

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.  
COUNTY CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS**

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

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 November 2 2022. Notice was also published in the Lincoln Journal Star print and digital editions on October 31, 2022.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 27, 2022**

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

The meeting was recessed at 8:33 a.m. and reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

**2. BOARD OF CORRECTIONS – Brad Johnson, Lancaster County Corrections Director**

Separate minutes.

**3. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (NACO) UPDATE – Jon Cannon, Nebraska Association of County Officials Executive Director**

Cannon stated that NACO is available to serve and support the counties. NACO lobbies on behalf of all of the counties on issues such as LB310 (Change inheritance tax rates, inheritance tax exemption amounts, and individuals who are considered relatives of a decedent), LB644 (Adopt the Property Tax Request Act, change dates relating to tax levies, and change provisions relating to property tax refunds) and the gasoline consumption tax. He estimated LB310 will result in a 15% statewide reduction in inheritance tax receipts. Additional NACO services include web services and education, including topics such as cybersecurity, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and mass appraisal techniques.

NACO will have a building near Ogallala that will be used for both NACO and leased as office and meeting space to other interested entities.

Cannon said legislative priorities were heard on October 28 at the NACO legislative conference.

Schorr added Douglas County brought forth a priority to modernize public fund investment options which would allow credit unions to be added to the list of approved depositories for county funds. Also, Burwell County is looking for funding for county costs associated with State park facilities.

Cannon noted the NACO Annual Conference is December 14-16, 2022 in Kearney.

Regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Cannon reported the National Association of County Officials (NACo) has worked with Congress and the Treasury Department for another round of ARPA funding to go directly to the counties and not go through the State.

Schorr exited the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

**4. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) UPDATE** – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

**A. QUARTERLY REPORT**

Schorr returned to the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Meyer said the quarterly report was filed on Monday (see agenda packet) and will be available on the County's website. Funds that have a signed contract show as obligated on the expenditures report (see agenda packet). An estimated \$170,000 has not been allocated.

When asked about the social detox project, Derbin stated while the funds have been set aside for the program, they have not been formally obligated as the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the facility renovation has not been completed. Additionally, contracts for construction of the rural broadband project are being prepared.

**B. REQUEST FROM ST. MONICA'S**

Meyer reviewed the letter requesting \$750,000 in unallocated ARPA funds to be used for building spaces to expand program services (see agenda packet). Flowerday said there is \$700,000 set aside for the Community Corrections Sacred Spaces project that could be allocated to St. Monica's request.

Schorr asked Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, if she felt this request would be advantageous to the Community Corrections clientele. Etherton felt the request was prompted by some funds that were allocated to the Indian Center that were not being used. If the funds were reallocated to St. Monica's, they would go towards programming for transitional housing.

Flowerday, Yoakum and Amundson were supportive of the request.

When asked how the funding would impact the intended programming, Etherton said it would allow for renovation of a building for more treatment beds for women and children and have room for family therapy, children's therapy and dedicated play areas. The smaller spaces would be used as halfway houses. The programming would allow for continued support for women and their children as they work towards permanent housing in the community. St. Monica's is the only organization that offers gender specific treatment for women.

Schorr asked if there is employment support for the women. Etherton said much of that is done through Community Corrections in coordination with St. Monica's. She felt the reentry program partnership between Community Corrections and St. Monica's is going very well.

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to direct the County Attorney's Office and Mikayla Johnson, Grants Coordinator, to draft an ARPA grant contract in the amount of \$750,000 for St. Monica's. Amundson, Yoakum, Flowerday, Vest and Schorr voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

**MOTION:** Flowerday moved and Yoakum seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:00 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, Vest, Flowerday, Yoakum and Schorr voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Vest exited the meeting.

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:28 a.m. Flowerday, Yoakum, Amundson and Schorr voted yes. Vest was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

### **A. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE**

No updates were given.

### **B. GRASS FIRES UPDATE AND RESPONSE**

Vest returned to the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Derbin reported an after-action meeting will be held on November 21 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hallam Volunteer Fire Department.

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

### **A. United Way Campaign Coordinator Kick-Off Meeting**

Bauer stated a virtual kickoff meeting with United Way is scheduled with department representatives on November 15 at 12:00 p.m.

## 8. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

### A. NACO Board of Directors – Schorr

Schorr stated NACO received a clean audit. NACO is discussing adding a mass appraisal service and continuing education hours for Commissioners.

### B. NACO Legislative Conference – Schorr

Schorr reported the NACO annual conference will be December 14-16.

### C. Chamber Coffee – Schorr/Yoakum

Yoakum said there were discussions on staffing shortages, the rural fire response, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) student scoring and the new ballfields.

### D. Other meetings attended since the last staff meeting

#### JDAI Steering Committee Meeting

Amundson reported there was a detention update with 52% of the youth on a mental health roster. There were 91 disciplinary reports in the last quarter. Court hearings are being delayed due to the late arrival of detained youth. The Mental Health Diversion program has 15-16 youth participating. Additionally, Region V has dedicated \$1,000,000 to improving youth mental and behavioral health resources.

## 9. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

Informational use only.

## 10. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Yoakum moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. Flowerday, Yoakum, Amundson, Vest and Schorr voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

