STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1999
8:15 A.M.

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

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman

Others Present: Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY MAY 4, 1999 AND THURSDAY MAY 6, 1999

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of Tuesday, May 4, 1999 and Thursday, May 6, 1999. On call Steinman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Authorize Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home to Perform an Indigent Cremation (Emergency Item)

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to approve the addition to the agenda. On call Steinman, Hudkins, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

3 COMMISSIONERS MEETING REPORTS

a. Joint Budget Committee - Campbell, Steinman

Campbell reported the Joint Budget Committee has determined that Kit Boesch, Human Services Director, must review any grant she is requested to oversee.

Campbell reported that a presentation was given on the Community Health Endowment Fund, created from proceeds of the sale of Lincoln General Hospital. She noted this fund will provide recognition grants in the health field.

Campbell stated a presentation on the Community Health Partners, a coalition of health providers, was also given.

b. Public Building Commission - Campbell, Hudkins

Campbell and Hudkins reported the following:

* Lancaster County Partners presented a plaque for the County-City Building
* Linda Wilson, retiring member of the City Council, was recognized for her service on the Public Building Commission
* A tour of the Hall of Justice and Law Enforcement Center was conducted
* Formation of the Arts Committee was authorized

c. Board of Health - Hudkins

Hudkins reported on a rubella outbreak in the community and budget discussions.

d. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development - Campbell

Campbell reported that a report was given on the new Southpointe Theater Pavilion.

Campbell also reported that a representative of the Lincoln Municipal Airport gave a presentation to the group used to recruit airlines. She noted it was reported that a population group of 558,000 has been identified as being served by the airport.

e. Assessment Center Meeting - Campbell, Heier

Campbell reported that identification of the type and number of youth accessing the Assessment Center was discussed. She noted that Heier suggested that a panel of juvenile detention experts from Des Moines, Iowa be invited to come to Lincoln or participate via video conferencing in a discussion on Assessment Center issues.

4 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Board reviewed a legislative update submitted by Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant (Exhibit C).

Norm Agena, County Assessor, and Terry Adams, Deputy County Treasurer, appeared and requested that the following bills be monitored:

* LB 142, which changes the allocation of the motor vehicle tax
* LB 271, which changes a provision relating to rights of nonprofit corporations
* LB 556, which authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine license plate fees

5 BURR OAKS ROAD MAINTENANCE - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, stated the County Board accepted the paved roads in the Burr Oaks subdivision for maintenance on August 6, 1999. It was assumed, at that time, that "Type A" asphalt had been utilized in the paving. He explained it was later determined that the contractor had used recycled asphalt, which is difficult to assess for uniformity. The developer was informed that a three inch "Type A" asphalt overlay would be required for acceptance and subsequently sued the contractor for the cost, but the Court found in the contractor's favor.

Thomas reported that Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney, has reviewed the County Engineer's Road Maintenance Regulations and recommended a tightening of language to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future.

Thomas recommended that the County proceed with assumption of maintenance of the roads in the subdivision.

The Board concurred with the County Engineer's recommendation.

In response to a question from Heier, Thomas stated his department will continue to monitor the performance of recycled asphalt, and provide a recommendation to the Board regarding its use in the future.

6 FOLLOW-UP TO ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL DESIGNATED PERMIT FOR THE USA HOCKEY NATIONAL JUNIOR A TOURNAMENT - Bob Jergensen, P O Pears; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Bob Jergensen, P O Pears, reported on the success of the sale of burgers and beer and provision of live entertainment in the Depot Beer Garden during the USA Hockey National Junior A Tournament event held April 30th through May 5th at State Fair Park. He noted that individuals ages 16-20 were not allowed to enter the beer garden area during the event, but children accompanied by parents were allowed in, if purchasing food.

Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, reported that four individuals were arrested inside the Ice Box area in the State Fair Coliseum and one vehicle was damaged in the parking area south of the building during the event. No disturbances were reported in the Depot Beer Garden.

