term from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025.**

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, reviewed the grant (see agenda packet) noting it focuses on honor-based violence (HBV) domestic abuse survivors. She explained the cultural differences associated with HBV.

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the grant submission. Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

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

- A. MPO Technical Committee – Amundson**

Item moved forward on agenda.

- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Vest**

Vest reported there were discussions on park upgrades and funding as well as an upcoming public racket sports survey.

- C. New Americans Task Force Meeting – Yoakum**

No report given.

**D. Mutual Aid Meeting – Flowerday/Schorr**

Flowerday said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the rural fire districts was reviewed. There was also a conversation on having rural department ambulances and engine crews on standby when the Sheriff deploys the tactical response team.

**E. District Energy Corporation (DEC) Meeting – Flowerday/Schorr**

Flowerday stated the DEC ice tank project, which will be used to cool buildings during the year, is nearing completion and is also over budget. Additionally, the completed audit was received and there was discussion on DEC ownership of facilities on non-DEC owned land once the DEC bond payments are completed.

**F. Other Meetings Attended Since the Last Staff Meeting**

No reports were given.

**14. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

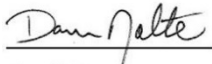
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**15. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

There were no emergency items.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 9:51 a.m. Vest, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.



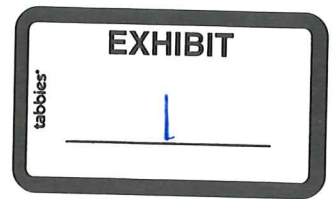
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk





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**LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Joseph D. Kohout  
Brennen L. Miller

**DATE:** April 21, 2022

**RE:** Weekly Report

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Good Morning! Please accept this as your final weekly report for the 2022 regular session of the Legislature for the date noted above. The Legislature adjourned sine die yesterday a few minutes before 2pm. The session yesterday consisted primarily of farewell speeches by members as well as speeches in honor of two former members who had passed in the last week – former Senator Denny Byars of Beatrice and former Congressman Brad Ashford of Omaha.

We are pleased to report that all the bills that were passed on to the Governor by the Legislature both on Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 13 were signed by the Governor. These included the following:

LB750 (Friesen) Change provisions relating to transportation – omnibus bill that included our requested changes to the 24/7 sobriety program requested by DMV.

LB1024 (Wayne) Adopt the Economic Recovery Act, create the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division and Housing Division of the Department of Economic Development, change provisions of the Middle-Income Workforce Housing Investment Act, provide for grants, state intent regarding appropriations, and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund – funding in the bill including up to \$5 million for the Lancaster Event Center.

LB908 (McDonnell) Provide additional requirements for virtual conferencing under the Open Meetings Act.

LB742 (Erdman) Provide for minutes to be kept in an electronic record under the Open Meetings Act

LB876 (Briese) Change provisions relating to the State Racing and Gaming Commission, wagering on and conduct of horseraces, the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act, taxation of gaming activities, and public records.