

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021  
8:30 A.M.**

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

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 22, 2021, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on September 20, 2021.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

**MOTION:** Yoakum moved and Amundson seconded approval of the minutes. Flowerday, Amundson, Schorr, Yoakum, and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

A weekly report was distributed prior to the meeting (Exhibit 1).

Miller reported LB5 (Set boundaries of public service commissioner districts), LB6 (Set boundaries of Supreme Court judicial districts) and LB14 (Appropriate funds for special session expenses) were advanced. There was debate on LB14 in which the question was asked if it would have been more fruitful for the Legislature to have used the last week of the regular session to discuss these issues as opposed to having the special session. Miller noted that, if that had happened, the bills that passed without an operational date or emergency clause would have not gone into law, as those bills go into effect 90 day after the end of the session. Additionally, it would have allowed a free-for-all for bills. The impasse may lead to early adjournment of the special session. If a legislative district plan is not adopted by Saturday, then the legislature will adjourn Sine Die. The impasse could cause problems with the primary elections in May as well as other bills and priorities during the next regular session.

Flowerday noted that if redistricting goes into regular session candidates for potential election could be affected.

Regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Miller stated he anticipates large funding requests at the hearing.

Yoakum and Vest will attend the upcoming COVID call with the Lancaster senators.

**3. INSURANCE UPDATE** – Sue Eckley, Risk Manager; and Tom Champoux, President and Risk Consultant, UNICO

Eckley stated she had an update on the number of vehicles as requested by Schorr during the September 17, 2021, meeting. The Sheriff's Office added 16 units from the previous fiscal year. In discussions with Sheriff Wagner, the vehicles had been ordered two years ago and were just coming into stock due to the shortage of vehicle chips. Many of the vehicles deleted from the insurance were vehicles that were replaced by the County Engineer's Office.

Regarding cyber liability insurance, Champoux said a few quotes will be received soon. Eckley added the City of Lincoln has decreased limits and greatly increased premium due to the lack of multifactor authentication (MFA). Once the MFA is in place, a price adjustment from the insurer will be requested. She felt it would be best if the City and County had a cyber liability policy together, with the City being the first point of contact.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION (PENDING AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND LEGAL ADVICE)**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to enter Executive Session at 8:59 a.m. for the purposes of pending and potential litigation, receiving legal advice, 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, Flowerday and Vest 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 9:30 a.m. Schorr, Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. COVID-19 UPDATE**

Rachel Garver, County Treasurer, stated that there have been citizen complaints that workers at the West O Street driver's license location have not been wearing masks nor assisting with proper social distancing. She said there are State Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) employees as well as two County employees at the location. Additionally, it seems that there have been workers at the DMV location out due to COVID-19 concerns. The County employees are away from the State employees, though there is a shared restroom. She expressed her concern for the safety of the public, especially the elderly population, and for her staff.

Schorr suggested a letter from the Chair be sent to the DMV to enforce a mask mandate on the staff and appropriate social distancing.

Derbin noted the mask mandate does not reach into the building because it is a governmental operation.

It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to the DMV director.

## **6. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **A. Elected Officials Salary Committee**

Derbin led general discussion regarding possible membership for the Elected Officials Salary Committee, including Personnel Policy Board members, Mike Thew and Steve Eicher, Gwen Thorpe and Judy Halsted. Schorr suggested adding a Zelle Human Resources representative on the committee. Derbin will work with Doug McDaniel, Human Resources Director, to continue putting together the committee membership.

## **7. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **A. NACo Request for Information on County Seal**

Bauer stated she received a request from the National Association of County Officials (NACo) about the history of the County seal. Flowerday suggested the Planning Department may have more information.

## **8. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

### **A. State JDAI Collaborative Meeting – Amundson**

Amundson said there were discussions on data collection for youth juvenile justice systems, and the lack of resources in rural areas for youth. There are fewer youth being detained; however, the ones who are detained are staying longer as there are no placement homes available nor mental health care facilities. Also, Nebraska was highlighted at the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) National Resource Center conference as having excellence in youth juvenile justice.

### **B. MPO Officials Committee Meeting – Vest/Schorr**

Schorr reported the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) funding in the Airpark area was approved, the 2050 Comprehensive Plan was discussed, and there was a briefing on a Star Tran development plan.

### **C. Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) Board Meeting – Vest**

Vest indicated he did not attend the meeting.

### **D. Lancaster County Fairgrounds Joint Public Agency (JPA) Meeting and Budget Hearing – Vest/Amundson**

Amundson stated the 2021-2022 budget was approved as was the Agricultural Society and County interlocal agreement. Vest added all funds are handled through the County Treasurer's Office.

### **E. New Americans Task Force Meeting – Yoakum**

Yoakum reported the My City Academy starts today. She noted some previous graduates have become involved in other government and community functions. The Department of Health and

Human Services (DHHS) refugee resettlement coordinator position is open. Lincoln will receive 280 Afghan refugees. Additionally, Kawasaki gave presentations on position openings and their onsite English as a Second Language (ESL) training program.

**F. Mutual Aid Meeting – Schorr/Yoakum**

Schorr said there were discussions on using the I Am Responding application.

**G. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Schorr/Amundson**

Schorr stated discussions included the following: the 2050 Comprehensive Plan, the malfunctioning purple streetlights, the County's ARPA plan, the Youth Services Center and legislative priorities, general staffing and workforce concerns, and the problems at Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) revolving around social media.

**OTHER MEETING ATTENDED**

Home Builders Rural Water

Vest reported he and Amundson attended the Home Builders meeting regarding rural water districts. Certain housing developments are having heavy use by a portion of the homeowners. Amundson added the rural water districts are asking the developers to inform the property owners about the water limits. There was discussion about implementing additional costs for water usage over certain amounts.

JDAI Steering Committee

Amundson said there were reports on the City's Kahoots contract, pandemic update, youth mental health treatment and the need for a youth residential treatment facility. Also, Lori Griggs will be retiring in December. Vest added he and Schorr sat on the interview panel.

**9. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

Informational only.

**10. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

There were no emergency items.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 10:14 a.m. Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson, Schorr and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

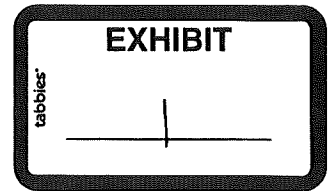
  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk





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LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Joseph D. Kohout  
Brennen L. Miller

Date: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

RE: Weekly Report- Special Session 2021

Good Morning. Please accept this as your weekly report for the 2021 special session of the Legislature for the date noted above.

This week senators met and advanced both LB6 and LB5 with little debate. LB6 sets the new boundaries of the Supreme Court judicial districts, while LB5 adopts boundaries of public service commissioner districts. These maps were largely considered non-controversial and were passed to the second round of consideration. Also advanced was LB14, which appropriates funds for special session expenses.

During Monday's debate Speaker Hilgers announced that, due to the impasse currently being experienced during the work of this special session, if a plan for legislative districts could not be successfully advanced on General File debate by this Saturday, the legislature may adjourn Sine Die. If this adjournment takes place the redistricting process would be moved to consideration during the 2022 session. We will likely know more about the possibility of this adjournment as the week progresses.

As noted last week, redistricting is the most political process the Legislature goes through- and it is more so because of the more partisan tone the body has taken on over the last 7 years. We will continue to monitor this special session and report any developments back to the board.

This concludes our report for this week.