

**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HALL OF JUSTICE - DISTRICT COURT, COURTROOM 30
575 S. 10th STREET, LINCOLN NE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019
12:00 P.M.**

Location Announcement of Nebraska Open Meetings Act: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available from the Clerk's staff.

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

District Court Judges Present: Lori Maret; Andrew Jacobsen; Kevin McManaman; John Colborn; Susan Strong; Robert Otte; Darla Ideus; and Jodi Nelson

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Jared Gavin, District Court Administrator; Jennifer Kulwicki, District Court Referee; 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 23, 2019.

The Open Meetings Act was available from the County Clerk's Office. The meeting was opened at 12:06 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1) DEMONSTRATION OF COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Judge Nelson stated there are jury terms during the first two weeks of the month. There was discussion on insufficient parking and jury waiting areas.

Gavin demonstrated the technology available for courtroom use, including monitors, the ELMO (document camera), and video conferencing to the jail, Lincoln Correctional Center, York Correctional Center, Tecumseh Correctional Center and the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Video access is mainly used for cases with minor charges or arraignments.

Lieutenant David Caulfield, County Corrections, joined the meeting from County Corrections via video conference and described how inmates participate. It was the consensus of the judges that video conferencing has worked well in saving time and money associated with transporting individuals for court proceedings.

Schorr asked if video conferencing is available for expert witnesses. Judge Colborn said video conferencing must be agreed to by both sides.

Additionally, there are also attorney rooms in which attorneys can sign documents or hold conferences with their clients during a trial.

Judge Nelson reviewed the Judge of the Month duties, including arraignments, preliminary hearings, custodial sanctions, post-release supervision and child support cases.

Yoakum asked how the inmates felt about video conferencing. The judges felt the inmates find video conferencing acceptable as it can lead to getting out of jail sooner than being transported for an in-person hearing.

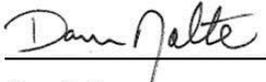
2) **JURY TERM PROCESS AND TOUR OF BUILDING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Gavin stated the jury monitors in the courtrooms need to be larger. The jury rooms also have monitors and audio capabilities available. Computers with no internet access are also available in the jury rooms.

Nelson provided a brief tour of the jury room and the shared secure hallway. Inmates, judges and jurors share the hallway, although, inmates and their respective jurors are not in the secure hallway at the same time.

3) **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

