

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023, AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 – CITY COUNTY CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present: Roma Amundson, Matt Schulte and Rick Vest

Commissioners Absent: Christa Yoakum and Sean Flowerday

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer, and Courtney Lyons, Deputy 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 the media on July 19, 2023. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on July 17, 2023.

Amundson noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded to amend the agenda to include an executive session under Item 3 for the purposes of protecting the public interest, receiving legal advice and discussing potential litigation.

Vest noted the item arose at a time that made it impossible to appear on the agenda and that it was of an emergency nature. Amundson restated the purposes for amending the agenda to include an executive session.

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

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 13, 2023

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

2. VISITORS PROMOTION COMMITTEE PROMOTION FUND GRAND RECOMMENDATIONS – Jeff Maul, Vice President and Executive Director, Visit Lincoln, and Aaron Stitt, Chair, Visitors Promotion Committee

Maul reported grant awards were determined at the June Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) meeting (see agenda packet). Stitt discussed grant recipients of \$5,000 VPC marketing grants awarded at the meeting, including grants to Branched Oak Observatory, Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln Community Playhouse, Nebraska Communities Playhouse, Nebraska Sports Council, and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Stitt clarified the grant to the Flatwater Shakespeare Company is for \$493.

Stitt stated the VPC wants to be good stewards of the funds and spend them in a way that results in increased lodging tax collections. They will have another cycle of grants in the fall. Vest asked if there is a limit to how frequently organizations can apply, and Stitt answered one per calendar year. Vest asked if there is a maximum number of grants available, and Stitt answered they budget a dollar amount every year but have not yet spent the budgeted amount. Amundson asked how many years the VPC has been awarding the marketing grants, and Stitt answered it began as a result of the pandemic in 2021. Stitt thanked the Board for using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the grant program and for the VPC.

Schulte asked if the process requires grant recommendations to come to the Board on a Tuesday meeting. Derbin suggested the Board motion to accept the grant recommendations, and the Board will vote on grant contracts as they are completed at future Tuesday meetings.

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded approval of the recommendations.

Schulte noted he had recently visited the Branched Oak Observatory for the first time.

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

3. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (NACO) UPDATE – Jon Cannon, Executive Director, NACO

Cannon stated the NACO office is always available for Board members to use. He described resources and upcoming events available to Board members. The National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference is this week. There will be an assessors' workshop in August in Kearney. Amundson asked if there will be discussion on Section 42 housing, and Cannon answered no. He said he knows other counties have encountered similar issues as Lancaster County regarding Section 42, so there may be informal discussion on the topic.

Cannon stated the NACO Legislative Conference will be in October in West Point and described the conference. Vest noted the common issues all Nebraska counties face. Cannon stated he represents the version of government closest to its people and said it was a privilege.

Cannon said NACO staff are researching County budgets and spending priorities and found there are five large counties based on budget: Hall, Buffalo, Sarpy, Douglas and Lancaster.

Cannon described the upcoming NACO Annual Conference in Kearney.

Cannon said NACO recently conducted a study to examine county needs where NACO could provide services and listed geographic information systems (GIS), cybersecurity, websites and mass appraisals as needs to prioritize. To expand resources, Cannon said NACO is planning to open an office in Ogallala, Nebraska. Vest commended Cannon on the plans and asked if NACO has renters to offset the cost. Cannon said yes. Amundson asked when it will open, and Cannon said December of next year or January of 2025.

Cannon discussed future updates to the Multi-county Information and Programming Services (MIPS) Division of NACO, including adding GIS and mass appraisal technology services. Due to these added

services, NACO hired a deputy director for the MIPS division so they are prepared to serve all counties. Cannon said NACO has entered a cybersecurity cooperative with vendors in Scottsbluff and Albian and described plans for the cooperative to provide cybersecurity services to counties.

Cannon gave a summary of the 2023 legislative session and noted NACO tracked 275 bills of interest to counties. Cannon provided summaries of the following passed bills: LB243, a bill that affects property taxes; LB727, which updated previous legislation that requires counties to send notices on increased property taxes and changes how properties within city limits are valued; LB514, which requires identification when voting; and LB77, which allows concealed carrying of a weapon without a permit. Cannon encouraged Board members to engage with their state senators.

Vest stated he appreciated the topics discussed at the June workshop. Amundson said NACO has done well with the leadership transition.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Protecting the Public Interest

B. Legal Advice

C. Potential Litigation (Which is Imminent as Evidenced by Communication of a Claim or Threat of Litigation to or by the Public Body)

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded to enter executive session for the purposes of protecting the public interest, receiving legal advice and discussing potential litigation at 9:12 a.m.

Amundson restated the purposes for entering executive session.

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

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded to exit executive session at 9:39 a.m. Schulte, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Flowerday and Yoakum were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

5. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Schulte reported the Board failed to meet quorum but received updates on golf and pool attendance and park alcohol permits.

B. REALTORS ASSOCIATION GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amundson reported there was no meeting in June.

C. MUTUAL AID

Schulte reported neither himself nor Flowerday were able to attend.

D. DISTRICT ENERGY CORPORATION

Vest reported the Corporation failed to make quorum.

E. OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE LAST STAFF MEETING

No other meetings were discussed.

6. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

See agenda.

7. EMERGENCY ITEMS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Schulte seconded to adjourn at 9:43 a.m. Vest, Schulte and Amundson voted yes. Flowerday and Yoakum were absent. Motion carried 3-0.



Matt Hansen
Lancaster County Clerk

