

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 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 July 7, 2023.

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

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 11:11 a.m. and announced the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

AGENDA ITEM

1) APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 27, 2023

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

2) COUNTY ENGINEER– Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, stated the goals for the County Engineer’s budget, including making the correct transfers between funds in the County budget. Based on the proposed budget, there is a need for \$14.7 million to be transferred in total.

Meyer updated the Board on the Keno Fund (see agenda packet). Schulte asked if the revenue displayed was next year’s dollars. Meyer said it was the current balance and that \$5.3 million is the current balance. Meyer suggested transferring \$1 million from the General Fund.

Meyer explained options to cover the remaining \$488,000 that would need to be transferred, including transferring it out of the Keno Fund, reduce expenses, or use Department sinking funds.

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, stated the recent facilities study showed a high need to invest funds in County buildings and described constraints due to the condition of the facilities. Meyer said the plan was to leave money in the case reserve until it was needed.

Flowerday asked for clarification that the Department budget increased \$2.9 million, and Meyer answered yes. Vest asked about the reason for the increase, and Dingman answered inflation and construction costs. Capital improvements and bridge projects both increased in costs. Flowerday

asked how much funding is needed to match federal funds? Meyer answered none from the funds they were discussing. Schulte noted the increase is small when considering construction expenses and that one of his priorities is increasing money for infrastructure.

Schulte and Flowerday discussed setting aside money for the East Beltway project. Dingman recommended staying focused on the project. Meyer discussed the options for balancing the Department's budget, including transferring funding from the Keno Fund.

Vest asked if the increase in the budget was being offset by an increase of money in the funds. Dingman reviewed the income sources to the funds other than property tax revenue, including gas tax, reimbursements and buyback provisions. Meyer said yes, the increase in the budget would be offset. Vest noted the County increases infrastructure funding when accepting federal funding. Meyer explained how the County is planning for that.

Flowerday asked if the proposed budget had \$1 million in new property tax spending, and Meyer answered yes. Vest noted there were opportunities for matching funding for some bridge projects. Meyer said the Board could consider additional revenue as it becomes available. Dingman reviewed funding sources for one of the bridge projects.

Dingman stated the Department still has \$1 million in pipes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and there are four bridges and several box culverts that are in bad condition.

Meyer reviewed funds from the gaming tax (see agenda packet), which he is budgeting to equal about \$100,000 per month. He proposed transferring those funds to the Countywide sinking fund to use as match dollars for federal aid projects. Vest asked what the projected total number of matching dollars is, and Meyer answered \$9 million. Dingman provided totals per year. Schulte asked if that number will increase due to inflation, and Meyer answered yes. Dingman said she updates project costs every year to reflect inflation.

Flowerday stated he agreed with the proposed transfers. Schulte agreed and thanked Dingman for her leadership. Vest noted the Board is protecting the cash reserve.

Dingman discussed the wait time for new equipment and asked to order equipment to plan for winter snow removal. Vest asked what the cost would be, and Dingman answered the purchase would be for four trucks for \$860,000 and two motor graders for \$736,582. Schulte and Flowerday stated they support the purchases. Vest asked if the County tracks money spent on new equipment, and Meyer answered no. Dingman noted the high cost of repairs with older equipment and the need to have functional equipment with changing weather patterns. Vest agreed with the option to purchase the equipment. Meyer stated the overall combined budget is about \$35 million.

Board members agreed with the proposed budget.

Meyer reviewed what will be discussed at the Thursday budget meeting.

3) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 11:54 a.m. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Matt Hansen

Matt Hansen
Lancaster County Clerk

