

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 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 AUGUST 5, 2021

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

2. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 10, 2021

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

3. 8:30 A.M. - BOARD OF CORRECTIONS – Brad Johnson, Director, Corrections

Separate minutes.

4. GREENBELT VALUATION – Rob Ogden, County Assessor; Scott Gaines, Chief Administrative Deputy, and Derrick Niederklein, Chief Field Deputy, County Assessor's Office

Flowerday exited the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Niederklein reviewed the Greenbelt valuation process (see agenda packet), which allows owners to receive special value on land that is used commercially for agriculture or horticultural use that does not include increased value for development. This is the only class of property that can be valued at something other than its market value.

Flowerday returned to the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

The special status stays with the land even if the ownership changes. To qualify for Greenbelt status, the land must meet the agricultural definition, cannot be within city limits, and those properties that

are less than five acres must provide an Internal Revenue Service Schedule F. The special valuation does not apply to improvements and associated lands. The Assessor/Register of Deeds Office does review these parcels annually. Currently, Lancaster County has approximately 7,000 parcels receiving special valuation.

Ogden reiterated the commercial agricultural use of the property is crucial for the special valuation.

5. RFP 21-078 ONLINE PAYMENT AND POINT OF SALE PROCESSING – Rachel Garver, County Treasurer, and Kristen Anderson, Chief Deputy County Treasurer

Garver reported the electronic payment system contract with Lexis Nexis will be expiring at the end of the year. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released with 10 proposals submitted. The Grant Street proposal was chosen. This contract will be on the next Tuesday agenda. The new system will be live in January 2022.

There are 12 other departments who use the system and have been notified of the upcoming change. There will be an implementation team for the new system.

Garver noted she will put out a press release in December about the system change. There will be changes in the rates. The current \$5 debit maximum fee will not carry forward. Additionally, debit cards that are used in person will have a maximum \$2 fee.

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

Meyer stated property valuations came in \$833,605 higher than expected. The County budget hearing will be held Tuesday, August 24 and the budget will be adopted at the following BOC meeting. He requested Board input on how to handle the additional \$833,605.

Amundson noted the County Engineer could use \$335,000 for plans for engineering projects. Flowerday said the County Engineer's budget will be increased \$3,650,000 from last year.

It was the consensus of the Board to allocate the \$833,605 to the sinking fund for future use to be determined.

Meyer said there will be resolutions for upcoming Board action on the County budget, the lid restriction and the \$.15 allocation.

7. BREAK

The break was taken during Executive Session.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION (PENDING AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION, LEGAL ADVICE, AND UNION NEGOTIATIONS) – Doug McDaniel, Director, Nicole Gross, Compensation and Classification Manager, and Amy Sadler, Human Resource Specialist, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; Pam Dingman, County Engineer; Sue Eckley, Risk Manager; Kerin Peterson, Director, Facilities and Properties; Dan Zieg, Chief Deputy County Attorney; and Kristy M. Bauer, Jenifer Holloway, and Eric Synowicki, Deputies County Attorney

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:51 a.m. for the purposes of receiving legal advice, potential and pending litigation, union negotiations, and to protect the public interest.

The Chair said it has been moved and seconded that the Board enter Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Amundson, Flowerday, Yoakum, Schorr and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Chair restated the purpose for the Board entering Executive Session.

Schorr exited the meeting.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:53 a.m. Flowerday, Amundson, Yoakum and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

9. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Derbin led Board discussion on a possible vaccine incentive policy for County employees for both the original doses of vaccines as well as boosters. It was the consensus of the Board to offer employees \$200 for completing the initial vaccines and \$50 for the completion of the booster. Derbin said this recommendation will be taken to the Personnel Policy Board.

10. ACTION ITEM

A. Letter of Support for City of Lincoln's Grant Application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for Wilderness Park Tree Removal

Derbin reviewed the letter (see agenda packet).

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded approval of the letter. Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

11. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

12. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. City - County Common Meeting – All

Vest reported there was a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan and an Information Technology (IT) upgrade update.

B. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) Meeting– Yoakum

Yoakum indicated she did not attend the meeting.

C. Justice Council Meeting– Vest / Schorr / Derbin

Vest reported there were exceptionally high numbers of incarcerated individuals in the jail.

D. Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center Advisory Committee– Yoakum

Yoakum stated the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) will have a virtual accreditation process in September. Additionally, the MHCC has had 2 positive COVID cases.

E. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Schorr / Vest

Vest said there were discussions on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund uses.

F. Lincoln - Lancaster County Board of Health – Flowerday

Flowerday reported COVID positive cases are on the rise. The Delta variant seems to be more contagious than the previous variant, but its peak both begins and ends quicker.

G. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Legislative Summit – All

Vest noted the Commissioners were all in attendance.

H. Mutual Aid Meeting– Schorr

Amundson discussed the I Am Responding program, an electronic program for first responders to notify each other when they are responding to a call. There were also discussions on sharing responder data, and a new lethal THC product.

I. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – Vest

Vest noted no meeting was held.

J. Public Building Commission – Amundson / Flowerday / Derbin

Amundson reported she was reelected as Chair, and the Public Building Commission budget was approved.

K. Realtors Association Government Affairs Committee – Amundson / Schorr

Amundson stated there was a presentation on the rental assistance program that uses ARPA funds. She said there was a 30% increase in the valuations of multi-family commercial properties. There were also discussions on affordable housing, the Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND), and the upcoming solar text amendment hearing.

L. Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities Committee – Yoakum

Yoakum indicated she did not attend the meeting.

M. Visitors Promotion Advisory Committee – Amundson / Derbin

Amundson reported six marketing microgrant applications were approved. It was noted that with the recent tourism events the Chamber of Commerce Facebook touches have increased 130%. Also, a craft beer passport program was introduced.

Flowerday noted he is a candidate to become a Board member of the History of Nebraska.

N. Youth Crisis Response Committee – Amundson

Amundson stated the number of youth-attempted suicides has increased as has the number of youth referrals to CenterPointe. There is a great need for more mental health workers. The Child Advocacy Center is assisting on how to identify sex trafficking victims.

OTHER MEETINGS

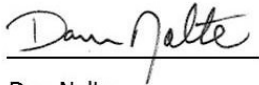
Yoakum said the MHCC is offering Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) due to the death of a staff member.

13. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

Informational only.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Yoakum seconded to adjourn at 11:28 a.m. Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

