

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET MEETING  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112  
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021  
9:00 A.M.**

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site, emailed to the media and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on June 4, 2021.*

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

**Others present:** David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director; Ron Rohde, Budget & Fiscal Accountant; and Monét McCullen, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m., the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1) APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 18, 2021.**

**MOTION:** Yoakum moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the minutes. Flowerday, Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**2) DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director**

See items 3 and 4.

**3) COUNTY SHERIFF – Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff**

Meyer said the Sheriff's office will not need additional appropriations for the current budget, although, there could be a request at the end of June due to the CJIS software upgrade. The new budget request is \$15,001,984, which is a little less than a 5% increase on expenditures. Revenues are projected to be around \$2,100,000, which is slightly less than last year's budget.

Sheriff Terry Wagner discussed the proposed operating budget (Exhibit 1). He said gun permit fees have been the same since 1991 and they do not cover the amount of work needed to process a permit. Meyer noted he has added this as an underfunded or unfunded mandate.

In regard to Meyer's question, Wagner said the pandemic has not required additional budget requests. He noted there was a savings on fuel and overtime as the deputies were only taking reports over the phone.

Wagner discussed staffing levels. He said three new deputies are currently in the academy, three will start the academy in August and another will start in January, 2022. On paper the Sheriff's office is down one deputy, but all new deputies are not ready to go into the field until after their training is completed. There will also be an upcoming retirement. Schorr asked why funds are being added in this current request when deputies are not

starting until a few more months. Meyer said if the final deputy starts the academy in January, the spending authority needs to be available now since the County Board will not have other budget discussion until February. Wagner noted they may also need to hire an additional vehicle inspector.

Discussion was held about utilizing the sinking fund for weapons and radio replacements. Upcoming projects consist of building a new training facility on West Fletcher Avenue and a remodel in the main office area. Schorr asked if the City of Lincoln would reimburse for any of these projects. Wagner said they have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding where the City will take over certain services for the Sheriff's office.

Unfunded or underfunded mandates would include vehicle title inspections, gun permits, additional deputy training and sex offender registration.

#### **4) CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT – Troy Hawk, Clerk of the District Court**

Meyer said an additional \$5,000 will be appropriated to the Clerk of the District Court budget. The current budget request is \$2,047,536 with a 2.36% increase of expenditures. Revenues will be the same at \$440,000.

Troy Hawk said the additional costs are usually due to personnel increases and some additional bank costs. He noted there have been no changes to the budget request due to the pandemic. Additional costs may come forward next year regarding the digitization of microfilm to make access easier and keep the rolls from deteriorating.

Hawk said the Legislature periodically makes changes that require his staff to perform additional work but he is unsure if that is an unfunded or underfunded mandate. Flowerday said as a whole, District Court operations would be considered an unfunded mandate.

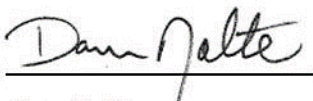
The Jury Commissioner's budget is at \$422,632, which was lower due to a new employee started at a lower rate. Juror costs have gone down due to the pandemic but are now increasing. They may go up next year as the courts attempt to catch up on cases. There are no unfunded or underfunded mandates in this budget.

The Mental Health Board's budget request is \$155,231, which is a 1.2% decrease. There were some additional costs due to having to purchase new computers to be able to conduct meetings via Zoom.

Vest asked about the increases in the Mental Health Board and Jury Commission budgets from 2019 to 2021. Hawk said the jury personnel costs transferred from the County Court budget to the Jury Commission budget. The increase in the Mental Health Board budget is for consulting services utilized by the Public Defender.

#### **5) ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn the budget meeting at 10:33 a.m. Yoakum, Amundson, Schorr, Flowerday and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

