

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023
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 16, 2023.

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

Commissioners absent: Matt Schulte

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; and Courtney Lyons, Deputy County Clerk

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and announced the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 13, 2023

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

2) COUNTY SHERIFF – Terry Wagner, Sheriff

Ben Houchin, Chief Deputy Sheriff, stated he was going to first update the Board on plans for a new law enforcement training facility.

Houchin and Heather Keele, Clark and Enersen architect, provided a presentation on the plans (Exhibit 1). The presentation included a review of multiple options for the site and what each would cost in addition to discussions of current training facilities and current needs.

John Vik, Captain in the Sheriff's Office, stated the benefits of building a new facility.

Flowerday and Houchin discussed whether it was possible for the Lincoln Police Department to provide additional funding. Board members, Houchin and Vik discussed other possible funding sources and staffing a potential new facility.

Terry Wagner, County Sheriff, and Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director, provided an overview of the current and next year's proposed budget (see agenda packet). Houchin and Sara Sump, Sheriff's Office Administrative Services Officer, were also available for the discussion.

Wagner reviewed staffing needs and planned retirements. More staff will retire this upcoming year, which will require a high amount funding for Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP) payouts. Wagner noted the Office is focused on recruiting officers to fill open positions. Cost of overtime will increase, but that is reimbursable to the County.

Wagner summarized other budget items, including uniforms, office equipment, security and communications equipment, training expenses, travel costs for expeditions, advertising, medical expenses, membership dues, insurance, vehicle maintenance and a new patrol car.

Houchin stated the patrol cars for the current budget year have not been delivered yet due to a national shortage.

Wagner and Houchin explained three new positions they are planning to hire in the next budget year: a systems programmer, a records systems specialist and a public information officer.

Wagner and Houchin noted other future expenses will include weapons replacements, an upgrade to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), office remodeling, body cameras and an upgrade in the radio system. Flowerday asked if it was possible to partner with rural fire departments for new radios. The consensus was it would be difficult.

Houchin stated they are reviewing job titles and salaries for potential changes.

3) VISITORS PROMOTION – Jeff Maul, Vice President and Executive Director, Visit Lincoln

Meyer and Maul reviewed the current budget and the proposed budget for next year (see agenda packet), starting with the Visitors Improvement Fund (Fund 19). Derek Feyerherm, Vice President of Operations and Development at Visit Lincoln, was also available for the discussion.

Feyerherm stated the market has recovered fully from the pandemic. In the past year, the organization bought new software and upgraded the website to increase marketing efforts.

Maul discussed revenues and upcoming expenses, including marketing and bid fees, salary increases, travel and training expenses, office software, and membership dues and professional fees.

Meyer reviewed the schedule for the remaining budget hearings.

4) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 11:25. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Schulte was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Matt Hansen
Lancaster County Clerk