Jergensen suggested that future events include the following requirements:

* Policy on service
* Food to be served with alcoholic beverages
* Staff training

Jarrett also suggested limiting the number of alcoholic beverages sold at one time to an individual, to aid monitoring by law enforcement.

Jergensen reported that the Responsible Hospitality Council has formulated a list of recommendations with regards to application for a City Special Designated Permit, at the request of the City Council. He noted these have not been formally adopted, and the City Attorney's Office has recommended some changes.

The Board requested Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, to review those recommendations.

The Board also requested that a representative of the Responsible Hospitality Council attend a future County Board meeting, in addition to Staab and Terry Wagner, County Sheriff, to discuss those recommendations.

Campbell suggested that the County Board take a pro-active approach to special events held in villages within the County, including the offer of training by the Responsible Hospitality Council.

In response to a question from Steinman, Jarrett stated the cost of calling in additional law enforcement officers to handle disturbances at special events in the villages is currently covered by the County.

Hudkins noted that pending legislation may allow the County to charge a tax to recover those costs.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Authorize Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home to Perform an Indigent Cremation (Emergency Item)

Staab explained that remains must be disposed of within 30 days and that time limit has almost been reached.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded to authorize Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home to perform the indigent cremation.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Staab stated the indigent's next-of-kin had been contacted, but they elected not to sign off on the cremation.

ON CALL: Steinman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

7 CORNHUSKER PLACE REMODEL - Jim Baird, Cornhusker Place Executive Director; Patty Schumann, Cornhusker Place Assistant Director

Jim Baird, Cornhusker Place Executive Director, distributed a handout, *Cornhusker Place, Inc., Care, Treatment, Sobriety* (Exhibits E & F) and briefly summarized the history of Cornhusker Place.

Baird described the quiet room remodel project, referring to floor plan diagrams (Exhibits G & H). He explained that the contract stipulates a completion date of July 1, 1999 for the project, with an option for the County to renew for a maximum of two additional one year terms. He requested a one year extension of that contract, due to delays in the project, and a modification to allow construction of the fourth quiet room in Phase II, rather than Phase I.

The Board requested Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, to review the existing contract and prepare an addendum with those modifications.

8 NATURAL GAS PURCHASING CONSORTIUM - Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney

Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, reported that Joel Pedersen, Assistant City Attorney, has inquired whether the County wishes to remain a member of the Gas Purchasing Consortium and lock-in natural gas prices for the coming year. She reported that the University of Nebraska at Lincoln is the only member of the consortium that has elected not to participate, to date.

Board consensus to defer the item for one week and seek a recommendation from Don Killeen, County Property Manager.

9 CHILD SUPPORT ATTORNEY - Gary Lacey, County Attorney

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, requested authorization to divert funds authorized for an additional attorney in the Child Support Division, a position that was not filled, to hire one additional attorney in the Civil Division. This attorney's time would be equally divided between traffic cases and mental health commitments. He stated this request was based on an increase in filings for traffic offenses, which totaled 7,932 in 1998, and legislation increasing fourth offense drunk driving and driving on a suspended license offenses to the felony level.

Lacey noted that the Board authorized the additional Child Support attorney with the understanding that 66% of the cost would be reimbursed by the federal government. This funding will not be available for the Civil Division attorney position.

Hudkins questioned whether sufficient funds exist in the County Attorney's budget to fund the position.

Lacey stated this position would be in lieu of a request for an investigator position. He noted that he will also be including a request for manager for the off-site Child Support Division in the Fiscal Year 1999-00 Budget.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded approval of the County Attorney's request. On call Steinman, Hudkins, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

10 JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY MONEY REQUEST - Kit Boesch, Human Services Director

Kit Boesch, Human Services Director, reviewed a *Recommendation for Juvenile Accountability Money from the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County by the Justice Council and Juvenile Justice Review Committee - May 12, 1999* (Exhibit D). The funding recommendation of $299,577 is broken down as follows:

$ 25,000.00	To Complete Alternative Priorities
$ 50,000.00	Pretrial Diversion/Restorative Justice Expansion
$ 50,000.00	Youth Violence Alternatives Expansion
$ 25,000.00	Screener Position
$149,577.00	Evening Reporting Center
$299,577.00	Total

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to place the request on the Tuesday, May 18th County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

Campbell requested that the list of recommended expenditures be revised to reflect Item E as second in priority status behind Item A. She also suggested that the services provided by the Mediation Center undergo a thorough review.

The Board directed Boesch to forward a copy of the recommendations, with a cover letter, to Mayor-elect Wesely.

ON CALL: Steinman, Hudkins, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

11 BUDGET OVERVIEW - Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, briefly reviewed the following (Exhibit I):

* *Lancaster County Comparison FY00 to FY99 Expense Budget*

An 8.25% increase was reported for General Fund Operating Budgets. Kroeker attributed this increase to court and public safety related costs and rent allocations for the move into the Hall of Justice and Law Enforcement Center. He noted there will be additional adjustment of the General Fund Miscellaneous numbers, as the figures shown are estimates.

* *Lancaster County Comparison FY00 to FY99 Revenue Budget*

Kroeker reported a 5.5% increase in Revenues and a General Fund increase of 21.6%.

* *Lancaster County Property Tax Funded Budgets, FY00 Requested Budget Compared to FY99 Adopted*

Kroeker reported a projected increase of $2,278,024, based on requests received to date. A significant increase was noted for Relief/Medical, due to rising hospital and pharmacy costs.

He noted a decrease is anticipated for the Community Mental Health Center, although figures are estimates. Kroeker also indicated that refinancing of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department building and the issuance of bonds for the new Juvenile Detention Facility are reflected in the Debt Service Fund, resulting in a decrease in the Building Fund.

* *Lancaster County Building Fund Budget*

Hudkins suggested that asbestos removal in Trabert Hall be included in the Building Fund Budget.

* *Keno Fund Adopted Budget, Fiscal Year 1998-99*

Campbell noted that the Industrial Development Fund should be changed to read Lincoln Partnership Fund.

The Board requested an update on the Wilderness Park bridge expense.

Kroeker noted the addition of projects to hire interns to place county owned property on the Geographic Information System (GIS) and develop a county-wide addressing system. He stated Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, is working on more definitive cost estimates for these projects.

* *General Fund Miscellaneous - Justice System*

Kroeker reported that the $364,890 shown in the Contingency Fund is related to costs for alternatives to incarceration for juveniles. He also reported that $325,000 is projected for Attention Center transition costs.

* *General Fund Miscellaneous - General Government*

Kroeker stated that City figures are not anticipated until July. Planning reflects a 10% increase, at the Board's request, and Transfer-Bridge and Road reflects a 4% increase.

* *General Fund Miscellaneous - Health & Human Services*

Kroeker noted that a 0% increase is indicated for many of the agencies, due to the Joint Budget Committee's decision to freeze allocations to coincide with United Way's allocation schedule.

Kroeker reported Employer Assistance Association Fund was omitted in Fiscal Year 1999, which gives the appearance of a substantial increase in that category.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Kroeker stated the budget reflects a shift in funding of the Good Neighbor Center and the YWCA, at the request of the City.

Hudkins noted concern regarding the increase shown for the Red Cross Hotel/Motel Fund.

Kroeker stated funding is for administrative costs only. Rooms are provided at no cost by the Hotel/Motel Association.

* *Calculation of Restricted Funds*

Kroeker stated a 2.5% increase in restricted revenues is permitted under LB 989, which is calculated at $936,062. Exceptions to the lid include debt service and the purchase of land and buildings. He noted that if the maximum allowable under the lid is not expended, those funds may be carried forward to the next year. This carry-over amount was approximately 2.3 million dollars last year.

Kroeker also reported that a reduction in State Aid is anticipated to counter the effects of LB 142, which changes the allocation of the motor vehicle tax.

* *Lancaster County Inheritance Tax Collections*

Kroeker stated these figures are budgeted conservatively.

12 ACTION ITEMS

a. Microcomputer Request, C#99127, for One (1) Compaq Deskpro EP Pentium II Computer and Monitor, in the amount of $1,499.77, from the Microcomputer Fund for Use in the District Court Judge Paul Merritt's Courtroom

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded to authorize a letter to be sent to District Court Judge Paul Merritt notifying him that the Microcomputer Fund is depleted and the submitted request will be considered with the District Court's budget request for Fiscal Year 1999-00. On call Steinman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

b. Set Tours for County Treasurer's Office and Noxious Weed Control Authority

Board consensus to tour the Drivers Testing Facility at 500 West "O" Street and the Motor Vehicle Services Facility at 625 N 46th Street on Tuesday, May 18th, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Heier and Workman will tour the Noxious Weed Control Authority offices at a later date.

c. Site Survey and Soil Analysis for Juvenile Detention Facility

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded to direct Jim Hille, Sinclair Hille & Associates Inc., to have a site survey and soil analysis performed for the new Juvenile Detention Facility. On call Steinman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Heier moved and Steinman seconded to authorize Don Killeen, County Property Manager, to sign closing documents on behalf of Lancaster County for the purchase of land for location of the new juvenile detention facility. On call Heier, Steinman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

a. Additional Appropriation for Juvenile Boarding Contracts

Kroeker reported on a request from the Juvenile Court for an additional appropriation of $400,000 - $500,000 (Exhibit A). This request was attributed to an increased number of case filings in the Juvenile Court, resulting in additional costs for attorney fees and boarding contracts. He reported the State has been billed for youth housed in the Attention Center that are awaiting transfer to the Office of Juvenile Services, although reimbursement is not guaranteed.

Kroeker reviewed *Lancaster County, Detail Listing of Obligations vs Budget for Budget Fiscal Year 1999, as of 04/30/99 - Juvenile Court* (Exhibit B), stating an additional $239,846 will be needed if costs are incurred at the current rate. This amount was broken down as follows:

$ 8,866.00	Personnel Costs
$ 61,980.00	Legal Fees
$169,000.00	Boarding Contracts
$239,846.00	Total

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to authorize an additional appropriation of $8,866 for the Juvenile Court for personnel costs.

Campbell requested that a list of the Juvenile Court's outstanding bills be provided to the Board, prior to the Thursday, May 20th County Board Staff Meeting.

The Board requested that Lesli Greunke, Juvenile Court Bailiff, appear at that meeting to answer questions or, if she is not available, to have Juvenile Court Judge Tom Dawson meet with the Board when he returns from vacation.

Heier requested the Juvenile Court to provide a breakdown of legal service costs, including the number of cases represented and the number of instances in which parents were requested to reimburse the County for legal costs, and a listing of the boarding contracts.

Steinman requested clarification of the request for additional appropriations for communications equipment (Exhibit A) and information on whether the contract with Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska has been exceeded.

ON CALL: Hudkins, Steinman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

b. Holding Staff Meetings on Tuesdays, instead of Thursdays; Ecological Committee & Air Pollution Advisory Committee

Brief discussion took place with a suggestion to hold the County Board Staff Meetings on Tuesday mornings, on a trial basis, during the month of September.

Board consensus to defer this item for two weeks to allow Board members sufficient time to review their calendars for standing committee conflicts.

NOTE: No discussion took place with regards to the Ecological Committee & Air Pollution Advisory Committee.

c. Management Team Expenditure for George Hanigan, Community Mental Health Center Director

Board consensus to collect funds from the County Commissioners for donuts, coffee and juice to be served at the Management Team Meeting, at which time George Hanigan, who is leaving his position as Community Mental Health Center Director, will be honored.

The Board requested Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, to research whether budgeted funds can be expended for food expenses, when staff are requested to attend off-hours meetings.

19 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The Board requested that the Notice of Valuation Change for Omitted or Undervalued Property for the Foundation for Educational Funding Inc., scheduled for hearing before the Board of Equalization on May 25th, be rescheduled for June 1st.

20 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

_____

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk