

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

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 the media on October 6, 2021. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on October 4, 2021.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

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

2. APPROVAL OF JOINT CITY AND VILLAGE MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

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

3. COUNTY ENGINEER UPDATE – Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Dingman stated the County is beginning to see a dramatic improvement in the asphalt maintenance program as there are under 25 miles of asphalt that need improvements. A major concern is the possibility of needing to close a paved road, especially when in conjunction with a bridge closure. She requested permission to move \$3,000,000 from the Highway Fund to the Special Roads and Bridges Fund. She discussed the need to replace Bridge D-88. The design and permitting of the bridge have been completed and the right-of-way has been acquired. The bridge is crucial for both school and farm-to-market traffic.

Additionally, Dingman requested to move the engineering of Bridge C-284 to the current budget year. She is also concerned about bridges S-179, R-184, and S-180.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director, noted that moving the funds is not a problem but that the spending authority for the Roads and Bridges fund needs to be authorized. The budget would need to be amended to move the funds into the correct category.

Flowerday asked why the department has multiple funds, Dingman answered the Engineering funds are separated into different categories for easier tracking of new projects versus ongoing maintenance.

Vest inquired about the estimated cost in paving one mile of gravel roads. Dingman responded an already graded road is estimated at \$500,000 per mile. If a road requires grading or has other needs, the estimated cost will increase accordingly.

Dingman noted a meeting on the construction on South 98th Street from A to O Streets will be held at Lux Middle School on November 18 from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Dingman requested two full-time equivalent (FTE) Engineering I positions be added to the department for hire at mid-year at a salary of \$65,000 plus benefits. She voiced her concerns about the current staff being able to handle projects, especially as additional federal and safety funds are being sought after. If the department cannot get the necessary help, then projects will need to be hired out for consulting services which is costly. She reminded the Board that two FTE employees were moved from her department to the GIS Information Services (IS) team.

Schorr reminded the Board of Meyer's statements at a prior staff meeting regarding the necessity for review and longer discussion on increasing budget requests. Flowerday added an additional discussion with IS may be needed as the move of the two employees to GIS was to be an increase in efficiency.

4. BRIEFING ON CPC21018 - 1- AND 6-YEAR COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM – David Cary, Director, and Alan Zafft, Transportation Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster Planning; and Pam Dingman, County Engineer

Cary reviewed the County Comprehensive Plan (see agenda packet) noting that it is in compliance with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Dingman added the bridges discussed in the prior agenda item will be presented on Tuesday, October 12 at the One and Six-Year Road and Bridge Program public hearing. In addition to the continued maintenance of roads and bridges, other presentation points will include projects on Northwest 56th Street, Fletcher Avenue, and South 98th street from A to O Streets and from O Street to Old Cheney Road.

Schorr inquired how the South 68th Street projects will be presented. Dingman answered it will be shown as a standby project in the current year. The road design is being currently underway.

Dingman reported there are currently no open Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claims. By the end of the month there will be less than ten bridges closed.

5. SHARED STORAGE FACILITY FOR SHERIFF AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT 444 CHERRYCREEK – Ben Houchin, Chief Deputy Sheriff; and James Davidsaver, Director, Emergency Management

Houchin said Terry Wagner, County Sheriff, was inducted into the Law Enforcement Hall of Fame.

Houchin and Mark Hosking, Emergency Management Deputy Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on storage facility space ideas for the Emergency Management Department and the

Sheriff's Office (Exhibit 1).

Schorr asked if this was discussed in conjunction with the County's long-range facilities plan for County properties and buildings. Houchin replied no; however, it was discussed at a prior Board meeting during the budget process. Schorr suggested further discussion for encompassing this into the long-range plan.

Flowerday inquired as to the flexibility of funds currently in the Building Fund. Meyer answered there is no available funding right now.

Schorr question if the training room was necessary as there is access to training rooms at both the County Extension Office and at the Youth Services Center.

6. LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UPDATE – Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; and Ron Rohde, Accountant, Budget and Fiscal Office

Rohde and Bauer reviewed the schedule (see agenda packet). A graduation date for the Academy has yet to be determined.

Schorr asked if a class capstone project would be offered. Rohde said this suggestion will be discussed. Amundson inquired if the onboarding capstone project has been incorporated into the County's business practices. Bauer answered it is anticipated to be implemented at a later date.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (LABOR NEGOTIATIONS AND LEGAL ADVICE) – Doug McDaniel, Director, Nicole Gross, Compensation and Classification Manager, and Amy Sadler, Human Resource Specialist, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; and Jenifer Holloway, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:41 a.m. for the purposes of receiving legal advice, 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: Schorr, Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:54 a.m. Yoakum, Flowerday, Amundson, Schorr and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

8. COVID-19 UPDATE

Vest said the area hospitals continue to operate at high capacities. The Intensive Care Units (ICU) have 76 individuals hospitalized due to COVID, of which 66 are unvaccinated. Additionally, 23 individuals are on ventilators, 22 of which are unvaccinated.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Claim for Review: Voucher 738458-738459 on Batch 272011 to Troy Henning, dated September 29, 2021 for a total of \$400. This claim includes billing for services performed May 30 to September 1, 2021. These claims are beyond the 90-day time period (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-135)**

Kevin Nelson, Accounting Operations Manager, stated the invoice for all services was received after 90 days of the first claim. In the future the invoice will be worded in a way that will alleviate this problem.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to roll the claim to a Tuesday meeting as a regular claim. Yoakum, Schorr, Amundson, Flowerday and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

B. NACo Transportation Steering Committee

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to authorize Schorr's nomination to the National Association of County Officials (NACo) Transportation Steering Committee. Schorr, Amundson, Flowerday, Yoakum and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Office Phones for Commissioners

Derbin reported IS will be replacing the current landline phones in the future. He asked if the Commissioners would like to have a landline phone or rely only on a cellular phone.

Flowerday, Schorr, Yoakum and Amundson indicated they would prefer only a cellular phone. Vest said he would like both a landline and a cellular phone.

D. Commissioner Business Cards

Business cards will be updated once the office phone situation is determined.

E. Legislative Priorities on the Website

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to post the County's legislative priorities on the website with a statement that it is a working document. Amundson, Flowerday, Yoakum, Schorr and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Comprehensive Plan Hearing Schedule (Action November 23rd)

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a separate voting session from the public hearing.

G. Elected Officials Salary Review Committee

Derbin stated Ginna Claussen, CFO Systems Human Resources Director, Kerry Eagan, Gwen Thorpe, and Mike Thew, former County employees, and Judy Halstead, former City employee, have offered to serve on the committee.

10. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee –Yoakum

Yoakum reported the documentary Push Out was viewed.

B. JDAI Collaborative – Amundson/Yoakum

Amundson reported there were discussions on a youth homelessness grant, increased truancy cases, the number of youth and families seeking respite crisis care, gang prevention and trainings for drug abuse and opioid abuse. There was also a presentation on traumatic brain injuries and youth development.

C. Employee Annual Recognition Breakfast – All

The Board felt the breakfast was a great success.

D. Chamber Coffee – Vest/Schorr/Derbin

Vest stated redistricting, sales tax expansion, workforce program expansion, COVID cases in the jail, rural water, increased July and August tourism to Lincoln, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects, and the upcoming veterans' parade were discussed. Additionally, the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) superintendent will be retiring.

Vest also reported the National Chamber conducted a study as to why people have left the workforce. Reasons include retirement, a lower number of high school and post-secondary school graduates, the reduced number of immigrants, issues regarding benefits, issues regarding childcare and independent company startups.

11. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

Informational only.

12. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Amundson, Flowerday, Yoakum, Schorr and Vest voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.


Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

