

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023, AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH 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 23, 2023. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on August 21, 2023.

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

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:

A. STAFF MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 10, 2023

B. LEGISLATIVE RETREAT HELD ON AUGUST 17, 2023

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded approval of the staff meeting minutes for August 10, 2023 and the Legislative Retreat on August 17, 2023. Vest, Amundson, Schulte, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH – Jim Davidsaver, Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management Director

Davidsaver gave a PowerPoint presentation on National Preparedness Month (see agenda packet).

3. BRIEFING ON TX23010 (Amending Article 2 - Definitions to add definition for distillery, microdistillery and spirits; Article 4, Section 4.005 Permitted Conditional Uses to add microdistillery; and Article 13 Special Permit to add Farm Winery Social Hall in the AG (Agricultural District)) – David Cary, Director, Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager, and Tom Cajka, County Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning

Henrichsen reviewed a summary of the proposed text amendment (see agenda packet). Some wineries are finding that those who go to wineries would prefer items from a microbrewery. The text amendment adds an option for microdistilleries with a limit of 12,500 gallons annually and has conditions to allow for consuming and selling spirits on site and to sell accessory items. The amendment also includes Article 13 that would add an option for a farm winery social hall. Currently, farm wineries can have party rooms. The social hall option would allow for a primary event space for

up to 400 people to be available for use no more than three days per week. That space could be used at the same time as smaller party rooms. It is preferable that venues with a social hall be on a paved road.

Schulte asked if the three-day use limit is included in the text amendment, and if limiting the number of days is preferable to limiting the number of events per year. Henrichsen answered yes, the three-day use limit is included in the text amendment. Additionally, due to the nature of the uses of social halls, it is anticipated there would be seasons that are busier than others.

Yoakum inquired if a winery could have a microdistillery without the social hall. Henrichsen said yes, the two options are independent from each other. While there would be guidelines for the special permit, those would still be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Henrichsen stated James Arthur Vineyards has already applied for the first special permit and, assuming the text amendment is passed, the application would be under the jurisdiction of the amended text amendment.

4. HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS UPDATE AND RENEWALS – Stephanie Unger, Senior Vice President, Director of Relationship Management, and Matthew Guthrie, Senior Financial Analyst, HUB International Great Plains; and Barb McIntyre, Director, Nicole Gross, Total Rewards Division Leader, and Melissa Zahourek, Benefits Manager, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources

Unger reviewed year-to-date financials (see agenda packet). Items that are considered are stop loss fees, medical claims and pharmacy claim expenses. Currently, the plan is running at an \$862,153 deficit.

Additional quotes from the market concerning health plan renewals were requested by HUB International Great Plains, and there was a competitive quote received from Symetra that includes a 50% rate cap and no new laser at renewal (see agenda packet, page 4). She noted the current plan does not include protections for specialty medications. She recommended the County implement a pharmacy management program and add GLP-1 pharmacy clinical edits. This would be a program that employees could opt into at no cost to the employee.

Yoakum asked how someone who is newly prescribed a medication would know to enroll in the program. Unger answered there will be information available at the pharmacy.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, distributed a document with funding rate options (Exhibit 1). Insurance is based on a calendar year. He recommended a 10% rate increase be implemented.

Schulte inquired if rate increases are anticipated again in the near future. Meyer answered it would depend on the Request for Proposal (RFP) and what the market determines. Meyer said there is close to \$12,000 as a fund balance.

Meyer said HUB International Great Plains will give a quarterly update to the Board.

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to adopt a 10% plan increase.

Derbin and Meyer recommended language to include the Prudent Rx program and the acceptance of Symetra's proposal.

MOTION: Vest amended his motion to include a 10% plan increase, the Prudent Rx program and acceptance of Symetra's proposal.

Yoakum restated the amended motion.

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

5. BREAK

The meeting was recessed at 9:34 a.m. and reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

6. BRIDGE N-114

Derbin stated he sent a letter to the City of Lincoln, the Village of Denton and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) about proposals for maintenance of Bridge N-114. Flowerday said he received a call from the Parks Department that seemed as if they were not interested in taking over maintenance of the bridge. Yoakum added she received a call from the NRD stating they are not interested in maintaining the bridge.

