

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1999
2:30 P.M.**

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

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1999

This item was deferred to allow further time for review.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Furniture for County Attorney's Office

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Furniture for County Attorney's Office

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, appeared and stated that some items were apparently left off the list of furniture approved for the Justice and Law Enforcement Center in June of 1999. He added there are sufficient funds remaining in the 1.8 million encumbered for furniture and technology costs for the building to cover the request.

Steve Flanders, Public Building Commission Project Manager, appeared and presented copies of a summary of costs for furniture and courtroom technology for the Justice and Law Enforcement Center and the additional request for the County Attorney's Office which totals approximately \$52,000 (Exhibit A).

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, appeared and stated that the original order did not include secretarial chairs and conference room tables, attributing the order delay to notification that the tables could not be ordered separately. He added there was no further contact regarding the order.

Hudkins asked whether an outstanding credit of \$12,000 -\$14,000 from All Makes Office Equipment could be used for this purchase.

Flanders agreed to check.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to request the Purchasing Department to order the requested furniture for the County Attorney's Office. On call Hudkins, Steinman, Heier, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

**3 ONE AND SIX YEAR ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECTS AT 141ST AND 162ND STREETS** - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, appeared to answer any carryover questions related to the November 3rd public hearing on the One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Thomas stated the location of houses and a major drainage way rule out placement of a viaduct on South 82nd Street, as proposed by a citizen at the public hearing.

Thomas reported that a partially dead tree branch suspended over Agnew Road at 70th Street will be removed and double flags will be placed on "Pavement Ends" signs at the intersection of 112th and East Van Dorn, in response to citizen complaints at the public hearing. Traffic counts on Agnew Road east of Highway 77 and on 134th Street west of the Waverly High School will also be updated.

Campbell noted that a citizen residing on 120th Street had requested a recount of traffic on that road from Highway 2 to Roca Road.

Thomas responded that those traffic count figures appear to be accurate.

Heier asked whether an increase in traffic on East Van Dorn is anticipated as a result of the new Lincoln Benefit Life facility.

Thomas said it is difficult to make a prediction. He noted that approximately 320 vehicles currently travel the last half mile of blacktop extending from 112th Street on East Van Dorn, so there is already a fair amount of traffic on this road.

The Board requested that traffic counts be conducted in the East Van Dorn Street area in the spring of 2000.

Workman distributed copies of letters received from Bob Lookabaugh and Kelly Geiler with regards to the One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program and a diagram of the grade slope on 162nd Street (Exhibit B).

Thomas distributed copies of a map detailing accidents occurring on 162nd between Highway 6 and the county line over a 5.5 year period (Exhibit C). He pointed out that most of the accidents occurred in the southern four mile section, which is the section needing improvement. Thomas stated that engineering work for this section is scheduled in the One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program, but advised against grading until two bridges in the vicinity are replaced.

In response to a question from Workman, Thomas reported that traffic counts for 141st and Davey Road ranged from 120-160 vehicles per day. Traffic for the north four mile section of 162nd Street ranged from 210-300 vehicles per day, with a daily traffic count of 360-430 reported for the south four mile section, although harvest vehicles may have impacted that number. He added that traffic counts increase as traffic is picked up from side roads.

Workman said most of the people he has talked to seem to favor paving 162nd Street over 141st Street, citing concerns with regards to commercial traffic and drivers exceeding the speed limit. He added that constituents have indicated that scheduling of road improvements should include factors such as these, in addition to traffic counts.

Thomas noted that a member of the public approached him after the public hearing and suggested that speed limit signs be placed on 162nd as a reminder to drivers, which would only require a slight investment on the part of the County.

Campbell asked about the timetable for improvements to 162nd Street.

Thomas said plans for the replacement of two bridges north of Greenwood Road will be developed in 2000. Engineering costs for the 1.8 mile section between the railroad tracks and Salt Creek Bridge will be budgeted in 2001, with right-of-way and grading of that section occurring in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Hudkins requested that the Engineering Department include engineering and right-of-way work for the next two mile section.

Steinman questioned whether a road becomes more dangerous if a portion is paved.

Heier remarked that individuals need to accept responsibility for their driving, noting that much of the traffic on 162nd is individuals that travel the road regularly and are aware of its condition and speed.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Thomas stated that engineering costs and acquisition of right-of-way average \$150,000 per mile, with paving costs averaging the same.

Workman noted that \$800,000 in road improvement funds were not spent last year.

Thomas said that occurred for a variety of reasons and agreed to develop a report detailing those reasons for the Board.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Thomas said those funds were incorporated into this year's budget. He added that the budget is anticipated to be spent in full this year.

Campbell asked whether improvement of 162nd Street could be split into three segments (one four mile section and two, two mile sections) in an effort to speed up the project.

Thomas stated that is the plan, noting work will be initiated on one two mile section while awaiting work on bridges in the second two mile section.

Campbell asked whether engineering work could proceed on the 1.8 mile section in 2000.

Thomas stated he would need to cover engineering costs of approximately \$12,000.

Board members indicated they would be willing to cover that cost, if necessary, or to pay for the contracting of engineering work to keep projects moving.

The Board requested Thomas to return for a review of budget and traffic counts in March or early April of 2000, with particular attention to those roads approaching daily counts of 450-500 vehicles.

4 ACTION ITEMS

- a. County Commissioner Attendance at Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) County Zoning Seminar, December 9-10, 1999, Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska

Workman indicated that he will attend the seminar.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. Retirement of Roger Runion, Personnel Services Director at Lancaster Manor

Campbell stated that with the impending retirement of Roger Runion, Personnel Services Director at Lancaster Manor, the Board needs to give consideration as to whether to maintain this position at Lancaster Manor or to direct the Personnel Department to absorb this function.

Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator, appeared and stated that he believes there is a definite need for this position at the Manor, particularly in the area of direct hires.

Georgia Glass, Personnel Director, concurred, stating the Personnel Department is comfortable with maintaining this position at Lancaster Manor, provided that consistency with established policies and procedures is maintained. She added that her department could not absorb this function without hiring additional staff.

Board consensus to proceed with hiring for the vacancy.

6 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk