

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair; Sean Flowerday and Rick Vest

Commissioners Absent: Christa Yoakum, Vice Chair; Roma Amundson

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; 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 18, 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on May 16, 2022.

Derbin and Bauer said Amundson and Yoakum would not be in attendance and Schorr would be arriving late. Due to the fact that there was not a quorum of the public body at the time the meeting was to begin, a discussion session would be held until a quorum was present at which point the session would become a meeting of the public body.

Vest noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the discussion session at 8:35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2022

Item was held until later in the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTION OF JORDAN FEYERHERM, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION MANAGER, LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

Daisy Brayton, Human Resources Coordinator, introduced Jordan Feyerherm. Feyerherm discussed his background.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION (UNION NEGOTIATIONS) – Henry Wiedrich, Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P., Barb McIntyre, Director, Nicole Gross, Compensation and Classification Manager, and Amy Sadler, Human Resource Specialist, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; Steven Wesley, Youth Services Center Director; and Ashley Bohnet, Deputy County Attorney

At 8:43 a.m., Vest said the Commissioners (Vest and Flowerday) would have a private discussion on union negotiations in lieu of the Executive Session and instructed the meeting recording be stopped and those not involved in the discussion to exit the room.

The open discussion resumed at 9:20 a.m.

4. COUNTY ENGINEER UPDATE – Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Larry Legg, Assistant County Engineer, and Monet McCullen, Engineering Project Coordinator, were available for discussion.

Legg gave a presentation on federal aid projects (Exhibit 1). The South 68th Street project includes the Norris School area.

Flowerday asked if the State can assist with Saltillo Road improvements. Dingman stated it is possible as the overall available State funds are \$15,000,000.

Schorr entered the meeting at 9:49 a.m. and took over direction as Chair.

Dingman said the projects total an estimated \$30,000,000-\$34,000,000 between fiscal years 2024-2026.

5. BREAK

The break was not taken.

RETURNING TO ITEM 1

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

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

C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said the area will be under budget for the current year.

Meyer stated the expenses for fiscal year 2023 are increasing 1.73% (see agenda packet) due to increased travel expenses for Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) and National Association of County Officials (NACo) conferences and capital outlay funds for a new conference room table. He noted there are no revenues and no technology upgrades.

B. COUNTY EXTENSION

Chris Scow, Nicole Miller and Trudy Pedley, County Extension Board members, and Cindy Zluticky, Nebraska Extension Engagement Zone Coordinator/Program Leader, were available for the discussion.

Karen Wobig, County Extension Educator Unit Leader, and Jenny DeBuhr, Administrative Services Officer, reported there are heat pumps that need to be replaced at an estimated cost to be determined. There are funds available in the current year budget that could be encumbered for the

project. DeBuhr added there is \$20,000-\$30,000 in approved spending authority that Extension may return to the County.

Wobig discussed staffing, which includes seven employees hired by the County and six University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) employees that are all funded by the County. Wobig stated the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) increased the base salary for Extension Assistants from \$35,000 to \$38,000. There were also two promotions from Extension Assistant to Extension Associate which will impact salaries and benefits. Three interns started today with five additional interns starting at a later date. In addition, UNL funds and contributes 17 additional staff, which includes educator level positions and a full time 4-H assistant. All employees are working from the offices as opposed to home.

Schorr inquired if Extension is having trouble recruiting people. Wobig answered no. There were three turnovers in the County staff and all the positions have been filled.

Meyer asked if other revenue sources or opportunities are available. Wobig stated Extension has a number of grants, however, grants tend not to cover employee salaries.

DeBuhr reviewed the technology request (see agenda packet). UNL has paid for the Microsoft 365 and Adobe licenses, so the Information Services (IS) bill for Extension has decreased.

Regarding future projects and upgrades, Meyer said funding for this project will not be available this year. Flowerday asked if this project and the Emergency Management storage area could be done in conjunction with each other. Meyer stated that will require a bigger discussion.

Wobig reported nutrition education kits were distributed to the elementary schools within Lincoln Public Schools (LPS). UNL has hired a nutrition educator who goes out and provides the program to the schools. LPS has now made this part of the core curriculum for elementary students which correlates with the health curriculum. She is hoping to expand this program to other schools in the County. Another part of the core curriculum is the embryology program in the third-grade classes for all schools in the County.

A. JUVENILE COURT

Flowerday exited the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Concerning the current budget, Theresa Emmert, Juvenile Court Administrator, stated \$115,000-\$125,000 will be returned to the County due to a staff vacancy and lower filing numbers. Judge Reggie Ryder noted there has been a recent 39% increase in filings, especially truancy, abuse and neglect filings. He felt many of the truancy filings are related to youth moving from online learning back to in classroom learning and having difficulty with the transition.

Flowerday returned to the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Expenses are increasing 1.97% (see agenda packet) with salaries and IS costs being most of the increase. The State will be purchasing and installing new updated technology, including audio and video equipment, within the courtrooms. They are experiencing supply issues so the installation will be delayed until 2023. These costs will be covered by State America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The County will be responsible for the upkeep of the new technology. Until the project is completed,

Emmert has budgeted \$5,000 for sound system repair. An IS staff member is onsite two days a week to assist the courts with technology issues. Emmert and Ryder felt that has been going well.

Schorr asked about video conferencing at the Youth Services Center (YSC). Emmert stated those conferences are conducted via Zoom and not through other courtroom technology.

Ryder stated there are two new problem-solving courts, domestic violence court and adult family drug court. There is a \$110,000 request for a new Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position for a Problem-Solving Court Coordinator which will be tabled for this fiscal year. The courts have run into difficulties finding attorneys who are willing to take on cases due to the low court-appointed attorney rate. Representatives from Juvenile, District and County Courts have met and determined court-appointed attorney rates should be increased. The current court-appointed attorney rate will increase from \$75/hour to \$125/hour for the Juvenile Court beginning July 1, 2022. He understood County Court will have the same rate while District Court will have a tiered approach. Emmert added the estimated cost to the County for the Juvenile Court is \$742,000, which is not currently reflected in the budget documents. Ryder said most of the court-appointed attorneys for Juvenile Court are for abuse/neglect cases that the Public Defender's Office does not handle.

Regarding a study for court-appointed attorney fees, Ryder said there has never been a system to look at the fees. Schorr expressed her concern about being able to fund a study. Flowerday asked if the courts would be willing to wait on fee increases until a study has been completed. Ryder answered the courts are not willing to wait on fee increases, mostly due to the difficulty of finding attorneys.

Vest inquired about the County's obligation for Juvenile Court staffing. Derbin stated statutorily the County is obligated to fund bailiffs. There are eight FTEs in Juvenile Court, of which four are bailiffs.

Vest exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

- B. COUNTY EXTENSION**
- C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Items moved forward on agenda.

7. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

No update was given.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. CLAIM FOR REVIEW: Voucher 760533 on Batch 280066 to The Mediation Center, dated May 05, 2022, for a total of \$3,592.50. This claim includes billing for services performed October-December 2021. These claims are beyond the 90-day time period (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-135)**

Derbin reviewed the claim (see agenda packet). He noted there is an intent to amend the Claims for Review policy to allow the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) the authority to initially review claims beyond the statutory time period and take appropriate action, including forwarding them to the Board

for formal action.

Vest returned to the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Vest seconded to roll the claim forward as a regular claim. Flowerday, Vest and Schorr voted yes. Amundson and Yoakum were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

- B. APPOINTMENTS TO LANCASTER COUNTY INDIGENT DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM FROM MAY 1, 2022, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2025**
 - 1. HEIDI HAYES (Reappointment)**
 - 2. ANDREW WEEKS**
 - 3. SPIKE EICKHOLT**

MOTION: Vest moved approval of the appointments. Motion failed for lack of a second.

It was the consensus of the Board to move the appointments to the next Tuesday agenda.

9. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Public Policy Forum, May 25, 2022, 8:00-9:00am (Lincoln Chamber of Commerce)**

Mikayla Johnson, Grant Coordinator, led general discussion about creating a PowerPoint presentation.

10. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. MPO Officials Committee – Schorr/Yoakum**

Schorr reported revisions to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the 2022 Self-Certification Review and the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) were approved.

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

Vest indicated the meeting was cancelled.

- C. Realtors Association Government Affairs Committee – Amundson/Vest**

Vest said there were discussions on ARPA funds, the County budget, 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) and a report from the Lancaster County Assessor/Register of Deeds.

- D. Mutual Aid Meeting – Schorr**

Schorr stated Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LFR) will not routinely respond to scenes in the County unless called by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office (LSO) or by the first responders on site. Rural fire

districts will also be responsible for transporting individuals to hospitals. LFR is also asking for more response from rural fire districts to the edges of the City.

E. Other Meetings Attended Since the Last Staff Meeting

No reports were given.

11. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

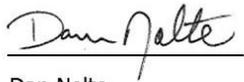
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12. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 11:18 a.m. Vest, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Amundson and Yoakum were absent. Motion carried 3-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