Joe Hobelman, Village of Denton Board Chair, said Denton is unable to offer funding for the bridge at this time, as funding for Denton's wastewater project has not been determined. He added the well field provides water to Denton and a number of rural fire departments.

Yoakum stated it is the long-term maintenance of the bridge that is the issue, not the repair or replacement of the bridge. Flowerday added the County maintaining the bridge long-term is not fair to the rest of the County.

Schulte asked what the annual costs are to maintain a bridge. Pam Dingman, County Engineer, answered bridges with a good rating should not have major maintenance for a 20-year time period. She added the Engineer's Office does have a facility in Denton.

Flowerday said he felt the options before the Board are to accept the pending State grant and funds from the Parks Department and the NRD and keep the maintenance of the bridge with the County or have the County fund the entire cost of the bridge and vacate the bridge. Schulte asked if the bridge would be vacated to the surrounding property owners. Dingman said the Board can dictate how a property is vacated.

Schulte felt the County should accept the pending grant and additional funds.

Dingman said the bridge design and some materials are already available, and she is awaiting the Board's decision on the grant before proceeding.

MOTION: Amundson moved for the County to build the bridge and then vacate it. Flowerday seconded the motion on the understanding that the bridge will not only be vacated to Denton.

Hobelman inquired if there are any statutes prohibiting the County from vacating the bridge. John Ward, Deputy County Attorney, stated there are no statutes that prohibit the County from vacating a road where there is a structure, such as a bridge. He continued the Board cannot make a motion to vacate the bridge because there would need to be an Engineering study.

Schulte asked if the County could vacate a road if there is public access required. Ward responded the County would need owners' consent to lose access or the County would need to condemn the property owners' rights of access. Derbin added the County has a current possessory right to that real estate. The County would vacate all of the property except a certain piece that the County could grant to Denton for continued access to the property.

Flowerday said the purpose of the motion is to provide clear direction to everyone involved.

Dingman stated the County has other contracts with an agreement for shared maintenance, such as Ash Hollow, yet the County is the only entity in that agreement maintaining that area.

Yoakum and Vest stated they were both leaning towards accepting the grant funding and continuing maintenance of the bridge. Dingman added a decision on the grant is needed as soon as possible.

Hobelman said if Denton knew what funds might be available there could be discussions on monetary contributions from the Denton.

Amundson reiterated a proposal from a prior staff meeting that Denton contribute \$10,000 per year for 10 years with 7% interest.

Yoakum asked if the County accepts the other funding if a maintenance agreement could be discussed after the bridge is built. Ward answered legally the County could do that; however, the grant funds would not be available until there is a maintenance agreement.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Flowerday offered a friendly amendment to provide direction to staff to move forward with building the bridge and to not accept the grant from the State.

Amundson accepted the amendment.

Schulte stated he would like to accept the grant from the state and will vote no on the motion.

ROLL CALL: Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Schulte, Vest and Yoakum voted no. Motion failed 2-3.

MOTION: Schulte moved to direct the staff to accept the grant from the state and put it on the next Board of Commissioners agenda. Yoakum seconded.

Hobelman said Denton is waiting to hear from Senator Fischer's office as to a funding amount for the wastewater system.

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

Vest said he felt it was appropriate for Denton to consider a stipend to the County.

7. AIRPORT ARPA CONTRACT

Schulte stated he requested this item be added to the agenda to see if there is any funding that can be recovered. Derbin added the County and City could inspect all work materials related to the contract. A contract with an outside organization might be warranted.

Flowerday said he had received assurances from top airport staff about improving numbers. Also, the Legislature recently empowered the state auditor to look at the spending of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

There was general discussion about authorizing an internal financial review of the project.

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Schulte seconded to direct staff to begin the process for a financial review of the airport ARPA contract. Vest, Amundson, Schulte, Flowerday, and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

8. BUDGET UPDATE & FIFTEEN CENT ALLOCATION – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Meyer reviewed the allocations (see agenda packet) which will be brought to the Board on next Tuesday's agenda. The County levy is estimated to drop over \$.00388. The budget hearing will be held Tuesday, August 29.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. PROMOTION FUND GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$480 FROM LINCOLN ROSE SOCIETY

Derbin reviewed the grant application (see agenda packet).

