

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113 – LUXFORD STUDIO
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 September 9, 2020.

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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded approval of the September 3, 2020 Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Joe Kohout and Brennen Miller, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC

Derbin stated the Board needs to set the legislative priorities for the next year (see agenda packet).

Kohout suggested the Board have a standing priority of protecting the statutes pertaining to Public Building Commissions. Derbin added there are also joint public agencies (JPAs) that may also need protecting.

When asked about estate tax, Derbin said estate tax has been a priority under property tax relief since that is how the County uses it.

Schorr stated her priority preferences include bridge bonding and the opportunity to look at fees. Flowerday added he wants the legislature to at least have a conversation about bridge bonding.

Regarding county bridge match funds, Kohout reported \$16,000,000 of the \$40,000,000 have been allocated. He felt there should be a better understanding of how the sponsor of that program envisioned the funds being distributed.

Derbin added there has been an effort to amend Nebraska Revised Statute §23-120 (Provide buildings; tax; levy authorized) to include the ability to bond up to \$2,000,000 for bridges without a vote of the people. He suggested bonding the County's building fund which would free up funds for other uses and discussed the Political Subdivisions Alternative Construction Act.

Kohout noted there is already momentum behind legislation for the 24/7 Sobriety program, mental health information sharing, and reimbursement for individuals being held at jail under a competency order.

Kohout felt the priorities of placement at State hospitals for the mentally ill, and recovery of costs for lodging mentally incompetent criminal defendants in county jails pending transfer to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for restoration of competency to stand trial could be combined and let the Legislature decide how to prioritize them (see agenda packet, page 1). Amundson and Yoakum felt the recovery of funding should be prioritized. Schorr requested Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, be included on communication regarding those priorities due to her research grants.

Regarding LB686 (Change provisions relating to Class IV felonies, post-release supervision, competency to stand trial, restrictive housing, and the long-term restrictive housing work group, create a criminal offense relating to electronic communication devices in correctional facilities, change possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person provisions, and provide for deferred judgments by courts), Kohout noted the counties are subsidizing approximately \$2,900,000 of rent for DHHS.

It was the consensus of the Board to add County Engineer towing authority for vehicles stranded on county roads during snowstorms as a priority (see agenda packet, page 2).

Derbin said an updated Board legislative priorities document will be on a future Tuesday agenda.

3. ONE AND SIX ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Dingman reviewed the One and Six-Year Road and Bridge Construction Program 2021-2026 document (Exhibit 1) noting that the department has a \$200,000,000 funding gap and projects are constrained by allocated funds. She said the department is focusing both on projects that have funds and standby projects. The funding for standby projects could come from bills that may be passed by Congress; however, the funds may require matching funds from the County.

A map of proposed standby projects was distributed (Exhibit 2).

Regarding overlay projects, Dingman said the roads are being widened for rumble strips. There is one bridge and no new pavement projects budgeted for this fiscal year.

Future projects include Fletcher Avenue, which needs to be paved as a truck bypass, and Saltillo Road, for which the County is responsible for \$800,000 of the construction costs. Additionally, 162nd Street and South 68th Street may also need improvements.

Dingman reviewed a map of projects in the current budget year with allocated funds (Exhibit 3).

Dingman stated the One and Six program will be presented to the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department Board next Wednesday, September 16.

The One and Six Road and Bridge Construction Program hearing is set for October 8 at 7:00 p.m. with Engineering Department staff available at 6:30 p.m. for dialog with the public.

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (LABOR NEGOTIATIONS)** – Doug McDaniel, Director; Nicole Gross, Compensation and Classification Manager; and Amy Sadler, Human Resource Specialist; Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; and Kristy R. Bauer, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:20 a.m. for the purpose of labor 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, Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:27 a.m. Amundson, Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE**

Schorr stated she will work with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) on the Mutual Aid officers request to receive contact tracing of a COVID-19 positive transported patient in a timelier manner.

Also, Schorr said she is working with the City of Hickman on an application for CARES Act funding for medical equipment bought due to COVID-19 calls. Derbin added he forwarded an updated list from the Emergency Management Department to the LLCHD to touch base on equipment and funding options.

6. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Lancaster County 2020 Priorities

Regarding Norris School Emergency Management Service (EMS) coverage, Schorr reported Hickman Rural Fire District began EMS response and ambulance transport in March.

B. Volunteer Opportunities

It was the consensus of the Board to volunteer on Tuesday, September 15 sorting shoes for the People's City Mission.

7. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) Meeting – Schorr / Amundson

Amundson reported there were discussions on the Burlington Northern San Francisco (BNSF) Railway and Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) contracts, quiet zones, the length of the trains and train times. Also, the budget and audit were discussed.

Vest added work on multiple different train crossings was approved.

Schorr stated September 21 is National Rail Safety Week.

B. Public Building Commission – Amundson / Flowerday

Amundson said the Hall of Justice front entrance project is estimated to be finished on October 6. There was also discussion on the possibility of a brief survey to see how future work changes and workspace may be arranged.

C. Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health – Flowerday

Flowerday stated a COVID-19 update was received, and a measure was passed declaring racism a public health emergency.

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

Yoakum reported spaces at the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) have been improved to better handle COVID-19 positive cases. The electronic records program has merged with another company, which may result in County contract amendments.

The MHCC is continuing to hire on-call staff. MHCC staff will attend a two-day training

regarding a zero-suicide initiative. Additionally, the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) has a new position focusing on assisting LPD high utilizers with mental health services.

OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

NACO Board of Directors

Schorr said the next Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board legislative conference will be at the Graduate Hotel on October 8. The NACO December conference will be two days.

8. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

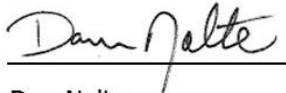
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9. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 9:52 a.m. Amundson, Schorr, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

