

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

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

Commissioners Absent: Sean Flowerday

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 May 11, 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on May 9, 2022.*

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 FROM MAY 5, 2022**

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

**2. INTRODUCTION OF ALEC GORYNSKI, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LINCOLN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Amundson entered the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Gorynski introduced himself and discussed his background. The Lincoln Community Foundation process is to focus efforts using broad sweeps and deep looks to fully understand community needs. The Lincoln Community Foundation reviews community needs with many local agencies, government and non-profit organizations as well as Lincoln Vital Signs, which uses data gathered from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Public Policy Center. He said one community need is affordable housing and the possibility to invest in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). He also noted Give to Lincoln Day is on May 26, 2022.

**3. AGING PARTNERS UPDATE – Randall Jones, Director, City of Lincoln Department on Aging**

Jones reviewed a proposal concerning the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County entering into a master plan for developing Lincoln as a designated "Age Friendly" Community (see agenda packet). The elderly population is estimated to increase 40% and those older than 85 will increase 150% by 2050. Jones stressed the importance of incorporating the needs of seniors, including medical, transportation and real estate, in current and future community plans. An advisory committee would

be established to facilitate community discussions with the target population. Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, the Planning Department and Urban Development are all excited about participating in the community discussions.

Jones estimated the project would cost \$200,000 (\$100,000 for two years) mostly focused on professional services for discussion facilitation and for a staff person to assist in implementing services and plans. He has requested \$75,000 per year for two years from the City. For the remaining \$25,000 per year, Jones said the County had previously approved \$25,000 for meal delivery service of which Aging Partners is on track to spend \$13,000. That cost can be covered by other funding sources within Aging Partners. He asked the Board to commit \$15,000 from the earlier allotted \$25,000 for this project and \$15,000 for the second year of the project. Additional funds will be raised from outside organizations.

Jones indicated he would like to use the remaining \$10,000 of the original \$25,000 towards the downtown property (1005 O Street). He suggested the City and County split the estimated \$89,000 cost to close out the building while waiting for it to sell.

Amundson felt the project could be worked into the County's strategic plan.

The estimated timeline for the project would be after the completion of the Victory Park project in October.

Regarding the meal delivery program, Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, confirmed the meal delivery invoices to the County would continue through June 30.

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

### **A. Justice Council Meeting – Schorr/Vest**

Vest said there were presentations on the 2017 reentry grant and jail statistics. There were also discussions on increased attorney fees, decreased attendance at night court, and racial statistics from Lancaster County Sheriff's Office (LSO) traffic stops.

### **B. Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities Committee – Yoakum**

Yoakum indicated she did not attend the meeting.

### **C. Region V Services Committee Meeting – Yoakum**

Yoakum reported there was a presentation on the audit process. Also, the new vice chair was elected and a 5% pay increase for program staff was approved.

### **D. Region V Systems Governing Board Meeting – Yoakum**

Yoakum stated there were discussions on the upcoming 988 mental health line, The Bridge Behavioral Health discontinuing emergency protective custodies (EPCs), and that Narcan, a treatment for opioid overdose, can only be distributed to first responders including School Resource Officers.

## **H. Aging Partners Quarterly Outreach Breakfast – Vest**

Vest reported there was a presentation on purpose and meaning.

## **I. Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center Advisory Committee – Yoakum**

Yoakum reported on staffing difficulties and concerns for possible increased EPC intakes.

## **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (PENDING AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND LEGAL ADVICE)** – Dan Zieg, Chief Deputy County Attorney, and Eric Synowicki and John Ward, Deputy County Attorneys

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Amundson seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:20 a.m. for the purposes of pending and potential litigation, receiving legal advice and to protect the public interest.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Amundson, Vest, Yoakum and Schorr voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

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

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Amundson seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. Vest, Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

## **5. BREAK**

The break was taken during Executive Session.

## **6. AGENCY BUDGETS – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

### **A. EMERGENCY MANAGMENT**

Mark Hosking, Deputy Emergency Management Director, and Rayce Hoole, Student Intern, were available for the discussion.

Jim Davidsaver, Emergency Management Director, stated no additional appropriations will be needed.

Expenses are increasing 4.61% mainly due to personnel and Geographic Information Services (GIS) costs (see agenda packet). Davidsaver said the department's funding is split between the City of Lincoln and the County. He added the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) allows local Emergency Management districts to apply for federal reimbursement of up to 50% of Emergency Management staff salaries and benefits. Revenues are increasing 3.84%.

Davidsaver discussed the networking and educational benefits of the conferences (see agenda packet).

Regarding future projects, Meyer stated the funds are not available in the budget.

Daidsaver requested a new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Exercise Training Officer (see agenda packet). This position is an entry level position that would assist in training exercises.

