

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair; Roma Amundson; Sean Flowerday

Commissioners Absent: Christa Yoakum, Vice Chair; Rick Vest

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website and emailed to the media on July 13 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on July 11, 2022.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 7, 2022

MOTION: Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the minutes. Amundson, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Yoakum and Vest were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

2. DISCUSSION OF JOINT HEARING AND RESOLUTION RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE BY THE COUNTY OF NOT TO EXCEED \$95,000,000 OF REVENUE AND REFUNDING BONDS (BRYAN PROJECTS), IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, FOR THE BENEFIT OF BRYAN MEDICAL CENTER, TO FINANCE AND REFINANCE THE COST OF ACQUIRING AND CONSTRUCTING IMPROVEMENTS, EXPANSIONS, AND ADDITIONS TO BRYAN'S CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTY AND IN CRETE, NEBRASKA – Colleen Duncan, Shareholder, Gilmore & Bell, P.C.; and Mike Dewerff, Chief Financial Officer, and Don Sheets, Facilities Director, Bryan Medical Center

Duncan stated Bryan Hospital would use tax exempt bonds to refund previously issued bonds and for improvements to their campuses in Lancaster County and in Crete using the County as conduit financing as prescribed by federal tax laws. The lender details are being finalized. A hearing is required by federal tax law to allow the public to provide comment on the proposed bonds and the project. She requested the Board hold a joint hearing between themselves and the City of Crete to allow for the Crete citizens to participate in the hearing.

Dewerff said the new funds will be used to purchase a support building that will house the accounting, finance, information technology and human resources teams. The reimbursement will be used for the surgery rooms and remodeling upgrades on the east campus and at the Crete hospital, including 14 operating rooms, 40 private post-surgical rooms and 18 anesthesia recovery rooms.

3. INTRODUCTION OF CAITLIN ORTH, EMPLOYEE HEALTH & WELLNESS COORDINATOR, LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – David Humm, Health Promotion & Outreach Manager, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and Sue Eckley, Lancaster County Risk Manager

Eckley and Humm introduced Orth as the new Health and Wellness Coordinator. Orth discussed her background and said she is looking forward to building upon the current program.

COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Pat Lopez, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Director, reported the COVID risk dial has moved to orange. There were three deaths in July, all older adults with underlying health issues. Hospitalizations have increased to 47 individuals. 67.8% of the population is vaccinated including 700 children under age 5. 43% of individuals ages 65 and older have received second boosters. Some assisted living communities have had outbreaks. Continued education on the benefits of the vaccinations is necessary. Additionally, this weekend several large pediatric clinics are being held with local physicians as well as vaccines given by St. Elizabeth hospital.

Lopez discussed the wastewater testing for COVID which has been established as predictive approximately one week out. The current prevalent COVID variants in the County are BA4 and BA5.

She noted the possibility of City and County employees being requested to wear masks in indoor settings.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Region V Services Committee Meeting – Yoakum

No report given.

B. Region V Systems Governing Board Meeting – Yoakum

No report given.

C. Youth Crisis Response Committee – Amundson

Amundson reported there has been a drop in the number of crisis contacts; however, the severity of the issues has increased. There were also discussions on Cedars' Street Outreach program and the newly active 988 mental health line.

D. Public Building Commission (PBC) – Amundson/Flowerday

Flowerday said there is an open citizen position on the PBC due to a recent resignation. Topics discussed included the garage doors in the parking garage, safety alarm upgrade and National Adoption Day.

E. Lincoln - Lancaster County Board of Health – Flowerday

Flowerday stated no meeting was held.

F. Rural Fire Radio Communications Steering Committee – Flowerday

Flowerday reported the committee will be using the informal bidding process to search for more radio communications consultants.

G. Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center Advisory Committee – Yoakum

No report given.

H. Other Meetings Attended Since the Last Staff Meeting

No reports given.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (UNION NEGOTIATIONS) – Barb McIntyre, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; Ashely Bohnet, Deputy County Attorney; and Ben Houchin, Chief Deputy, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office

MOTION: Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to enter Executive Session at 8:59 a.m. for the purposes of union negotiations and to protect the public interest.

The Chair said it has been moved and seconded that the Board enter Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Flowerday, Amundson and Schorr voted yes. Yoakum and Vest were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

The Chair restated the purpose for the Board entering Executive Session.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:15 a.m. Amundson, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Yoakum and Vest were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

5. COLA FOR UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES – Barb McIntyre, Director, Nicole Gross, Compensation and Classification Manager, and Amy Sadler, Human Resource Specialist, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources

McIntyre stated she has no additional information to present following the July 7 staff meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to support a 3.25% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for unrepresented employees. The fiscal impact is \$848,250.

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to direct the County Attorney's Office to draft a resolution for a 3.25% COLA for the unrepresented employees. Flowerday, Amundson and Schorr voted yes. Yoakum and Vest were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

6. VICTORY PARK LEASE – Kerin Peterson, Director, Facilities and Properties; and John Ward, Deputy County Attorney

Ward reviewed the lease (see agenda packet). He noted Building #2 on Exhibit B will be stricken whereby only Building #45 will be referenced. He and Peterson estimated the common area/maintenance fee at 2%. Peterson added utilities still need to be brought into the building at an estimated cost of \$300,000.

Ward stated the lease will be on the upcoming Tuesday agenda for Board action.

Schorr exited the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

7. BREAK

The break was taken later in the meeting (see Item 8).

8. BUDGET UPDATE – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Schorr returned to the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

A. County Engineer – Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Dingman reviewed a list of federal aid projects (Exhibit 2). Meyer said \$2,700,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) revenue replacement funds will be added to the Engineering budget and used for pavement on Southwest 14th Street and for Bridge E-38 repairs. There will be \$4,700,000 in the County's Sinking Fund for federal aid projects. The County's share of federal aid projects will be \$7,200,000 (see agenda packet). Dingman added between \$7,500,000-\$10,000,000 in bridge projects will be bundled together and submitted for federal aid funds. So far, Engineering has secured \$38,000,000 in federal funds.

Meyer stated \$2,500,000 in ARPA funds will be used for culverts. Dingman said most of the work on federal aid projects will be done inhouse, although a contract for pipe designs is forthcoming.

Dingman reviewed bridge construction contracts (Exhibit 3) noting construction prices continue to rise due to inflation.

Meyer reported a cash reserve of \$1,575,000 will be set up for building replacement and repairs (Exhibit 4). A facilities study should be conducted to determine building needs. The study is estimated at \$89,000 using funds from the Building Fund. A contract will come to the Board at a later date. Dingman added the newer equipment no longer fits inside some of the current buildings.

Schorr asked what other projects are planned using the Building Fund. Meyer answered Victory Park and County Extension Office updates.

Dingman requested an expanded bridge crew (Exhibit 5) which would allow for quicker completion of projects, estimated at 18 months from the current 30 months wait.

Schorr reminded Dingman the Board has previously stated no new Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) with

property tax dollars.

Amundson inquired when the bridge crew was eliminated. Dingman answered in 2008. She added with the increase in subdivision road care and other maintenance projects, employees have begun working on the weekends. There is enough work to sustain a bridge crew, and the larger equipment needed is already available. She felt confident she would be able to fill the open positions. Schorr requested a list of contracts that would be cancelled if a bridge crew were hired.

Meyer reviewed the Keno funds as pertaining to the East Beltway (see agenda packet). Dingman felt the East Beltway is a \$1,000,000,000 project as additional right-of-way purchases will need to take place.

Dingman noted the need to order equipment that will exceed the department's spending limit of 1/12 of the fiscal budget. Meyer stated he will research this and report back to the Board.

B. Community Corrections – Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director

Meyer reminded the Board that Community Corrections expenses are increasing 9% and revenues are dropping 28% (see agenda packet). Etherton said an additional \$40,000 in matrix revenues from the State are anticipated to be received this fiscal year as well as \$52,000 for Diversion Services fees. She noted STOP class revenue has decreased by 46% due to fewer traffic stops. The current contract with the Nebraska Safety Council covers 5,000 STOP classes per year. If more classes are needed the County purchases additional classes. She will discuss lowering the contracted number of classes.

Schorr asked about outstanding grant requests. Etherton said she is waiting to hear about a grant for reentry housing for young males and a grant for a culturally competent treatment program for young black men.

Regarding expenses, Etherton stated if a Drug Court grant is not awarded, she will need to eliminate \$50,000-\$60,000 in housing contracts. Also, an open clerical position will be left unfilled which will save \$47,000.

BREAK

The meeting was recessed at 9:43 a.m. and reconvened at 9:51 a.m.

C. Youth Services Center (YSC) – Steven Wesley, Youth Services Director

Melissa Hood, Youth Services Center Administrator, was present.

Meyer reported the YSC original budget request was reduced \$250,000 as follows: nursing services by \$142,000, training by \$30,000, training supplies by \$3,000, Corrections Academy by \$4,000, accreditation by \$20,000, computers by \$1,000 and a \$50,000 key cabinet.

Wesley discussed the importance of the key cabinet as it provides security, includes alerts and reports and creates accountability. Hood added funds for a key cabinet were allocated in a previous budget but cut due to later budget constraints. Amundson stated she wants the key cabinet in this year's budget.

Schorr asked how the reduction in nursing services will impact services to youth. Wesley answered the new nursing contract is available with an increase in services but not at the initial request level. The updated contract will allow for nursing coverage seven days a week, with four hours per day on the weekend.

Concerning personnel issues, Wesley requested the Board consider increasing an unfilled .5 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. This position would assist with youth transports, primarily court visits, as well as intakes and releases. Wesley showed transport data from June 1, 2022 through July 13, 2022 (Exhibit 1). He noted the data does not include the hours for video court appearances and attorney visits. With the current staffing, a staff member is pulled from the floor to assist with transportation duties and, for safety, there should be two officers.

Wesley also discussed the reclassification of a Program Coordinator to a Juvenile Detention Supervisor. The necessary reclassification paperwork has been submitted to Human Resources (HR) and is pending. The reclassification, which would have a \$10,000 fiscal impact, could be absorbed in the budget. Hood added there is also the need to reclassify the Account Clerk as that individual has performed duties outside of the current position. HR has approved the reclassification which would have a \$7,000-\$10,000 budgetary impact. Wesley said these positions are key in rebuilding a behavior management program. Steps already taken to rebuilding the program include site visits, the implementation of a work group and new methodology and policies. The Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA) has sat in on workgroup meetings.

Flowerday said he was supportive of including the key cabinet and reclassifications, but not increasing the .5 FTE at this point. Schorr and Amundson wanted to hold the reclassifications.

9. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Item moved forward on agenda.

10. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. Region V Services Committee Meeting – Yoakum**
- B. Region V Systems Governing Board Meeting – Yoakum**
- C. Youth Crisis Response Committee – Amundson**
- D. Public Building Commission – Amundson/Flowerday**
- E. Lincoln - Lancaster County Board of Health – Flowerday**
- F. Rural Fire Radio Communications Steering Committee – Flowerday**
- G. Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center Advisory Committee – Yoakum**
- H. Other Meetings Attended Since the Last Staff Meeting**

Items A-H moved forward on agenda.

11. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

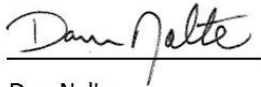
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12. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. Amundson, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Yoakum and Vest were absent. Motion carried 3-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

