

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 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 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 media on August 4, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on August 2, 2021.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 29, 2021

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded approval of the July 29, 2021, Staff Meeting minutes.

Schorr withdrew her motion as she was not at the July 29, 2021, meeting. The seconder concurred.

MOTION: Yoakum moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the July 29, 2021, Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday and Vest voted yes. Schorr abstained. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

2. BRIEFING ON TX21005 – Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager, and Tom Cajka, County Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

Henrichsen reviewed the staff report (see agenda packet). The text amendment was proposed by David Levy on behalf of Salt Creek Solar LLC, which is to amend Article 14 for Community Unit Plans (CUP), which relates to what is allowed on CUP outlots. The Planning staff recommended approval as proposed by the applicant. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the Text Amendment with an amendment (Exhibit 1).

Henrichsen discussed the amendment noting that under the current definition the outlet space can be used as open space or for agricultural use. The amendment adds the possibility for the area to be used for solar energy conversion systems. He said if the amendment is approved, a solar facility would not be approved, but the use would be approved for special permit application (Article 13) by a solar facility. There is an application intent for a special permit after the text amendment has been acted upon by the Board.

Henrichsen reviewed maps that showed CUPs in which the blue outlined property is zoned for open space, agricultural use and the possibility for solar use, whereas the red outline property does not have the possibility for solar use (Exhibit 2).

Henrichsen also stated that the Planning Commission amendment to the text amendment would allow for solar use to be on the property, but only on outlots created after the effective date of the text amendment (Exhibit 1).

Schorr inquired could the outlots be used for solar panels if the property owners of the existing outlots voted for the use. Henrichsen noted that scenario was not specifically addressed.

Vest verified that these standards are County standards and would apply outside the 3-mile jurisdiction. Henrichsen added the City of Lincoln jurisdiction is phrased differently and allows for solar panels.

Henrichsen said this item will on the Board agenda with public hearing on August 17. Vest noted the Board will vote on the text amendment on August 24.

Flowerday thanked Henrichsen and the Planning Department for their work on this item.

It was the consensus of the Board to set the voting date for August 24, 2021.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Chamber Coffee – Vest / Yoakum

Vest and Yoakum were unable to attend the meeting.

Flowerday reported there was appreciation shown for the County's lowering of the levy. Also, he said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln tuition was frozen. There was also discussion about a sidewalk café ordinance, the City and County budgets, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) priorities, and the success of the National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR).

B. JDAI Collaborative Meeting – Yoakum / Amundson

Yoakum stated guidelines for consistent response to referrals have been developed. Other activities include a book discussion group, the City Impact mentorship program with the Lincoln Police Department (LPD), and the cultural centers middle school and high school youth graduation celebrations.

OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

Youth Services Center

Vest reported he and Flowerday went to the Youth Services Center (YSC) and expressed support and appreciation for the staff and their hard work. A proposed email communication to the YSC was distributed (Exhibit 3). Flowerday suggested the Commissioners hold briefings with the YSC staff to listen to their concerns and thank them for their service.

- 3. PRUDENTIAL RETIREMENT SALE TO EMPOWER** – Julie Klassen, Prudential Vice President, Key Accounts; Robb D. Craddock, Prudential Vice President, Investment Strategy; Crystal Vacura, Manager, West/Midwest Plans and Senior Counselor, Lancaster County

Klassen and Craddock attended the meeting via Zoom. Vacura attended the meeting via telephone.

Klassen reviewed the presentation on the sale of Prudential Retirement to Empower Retirement (see agenda packet). The sale is expected to close in the first quarter of 2022. She stated it is expected that Prudential staff and investment options will move over to Empower, including GoalMaker. Fees and services will also remain intact, including the plan expense account balances.

Vest exited the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and returned at 9:07 a.m.

Vacura said information will be forwarded to Derbin for dissemination to plan participants in a manner as the County sees fit.

Craddock emphasized changes will be well documented. Vacura added the employees will see a new logo and company name once the sale is complete.

- 4. BOE PROCESS** – Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; Cody Gerdes, Great Plains Appraisal, Inc.

Beattie and Gerdes briefed the Board on the upcoming property protest valuation meeting. Most of the protest values will be presented as one item. There are some protests that will need separate discussion and action as they are missing required pieces of information and the Board does not have the statutory authority to act upon those protests.

Schorr felt it is important for the public to be heard. Beattie noted the public can speak on the agenda item and it will not be a separate public comment section.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue the previous year's process and not accept additional information at the meeting and to not televise next week's BOE meeting.

5. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

A. Workplace Response to COVID-19 Personnel Policy Bulletin

Pat Lopez, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Director, stated the positive COVID cases are shifting into the ages of 24 and under at 35%, 20% of which are in ages 18 and younger. Unvaccinated individuals are contributing to the recent increase in positive COVID cases. Generally younger individuals have less severe symptoms; however, some southern states have medical facilities that are filled with COVID positive children. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is having a different impact on younger individuals and is more infectious than the virus seen in the fall.

She said vaccinations are provided at the Health Department on a walk-in basis as well as other areas in the community where barriers to vaccinations have been identified.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance is being reviewed as it rapidly changes.

Lopez stated 33 positive COVID cases have been reported this morning, which is a significant increase from recent trends. Fifty-eight individuals are hospitalized with the majority of those being County residents. She added the County has had deaths that are directly related to the COVID Delta variant.

She also reported there has been minority health funding made available for the next two years for work with minority populations. The cultural centers are receiving funding for their work with the Health Department. Additionally, the City of Lincoln has received a \$3,500,000 federal grant to be used for health communications.

Lopez confirmed census data is being used to track vaccinations. Also, COVID testing locations are available at Bryan Urgent Care, CHI, CVS and Walgreens. Both COVID tests and vaccinations have been increasing.

Schorr inquired if there is any indication that children younger than age 12 could be vaccinated soon. Lopez said Pfizer is expected to submit a request to the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) later this week for ages 5-11. She is hopeful the current vaccines will be approved by the FDA and will be moved off of emergency use status.

Regarding booster vaccines, Lopez reported the FDA is not finding them necessary at this time.

The Board discussed various ways in how best to protect the workforce, including offering a vaccine clinic for staff, or a financial incentive for those who get vaccinated. Lopez noted the jail has vaccine doses available at the jail for staff who want to get the vaccine.

ACTION ITEM

A. Longevity Award for Angela Koziol, Business Manager, Department of Corrections, pursuant to Resolution No. R-21-0040

Rick Gray, Jail Administrator, requested permission to provide Koziol with a memento for her service upon her upcoming retirement.

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

RETURNING TO ITEM 5

Derbin requested further discussion and direction on workplace response.

Flowerday stated he wants to pursue a financial incentive for employees to receive the vaccine.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the County Attorney's Office, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and Human Resources to develop an incentive plan for employees to receive the vaccine. Yoakum, Flowerday, Schorr, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Derbin stated LB139 (Adopt the COVID-19 Liability Act and the Health Care Crisis Protocol Act)

provides a statutory safe harbor against civil action provided CDC guidance is followed. The County is currently not in line with current CDC guidance. There is a requirement in congregated living situations to wear a mask. Masks are suggested for non-vaccinated individuals. He said the policy could go back to a mask requirement which would allow department heads to enforce the policy, otherwise, it could be a suggestion.

Yoakum felt CDC guidelines should both be followed and made enforceable. Derbin reminded the Board the CDC guidelines are fluid.

Derbin said for expedited communication, if the Board requests to follow the CDC guidelines, he would send an email to department heads letting them know of the upcoming formal policy bulletin for mask requirements. He also noted he spoke with Lopez regarding rolling the vaccine clinic and employee incentive program together.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to authorize Derbin to move forward with a mask policy to be in line with CDC guidelines. Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday, Schorr and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. ACTION ITEM

A. Longevity Award for Angela Koziol, Business Manager, Department of Corrections, pursuant to Resolution No. R-21-0040

Item moved forward on agenda.

7. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Reappointment of Tracy Edgerton to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission for a term to expire on August 24, 2027

It was and consensus of the Board to move the item to a Tuesday agenda.

B. Appointment of Jay Jarvis to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health for a term to expire on April 15, 2024

It was the consensus of the Board to move the item to a Tuesday agenda.

C. One and Six Meeting Dates

- 1. Evening of Thursday, October 7th**
- 2. Evening of Tuesday, October 12th**

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the meeting on October 12th at 6:30 p.m.

D. Tri-County Meeting

1. **October 7th**
2. **October 14th**
3. **October 21st***

It was the consensus of the Board to maintain the October 21st meeting date at the Lincoln Children's Zoo beginning at 8:30 a.m.

E. Tri-County Breakfast

1. **Friday Morning, January 21, 2022**

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the meeting for January 21st with the format of the meeting (Zoom or in person) to be determined at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS

Derbin noted the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer application process will close soon and interviews will be held the week of August 16. It was the consensus of the Board to hold interviews on August 17th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Schorr noted the City-County Common meeting will be on August 17th at 11:00 a.m.

8. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. **Chamber Coffee** – Vest / Yoakum
- B. **JDAI Collaborative Meeting** – Yoakum / Amundson

Items moved forward on agenda.

9. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

Informational purposes only.

10. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 10:08 a.m. Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.


Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