## **B. COUNTY TREASURER**

Rachel Garver, County Treasurer, noted no additional appropriations will be needed.

Meyer said expenses are increasing 6.43% and revenues are increasing 4.87% (see agenda packet). Garver stated commissions and interest income should be increasing. She expects driver's license fees to continue to decrease as more business is conducted online. Postage expenses will increase as 2023 is the new license plate year. It will cost \$6 to mail license plates to registrants. Fees for motor vehicle registrations continues to be steady. She added the State plans to build a new facility for Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) needs, and, similar to Douglas County, will not need County staff to collect fees. The State is currently gathering information for space needs.

Meyer said the next American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund payment will be received soon.

Garver discussed a proposed staffing update. Last year, one FTE position was converted to two part-time on-call positions. There has not been much interest in those positions and she wants to revert back to the original FTE position.

Amundson exited the meeting at 10:18 a.m. and returned at 10:19 a.m.

Garver confirmed the technology request to replace 13 computers (see agenda packet).

## **C. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, stated no additional appropriations are needed.

Expenses are increasing 9.34% while revenues are decreasing 28.29% (see agenda packet).

Regarding revenues, Etherton said there has been a 50% decrease in Safety Training Option Program (STOP) tickets. She felt this was due to lower law enforcement numbers and therefore fewer traffic stops. Meyer asked if there is a point that Community Corrections would end its affiliation with the STOP program. Etherton stated the program still provides revenue. The number of online STOP classes for the upcoming year has been reduced from 5,000 to 4,000.

Additionally, \$74,000 in reentry program grants from the Crime Commission are no longer available. The 2017 reentry grant has ended and the 2019 reentry grant is 50% complete.

Meyer asked about grants to help offset expenses. Etherton said the current DUI Court grant has \$28,000-\$30,000 available for DUI Court related treatment services. She also has submitted a reentry grant application for established programs, and if awarded, there is \$60,000 allocated for housing.

Etherton reported personnel expenses are increasing. Drug testing supplies and associated laboratory expenses have tripled. More than 1,000 individuals per month go through drug testing. With the addition of the Treatment Diversion Program more individuals will be drug tested. She added it is difficult to hire Drug Technicians.

Schorr requested a staffing outline.

Meyer discussed performance measures related to programs.

## **7. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE**

No update was given.

## **8. ACTION ITEM**

- A. Agreement between Encore and Lancaster County to provide audio equipment for the Employee Recognition Breakfast in the amount of \$157.49**

Bauer reviewed the agreement (see agenda packet).

**MOTION:** Yoakum moved and Amundson seconded approval of the agreement. Amundson, Yoakum, Vest and Schorr voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

## **9. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Leadership Academy 2022-23, County Board of Commissioners Presentation, August 24, 2022**

Bauer stated the Leadership Academy will maintain the same format as previous years.

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

- A. Justice Council Meeting – Schorr/Vest**
- B. Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities Committee – Yoakum**
- C. Region V Services Committee Meeting – Yoakum**
- D. Region V Systems Governing Board Meeting – Yoakum**

Items A-D moved forward on agenda.

- E. Youth Crisis Response Committee – Amundson**

Amundson reported there were discussions on the My Companion mobile application, Family Resource Center, training updates and the increased waitlist for youth therapists. Also, the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) is researching a Threat Assessment Specialist position to work with youth.

- F. Public Building Commission – Amundson/Flowerday**

The meeting cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

- G. Lincoln - Lancaster County Board of Health – Flowerday**

No report given.

- H. **Aging Partners Quarterly Outreach Breakfast – Vest**
- I. **Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center Advisory Committee – Yoakum**

Items H-I moved forward on agenda.

- J. **JDAI Collaborative – Amundson/Yoakum**

Yoakum stated discussions centered around staffing shortages, a shared database of community and group resources, family engagement trainings, and prevention trainings. An educational advocate will assist youth and families navigating administrative services through Lincoln Public Schools (LPS).

- K. **Other Meetings Attended Since the Last Staff Meeting**

Juvenile Justice Prevention Grant

Amundson said a list of organizations seeking grant funding was reviewed. The list will be forwarded to the Joint Budget Committee for further discussion and funding consideration.

JDAI Executive Committee Board meeting

Amundson reported there was discussion on data collection. Nebraska and South Dakota will have a joint JDAI conference.

Parks and Recreation Update

Vest noted the Air Park Recreation Center contract has been awarded. A retirement party for Lynn Johnson will be held at the Lincoln Children’s Zoo on June 1 and the dedication of the Cascade Fountain will be June 2.

**12. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

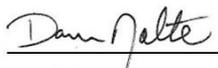
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**13. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

There were no emergency items.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Vest seconded to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Amundson, Vest, Yoakum and Schorr voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

