

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 112 – CITY/COUNTY CHAMBERS
8:30 A.M**

Commissioners Present: Rick Vest, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr; and Christa Yoakum

Commissioners Absent: Sean Flowerday, Chair; and Roma Amundson

Others Present: David 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 October 28, 2020.

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 FOR OCTOBER 22, 2020

MOTION: Yoakum moved and Schorr seconded approval of the October 22, 2020 Staff Meeting minutes. Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

2. WEEKLY H.R. PAYROLL SYSTEM TRANSITION UPDATE – Kevin Nelson, Accounting Operations Manager, County Clerk's Office; and Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Nelson stated the grant reporting has been updated and the departments should have the reports needed. The labor distribution reports through October 21, 2020 and the payroll department approval form have been sent to all departments. Additionally, he said work continues on resolving the payroll issues for the Sheriff's Office.

A. Additional Support Contract with Cheryl Sandy from eVerge

Meyer noted an additional support contract with Sandy should be discussed as the current contract would end her services the first part of December. The exact timeline and parameters of a contract would need to be determined and brought to a future meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION (LEGAL ADVICE AND LABOR NEGOTIATIONS) – Doug Cyr, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Kristy Bauer and Eric Synowicki, Deputies County Attorney; Brad Johnson, Director, Corrections; and Doug McDaniel, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to enter Executive Session at 8:48 a.m. for the purposes of receiving legal advice, labor negotiations and to protect the public interest.

The Vice Chair said it has been moved and seconded that the Board enter Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

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

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

4. H.R. PAYROLL SYSTEM ITEMS – Doug McDaniel, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Resources; Kristy Bauer, Deputy County Attorney

Kevin Nelson was also available for discussion.

A. Daylight Savings Time

McDaniel said past practice has been employees are paid for the hours worked.

B. Injury Leave and Hours Worked

McDaniel stated many departments are not using injury leave in the calculation of overtime. Bauer noted the Personnel Policy Board will act on a rule amendment for the unrepresented employees on November 5, which will roll to the Board's following Tuesday meeting.

Nelson added a programmatic change in Oracle will be needed to get the rule change into production. It will be part of the additional contract with eVerge as discussed earlier in the meeting.

C. Holiday Pay and Hours Worked

McDaniel said holiday pay will not be used in calculating overtime hours. There will be a policy clarification for the unrepresented employees at the upcoming Personnel Policy Board meeting.

5. HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE – Sara Hoyle, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Services

A. General Assistance and Medicaid Expansion

With the expansion of Medicaid, Hoyle reported the transition for clients from General Assistance to Medicaid was seamless. Two General Assistance caseworkers will remain no longer than November 30 to complete the closing out of the program. She noted the Board will continue to see claims submitted through the next year. The various provider contracts for General Assistance programming will not be terminated until all the reimbursement payments are received.

Hoyle stated the County is still responsible for cremations. The County receives an average of two cremation applications per week.

B. OJJDP Juvenile Justice System Enhancements Federal Grand Award in the Amount of \$500,000

Hoyle said the three-year grant will build a mental health diversion program for youth. Lancaster County is one of ten sites to receive this grant.

C. OJJDP Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Federal Grand Award in the Amount of \$622,883

Hoyle stated this is a three-year grant for expanded crisis mental health services with Bryan Hospital for youth. This will meet the gap between youth that need to be hospitalized and youth that require crisis respite care. The program will have trained and licensed mental health nurse practitioners. Lancaster County is one of six sites to receive this grant.

The Board requested a press release on the grant awards be sent out.

Hoyle reminded the Board of the upcoming statewide Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) conference. The conference will be held virtually.

ACTION ITEM

A. Acceptance of OJJDP Juvenile Justice System Enhancements Federal Grant Award in the Amount of \$500,000

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded approval of Items 7A and 7B. Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Acceptance of OJJDP Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Federal Grant Award in the Amount of \$622,883

See item 7A.

6. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

Lopez reported the County's total number of positive COVID-19 cases is 9,072, with 744 being reported last week. The positivity rate is 13.5% with a daily average of 104 positive cases. She noted that was the highest number of cases reported in a week since the beginning of the pandemic. In September 2457 positive cases were reported. The number of cases continue to increase, especially in the 30-59 and 60-79 age groups. There are 424 cases in the K-12 schools. To date, 45 COVID related deaths have been reported. By the end of September there were 24 deaths.

Lopez said there is a surge plan for the hospitals. Currently, there are 62 individuals hospitalized. Governor Ricketts has instituted a process for hospitals to get additional staff to maximize resources.

Businesses are encouraged to reduce their density and telework when possible.

Lopez stated 86 events have been approved.

Regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated exposure guidelines, none of the City or County policies need to be changed. Travel policies are being reviewed for any necessary changes.

When asked about contact tracing, Lopez said there are 50 individuals assisting with contact tracing.

The State has access to rapid testing to be used with symptomatic individuals with results available in 15 minutes. Lopez said she hopes to use them for essential employees within the City and County. There is no cost for the test itself, but there may be an administration fee.

Lopez said it seems that small gatherings are contributing to higher positive test numbers. She suggested individuals wear masks when at gatherings.

7. ACTION ITEM

- A. Acceptance of OJJDP Juvenile Justice System Enhancements Federal Grant Award in the Amount of \$500,000**
- B. Acceptance of OJJDP Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Federal Grant Award in the Amount of \$622,883**

Items moved forward on agenda.

C. Settlement Agreement and Release with Kelly Kubicek

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded approval of the settlement agreement. Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

NOTE: A copy of the agreement is on file in the Clerk's Office.

D. Resolution in the matter of Authorization to Approve Administrative Items and Payments in the Event the County Board must Adjourn in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Derbin stated the policy set at the outset of the pandemic needed to be updated to ensure the County's business can continue in the event the Board must adjourn due to the pandemic (Exhibit 1).

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded approval of the resolution. Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.

8. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Lancaster County 2020 Priorities

Derbin said the quarterly Planning Information Services (IS) updates have been scheduled through 2021.

9. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. County Board Chair/Vice Chair Monthly Meeting with Planning – Flowerday/Vest

Vest reported there were discussions on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

Tri-County –Vest

Vest stated Douglas County presented health initiatives. Lancaster County presented on the importance of inheritance tax, which Douglas County would support. Don Kelly, Sarpy County Board Chairman, said he would not oppose the inheritance tax initiative. Kelly added he will provide information to the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) on what inheritance tax does for Sarpy County. Additionally, the 24/7 Sobriety Program, and the authority of health boards in times of pandemic were discussed.

Derbin added there has been little positive progress on holding open meetings via Zoom.

10. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

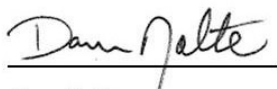
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11. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to adjourn at 10:27 a.m. Schorr, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Flowerday and Amundson were absent. Motion carried 3-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

