

**BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 112 – CITY/COUNTY CHAMBERS  
10:00 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Chief Deputy Administrative Officer; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska web site and provided to the media on July 13, 2020.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

- 1. BUDGET UPDATE** – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; and Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Meyer said there is approximately an additional \$1,800,000 to fund the Engineer's budget requests.

Dingman stated the highway allocation funds are in freefall. She has spoken with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the original projected gas tax revenue of \$9,400,000 has been revised to \$7,700,000. Additionally, she requested \$1,800,000 primarily to fund paving South 98<sup>th</sup> Street from Old Cheney Road to A Street. These funds would be reimbursable through the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO) if advanced construction is used. She has been informed by the City of Lincoln that they are unable to complete the design for the MPO funding.

Regarding funding, Dingman said there are infrastructure bills at the federal level aimed at shovel-ready projects, which are projects that have completed all planning and permitting and are ready to begin. The funding will be concentrated on county bridges; therefore, several contracts for bridge design will be on future Board agendas.

Dingman reviewed the bridge and special road projects (Exhibit 1). She stated she is concerned about continuing to delay pavement in areas of the County that need it and does the best maintenance possible with the allocated funds. Additionally, the Transportation Strategy Final Report (September 18, 2018) by Olsson and Associates has not been able to be acted upon.

Flowerday suggested increasing the Engineer's budget by \$1,000,000 from the budget before last year's additional one-time \$3,000,000 allocation. He said he anticipates \$600,000 from MPO to the County in the next few years.

Regarding shovel-ready projects, Schorr asked for the number of projects and cost estimates. Dingman answered Bridges D-88, G-222, Q-110, W-50 and X-129 could be eligible. No cost estimates were given.

When asked how cutting new pavement from the budget would impact projects, Dingman said bridges that are already closed, except F-88, would not be funded, and South 98<sup>th</sup> Street paving, Southwest 14<sup>th</sup> Street paving and bridges Q-110 and N-114 would be impacted.

Amundson asked how the reimbursement with shovel-ready projects works, especially as it pertains to the paving of South 98<sup>th</sup> Street. Dingman said the design would be completed in-house, which includes time and overhead cost estimates, constructed per standards and approved, and it would be reimbursed beginning October 1. If bid, the project could be started, but may not be completed by October 1. If funding is allocated, the project can be pushed through.

Flowerday reiterated a drastic cut in the Engineering budget is needed. Meyer added the budget reductions totaled approximately \$1,000,000.

Schorr said the priorities of the Board can change from year to year.

Vest and Flowerday stated additional funding sources are needed, such as a wheel tax or bonding for roads and bridges. Flowerday added the County has been advocating for bridge bonding since September 14, 1868.

Vest thanked Dingman for all she does for the County.

Regarding the MPO funds, Dingman said the funds are intended for growth on the urban fringes, which she feels should be directed to the County. For 20 years, the City of Lincoln took all of the MPO funding. Otherwise, the split has been 90% to the City and 10% to the County.

Schorr suggested the Commissioners all attend the next MPO meeting.

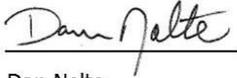
Schorr stated she wants the MPO funds to go towards the paving of South 98<sup>th</sup> Street.

Dingman reiterated next fiscal year there will be no pavement on South 98<sup>th</sup> Street or Southwest 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and no construction work on bridges N-114, Q-110, W-150 or E-171. There will be funds to complete designs on bridges D-88, G-222, Q-110, W-50, X-129 and possibly E-171.

Meyer said Thursday's meeting will include discussions on body cameras and various budget items. Schorr noted she will be leaving Thursday's meeting early.

## 2. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn at 11:08 a.m. Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk



# LANCASTER COUNTY

## Bridge Fund Projects FY21

**EXHIBIT**

