

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website, emailed to the media to the media on July 9, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on July 9, 2021.

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 Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

Flowerday stated that this meeting is to begin discussions on how the County can use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Information from public surveys is being collected. Also, the County is working with the City of Lincoln to draft a proposal as how to best help the communities.

1. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 2021 (ARPA) – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Meyer said the categories of funding are supporting public health, addressing negative economic impacts, equity focused services, broadband infrastructure, and replacing the public sector revenue loss. Federal funding comes with federal stipulations. Approximately 539 public surveys have been completed. The surveys will remain open until August 1, 2021. He noted the first 70 responses reflected the categories as outlined above. Ames added some surveys also include community member requests for funding towards items that do not qualify under the funding guidelines.

Meyer stated the County received \$30,900,000 in ARPA funds on May 19, which are in an account and earning interest. He noted the interest on the funds will stay in the same account as the funds. The second payment will be received by May 2022. Two items that have been Board approved for ARPA fund use are the Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) contract and the Grant Coordinator position. The Grant Coordinator will begin in August 2021. Additionally, any project of group that received ARPA funds must adhere to the federal regulations, restrictions and documentation. The County has until December 31, 2024, to have the funds obligated and funds must be spent by December 31, 2026. The funds will be tracked using OpenGov.

Community Corrections

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, gave a presentation (Exhibit 1).

Regarding the enhanced assisted outpatient treatment program, Etherton said the County would be responsible for the build out of the project and The Bridge Behavioral Health would be responsible for running the program. Kerin Peterson, Facilities and Properties Director, added the project will take about 9 months to design and an additional 9 months to complete.

Concerning the Sacred Spaces proposal, Etherton stated she has applied for grant funding for this project, but she is not confident that she will receive it. She clarified that the Reentry Coordinator position would be a county employee. Flowerday cautioned if new staff positions are in any plans, he expects concrete plans as to how to continue funding after the ARPA funds are exhausted.

When discussing the Sanitas Villa, Etherton said the housing and the outpatient treatment would be separate buildings, yet on the same property as well as the park area. Site visit expenditures were added to the proposal as there are similar projects in the country that would be beneficial to visit. Also, she added a separate villa focused on men with an additional cost request.

When asked about community partnerships for the Sanitas Villa, Etherton answered St. Monica's along with various other community agencies and organizations.

Vest inquired who would be responsible for the facility's ongoing costs for maintenance and utilities. Etherton said there would need to be consideration for a partnership with other agencies.

Human Services

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director, discussed the impact of the pandemic on the community and the non-profit organizations. Gaps in the non-profit sector were magnified at a level that have never been seen before. She reviewed a \$15,000,000 request for the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) as it is a process that agencies are familiar with and transparent through. The proposal provides opportunities for infrastructure funding, not for operational expenses (Exhibit 2).

When asked how many could be helped if this proposal were accepted, Hoyle answered there are currently 25 JBC agencies.

Yoakum felt having resilient non-profit organizations in the community would ensure that citizens continue to get the help they need.

Hoyle reviewed a \$6,000,000 proposal for a family resource center where youth and families can go with behavioral health needs.

County/City Property Management

Peterson reviewed the requests (Exhibit 3).

Flowerday discussed the ARPA funds proposal draft (Exhibit 4). He stated tourism investments can bring the biggest impact to the community. Also, he assumed the County's portion of the Health Department's \$9,000,000 request to be 30%.

Schorr spoke about the rural water project noting that as the South Beltway opens surrounding commercial developments could stress the water system.

Brad Johnson, Corrections Director, proposed to purchase two body scanners similar to those at airports (Exhibit 5). He estimated the cost to be \$140,000 per machine.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Peterson to continue with the process for an updated HVAC system.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Johnson to continue with the process for two body scanners.

Schorr noted the JBC would discuss the funding at their next meeting.

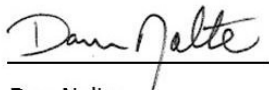
Regarding Community Corrections projects, Etherton said she felt the Sacred Spaces project would be the easiest to begin, noting that if the grant she applied for was awarded, she could use those funds elsewhere within the project.

Meyer stated preliminary ARPA fund plans are due to the federal government by August 31.

Schorr requested the rural water project be added to an upcoming staff meeting agenda.

2. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 11:31 a.m. Yoakum, Flowerday, Schorr, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