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to accept the Visitor Promotion Committee recommendation. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson, Schulte and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

B. VISITOR IMPROVEMENT FUND UPDATE

Derbin reported fund disbursements from the Visitors Improvement Fund were paused due to fund balance. The fund is an opportunity for the County to provide matching funds for grant funded community improvement projects.

Schulte asked about available funds. Derbin answered there is a \$2,000,000 cash balance with \$1,125,000 in obligations through 2025, and \$600,000 in obligations for 2026 and 2027. Applications granted depends on the timing and availability of funds.

MOTION: Vest moved and Flowerday seconded to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with Visit Lincoln to roll out the grant program. Schulte, Flowerday, Vest, Amundson, and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

- C. REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE AGING PARTNERS AREAWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TERMS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026:**
 - 1. Sharon Busch (serving since 2014)
 - 2. Lee Kreimer (serving since 2020)
- D. REAPPOINTMENT OF ELIZABETH VANWORMER TO THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD (APCAB) FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 (serving since 2020)**
- E. APPOINTMENT TO APCAB FOR TERMS EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026:**
 - 1. Joe Francis
 - 2. Katie Gutierrez

It was the consensus of the Board to roll Items 9C through 9E to the next Tuesday agenda.

10. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Lancaster County 1&6 Road and Bridge Program Public Hearing, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the 1 & 6 Road and Bridge public hearing on October 10, 2023.

- B. 2023-2024 Leadership Academy Commissioner Introductions, Thursday, March 14, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Informational only.

11. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. Realtors Association Government Affairs Committee**

Amundson reported there were discussions on the County’s budget, the jail population and the Lincoln airport.

- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Schulte did not attend the meeting.

- C. Region V Services Committee Meeting**

No meeting was held.

- D. Region V Systems Governing Board Meeting**

No meeting was held.

- E. Visitors Promotion Committee**

Vest did not attend the meeting.

F. MPO Officials

No meeting was held.

G. New Americans Task Force Meeting

Yoakum reported there were discussions about Welcoming Week and the number of languages other than English spoken by Lincoln Public Schools students.

H. Mutual Aid

Yoakum and Flowerday did not attend the meeting.

I. Other meetings attended since last staff meeting

Flowerday attended the groundbreaking for the youth sports complex.

12. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

See agenda.

13. EMERGENCY ITEMS

None.

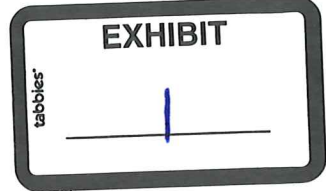
14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. Amundson, Schulte, Flowerday, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Matt Hansen
Lancaster County Clerk





	CY 2023				
	Employee	10%	Difference	15%	Difference
(C,E,MSS,Captains, IBEW)					
Single (5%)	36.96	40.66	3.70	42.50	5.54
Employee + Spouse (85%)	255.00	280.50	25.50	293.25	38.25
Employee + Children (85%)	199.56	219.52	19.96	229.49	29.93
Family (85%)	332.58	365.84	33.26	382.47	49.89
FOP 29 and 77					
Single (95%)	39.36	43.30	3.94	45.26	5.90
Employee + Spouse (85%)	271.64	298.80	27.16	312.39	40.75
Employee + Children (85%)	212.60	233.86	21.26	244.49	31.89
Family (85%)	354.30	389.73	35.43	407.45	53.15
FOP 32 (J)					
Single (93%)	51.74	56.91	5.17	59.50	7.76
Employee + Spouse (80%)	340.02	374.02	34.00	391.02	51.00
Employee + Children (80%)	266.10	292.71	26.61	306.02	39.92
Family (80%)	443.44	487.78	44.34	509.96	66.52
Total HUB projected costs			16,568,840		
Current Plan Funding					
Employee			1,745,539		
Lancaster County			<u>11,547,086</u>		
			13,292,625		
Projected shortfall			(3,276,215)		
10% Funding Increase					
Employee			2,112,705	367,166	
Lancaster County			<u>12,716,822</u>	1,169,736	
			14,829,527		
Projected shortfall			(1,739,313)		
15% Funding Increase					
Employee			2,208,737	463,198	
Lancaster County			<u>13,294,860</u>	1,747,774	
			15,503,597		
Projected shortfall			(1,065,243)		