

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

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

Others Present: Dave 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 August 9, 2023. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on August 7, 2023.*

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

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 3, 2023**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the minutes. Amundson, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Vest abstained. Schulte was absent. Motion carried 3-0 with one abstention.

**2. BOARD OF CORRECTIONS – Brad Johnson, Corrections Director**

Separate minutes.

**NOTE:** Schulte entered the Board of Corrections meeting at 8:35 a.m.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Union Negotiations; and**
- B. Legal Advice**

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Amundson seconded to enter Executive Session for the purposes of union negotiations, legal advice and to protect the public interest at 9:07 a.m. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Yoakum restated the purposes for entering Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:51 a.m. Schulte, Flowerday, Vest, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **4. COALITION AGAINST BIGGER TRUCKS – Pam Dingman, County Engineer**

Larry Legg, Assistant County Engineer, was present and discussed a congressional movement to increase the load amount for large trucks (see agenda packet). He said pavement design is influenced by axel load weight and felt an increased load amount limit will make the current roads worse. He added if larger load weights were limited to the interstate, state highways or certain connectors to infrastructure, he would be supportive of the proposed change.

Schulte asked if Nebraska has a law against semi-trucks pulling more than two trailers. Legg answered there are federal regulations regarding semi-trucks but that states can have additional restrictions. Schulte said he is supportive of keeping the truck weight limit as is.

It was the consensus of the Board that the letter be signed on behalf of the Board.

#### **5. BRIDGE N-114 GRANT CONTRACT AND LETTER FROM LINCOLN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD**

Legg stated Bridge N-114 is a bridge near the Village of Denton that provides access to the water plant at Denton. The County was awarded \$250,000 through the county bridge match program and, at the time of application, it was the County's intent to partner with Lincoln Parks and Recreation, the Natural Resources District (NRD) and Denton to construct a bridge. The NRD and Lincoln Parks and Recreation are willing to contribute \$100,000 each to the project. Both entities would like to review the bridge plans, as they want to keep the bridge open for pedestrians and bicycle traffic as well as the vehicle traffic for the water plant. Once the bridge is built, the County would vacate it and enter into an interlocal agreement with one of the partnering organizations who would take over maintenance of the bridge.

Flowerday inquired if there are other entities who could assist with this project. Yoakum said the NRD is meeting to discuss maintenance of the bridge. Denton is not willing to maintain the bridge. She asked about the timeline for an interlocal agreement in relation to the county bridge match program grant acceptance. Legg responded an interlocal agreement can be completed at any point, not necessarily before the grant.

Schulte stated he had asked Pam Dingman, County Engineer, about the maintenance cost for a new bridge which is estimated at \$10,000 per year. Legg added a new bridge should have a life of 50 to 100 years. Amundson felt a commitment is needed from the other entities to take over maintenance of the bridge. There was general discussion of the Board sending a letter to the NRD and to Lincoln Parks and Recreation to gauge interest in the project.

John Ward, Deputy County Attorney, asked if the Board would want to wait on the county bridge match program application? Flowerday said yes. Schulte inquired what happens if the County accepts the county bridge match program funds and then does not build the bridge? Ward responded the County would need to reimburse the State the grant funds.

Schulte asked what entity the bridge would go to if it was vacated? Ward stated if there is no specification in the resolution, it would be split between the abutting landowners. Schulte asked if the property owners would get the piece that touches their land. Ward said he would need to conduct some research before answering.

Schulte reiterated the bridge is critical infrastructure for Denton.

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to table the discussion until there is a response from the NRD and Lincoln Parks and Recreation. Schulte, Flowerday, Vest, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

## **6. ROAD VACATIONS**

### **A. BRANCEHD OAK**

John Berry, Chief Deputy County Surveyor, reviewed the road vacation request (see agenda packet). The property is within the one-mile jurisdiction of the Village of Davey and has a dirt road between two driveways, a number of trees and brush, transmission line, metal poles and concrete footings. The roadway was not built to standards, and it would take considerable funds to make it so. It is currently a minimum maintenance road and has 17 vehicles per day.

Tom Cajka, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department Planner, suggested the County check the Davey zoning regulations.

### **B. ROKEBY ROAD**

Berry stated the road used to connect to Highway 77. On the north side of the road is Wilderness Park with other surrounding areas being owned by the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and private citizens. This road would be used as a private driveway. It is within the City of Lincoln's three-mile zoning jurisdiction. The intent is to vacate the entire road in that section. The road is gravel and rock. Ward added if the road is vacated, the maintenance of the road and any removal of gravel would be the responsibility of the landowners.

Cajka said there is a large 51-acre lot, and the landowner could subdivide the property. The City's zoning regulations require a 20-acre lot have 250 feet of street frontage and either be on a public or private road. He recommended holding a meeting between members of the Engineering Department, Parks Department and Planning Department to discuss potential issues. Additionally, the bridge is abutting NDOT's land, and they would be partly responsible for the property if vacated.

## **7. \$.15 ALLOCATION**

Meyer said property valuations will be finalized by August 20. He noted the Agricultural Society will have a 3.5% increase to their levies plus an additional \$45,000 toward their lid capacity. The Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) is requesting a \$.024 levy. Their levy last year was \$.02217. Vest stated the 33<sup>rd</sup> and Cornhusker project is driving the request as a federal grant was not awarded. Amundson added she is in favor of keeping it at the same level.

The Public Building Commission (PBC) will request a levy of \$.015. Meyer noted part of the levy goes for bonds, which are excludable from the allocation amount.

## **8. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

### **A. Rural Fire Radio Communications Steering Committee**

Flowerday noted this meeting was discussed at the staff meeting on August 3, 2023.

### **B. Other Meetings Attended Since Last Staff Meeting**

Flowerday said the Board of Health is instituting a universal home visitation program.

Yoakum attended a broadband meeting that focused on using locator services and how it can delay services.

Flowerday exited the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Amundson attended the Public Building Commission meeting where there were discussions on the bus transfer station, LB77 security resolution, security update, and National Adoption Day.

Schulte attended the Justice Council meeting on August 4. He stated the discussion revolved around the jail numbers. He also said the court date reminder pilot program Gov2Go has been cancelled.

Amundson reported she went to the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) meeting. Topics discussed were the contracting of Probation services with other youth detention services in Iowa, Kansas and Wyoming. Also, Midplains Services will support respite services in Hall County.

## **7. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

See agenda.

## **8. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

None.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Vest moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 10:51 a.m. Amundson, Vest, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Matt Hansen  
Lancaster County Clerk

