

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 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 June 9, 2022.

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

Commissioners absent: Deb Schorr, Chair and Roma Amundson

Others Present: 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 9:48 a.m. and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 7, 2022

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

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

A. Property Management

Kerin Peterson, Facilities and Properties Director, was available for the discussion.

Meyer explained that Peterson oversees the Building Fund and Property Management Fund budgets. The latter funds County-owned property consisting of the following buildings: Youth Services Center, Driver's License Testing (West O), Motor Vehicle Building (46th & R) and the Election Commission. The operating budget is usually covered completely by the revenue generated from these rents.

Meyer inquired about the current year budgets. Peterson stated they are on track. There is an increase in rental revenue due to an increase in square footage at the Election Commission. She added there should be a reduction in building costs due to various improvement projects.

Regarding full-time equivalents (FTEs), Peterson said the Youth Services Center has requested to reallocate funds to increase staff to add another building cleaner at that facility.

Meyer and Peterson reviewed the Building Fund budget (see agenda packet). Vest asked about the \$282,446.52 set aside for these projects. Meyer noted there is a process to follow in deciding how the County would like to move forward on the projects.

B. Public Defender

Joe Nigro, Public Defender, was available for the discussion.

Meyer stated approximately \$30,000 will need to be transferred from the General Fund to the Public Defender's budget for the current year. The fiscal year 2022-23 budget request is \$5,530,538 which is a 2.11% increase. Revenues are \$548,405 which is a 5% increase (see agenda packet).

Nigro stated salaries and benefits are 89.93% of the Public Defender's expenses. Meyer inquired about open positions. Nigro stated there has been some turnover and position changes and three attorney positions are currently open. He requested to add one additional full-time attorney and two part-time law clerks. Meyer noted no new FTEs are being added for fiscal year 2022-23 unless there is an additional revenue source to offset the cost.

Meyer inquired about the two legal services contracts and whether those could be utilized more (see agenda packet). Nigro stated he was unsure but could look into it.

C. Election Commissioner

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, was available for the discussion.

Meyer indicated the current budget may change due to the special election on June 28, 2022. Shively said the Secretary of State will pay for related election system and software costs. This will be direct billed to the State so there will be no need to collect a reimbursement.

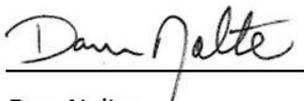
Meyer stated the budget request is for \$1,901,105 which is a 15.42% increase. Revenues are \$651,650 which reflects a 29.9% increase (see agenda packet). Shively said there will be three elections in fiscal year 2022-23 (Statewide General Election in November, City Primary Election in April and City General Election in May). Palmyra/Bennett School District is also having a special election on August 8, 2022. Since Lancaster County has the most voters in the district, it is responsible for the election. In response to Vest's inquiry, Shively confirmed that the school district will reimburse the County for the cost.

Meyer inquired about other potential revenue sources. Shively stated there are Federal Handicap Accessible funds through the Secretary of State.

Shively expressed concerns about the Oracle payroll software, the employee onboarding process and various issues related to the Election Commission building. Meyer suggested Shively contact the respective department for assistance.

3) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 10:56 a.m. Flowerday, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Amundson and Schorr were absent. Motion carried 3-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

