

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112

Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website and emailed to the media and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on May 13, 2022.

Commissioners present: Deb Schorr, Chair; Christa Yoakum, Vice Chair; Sean Flowerday and Rick Vest

Commissioners absent: Roma Amundson

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director and Meggan Reppert-Funke, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

AGENDA ITEM

1) DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

A. General Assistance

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, was available for the discussion.

Meyer said expenses are increasing 20% and there are no revenues (see agenda packet). Hoyle reviewed the line item costs, including cremations, hospitalization cost and office rent the County is required to pay for State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) staff. Hoyle stated the last rent payment has not been paid. She requested an itemized statement from DHHS and a listing of office staff member titles three months ago. To date, DHHS has not provided this information. The cause for concern is DHHS staff has vacated their offices and are working from home and the space is not being utilized. The Board requested to be updated on the rental agreement with DHHS. Hoyle said she plans to continue reaching out bi-weekly to DHHS until the information is received.

Meyer stated the General Assistance budget should not change much over the next few years.

B. Human Services

Meyer noted the Human Services budget is split between the City and County.

Meyer said expenses are increasing 3.68% and revenues are increasing 11.39% (see agenda packet). Hoyle stated a new increase in salaries and miscellaneous fees is related to a facility dog named Barney. The cost will be split with the City.

C. District Court has been rescheduled

District Court budget hearing was rescheduled for another date.

D. County Attorney

Pat Condon, County Attorney, was available for the discussion.

It was noted that expenses are increasing 4.8% and revenues are remaining the same as last year (see agenda packet). Condon said due to COVID, District Court has set June as trial month whereby four weeks of trials will be held as opposed to two weeks. Witness fees, trial fees and expert fees are all expected to increase.

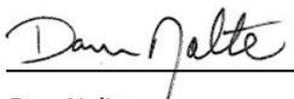
Condon said there has been recent discussion about getting an autopsy suite in Lancaster County. He added more research needs to be done before a plan can be forwarded to the County Board but he felt an autopsy suite would help reduce some expense under contracted services. Flowerday inquired about the possible savings. Condon stated the travel cost is about \$300 per autopsy and there were over 200 autopsies performed last year.

Meyer asked about staffing. Condon said the County Attorney's office will be fully staffed by the end of June 2022.

Meyer inquired about the possibility of any new revenue increases which would be available to offset expenses or expense reductions. It was noted the technology fund request is for replacement equipment (see agenda packet). Condon stated he would investigate other options for possible expense reduction.

2) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Yoakum seconded to adjourn at 10:13 a.m. Vest, Yoakum, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Amundson was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

