

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021  
8:30 A.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Deb Schorr, Vice Chair

Others Present: David 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 media on September 8, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on September 6, 2021.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

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

**2. TEMPORARY CLERK IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION** – Ben Houchin, Chief Deputy Sheriff, and John Vik, Sheriff's Captain

Vik reported staffing within the Sheriff's Office is low as there are a number of new hires still in training. The investigator staffing is down 30%. He requested to add a temporary Clerk II position to assist with processing crime data and electronic evidence. The cost for the position would be approximately \$16-\$20 per hour for the next six months and would be paid with savings from current vacancies.

Vest said he appreciates the efforts to have the officers available for necessary trainings and duties.

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

**3. QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE** – David Cary, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning

Cary reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 1). There are 2 openings on the Planning Commission to be filled within the next few months. The City of Lincoln budget for the Planning Department was approved which includes an additional Administrative Aid position.

**4. SECOND QUARTER 2021 INVESTMENT REVIEW (401(A) AND 457(B) PLANS)** – Julie Klassen, Prudential Vice President, Key Accounts; Robb D. Craddock, Prudential Vice President, Investment Strategy; and Frank Picarelli, Segal Marco, Senior Vice President

Crystal Vacura, Manager, West/Midwest Plans and Senior Counselor, was present for the discussion. Vacura and Klassen appeared in person. Picarelli and Craddock joined via Zoom.

Klassen stated the increase in participant balances over the last few years is over \$42,000,000. The average participate balance has increased \$40,000 since 2018. She noted over 50% of the participants are over the age of 50. Using the Retirement Income Calculator (RIC), Klassen takes into account both the 401(A) and 457 plans (see agenda packet, pages 136-138, and 145). Participants are on track to replace 73% of their pre-retirement income after they retire.

Vacura reviewed the Counselor Activities (see agenda packet, pages 225-226). She said the option for in person meetings and virtual meetings were well received, and she would like to continue to offer participants both options. The educational sessions have had good attendance and have been a good way to continue to connect.

Craddock discussed the Lancaster County Plan Summary economic review, including the market returns, domestic equity, international index returns, fixed income returns, and treasury yield curve (see agenda packet, page 24). He said the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose 10% in the quarter. Growth stocks outperformed value stocks, and the 3- and 5-year returns have done very well. The market has been changing and adapting as the pandemic has continued. He noted people are investing in TIPS due to the concern about rising inflation.

Vest exited the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Craddock reviewed the Executive Summary, the Plan Summary and the fund allocations and performances noting the investments were strong (see agenda packet, pages 33-42). Oakmark and BlackRock Advantage Small Cap Growth funds have done well. He said there has been \$42,200,000 in investment gains.

Vest returned to the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Picarelli stated the upcoming sale of Prudential Retirement to Empower will honor all of the contracts and commitments of the current contract, including fees, stable value products, the GoalMaker tool and more (see agenda packet). He reviewed the current plan expenses and fee leveling. Both the Eaton Vance Atlanta Capital R6 fund and the American Funds Fundamental IV R5e are recommended to be added to the fund watchlist per policy guidelines based on the 3-year and 5-year fund performances.

Regarding cybersecurity, Klassen said identify fraud is more common when someone is impersonating a Prudential employee. She encouraged plan participants be registered online to conduct business. For those who are not, the Prudential call center has other safeguards in place to help prevent against fraud.

Derbin reported the next plan overview will contain a full discussion on cybersecurity.

## 5. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Flowerday noted the growth of the virus is still increasing but at a slower rate.

## 6. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

### A. Appointment of Irina Garakian to the Aging Partners Areawide Advisory Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2022

Randy Jones, Aging Partners Director, discussed the appointment (see agenda packet). He said she is interested as a translator to be able to help those with linguistic barriers.

It was the consensus of the Board to move the appointment to the next Tuesday agenda.

### B. Claim for Review: Voucher 735429 on Batch 271025 to Midwest Office Automation, dated September 3, 2021, for a total of \$215.14. This claim includes billing for services performed April 15 to May 14, 2021. These claims are beyond the 90-day time period. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-135.

Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) Director, and Robert Holmes, Business Manager, stated the claim was received late as the invoice was originally sent to an incorrect email address.

It was the consensus of the Board to roll the claim to the next Tuesday meeting as a regular claim.

## 7. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

### A. City of Lincoln Drainage Criteria Manual Stakeholder Meeting – Yoakum

Yoakum reported the City of Lincoln is working with the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District to revise the drainage criteria manual to make it more uniform and easily accessible. It will be consistent with City's Climate Action Plan.

### B. Gateways for Growth – Yoakum

Yoakum stated community members have offered input as to needs and challenges in the community that will be put into a draft plan that will be presented to the Gateways for Growth Steering Committee in October.

### C. Mental Health Task Force – Yoakum

Yoakum said this task force is for the implementation of a universal mental health number, 988. The task force includes senators, public service commission staff, and various mental health providers. There were general discussions regarding how calls will be routed and handled by mental health professionals.

### D. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) Meeting – Amundson / Vest

Amundson stated Railroad Safety Week is September 20-26, and that there were discussions on the

audit, the 2021-2022 budget, and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and Cornhusker Highway project. The project will have a hearing next spring and final designs, utility transfers and environmental permits will need to be completed. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026. Vest added a report on the quiet zone crossings was discussed, including the costs for the study, and both the railroad's expectations and diagnostic costs.

Flowerday asked how the costs from the quiet zone study will be recuperated from Omaha Public Power. It was noted there are, on average, less than 2 trains running per day.

**E. Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) Advisory Committee – Yoakum**

Yoakum reported the MHCC continues to have staffing challenges. Also, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) virtual survey is planned for October.

**8. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

Informational only.

**9. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

There were no emergency items.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

