

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET ZOOM MEETING
VIEWING AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE AT <https://www.youtube.com/lnktvcity>
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING
10:00 A.M.

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

Others present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; David Derbin, Chief Administrative Office; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director; and Monét McCullen, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 19, 2020.

The Chair announced that the May 19, 2020 budget meeting minutes were previously approved.

2) DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS:

A) Corrections (671, 52)

Dennis Meyer, Lancaster County Budget and Fiscal Director, and Brad Johnson, Lancaster County Corrections Director, were present for the discussion.

Johnson said the budget increases were primarily for overtime, hospitalizations and cost of living increases. In the first nine months of the fiscal year, the jail reached a record population. He noted a number of inmates needed medical attention and that number is almost impossible to predict when submitting budget figures.

Meyer said the budget request is around \$28,600,000 which is a little over a 10% increase. Revenues are projected to be \$773,000 which is around a 3.2% increase (Exhibit 1). Meyer said one item driving the budget increase is the opening of a pod requiring seven (7) additional correctional officers at a cost of \$450,000.

Johnson explained that roughly 74% of the budget is for staffing, 23% is for fixed costs and 3% is for maintenance and repair costs within the facility.

Schorr asked how the seven new positions would be staged. Johnson said he is allotted 147 correctional officers and currently has only 138. Staffing needs have been a struggle and he does not know when the seven new positions will be filled.

Flowerday asked if things have improved with the change in the employee classification. Johnson said he is not sure if things have improved as it is hard to compare how much the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the department.

Meyer asked if on-call and overtime costs would decrease if the facility was fully staffed. Johnson confirmed those numbers would most definitely decrease.

Vest asked if expenses have decreased in unison with the population decrease. Johnson said they have noticed a decrease especially in food costs. The work release program has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 along with the open dining hall. These changes have reduced the minimum number of correctional officers needed per shift.

Meyer discussed the DEC (District Energy Corporation) numbers which have increased by \$180,000. Flowerday stated this was discussed at the last DEC meeting and those numbers have supposedly leveled out. Johnson said while the number of units has decreased, the rates have increased.

Johnson discussed CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) and how they are currently going through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to find a company who can rebuild the current system.

Meyer provided information on the Jail Savings Fund (Exhibit 2) which includes money for the CIJS project. Amundson asked how long the CJIS project has been in development. Johnson said they have been working on it for about three years and hopefully it will be completely within the next 18 months.

Meyer reminded Johnson about the upcoming Human Resources (HR)/payroll trainings for the new system.

B) County Assessor/ Register of Deeds (605, 606)

Scott Gaines, Deputy County Assessor/Register of Deeds, said the department is anticipating having \$50,000 of unused funds remaining at year end. They are still unsure what the furniture for the remodel will cost.

Meyer said the current year request is about \$4,600,000 or a 2.56% increase (Exhibit 3). Revenues have increased to \$2,300,000 or 9.5% due to real estate sales and refinancings. Gaines said the budget increase is largely due to personnel costs that are close to 91% of their budget. All travel expenditures have been eliminated and computer requests were reduced. Gaines said two retirements have been built into next year's budget and there are currently five vacant positions.

Gaines discussed the Technology Fund and said all software is paid for by these funds (Exhibit 4).

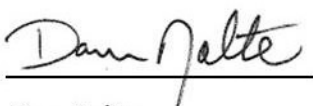
Rob Ogden, Assessor/Register of Deeds, said the plan for 2020-21 is to be flexible due to the pandemic.

C) Board of Equalization (618)

Meyer said this fund may fluctuate due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the way protest hearings will be conducted and will be adjusted if necessary (Exhibit 5).

3) ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Vest moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Budget Meeting at 10:45 a.m. Yoakum, Schorr, Amundson, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

