

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2000
8:15 A.M.**

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

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

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 1999**

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded approval of the minutes dated Tuesday, December 21, 1999. On call Heier, Workman, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Topics for Monthly Meeting with the Mayor
- b. Parks & Recreation Futures Committee

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. On call Heier, Workman, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel and Amy Prenda, Kissel/E & S Associates

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, distributed copies of a legislative update and status of bills (Exhibit A). Copies of Lancaster County Legislative Priorities, 2000 Legislative Session (Exhibit B) were also received.

Kissel reported that Governor Johanns appears willing to address juvenile justice issues, with a focus on treatment. He added that Senator Pedersen plans to prioritize LB 652, which provides for a juvenile correctional facilities master plan, this session.

Hudkins arrived at the meeting.

Kissel said the Revenue Committee is expected to advance LB 985, which changes the exemption amount subject to inheritance tax and creates a fund to provide funding to counties. Monies lost to the counties as a result of the bill would be distributed back through a distribution formula that will probably be based on population and highway miles. Senator Redfield is expected to prioritize this issue.

Hudkins said redistribution would be in the form of road aid with a six million dollar cap. He added that the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) strongly opposes the bill.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Kissel said the League of Municipalities is expected to draft legislation that would amend LB 496, which changed right-of-way for telecommunications lines and related facilities and eminent domain powers.

Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney, said Senator Kristensen is expected to introduce changes to clean-up the bill.

Heier asked whether legislation is expected to be introduced that will address the building permits issue.

Kissel said he was not aware of any.

Campbell said the County Assessor is concerned about lack of notice of new non-farm buildings on farmsteads now that the State has assumed regulatory responsibility. She said Senator Raikes and the Department of Revenue have been contacted regarding the problem.

Kissel also reviewed his client list and staff assignments.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Authorization & Letters of Support for Twelve (12) Grants Totaling \$550,000 to Nebraska Crime Commission

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the authorization and letters of support. On call Hudkins, Heier, Steinman, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

- b. Window Blinds for County Attorney's Office (\$1,539)

Campbell said Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, has recommended approval of the request. Funding will be through the Building Fund.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval. On call Hudkins, Workman, Heier, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

- 4 CHANGE OF ZONE NO. 193, OFF-PREMISES SIGN TEXT AMENDMENT (BILLBOARDS); COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 94-42, WILDERNESS PARK SUBAREA PLAN -**
Mike DeKalb and Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Planning Department; Kip Hulvershorn, Consultant

Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-42

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, gave a brief history of the study process involved in the development of the Wilderness Park Subarea Plan.

Kip Hulvershorn, consultant and author of the Wilderness Park Subarea Plan, Integration of Wilderness Park Studies With Park Management Recommendations (on file in the County Clerk's Office), said the report is a vision plan for the Wilderness Park. It also includes an action plan for park management, strategies for protecting the areas adjacent to the park, and a proposal for extension of the park down through Roca and Hickman.

DeKalb said there are no road closures included in the subarea plan. He also noted a recommendation from the Planning Commission that one amendment be added permitting utility corridors in the park, if conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Campbell asked whether the 100 foot buffer along waterways noted in the subarea plan is included in the Stormwater Management Plan.

Hulvershorn said he used the 100 foot buffer as a point of general understanding, rather than computing each corridor.

Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Planning Department, said the proposed Stormwater Ordinance utilizes the Corp of Engineers' formula, varying the buffer width with the size of the channel.

Hulvershorn added that the 100 foot buffer allows greater flexibility for the future.

Campbell requested a definition of "environmental overlay districts".

Hulvershorn said a higher standard of scrutiny would be applied to areas adjacent to the park that have environmental overlay zones.

DeKalb said the Floodplain Ordinance and the Airport Noise Zone are examples of environmental overlay districts.

Campbell asked Hulvershorn whether he thinks the County should sell the park.

Hulvershorn said no, he believes the joint efforts of the County, City and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) in preserving Wilderness Park have been very effective. He recommended that the County focus on preserving additional open space throughout the county, noting that the federal government recently passed reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with a focus on land acquisition.

Campbell said Griffin Grant Writing will be requested to pursue this funding on behalf of the County.

Heier noted there was a strong belief expressed in the mediation group that expansion of the park should include a belt of green space encircling the City of Lincoln.

DeKalb said there are a number of conservation efforts currently underway in the county that could interface with the "crescent green" concept.

DeKalb also stated that once the Wilderness Park Subarea Plan is adopted, a plan to implement suggested improvements within Wilderness Park will be brought forth by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Campbell noted that the Mayor is very interested in City ownership of Wilderness Park.

Campbell and Hudkins agreed to meet with Jim Morgan, Parks & Recreation Department Director, and Hulvershorn to respond to the City's proposal to purchase Wilderness Park from the County and to discuss future County involvement in the parks system.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to direct the Ecological Advisory

Committee to begin working with Kip Hulvershorn in developing a long-range “crescent green” plan for the County and in accessing funds for such a plan. On call Heier, Steinman, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

NOTE: The County Board will hold a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment 94-42 at the Tuesday, January 18th County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Change of Zone No. 193

DeKalb said this item is scheduled for public hearing before the County Board on January 25th. He recommended that the Board take action at that time to place the item on pending until the City Council takes action on their billboard ordinance amendment. The Planning Department will then bring forth recommendations on how the County Board can adjust their ordinance to match that of the City’s.

Campbell said she believes billboard issues change in the transition from urban areas to agricultural areas and is concerned that those issues have not been fully addressed.

DeKalb noted there are only ten areas in the County which have zoning suitable for billboard placement.

Campbell suggested that the County Engineer and agricultural groups be contacted for their perspective on the issue.

The Board requested that DeKalb be scheduled on a future County Board Staff Meeting for additional discussion of billboard issues and that a map detailing those areas in the County with zoning suitable for billboard placement be presented at that time.

5 HEALTH INSURANCE: (A) COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES WHEN SEPARATING FROM COUNTY EMPLOYMENT; AND (B) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - Georgia Glass, Personnel Department; Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney

Coverage for Employees when Separating from County Employment

Georgia Glass, Personnel Department, said deductions for health insurance are now done on a bi-monthly basis to spread out the increased cost of health insurance. She proposed that County employees separating in the first pay period of the month be refunded for their health insurance premium, with coverage until the end of the month. Employees separating in the second pay period of the month will have coverage until the end of the following month. Glass said this would mirror the policy of the City.

The Board concurred with the policy.

Request for Proposals

Glass said the Mayor has requested a Request for Proposals (RFP) for health insurance for City employees. She said she has asked Marsh, Inc., insurance consultants, to prepare a proposal stating what they would charge to write the RFP. Glass asked whether the County wished to participate in the RFP process.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to participate in a joint Request for Proposals (RFP) with the City for health insurance, with the cost prorated by the number of employees participating in the health insurance plan. On call Hudkins, Heier, Steinman, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

RETURNING TO AGENDA ITEM 4 - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 94-42, WILDERNESS PARK SUBAREA PLAN

Heier suggested that the Board present Kip Hulvershorn, consultant and author of the Wilderness Park Subarea Plan, Integration of Wilderness Park Studies With Park Management Recommendations, a letter of appreciation for his efforts at the Tuesday, January 18th County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

The Board concurred.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Topics for Monthly Meeting with the Mayor

The following topics were suggested:

- Wilderness Park

- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Health Insurance

Hudkins said the Mayor has proposed elimination of the six month probationary period for participation in the City's health insurance plan.

b. Parks & Recreation Futures Committee

Workman said he has asked Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, to attend a discussion of Parks & Recreation's provision of human services.

6 ELECTION COMMISSIONER SPACE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS -
Dave Shively, Election Commissioner; Don Killeen, County Property
Manager

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, briefly reviewed a summary of responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) for relocation of the Election Commission (Exhibit D). He recommended that the County delay relocation until after the November election.

Campbell noted that the County Board had agreed to look at relocating the Election Commission so that a parking garage that would service the government complex could be built on that site.

The Board concurred with Killeen's recommendation after reviewing square footage costs.

Heating and Cooling in the County-City Building

Board members voiced concern about heating problems in the County-city Building.

Killeen reported that coil size has been increased throughout the building and daily logs are being run on temperature points. He added that temperatures are regulated on a zoned basis.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Killeen said the engineer is responsible for costs, as the system is still under warranty.

Campbell said she believes the practice of keeping doors closed on private offices may skew temperature readings.

The Board requested Killeen to increase the building temperature by two degrees.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- a. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Meeting with Governor Regarding Legislative Agenda - Hudkins

Hudkins reported that juvenile justice issues and inheritance tax were discussed.

Hudkins exited the meeting.

7 EXPANSION OF RURAL TRANSIT - Tim Howell, Rural Transit Director

Tim Howell, Rural Transit Director, appeared in response to a commissioner's inquiry as to whether Rural Transit's service to the Firth area could be expanded to meet a resident's needs. He explained that, under terms of the governing grant, service must be consistent in all areas served.

8 ANNUAL NOXIOUS WEED REPORT - Russ Shultz, Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent

Item deleted from the agenda. This report will be presented at the Tuesday, January 11th County Board of Commissioners Meeting instead.

Copies of The Thistles of Nebraska were distributed (on file in the County Clerk's Office).

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Norm Agena, County Assessor, appeared and requested an audience to discuss a maintenance agreement request.

MOTION: Heier moved and Steinman seconded to add the item to the agenda. On call Heier, Steinman, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent. Motion carried.

Agena said a request for a \$160 maintenance agreement for a signature machine in his office was rejected by the Purchasing Department. He explained that the machine is only used for two brief time periods a year and there are no plans to replace it. Agena added that the cost of replacement is \$3,200 and leasing of equipment is estimated at \$3,600.

Board consensus to schedule the maintenance agreement on a County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda for a vote.

9 ACTION ITEMS

- a. Authorization & Letters of Support for Twelve (12) Grants Totaling \$550,000 to Nebraska Crime Commission

Moved forward on the agenda.

- b. Window Blinds for County Attorney's Office (\$1,539)

Moved forward on the agenda.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. Chief Deputy Salaries

A list of recommendation from the elected officials for chief deputy salaries was distributed (Exhibit C).

Campbell noted that it has been the County Board's policy to honor the elected officials' recommendations.

Hudkins objected to the absence of a cost-of-living escalator.

Campbell explained that in 1998 the County Board enlisted the assistance of the Elected Officials Salary Review Committee in setting the salaries for elected officials. As a result, two, two-year incremental salary increases were approved for the County Commissioners, County Clerk, District Court Clerk, Register of Deeds and County Treasurer. Cost-of-living escalators were not included in those salaries. Salaries were also set for the County Attorney, Public Defender, County Engineer County Assessor and County Sheriff. Those salaries included a 2.5 percent cost-of-living increase or the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever was greater, beginning January 1st of each year through 2002.

NOTE: The Board will take action on the salaries for chief deputies at the Tuesday, January 11th County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

- b. Office Space for Juvenile Expediter

Item deleted from the agenda.

- c. Junior Achievement Dinner, January 18, 2000

Workman indicated that he will attend.

- d. Invitation from Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC&D) to Visit Other RC&D's

Workman said Judy Adams, Lincoln Action Program Rural Coordinator, has agreed to represent Lancaster County.

- e. Election of County Board Officers

The Board will elect officers at the Tuesday, January 11th County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

11 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- a. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Meeting with Governor Regarding Legislative Agenda - Hudkins

Moved forward on the agenda.

- b. Ecological Advisory Committee - Heier

Heier reported that the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and the Salt Wort Plant are located in the Saline Wetlands. Both have been recommended for inclusion on the endangered list.

- c. Legislative Delegation Meeting - Campbell, Hudkins

See Item 3.

- d. Families First & Foremost Grant Project - Campbell

Campbell reported that Sheryl Schrepf, Families First & Foremost Grant Director, reviewed the budget. She also noted that a stakeholder group is being formed and a grant site visit has been scheduled for May.

12 INVITATIONS TO BOARD MEMBERS

13 CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNTY BOARD

14 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNTY BOARD

15 AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNTY BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2000

- a. Contract with Juvenile Evening Reporting Center with CenterPointe

16 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Heier questioned the County Board's participation on the Workforce Development Council.

Campbell suggested that Susan Klein, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, be asked to serve on the council and represent the County's general assistance interests.

Heier reported on a recent dog attack that occurred in the county. He agreed to seek additional information and will report back to the Board.

17 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk