

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2000
2:15 P.M.**

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

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Johnson, 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,
FEBRUARY 1, 2000**

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated February 1, 2000. Steinman, Workman, Hudkins, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Justice and Law Enforcement Center Open House
- b. Attendance at Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)
Southeast District Meeting, March 9, 2000
- c. Transportation Plan Citizens Committee
- d. Microcomputer Request, C#2000-040, from County Attorney for a
Scanner, \$879.44 from the County Attorney's Budget (Exhibit A)
- e. Microcomputer Request, C#2000-042, from County Extension Office for
a Laptop Computer, \$2,882.52 from the Microcomputer Fund (Exhibit B)

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

3 PENDING LITIGATION - Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to enter Executive Session at 3:03 p.m. for discussion of pending and potential litigation. Hudkins, Steinman, Heier, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded to exit Executive Session at 3:25 p.m. Steinman, Workman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

4 ACTION ITEMS

a. Set Date for Employee Recognition Awards and Review of Guidelines

Board consensus to hold the event at the Auld Recreation Center on May 16th and to extend recognition to those employees with ten years of service.

Campbell said the Personnel Department has supplied a plaque to the Mayor's Office that recognizes City program award winners.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to request the Personnel Department to supply a plaque to the County that recognizes recipients of the Commissioners Award of Excellence. Hudkins, Steinman, Workman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

b. Fiscal Year 2000-2001 Budget Letter and Calendar

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, reviewed the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 Budget Letter (Exhibit C).

The Board requested that bold type be used in the first sentence of the third paragraph.

Kroeker also reviewed the Budget Calendar (See Exhibit C).

The Board requested that scheduling of the final work session be changed from July 11th to July 18th.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

a. Legislative Update

The Board reviewed a draft of a letter to Senator Wickersham, Revenue Committee Chair, (Exhibit D).

The Board requested the following changes:

- Change the word *bill* to *bills* in the second sentence of the first paragraph
- Change the last sentence of the second paragraph to read *While LB 985 does provide for reimbursement of a portion of the lost revenue, it can only be used for roads, streets and bridges, and therefore restricts the flexibility which counties need with regard to this revenue.*
- Change the word *Contrary* to the phrase *It is contrary* in the first bullet
- Change the word *is* to *are* in the third bullet
- Add the word *population* behind the phrase *while Lancaster County is 13.5 % of the State* in the fourth bullet
- Use bold type for the phrase *discretionary use of the funds is taken away* and change the phrase *can only* to the word *must* in the fifth bullet
- Add the word *State's* in front of the phrase *long term ability* in the sixth bullet
- Delete the second sentence in the sixth bullet

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded to approve the letter to the Revenue Committee, with the noted changes, and to authorize Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, to provide testimony in opposition to the inheritance tax bills. Steinman, Hudkins, Heier, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

Eagan also reported on LB 628, which requires provision of copies of public records at actual cost, and LB 175, which changes provisions relating to disposition of personal property, security deposits and actions for possession.

Campbell noted that LB 175 may impact General Assistance costs, as it allows an increase in rental deposits.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Justice and Law Enforcement Center Open House

Eagan reported that the open house for the Justice and Law Enforcement Center will be held May 5th, with public tours on May 6th.

b. Attendance at Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District Meeting, March 9, 2000

Heier, Hudkins and Campbell will attend.

c. Transportation Plan Citizens Committee

Campbell said Henry Wolfe has agreed to serve on the committee. Responses have not been received from Wayne Nielsen and Pat Norris.

Additional names suggested were Bud Cuca and Bill Giovanni.

d. Microcomputer Request, C#2000-040, from County Attorney for a Scanner, \$879.44 from the County Attorney's Budget (Exhibit A)

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, appeared and stated that the equipment will be used to scan photographs for courtroom presentations.

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

e. Microcomputer Request, C#2000-042, from County Extension Office for a Laptop Computer, \$2,882.52 from the Extension Budget (Exhibit B)

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

6 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

a. District Energy Corporation - Heier, Hudkins

Hudkins reported that he was elected Chair of the District Energy Corporation for the coming year.

Hudkins also reported that the new heating/air cooling system for the Capitol and State Office Building survived the first cold weather test.

b. Joint Budget Committee - Campbell, Steinman

Steinman reported that she was elected Chair of the Joint Budget Committee and will be attending meetings of the Funders Group.

Steinman said the Keno Prevention Fund and funding policies were discussed. She said funding requests must fit within the priorities and the Tier One activities of the Human Services Needs Assessment and Comprehensive Plan. New agencies may apply for funding. Agencies that have previously received funding in the six figure range will initially be limited to 95 percent.

Steinman noted that the representatives of the City-County Child Care Advisory Committee will appear at the next Joint Budget Committee meeting to answer questions.

c. Area 5 Agricultural & Horticultural Land Valuation Board - Hudkins, Heier

Hudkins reported that Catherine Lang, State Property Tax Administrator, has advised Saunders County to refrain from implementing a greenbelt plan, as recommended by the Area 5 Agricultural & Horticultural Land Valuation Board (AHLVB). He said Lang supports market-based valuation, rather than the income approach utilized by the Lancaster County Assessor. Hudkins said the Area 5 AHLVB may be required to defend its position before the Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC). An additional appropriation of funds may be required of each participating county to cover the cost of retaining legal counsel.

d. General Assistance Monitoring Committee - Campbell, Steinman

Campbell said the County Attorney's Office has recommended that requests for General Assistance that are related to inherently dangerous activities be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Campbell said housing issues were discussed, including a request from Beatty Brasch, Lincoln Action Program Director, that eligibility be raised so more individuals can qualify for housing assistance. Campbell reported that federal funding cuts will force closure of three housing programs - a Catholic Social Services program that offers transition housing for homeless families; CenterPointe's GlidePATH program that offers rent and support services of mentally ill individuals with addiction problems and Cedars Youth Services TLC residential facility for teenage women who are pregnant or parenting. Susan Klein, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, was asked to assess the impact of the loss of the GlidePATH program on General Assistance.

e. Public Building Commission - Campbell, Hudkins

Hudkins reported that the wood stain used on seating pews for the courtrooms does not match the woodwork. He said the furniture will be replaced if re-staining efforts are unsuccessful.

Hudkins said the parking situation was also discussed. He noted it may be possible to lease an additional 50-80 stalls for public parking, at a cost of \$50,000. Installation of parking meters was suggested as a way of recovering that expense.

Hudkins said additional discussion focused on employee bus service to the Old Federal Building. The cost of providing regular bus service at twelve minute intervals is estimated to cost \$48,000. He noted that the State also has offices in the building and will be asked to share in this expense.

Campbell noted that a request to distribute domestic violence brochures in the government complex buildings was placed on pending.

7 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk