

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer and Dan Nolte, 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 media on July 21, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on July 19, 2021.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 15, 2021

MOTION: Amundson moved and Schorr seconded approval of the July 15, 2021, Staff Meeting minutes. Schorr, Amundson, and Vest voted yes. Flowerday and Yoakum were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

Flowerday and Yoakum entered the meeting at 8:36 a.m. and 8:37 a.m., respectively.

2. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES ACT RESOLUTIONS – Jen Holloway, Deputy County Attorney

Holloway discussed proposed changes to the Miscellaneous Expenditures Act (see agenda packet). She explained that the Commissioner's Award of Excellence program will now be managed by the County Board Office. For travel and meals, department heads will now be able to approve their own travel. Kevin Nelson, Accounting Operations Manager, explained that the Clerk's Office will be looking at mileage for reasonableness, and that the reimbursement is sought in a timely manner.

Schorr asked if the process is adequate or if additional oversight is necessary. Derbin said one cannot verify that a person actually went to a conference, and that any safeguards put in place would be similar to the way the Clerk's Office reviews travel.

Holloway stated there will also be changes in the way mileage is reimbursed for agencies that have their own vehicles and, instead of using those vehicles, choose to use a personal vehicle. There will be a reimbursement rate of 41.5 cents for those trips. Nelson explained that his team will be examining if the reimbursement was authorized by the department director.

A quarterly report will be developed for County Board approval. The report will show mileage reimbursement by agency.

3. BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE COLLABORATIVE CRISIS RESPONSE TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT – Sara Hoyle, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Services

Hoyle said a partnership with Douglas County is being established to apply for the crisis response training grant for both entities. Douglas County will be a sub grant recipient if the application is successful.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Schorr seconded to approve seeking the grant. Flowerday, Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUDGET AND ARPA UPDATE – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

A. ARPA Funding Survey Results

As of July 20, 2021, the total of Survey responses is 590.

The current Ranking is as follows:

1. Support Public Health Response
2. Addressing Negative Economic Impacts
3. Equity-Focused Services
4. Broadband Infrastructure
5. Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Meyer said the General Fund budget being developed will be \$128,500,000, which is a 4.2% increase over last year. There will be an \$18,600,000 fund balance remaining. He expects the cash reserve to be \$16,600,000 which is 13% of the County's budget.

Regarding future upgrades, Meyer stated the proposed Emergency Management building will not be funded but will remain on the list for future consideration. He recommended budgeting \$125,000 for the County Extension remodel. He said this will need to be discussed further to determine the next step with that project. The Building Fund will be used for the Sheriff's Office remodel and for the shooting range expenses. There may be sufficient funds to upgrade two court rooms. Additionally, Information Services will determine how to handle court technology needs.

Meyer said he needs to cover \$335,000 for the Engineer's proposed budget and could do so by reducing the sinking fund by that amount. Meyer suggested moving \$550,000 from the Keno fund to current year needs for the Engineers budget and replenishing the sinking fund by that amount with Cares Act dollars next year for 68th street upgrades. Those dollars would fund the Bridge and Special Roads fund for 68th Street. Schorr said 68th needs to happen as it is a priority for schools, emergency vehicles, and safety.

It was the consensus of the Board to reduce the Engineer's proposed budget by \$335,000 and retain the South 68th Street improvements in the budget.

Meyer discussed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He anticipates an additional \$30,000,000 in funding and recommended putting \$20,000,000 into the expense budget. Schorr noted they would fund \$4,000,000 for the rural water project if it fits into ARPA guidelines. Meyer said the HVAC replacement and construction projects at the Youth Services Center and the Mental Health Crisis

Center will use ARPA funds if they meet requirements. Jail body scanners would also be funded. There will be about \$17,800,000 for future ARPA projects. It is uncertain how soon broadband to rural areas of the County will be constructed.

5. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

It was noted that most infections are occurring with unvaccinated individuals. Amundson said there are fewer vaccinations occurring among younger citizens.

6. ACTION ITEM

- A. Contract with CJJA to provide for on-site operational and pre-hiring activities; onboarding training and technical assistance; and post-hiring technical assistance at the Youth Services Center. The Cost to the County is \$149,304.16**

Derbin noted there was a facility assessment done several weeks ago. They will also be providing assistance for the new director, both on site as well as remotely.

- B. Authorization to submit the Bureau of Justice Assistance Collaborative Crisis Response Training Program grant application in the amount of \$150,000**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to seek the grant funding. Yoakum, Flowerday, Schorr, Amundson, and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

7. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Claim for Review for Vouchers 731486 and 731487 on Batch 269247 to Verizon Wireless, dated July 19, 2021, for a total of \$540.00. This claim includes billing for services performed in March 2021. These claims are beyond the 90-day time period. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-135.**

Derbin explained there was a delay in receiving the payment vouchers as the invoice was originally sent to the Lincoln Police Department (LPD).

The Chair tabled a decision on the claim until later in the meeting.

8. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. 10 Year JDAI Celebration – Amundson/Yoakum/Derbin**

Amundson said the event was well attended with several elected officials and non-profit providers in attendance.

- B. New Americans Task Force Meeting – Yoakum**

No report was given.

C. Mutual Aid Meeting – Schorr/Flowerday

Schorr said emergency responders may receive additional training at Southeast Community College. She noted that rural responders will be at the Garth Brooks Concert as it will be a large event. She said there is scheduled a plane crash simulation is scheduled in September for rescue training.

D. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Schorr/Flowerday

No report was given.

E. District Energy Corporation (DEC) Meeting – Flowerday/Schorr/Derbin

Flowerday said construction projects were discussed. Due to COVID, budgeted costs shifted to this year, presenting some challenges. The impact of the winter storm on DEC was also discussed.

F. MPO Officials Committee Meeting – Schorr/Derbin/Vest

Vest said work was authorized for projects on Highway 2 and Highway 77.

Schorr exited the meeting at 9:50 a.m. to attend a Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) meeting.

OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

JDAI Steering Committee

Amundson reported a legislative update was given, including how truancy diversion will be handled. She noted that 135 high-risk youth were served with an 87% success rate.

RETURNING TO ITEM 7A

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to move the claim to a Tuesday meeting as a regular claim. Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday, and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

9. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

Informational purposes only.

10. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 9:58 a.m. Flowerday, Yoakum, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Dan Nolte

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

