

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Dan Nolte, County Clerk

Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website and emailed to media on July 7, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on July 5, 2021.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 1, 2021

MOTION: Yoakum moved and Amundson seconded approval of the July 1, 2021, Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Flowerday, Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. COUNTY ENGINEER BUDGET UPDATE – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, and Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Meyer explained that some of the increase in the Engineering Budget will go into the General Fund budget and some will be transferred into Funds 21 & 22, which is how it was handled last year. He said some of the Keno funds have been put aside for right-of-way purchases related to the East Beltway. He recommended moving \$1,000,000 of those funds to current year needs into Fund 22 for right-of-way purchases relating to South 68th Street as this is a more immediate need.

Meyer noted that there will be a pilot project with Cares Act funds and that some of those dollars can be placed into a sinking fund for South 68th Street improvements. He anticipates that amount to be \$1,000,000 this year and possibly the same amount next year.

Dingman discussed emergency events and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects, which have caused delays with other projects. Meyer suggested contingency funds could be used in the event of a declared FEMA event since reimbursement would occur at some point. Dingman noted that highway funds are used for maintenance of roads and that it is imperative that asphalt be maintained to extend the life of the road. FEMA will not reimburse for bridge replacement if they have not been maintained and that keeping up with bridge maintenance and stabilization is important. She discussed various bridges that are in planning and design stages. She said they will be doing some of the engineering work in house to reduce costs. Also, she is reducing equipment purchases to have more funds in the highway fund.

Schorr asked if national infrastructure legislation will impact the department. Dingman answered it is unknown at this time. She said after the 33rd Street and Cornhusker Highway intersection is rebuilt, there could be an opportunity to reduce the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) levy and provide additional funding for county roads and bridges.

3. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Vest noted that numbers were up slightly and that the Health Department is monitoring the situation.

4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Mileage Claims for Review from Public Defender's Office:

- 1. Claim #729464 from Shawn Elliott in the amount of \$229.94**
- 2. Claim #729463 from Kelsey Helget in the amount of \$33.15**
- 3. Claim #729461 from Joe Renteria in the amount of \$63.73**

David Derbin noted that these will be paid out of the existing fiscal year budget rather than last year when the expenses occurred. Amundson said she would like more information as to why county vehicles were not being utilized by the employees seeking reimbursement.

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this at a future staff meeting with Joe Nigro, Public Defender.

B. Tri-County Meeting Location

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the meeting in the Rain Forest Room at the Lincoln Children's Zoo and have a continental breakfast as well as a boxed lunch.

C. Juneteenth Federal Holiday

Yoakum said she supports having Juneteenth be a paid holiday for County employees. It was noted that recognizing the holiday will need to be negotiated with the labor unions representing county workers.

5. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Coffee Chamber – Vest/Amundson

Amundson reported discussions included the upcoming National High School Finals Rodeo, the Cornhusker State Games, a possible flag redesign for the City of Lincoln, and the Safe Return to School Plan. Also discussed was the goal to increase youth sports programs.

Flowerday noted that state aid to Lincoln Public Schools was down due to rising property valuations, and that a lid would negatively impact political subdivisions as a result.

B. OTHER MEETINGS

Yoakum said there will be Lincoln Unite event at Tower Square with Lincoln Crossroads. This year's event will not include a citizenship ceremony.

6. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

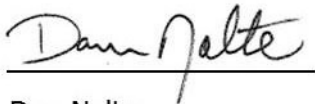
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7. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 9:59 a.m. Amundson, Flowerday, Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

