

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1999
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING - ROOM 113
10:00 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Linda Steinman, Chair
Kathy Campbell
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Bob Workman
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998

Heier indicated that a correction needs to be made on the Additions to the Agenda, Item A. Heier stated that the second paragraph should read "to prepare a Subarea Plan for Stevens Creek and Lancaster County and suggested that a formal report be requested."

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded approval of the minutes subject to the correction. On call Steinman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

2 REVIEW OF POTENTIAL SITES FOR JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY - Jim Hille, Sinclair Hille & Associates; Dennis Banks, Attention Center Director

Jim Hille, Sinclair Hille & Associates, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the potential sites for the Juvenile Detention Facility (Exhibit A).

Steve Henrichsen, Planning, appeared and presented the County Board with seven possible sites for the Juvenile Detention Facility. Henrichsen gave an overview of the following seven sites:

SITE 1

The first site is located at Dairy Drive West of 14th Street south of the State Penitentiary and is isolated from a residential neighborhood. The drive time to court is approximately five minutes and is close to the Hall of Justice Center, which would allow Juvenile Court Judges to access the facility for court arraignments. Henrichsen indicated there are two lots that are privately owned and zoned I-2 that are about 8 acres in size. Another portion of the site is owned by the State of Nebraska and the land to the south is in use by the Department of Roads. Henrichsen stated most of the site is not in any particular use at this time and there is a little bit of the 100-year flood plain off to the west. In general, you have an 8-acre site plus if there is any need for additional land it could be discussed with the penitentiary. The site is 1/4 mile from the nearest neighborhood, which is Salt Valley View neighborhood, otherwise is 1/4 mile away from any other residential neighborhood. It would have good access to 14th Street and is inside the city limits.

Hudkins questioned the utilities, water and sewer.

Henrichsen indicated there are some sites that might require an extension of a sewer or water main.

Hudkins asked if there was any indication that the owner wanted to sell the property.

Henrichsen reported the private property is owned by John Vestecka, who has recently passed away, and the other site is owned by the State of Nebraska.

Hille indicated that 8 to 10 acres is sufficient for the new Assessment Center.

Henrichsen noted the land sits on a hill and offers visibility to the City of Lincoln. The railroad tracks to the East are insignificant because the tracks are used infrequently (two trains every other day).

Eagan questioned the restrictions with regards to site and sound and it being close to the State Penitentiary.

Michelle Schindler, Attention Center, appeared and indicated that she checked with the Crime Commission who indicated the co-location would be okay.

SITE 2

This site is located at 9th Street and Pioneers Boulevard, zoned P and owned by the State of Nebraska. The rest of the site around it is mostly zone I-1 Industrial. Henrichsen stated there is a flood way going to Salt Creek and there is a drainage way that comes across a portion of the site, which may mean a poor drainage site. There is a heavy traffic of trains which could be a problem for persons accessing the facility west on Pioneers Boulevard. On the other side, the train tracks east of the proposed site are used infrequently and thus would not be a major hindrance. The building could be outside of the flood plain and parking and open space type uses could be on the rest of the site. The whole site itself is at least 20 acres and the owner is willing to sell.

Hudkins indicated that he has seen water at least 2 feet deep in some areas around the site within the last 10 years. Hudkins also expressed his concern regarding the trains.

Hille reported the land east of the site has shown some record of environmental contamination that came from 13th Street so the State would have to release the County of any liabilities.

SITE 3

This site is located at SW 40th and West "O" Street and is mostly commercial and industrial uses and is not next to a residential neighborhood. Henrichsen indicated the site is within the city limits and the site does not have city sanitary sewage. He also reported that Crete Carrier and Nebraska Machinery are working with the City to extend the sanitary sewer line from SW 27th Street to NW 56th Street, which amounts to \$1.7 million for the entire distance. Henrichsen said it might cost \$800,000 to move the sewer line out to the site.

SITE 4

This site is north of Arnold Heights and is owned by the Lincoln Airport Authority. Henrichsen stated it might require some minor extensions of sewer and water lines to the site and there are no drainage problems. He said the Airport Authority does not have the ability to sell the property to an individual but they can lease it at \$.05 or \$.06 a square foot to parties. Henrichsen reported the property needs to be returned to the federal government in order to declare it surplus.

Dennis Banks, Attention Center Director, appeared and reported that the transportation costs will increase the further the Assessment Center is away from the City.

SITE 5

This site is located at NW 48th Street and West Adams by Sun Husker Foods. Henrichsen stated the site, which has 120 acres, is owned by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and has been for sale for several years. Most of the southern part of the site would require a major extension of the sanitary sewer line to the east. He noted the site is a 1/4 mile from residential neighborhoods and it is not very accessible.

SITE 6

This site is located on West South Street and SW 27th Street. The site is close to a new residential neighborhood and also Roper School. Water and sewer would also have to be extended to the site.

SITE 7

This site is located at Trabert Hall and is located near several churches, Saratoga Elementary School and a residential neighborhood with a cluster of homes.

Campbell indicated she would not support the site at all because it is too close to Saratoga.

Henrichsen reported that Trabert Hall is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and has recommended to everyone against demolishing any of the housing in the area.

Banks indicated he really likes the 14th and Dairy Drive West site because it will make juveniles look at the Penitentiary and hopefully will send a message that if they don't clean their act up that's where they will end up. Banks also stated it has good access to and from downtown and it is not near a residential neighborhood, churches or any schools.

Banks said the site at 9th and Pioneers is a good site if the environmental issues can be worked out.

MOTION: Campbell moved and Heier seconded to authorize the Attention Center team to proceed to look at the first three sites as outlined. On call Campbell, Heier, Hudkins and Steinman voted aye. Motion carried.

3 ASSESSMENT CENTER UPDATE - Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, appeared and submitted documentation regarding the Assessment Center update (Exhibit B).

Boesch indicated there has been no opposition to co-locating an Assessment Center with the Detention Center as long as the visual impression is not a deterrent to its use by the larger community. She suggested that a mobile crisis unit be housed at the Assessment Center and that it be a two door operation - one for law enforcement and the other for the community.

It was also recommended that the Assessment Center be constructed with available crisis beds on or near the facility to better manage out of control behavior on site and to institute a mobile crisis team which could begin operation even before the physical structure is in place. Boesch said if the Assessment Center and Detention Center are located apart, the County will have to pay a lot more for transportation services.

Steinman asked if there only has to be one kind of Assessment tool.

Schindler indicated that some Counties use screens and depending on where they are screened to, they are assessed.

Boesch reported there are alternatives to send kids to, but Lancaster County does not and as the County proceeds to look at the Assessment Center process it is important to put in place some alternatives.

Heier indicated the Florida Assessment Center services 1.25 million people and they have a 93-bed detention facility. He stated there is something wrong with Lancaster County's system and he would like to find an alternative for juveniles. He said Lancaster County has an average stay in the facility of 13 days and the new building is going to cost around \$11 million.

Campbell indicated the Board needs to prioritize which of the options they want and need.

Steinman asked if Boesch discussed with the other facilities what kinds of alternatives they have found most useful.

Boesch reported that one of the things the Florida facility does is when the juvenile comes in, they get screened and assessed and are put out in an alternative plan. She stated the plan is done for that juvenile before the juvenile and his parents leave. When the family leaves they know if their child will be on electronic monitoring or that they have to be in the daily reporting center. Boesch also indicated the pretrial diversion program is located at the facility.

Steinman indicated the judges insist that they have say over what happens to the juveniles. She said that Juvenile Probation does not have jurisdiction over County Court.

Boesch indicated at the Florida facility when a juvenile is picked up, the parents are called, and before leaving the family has a case manager, a referral plan and dates. If the parents don't cooperate, the youth goes to a Secured Area for detention and the case is sent to the Attorney General and the juvenile goes to court. Boesch also reported at the secured area an electronic photo is taken along with digital fingerprints, preliminary drug screening, voluntary urinalysis and POSIT Evaluation. Boesch noted one of the things she found very interesting at the Florida facility is that they categorize by level their detentions. She indicated she would like to get a clearer breakup of what is included in the categories.

Boesch also stated the Board needs to look at the cost of things and what has proven to be effective. She indicated the Pre-Trial Diversion is effective and cheap and it's about \$0.62 a day. The Day Reporting Center is equally as inexpensive and handles the most number of juveniles. Boesch indicated there are two other entities that have money that Lancaster County could use and one is the Crime Commission. The Crime Commission has juvenile money that is out for bid right now and is due by the end of January and the first eligible applicant for the money would be the County Board. There is also a category where expediter money is available and in looking at the program 51% or more must be minority youth. If Lancaster County had a Day Reporting Center and the Pre-Trial Diversion Program and Teen Court continued and they became the top priorities Lancaster County should apply for the expediter program. One county will be selected in the State and Omaha was selected last year which means Lancaster County should be a natural at getting it this year. Boesch indicated the grants are due by January 21, 1999 and if Lancaster County wants to start a Mobile Crisis Center or have a screener to begin intake, the County needs to begin the process of asking Region V how to access the money.

Banks asked if Region V is willing to contribute funds if the Mobile Crisis Center is co-located.

Boesch said yes and indicated the funds cannot go for the building, but it can go for training, staffing, tools and operation.

Campbell indicated a cover letter needs to be sent to the people that have been working on the new Assessment Center telling them that they will receive minutes monthly along with any updated information regarding the Assessment Center and what the top priorities and alternatives are.

MOTION: Campbell moved and Heier seconded to accept the five recommendations of the subcommittee and proceed with the January 1999 timetable that Kit Boesch has outlined except for the last item "Identify a Juvenile Assessment Center Board" which will be put on hold. On call Campbell, Heier, Hudkins and Steinman voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to authorize Kit Boesch to attend a meeting being held in Houston next week. On call Hudkins, Heier, Campbell and Steinman voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board agreed that the next meeting regarding the Assessment Center alternatives will be on February 2, 1999 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk