

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

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

Commissioners Absent: Deb Schorr, 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 the media on September 28, 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on September 26, 2022.

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 FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

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

2. DIRECTOR REPORT: BUDGET & FISCAL OFFICE – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Meyer discussed the director report (Exhibit 1). The on-call accountant retired this year. The Budget and Fiscal Office strives to provide financial integrity, accountability and transparency for County residents. Trainings are an important part of accountability, especially Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) trainings. He mentioned he intends to join the Midwest Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) as it offers networking and training opportunities with local government groups on accounting and auditing issues.

Meyer added the department's goals will be driven by the County's strategic plan and will be supported by the use of metrics. Amundson and Vest voiced their support for metric and data-supported goals.

3. SPECIAL MEETING OF JUSTICE COUNCIL

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, highlighted the importance of the National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (NNCJCC) stating that the committee would be a way to share information and programming ideas with other entities. She requested Board permission to call a special meeting of the Justice Council to vote on becoming a member of the NNCJCC.

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to call a special meeting of the Justice Council. Flowerday, Vest, Amundson and Yoakum voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion 4-0.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. LR396

Derbin reviewed communication regarding LR396 (Interim study to examine the funding needs of the Commission on Public Advocacy and to find a long-term funding solution) (see agenda packet). He noted he drafted comments on how the Commission can be used as an effective tool to lower property taxes and sent them to Joe Kohout, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC, for review.

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded for the Board to support LB396 through comments to the Appropriations Committee. Vest, Amundson, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion 4-0.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. New Americans Task Force Meeting – Yoakum

Yoakum reported on the housing challenges for large refugee families and the education and employment readiness services for immigrants and refugees.

B. Emergency Medical System Oversight Authority (EMSOA) Committee Meeting – Flowerday

Flowerday discussed the City's outstanding cardiac emergency services response. He also noted there were discussions on EMSOA finances.

C. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Flowerday/Yoakum

Yoakum stated there was a presentation from Lincoln Electric System (LES) on the resiliency plan and discussions on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

D. Monthly Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair and Planning Department – Schorr/Yoakum

Derbin reported there was an update on the special permit applications redraft.

E. Fairgrounds JPA – Amundson/Vest

Amundson said the budget was approved.

F. Lancaster County Ag Society – Amundson/Vest

Amundson and Vest indicated they did not attend.

G. Other meetings attended since the last staff meeting

There were no other meetings.

4. RAISE GRANT UPDATE – Elizabeth Elliott, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Director

Elliott stated StarTran received a \$36,000,000 federal Raise Grant for a new bus transfer station. The next steps in the project are to hire a project manager and designer. A grant manager is also being considered. Meetings to discuss the transfer station needs with various entities as well as public input meetings will be scheduled. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released at a later date.

Flowerday suggested Elliot have conversations with the District Energy Corporation (DEC) for heating and cooling needs.

5. LEOP UPDATE – Jim Davidsaver, Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management Director

Davidsaver presented on the local emergency operations plan (see agenda packet). A resolution for the plan will be on Tuesday's agenda for Board action.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE – Barb McIntyre, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources Director

A. Benefits and Open Enrollment

McIntyre discussed open enrollment for employee benefits (see agenda packet). She noted the County used to have a three-tier structure and it will now have four tiers (Employee, Employee + Spouse, Employee + Children and Family). Benefit enhancements include expanded hearing aid coverage, virtual healthcare, and insurance coverage being effective the first of the month following the hire. Additionally, insurance coverage ends the same month as the end of employment. The plan design will change as deductions from employee paychecks for insurance coverage will move from a prepaid status to being paid during the month of coverage. Also, the dental and vision coverages will be split evenly between 24 paychecks throughout the year.

McIntyre said communications to employees will be sent, including a reminder about the upcoming open enrollment, the open enrollment from November 7-18, and an email to managers for employees who have not completed open enrollment.

Nicole Gross, Human Resources Total Rewards Division Leader, stated there will be resolutions on the upcoming Tuesday agenda for Board action.

B. Psychologist Position at Mental Health Crisis Center

Gross and Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center Director, discussed creating a new psychologist pay plan. They proposed moving the psychologist position out of the unrepresented employee classification and into the unclassified employee classification as an appointed position. They reviewed options for a pay plan (see agenda packet). Currently, the position is being filled by contract at \$100 per hour.

S Etherton stated there has been limited candidate interest in the position, even with the introduction of tuition reimbursement. The position is different than many psychologist positions and requires a person with considerable experience to fulfill the role.

It was the consensus of the Board to support Option 3.

Derbin said a resolution will come to the Board on a future Tuesday agenda.

7. PLANNING UPDATE – David Cary, Director, and Rachel Christopher, MPO Transportation Planner

A. CPC22015 (ONE- AND SIX-YEAR ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PLAN)

Dingman stated she presented the One-and-Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Plan to the Planning Commission. There are \$47,000,000 in federal aid projects. She displayed a map of projects (Exhibit 2) and noted how the infusion of ARPA funds has helped with pipe culvert maintenance and replacements. The public hearing before the Board on the One-and-Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Plan will be on Thursday, October 13, 2022.

Dingman said she will continue to apply for additional federal funds. There is a new Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) program to widen narrow lane roads less than 11 feet wide and with more than 1,000 vehicles per day.

B. CPA22005 (COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN)

Tim Zach, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU) Superintendent of Stormwater, gave a presentation (Exhibit 3). This will be at a future Lincoln City Council meeting for approval and adoption.

8. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

No updates given.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. LR396

Item moved forward on agenda.

10. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. New Americans Task Force Meeting – Yoakum**
- B. Emergency Medical System Oversight Authority Committee Meeting – Flowerday**
- C. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Flowerday/Yoakum**
- D. Monthly Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair and Planning Department – Schorr/Yoakum**
- E. Fairgrounds JPA – Amundson/Vest**

- F. Lancaster County Ag Society – Amundson/Vest
- G. Other meetings attended since the last staff meeting

Item moved forward on agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the December 15 staff meeting in Room 113.

11. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

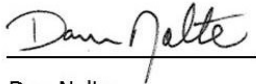
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12. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Flowerday moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 10:17 a.m. Amundson, Flowerday, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

