

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2023, AT 9:00 AM
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112

COMMISSIONERS: Christa Yoakum, Chair; Sean Flowerday, Vice Chair;
Roma Amundson, Matt Schulte and Rick Vest

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County Nebraska website, emailed to the media and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on June 9, 2023.

Commissioners present: Christa Yoakum, Chair; Roma Amundson, Matt Schulte and Rick Vest

Commissioners absent: Sean Flowerday, Vice Chair

Others present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Candace Berens and John Ward, Deputy County Attorneys; Matt Hansen, County Clerk; Courtney Lyons, Deputy County Clerk; Meggan Reppert-Funke, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

1) MINUTES

A. Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on June 6, 2023.

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

2) CLAIMS

A. Approval of the claims processed through June 13, 2023.

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

B. Approval of a claim to Indian Center Inc in the amount of \$1,665. (Batch No. 294997, Document No. 806873)

MOTION: Amundson moved and Vest seconded approval of the claim. Schulte, Vest, and Amundson voted yes. Yoakum abstained. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 3-0 with one abstention.

C. Approval of a claim to The Mediation Center in the amount of \$14,450. (Batch No. 295199, Document No. 807077)

MOTION: Schulte moved and Amundson seconded approval of the claim. Amundson, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Vest abstained. Motion carried 3-0 with one abstention.

D. Approval of a claim to Rabble Mill in the amount of \$4,882.47. (Batch No. 295203, Document No. 807078)

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

3) **CONSENT ITEMS** - These are routine business items that are expected to be adopted without dissent. Any individual item may be removed for special discussion and consideration by a Commissioner or by any member of the public without prior notice. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners. These items are approval of:

A. Amendment to the following County Contract C-19-0236 with Cellebrite, Inc to revise the product list for the Universal Forensic Extraction Device, SS-144. (The expenditure for this service will remain the same for the remainder of the current term.) (C-23-0496)

B. Received and placed on file Records and Information Management May 2023 report.

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded approval of the consent items. Vest, Amundson, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

4) **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

A. Commissioners' Award of Excellence for April 2023 to Jacquelyn Jepsen, Records and Information Management, in the category of productivity.

The Clerk read the award letter (see agenda packet). Brian Pillard, Records and Information Management Manager, and Amundson discussed Jepsen's qualities that led to the award and presented her with a plaque. Jepsen thanked the Board for the award.

5) **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Resolution in the matter of certifying the proper completion of County Bridge E-171 pursuant to the County Bridge Match Program Agreement (C-21-0100). (R-23-0038)

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, explained the County Bridge Match Program and stated the resolution is required to receive funding for the completed bridge. She displayed a map of the bridge (Exhibit 1).

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

B. Contract with JMN Construction LLC to provide repairs to County Bridge N-96. The cost to the County is not to exceed \$198,269. (Bid No. 23-086, Project 21-60. The contract shall be effective upon execution by both parties with the final completion date on or before October 31, 2023.) (C-23-0507)

Dingman explained the repairs needed for the bridge and displayed a map of the area (Exhibit 2).

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

C. Recommendation from County Engineering to award a bid to Tim Sisco Construction LLC for Culvert Maintenance 2023 (Phase II) in the amount of \$677,747.80. (Bid No. 23-145, Project No. 23-21) (B-23-145)

Dingman displayed a map of the area (Exhibit 3). She explained the project and stated the bid is about \$150,000 under what was estimated.

MOTION: Schulte moved and Amundson seconded approval of the recommendation.

Vest stated he appreciated that Dingman added the project to the original plans.

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

- D. Recommendation from County Engineering to award a bid to Pavers, Inc. for North 98th Street (Adams Street to Holdrege Street) grading and paving in the amount of \$1,234,917.73. (Bid No. 23-150, Project No. 23-01) (B-23-150)

Dingman displayed a map of the area (Exhibit 4). She stated the project was needed because of the condition of the road, but the timeline changed because a species of bat was declared endangered. The Engineering Department changed the design and will complete the project next spring. She added the project is significantly under budget.

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

- E. Contract with Bauer Underground, Inc. for installation of broadband conduit in Lancaster County's Southeast, Northeast, and Northwest Quadrants. The final completion date is April 30, 2024, and the cost to the County is not to exceed \$7,087,767.36. (Bid No. 23-110. The County will utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for this project.) (C-23-0508)

Abby Eccher, Chief Information Officer for Lincoln and Lancaster County, stated the contract represents the remaining three quadrants of the County's broadband project.

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded approval of the contract.

Eccher and Schulte discussed completion dates of each quadrant. Vest and Eccher explained the reasoning for starting in the Southwest quadrant.

