

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 112 – CITY/COUNTY CHAMBERS
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska web site and provided to the media on August 19, 2020.

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 AUGUST 13, 2020

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded approval of the August 13, 2020 Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was recessed at 8:35 a.m.

2. BOARD OF CORRECTIONS QUARTERLY MEETING – Brad Johnson, Director, Corrections; Mitchel Herian, Ph.D., Soval Solutions LLC

See separate minutes.

Amundson exited the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

The staff meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

3. THERAPIST POSITION AT JAIL THROUGH BJA REENTRY ENHANCEMENT GRANT – Kim Etherton, Director, Community Corrections; Brad Johnson, Director, Corrections

Etherton stated she and Johnson are ready to move forward with the therapist position to provide substance abuse intervention within the jail for individuals who are not able to receive other services. This position is grant funded for three years with the first year fully grant funded and the remaining years 50% funded with the County funding the remaining 50%. She noted the position was inadvertently left out of the budget process. If approved, the therapist

will be supervised by Johnson and Etherton will provide clinical supervision.

Johnson added he would like specialty units within the jail where inmates are grouped together by needs and programming concerns. This position ties the departments together and allows assistance to individuals who slip through the cracks.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded to approve the therapist position. Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Amundson was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

When asked about an outpatient treatment grant, Etherton said the County did not receive the grant as it was intended for jurisdictions without an assisted outpatient treatment program, and the County already has that program. She was hoping to receive the grant to treat high utilizers of the jail with mental health needs in a diversion program setting.

4. PROPOSED FEE INCREASES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION SERVICES – Pat Lopez, Health Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and Scott Holmes, Manager, Environmental Public Health, Lincoln - Lancaster County Health Department

Holmes said the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department will bring resolutions for fee increases to the Board next Tuesday. The fees are reviewed annually and help to cover costs associated with fee-funded programs such as increases in staff costs, insurance costs, utilities and rent, and transportation costs. The average of the fee increases is 3%. Some of the programs are federally required to be fully fee funded.

The resolutions will address fees for open burning permits, the Air Quality Program, the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System program, the Property Transfer Program, and body art. The City of Lincoln fees and County fees will be the same and, if approved, would go into effect on September 1, 2020.

Holmes also said both the onsite wastewater and property transfer programs are on course to set record numbers this year. The air quality program has also had high programming totals. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has also been in the forefront of the pandemic response.

COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Lopez reported there are currently 3,500 positive COVID-19 cases in the County. The case numbers have decreased, and the positivity rate has dropped to 5.6%. She voiced her concern about more possible cases as schools and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) classes resume. She noted UNL has multiple testing sites on campus. The LLCHD has worked extensively with UNL and the long-term care centers to keep everyone safe.

Additionally, Lopez reported there was a virtual meeting with the LLCHD and the downtown

bars. Virtual meetings with childcare centers, restaurants and various businesses will be held next week.

Schorr stated rural responders are struggling to procure personal protective equipment (PPE). Lopez said N-95 masks and gloves are difficult to find. She suggested a rural responder representative contact LLCHD for assistance.

Regarding the PPE storage site, Lopez noted it is being relocated.

Vest asked if larger gatherings that have been approved are still able to be held. Lopez said more than 50 gatherings have been approved. Party buses are operating and LLCHD will be following up on those activities.

Schorr exited the meeting at 9:41 a.m. and returned at 9:42 a.m.

5. BUDGET UPDATE AND 15 CENTS ALLOCATION – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Meyer reviewed the levy projection (see agenda packet). He recommended applying the additional \$32,353 from property valuations to a revenue reimbursing account.

Meyer demonstrated the Financial transparency portal (OpenGov), which is available to the public. He added quarterly updates with budgeted income and expenses versus actual income and expenses may be added to the site in the future.

Meyer reviewed the \$.15 allocations (see agenda packet). The Joint Public Agencies (JPA) levy taxes to make bond payments. The Lancaster Correctional Facility JPA will be making its eleventh payment out of twenty. He added the correctional facility levy has decreased due to refinancing the bond.

Schorr said both the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) and Rural Fire Districts have future projects that the County needs to keep in mind when discussing levies. Meyer agreed saying plans should be made and communicated to the various groups.

6. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Item moved forward on agenda.

7. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. H.R. 7883, the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act

Schorr stated a constituent requested the Board contact the Congressional representatives to support H.R. 7883. It was the consensus of the Board for Schorr and Derbin to send a letter to

Congressman Fortenberry supporting the bill.

8. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Lancaster County 2020 Priorities

A special staff meeting will be held next Tuesday immediately after the regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

B. One and Six Meeting (October 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.)

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the One and Six Meeting on October 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

9. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – Vest

Vest reported there were high revenues from golfing and swimming, and outdoor events at the Hub Café and the Sunken Gardens. Also, a portion of Cooper Park is being transferred to Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) for a ballfield at Park Middle School that will be open to the public.

B. Realtors Association Government Affairs Committee – Amundson / Flowerday

Flowerday stated local budget updates and the 2050 Forward plan were discussed.

C. Mutual Aid Meeting – Schorr

Schorr said representatives from the Lancaster Event Center (LEC) proposed the fire districts allow the LEC to use a portion of their levy to cover the LEC budget shortfall.

A representative from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Purchasing Department will meet with the rural first responders to discuss the Purchasing department and how it can help with contracts and ordering supplies.

D. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Vest / Flowerday

Vest stated a suggestion was made for the Board to give \$400,000 from the cash reserve to the LEC for use in their budget.

E. City - County Common Meeting – All

No report given.

F. Visitors Promotion Advisory Committee – Amundson

Derbin said the service and entertainment industries have suffered due to the pandemic. The Convention Visitors Bureau has low funds available which will impact the ability to fund requests. Ideas centering around football and hotel "Get a Room" campaigns were discussed.

It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau sales team thanking them for their hard work.

Board of Health

Flowerday reported the Board of Health held an emergency meeting in which Lopez was confirmed as the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Director.

Monolith

Schorr stated Monolith (company in Hallam, Nebraska that produces carbon black) reached out to the Board with changes from their initial proposal which said they were planning to use hydrogen to power their new plant instead of coal. The water use is projected to be 450,000,000 - 800,000,000 gallons per year.

10. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

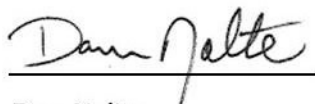
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11. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Amundson was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

