

**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING WITH CITIES AND VILLAGES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 113 – BILL LUXFORD STUDIO**

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

Village Representatives: Nancy Niemann, Raymond Village Clerk; Franklin Robbins, Raymond Village Board Chair; Stephanie Fisher, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk; Bill Gerdes, Mayor, City of Waverly; Megan Frye, City of Waverly Clerk; Jill Hoefler, Firth Village Clerk; Nadine Link, Malcolm Village Clerk; Michelle Lincoln, Bennet Village Clerk; Marlene Sturdy, Bennet Village Administrative Aide

Others Present: David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office; Chad Blahak, City of Lincoln Director of Building and Safety; Donna Garden, City of Lincoln Assistant Director of Utilities; Michael Dwiggin, Ashley Larsen, Ryan Bauman, Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) representatives; Dave Sankey, State of Nebraska Public Service Commission 911 Director

*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 29, 2021. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on September 20, 2021.*

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

**AGENDA ITEM**

Attendees made introductions.

**1. SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SENDD) HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

Bauman discussed the SENDD residential rehabilitation program noting that nine applications from County residents have been received, four from residents in Sprague, two from Waverly, two from Malcolm and one from Raymond. To date, two project applications have been approved. SENND would like to complete at least one project in each area of the County. There is \$420,000 total in the project funds, with projects limited to \$25,000 per project. Additionally, there is a stipulation that the applicants need to remain in the property for five years after the project is complete.

Larsen noted that Malcolm and Waverly have submitted applications to the State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the administration of their own rehabilitation programs. While those communities are waiting for program administration approval, residents of those communities may apply through the County's SENND program for residential projects.

Schorr inquired if the City of Hickman has participated in the program. Larsen answered they have participated through the County's program.

Niemann asked if the program may be extended beyond the city or village limits. Bauman replied the focus of the program is on cities and villages. Also, the income limits are set by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There are some circumstances where exceptions to the income guidelines could be made on a case-by-case basis. Property owners close to the income guidelines are encouraged to apply.

**2. RECYCLING OUTSIDE THE CITY OF LINCOLN** – Stephanie Fisher, City Administrator, City of Waverly

Gerdes stated the City of Waverly is closing their recycling site as it is cost prohibitive. Bennett and Firth have also shut down their recycling sites due to associated costs. Garden said the City of Lincoln condensed the number of recycling sites to curb costs. Individuals outside of the city limits can bring in recyclables. The recycling program in Lincoln is paid for by occupation tax. Additionally, she noted there are State grant funds available to communities for recycling program operating equipment expenses.

**3. ADDRESSING BY GIS** – Jeff McReynolds, Geographic Information System (GIS) Program Manager, Geospatial Services

McReynolds gave a PowerPoint presentation on how addresses are created (Exhibit 1). He outlined that the City of Lincoln GIS would have interlocal agreements with surrounding villages and cities to maintain addresses within the City of Lincoln GIS system to be used with the Next Generation 911 network. Sankey added a Next Generation 911 statewide emergency internet protocol network is being established to provide accurate data resulting in better local emergency services. The system will allow for voice calls, text messages, pictures and videos to be sent to a 911 center. Wireless calls to 911 are routed to the appropriate 911 center based on the tower that receives the call. Using accurate GIS data is critically important to the project and the safety of the public. Any 911 area coverage overlaps will be listed through county maps and fire district maps.

Schorr inquired if any addresses within village or city limits would change. McReynolds said addresses will not be changed.

Fisher asked if new housing development addresses will need to be submitted to GIS. McReynolds answered yes, though new developments are handled through building permits with Building and Safety. Any existing addresses that need to be corrected from the villages and cities need to be corrected through GIS.

Blahak clarified the existing addresses in the cities and villages will be shared for inclusion in the GIS grid. There will be an area that needs to be blended into Building and Safety's address range as new addresses are created.

When asked about the post office's role in addresses, McReynolds said GIS creates the address points and relays them to the post office.

**4. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** – Sara Hoyle, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Services

Hoyle discussed the emergency rental assistance program for villages and rural areas pertaining to

rent and utility expenses (Exhibit 2). The program is available for expenses beginning March 13, 2020 for the next eighteen months for those who fall within the income guidelines. The County has a full-time equivalent caseworker to work directly with the villages. For applications that are accepted, payments are completed in approximately two weeks. Information about the program has been distributed to all property owners who own more than one parcel in the County. Flyers have also been distributed and posted throughout the County.

When asked about the success of the program, Hoyle noted there have been 75 applications received with 67 having been paid for a current total of \$460,000.

## 5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Mikayla Johnson, Lancaster County Grant Coordinator, was present for the discussion.

Meyer led discussion on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the possible expansion of broadband internet services in the County. Dwiggins stated SENDD wants to act as a rural resource to guide and have information on best practices for broadband expansion. There is an internet speed test available to help estimate costs for an expanded broadband project. The speed test should be completed from a device that is not a mobile phone and from the location in which expanded broadband services will be requested. Dwiggins encouraged rural communities to take the internet speed test available on the SENDD website (<https://www.sendd.org/broadband>).

Schorr inquired how the villages and cities have used their ARPA funds. Waverly is using the funds for a new water well. Firth is funding a new ambulance and a water main extension. Raymond is replacing an old sewer plant with a lagoon project. Raymond has not yet completed the federal application to receive funds.

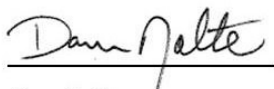
When asked about upcoming events, it was noted that Bennet will be transitioning to a city of the second class.

## 6. NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022 @ 8:30 A.M.

Informational only.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 9:49 a.m. Flowerday, Yoakum, Schorr, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