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

- F. Agricultural lease agreement with Jake McQuillen of Lincoln, Nebraska for use of 13.92 acres of agricultural land, (Parcel ID 24-20-401-004-000), for three years. Mr. McQuillen will pay the County \$100 per acre the first year, \$110 per acre the second year, and \$150 per acre the third year. (C-23-0509)

Kerin Peterson, Facilities and Properties Director, discussed the lease agreement and explained the revenue will not cover the property taxes but will in the future.

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

- G. Application for reimbursement from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for remedial action taken concerning underground storage tanks and petroleum release at the Lancaster Patrol Station (14775 5th Street, Raymond). The reimbursement amount of \$26,101.69 will go to the County's contractor, Array Environmental, Inc.

Dingman discussed the environmental contamination at the Raymond facility. They are following the protocol mandated by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and explained the current work is reimbursable by the State. She noted information on the project is available on the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy website.

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded approval of the application for reimbursement. Vest, Amundson, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- H. Agreement with Mental Health Association of Nebraska for professional services related to peer guided personal well-being and relapse of negative mental health issues and/or substance abuse prevention classes for inmates in the Lancaster County Jail. The cost to the County shall not exceed \$15,600. (The term of the contract is from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024.) (C-23-0495)

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

- I. Contract with Summit Fire Protection Company to provide the annual service for fire extinguisher inspection, testing, and maintenance. The cost to the County is not to exceed \$10,000. (Bid No. 23-057. The contract shall be effective for one year upon execution.) (C-23-0505)

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

- J. Contract with Safety Kleen Systems to provide the annual service for parts washer services/recycling solvent. The cost to the County is not to exceed \$500. (Quote No. 6582. The contract shall be effective for one year upon execution.) (C-23-0506)

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

- K. Contracts with the following to provide the annual service for weed abatement and mowing for the County Weed Authority. The cost to the County is not to exceed \$40,000 for all contracts. (Bid No. 23-107. The contracts shall be effective for one year upon execution.)

1. Beatrice Lawn Care, Inc. (C-23-0497)
2. Gary's Lawn & Landscape (C-23-0498)
3. Hauser, Inc. d/b/a Lee's Lawn Maintenance (C-23-0499)
4. Mr. Yards and More LLC (C-23-0500)

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

- L. Contracts with the following to provide the annual service for noxious weed spraying/mowing. The cost to the County is not to exceed \$20,000 for all contracts. (Bid No. 23-108. The contracts shall be effective for one year upon execution.)

1. Beatrice Lawn Care, Inc. (C-23-0501)
2. Gary's Lawn & Landscape (C-23-0502)
3. Hauser, Inc. d/b/a Lee's Lawn Maintenance (C-23-0503)
4. Mr. Yards and More LLC (C-23-0504)

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

- 6) **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Those wishing to speak on items relating to County business not on the agenda may do so at this time.

Robert Borer, Lancaster resident, discussed Board of Commissioner salaries, his concerns about how the City and County handled the COVID-19 pandemic and his concerns about electronic voting machines.

Connie Reinke distributed documents about electronic voting machines (Exhibit 5) and expressed concerns about Venezuela and the company Election Systems & Software (ES&S). She requested the Board hold a public hearing for those who cannot attend meetings at the regular time.

Amber Parker, Lancaster resident, expressed concerns about electronic voting machines, ES&S and the election system.

George Olmer, Lancaster resident, distributed documents (Exhibit 6) and expressed concerns about the Nebraska Secretary of State and electronic voting machines.

Amanda Carnes, Lancaster resident, distributed documents (Exhibit 7) and expressed concerns about the way elections are conducted. She requested the Election Commissioner start conducting hand counts of ballots and recommended methods for increasing election integrity.

Mary Beth Canning, Lancaster resident, expressed concerns about election accuracy and requested an audit.

7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a department budget hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 immediately following the Board of Commissioners meeting in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).
- B. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).
- C. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., and department budget hearings immediately following, in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).
- D. County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or commish@lancaster.ne.gov.
- E. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live on LNKTv (LNKTv.lincoln.ne.gov). LNKTv is available on Allo channel 2 and Spectrum channel 1300. For the rebroadcast schedule visit lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: LNKTv). Meetings are also streamed live on YouTube and Facebook ([YouTube.com/LNKTvcity](https://www.youtube.com/LNKTvcity) and [Facebook.com/lancasterne](https://www.facebook.com/lancasterne)). LNKTv apps are also available on Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV.

8) **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 9:57 a.m. Schulte, Vest, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Matt Hansen
Lancaster County Clerk

