

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

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

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Kristy Bauer, Deputy 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 27, 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on July 25, 2022.

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 FROM JULY 21, 2022

MOTION: Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the minutes. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson and Schorr voted yes. Yoakum abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

2. BRIEFING ON APPEAL OF BID 22-120 – Candace Berens, Deputy County Attorney, and Jeff Kimble, Purchasing Agent

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, was present for the discussion.

Dingman reviewed the appeal documents (see agenda packet). She stated both the work resume and relevant experience were discussed with Dynamic Dirtworks and the Procurement Appeals Board, who voted unanimously to uphold the bid denial. Berens said the appeal was based on the fact that Dynamic Dirtworks felt they were the lowest bid and had relevant experience. Dingman added the applicant noted he has worked as a subcontractor for other County projects and that the County has no record of such subcontractor designation. Also, the company has been awarded other smaller County contracts.

Berens said the recommendation will move to Tuesday's agenda for Board action.

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

Meyer stated the County's budget hearing will be held August 23, 2022 before the regular Board meeting. He noted the Adult Detention Facility Joint Public Agency (JPA) budget hearing will be held after the Board meeting on August 23.

Additionally, a special public hearing for taxing entities affected by LB644 (Adopt the Property Tax

Request Act, change dates relating to tax levies, and change provisions relating to property tax refunds) will be held September 22 after 6:00 p.m. in the Chambers. Additional information on this hearing will be discussed at a future Board staff meeting. Regarding the printing of the meeting notification postcard, Meyer said the Board will need to designate the State print shop as the printer of the postcards.

Meyer reviewed the proposed budget (Exhibit 1). The property tax request will increase 2.5% and five new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions will be included in the budget. None of approved FTEs use new property tax fund requests. Expenditure increases for union contracts, medical costs and court appointed counsel rates affected the budget the most. Concerning court appointed counsel rates, Lancaster County is tied with Sarpy County as the highest hourly rate in the State at \$125 per hour. The average of the State is \$95-\$100 per hour.

Schorr inquired if Meyer has spoken to LIBA about the budget. Meyer replied LIBA has not requested a presentation.

4. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Bauer discussed the proposed updates to the Workplace Response to COVID-19 Personnel Policy Bulletin 2022-1, stating when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracker has a community rate of medium or high, employees of the Youth Services Center (YSC), Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) and Corrections will be required to wear masks. When the CDC tracker has a community rate of low, those department directors have the discretion to require employees to wear masks. Also, department heads outside of the YSC, MHCC and Corrections may require employees to wear masks. An email will be sent to agency heads regarding the proposed changes. The item will be on the upcoming Personnel Policy Board meeting agenda.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Reappointments to the Aging Partners Areawide Advisory Council for the term from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025:

- 1. Irina Garakian**
- 2. Jenika Long**
- 3. John Wyvill**

It was the consensus of the Board to move the reappointments to a Tuesday meeting for Board action.

B. Proposed Broadband Community Informational Meetings:

- 1. Wednesday, September 14th, Firth Community Center**
- 2. Thursday, September 15th, Davey Community Center**

Derbin stated the open house meetings will be hosted by JEO and held from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Amundson and Flowerday will attend the Firth meeting and Vest and Yoakum will attend the Davey meeting.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Submission of Grant Application to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Arts Program for Justice-Involved Youth in the amount of \$66,500

Hoyle reviewed the grant application (see agenda packet). She noted the Lux Center personnel budget line will be reduced by \$8,000 as the Asian and Cultural Center will be assisting with some of the costs.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded approval of the grant submission. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson, Yoakum and Schorr voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Resolution setting a public hearing on August 16, 2022, regarding vacating Road 1208, more particularly described in Exhibits "A" and "B", and located in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Berens stated the Board approved a resolution at the July 26 meeting (R-22-0062) which did not have a public hearing date included. Action today will set the hearing for August 16, 2022.

MOTION: Vest moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the resolution. Vest, Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday and Schorr voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

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Items moved forward on agenda.

7. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Lancaster County Ag Society – Amundson/Vest

Vest and Amundson indicated they did not attend the meeting.

B. Economic Development Breakfast – Flowerday/Vest

Flowerday stated there were discussions on internet speed in the County and City as well as a presentation from Broad Ripple Strategies focusing on the changing workforce.

C. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Vest/Yoakum

Vest reported there were presentations on subdivision road maintenance and on Crime Stoppers investigative services. There were also discussions on the County budget, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, the upcoming Legislative Retreat, tourism, the Lancaster County Super Fair and the Waverly pool project.

D. Monthly Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair and Planning Department – Schorr/Yoakum

Schorr said discussions focused on permits from the Planning Department, the amendment to the Keno Emergency Fund policy, the Bay, the United Way grant process, Project Connect and the upcoming August 22 Family Resource Center stakeholder meeting.

E. OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE THE LAST STAFF MEETING

Vest stated he attended a tour at the Material and Machinery Corporation, a diagnostics supply company.

Bennet Village Board

Amundson reported the Village of Bennet is approaching a Class II city. There were discussions concerning having an economic development council or a chamber of commerce.

JDAI Steering Committee

Amundson said the Juvenile Public Defender’s team is currently understaffed and a Bridging the Gap event is being planned. Also, in the past year, 32 youth have been taken into Civil Protective Custody (CPC) which is not a good model for this population.

Amundson exited the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

8. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

Informational use only.

9. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Yoakum seconded to adjourn at 9:23 a.m. Yoakum, Flowerday, Vest and Schorr voted yes. Amundson was absent. Motion carried 4-0.


Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

