

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000
3:35 P.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MARCH
2, 2000**

Hudkins requested that the fifth paragraph under discussion of *Recommendation 1: Merge County Assessor and Register of Deeds* on Page 10 of the minutes be corrected to read as follows:

Nolte asked why a merger with the County Assessor and why not a merger with the County Clerk, Planning or some other department.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated March 2, 2000, with the noted correction. Steinman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Workman abstained from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Warehouse Space for Election Commissioner
- b. Leave Requests (Exhibit A)
 - 1. Request from Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, to Attend Nebraska Jail Standards Workshop in Kearney, Nebraska, March 20-21, 2000
 - 2. Request from Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, to Participate on the CARF (The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission) 2000 National Advisory Committee in Tucson, Arizona, April 9-11, 2000
 - 3. Vacation Request from Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, for March 29-31, 2000
 - 4. Vacation Request from Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, for March 29-31, 2000
 - 5. Vacation Request from Russ Shultz, Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent, for March 21-22, 2000
- c. Request from Catholic Diocese of Lincoln to Commence Grading at Site of Proposed Monastery in Northwest Lancaster County (Exhibit B)
- d. Lease with the Airport Authority
- e. Response to Letter from Fred Loder Requesting Lock Boxes in the Justice and Law Enforcement Center
- f. Air Pollution Advisory Board Meeting on March 6, 2000

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

3 PENDING LITIGATION & LABOR NEGOTIATIONS - Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney; Georgia Glass, Personnel Director

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to enter Executive Session at 3:40 p.m for discussion of pending litigation and labor negotiations. Steinman, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded to exit Executive Session at 4:07 p.m. Steinman, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Warehouse Space for Election Commissioner

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, appeared and said sale of the building currently utilized for storage of election supplies appears imminent and the County will probably need to vacate the property by June 1st. He said he has looked at several other properties, including the Old Federal Building and a building at 300 Oak Creek Drive, which appeared to fulfill requirements but may have been leased to another tenant.

Hudkins asked why the Old Federal Building was deemed unsuitable as it has a dock, alleyway access and adequate square footage, although the space would be split between two floors.

Shively said he is concerned that the number of election workers that will be picking up and returning election supplies will tie up traffic on major thoroughfares in the downtown area. He added it would be advantageous to lease a site prior to the May primary as election supplies could then be returned to the new location.

Hudkins asked whether space in Trabert Hall could be utilized.

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, said it would be unwieldy to transport the supplies to available space in the higher levels in that building.

Steinman suggested that Lincoln Action Program (LAP) be contacted to see whether there is space available in their new building at 210 "O" Street.

The Board asked Shively and Killeen to investigate whether space is available in that building. If there is not, to proceed with a reassessment of space in the Old Federal and mailing of a letter to Lincoln realtors apprising them of the County's need for commercial space in the range of 2,100 to 2,500 square feet.

d. Lease with the Airport Authority

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, said the County needs to secure ground adjacent to the Corrections Airpark facility for installation of a ground coupled air cooling system. He said the lease proposed by the Lincoln Airport Authority has higher than anticipated rates.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to ask Rich Kosch of the District Energy Corporation to draft a letter to the Lincoln Airport Authority explaining the ground coupled system and its rate benefits for other Lincoln entities, including the Lincoln Airport Authority, and asking for reconsideration of lease rates. Hudkins, Workman, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

4 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, reported that LB 652, which provides for a juvenile correctional facilities master plan, has advanced to final reading and is expected to be approved by the Legislature. He noted that Senator Landis has indicated that he will support the bill. Kissel added that he is still trying to arrange a meeting with the Governor to discuss his concerns.

Kissel reported that LB 414, which provides for transition of the office of Clerk of the District Court to a State reimbursed position, has advanced, although a number of District Court Clerks oppose the bill. He added that Senator Beutler is stressing the property tax relief factor in relation to the bill.

Steinman said a veto is anticipated, and suggested that this bill be included in a discussion of LB 652 with the Governor.

Campbell disagreed saying LB 652 should remain the focus of that meeting, as it is number one priority issue for Lancaster County.

Kissel said Senator Wickersham has indicated that the Revenue Committee is working on the distribution formula in LB 1138, which changes provisions relating to State aid to political subdivisions. He said this bill is ranked second in terms of priority status for the Revenue Committee and may not be advanced this year.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Kissel said it is difficult to gauge the position of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) on this bill.

Kissel reported that Senator Coordsen plans to introduce amendments that will soften the impact of LB 628, which requires provision of copies of public records at actual costs.

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, said a considerable amount of money was invested in the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) database and this bill may restrict the sale of GIS maps.

The Board requested Norm Agena, County Assessor, and Doug Thomas, Information Services Director, to draft a letter outlining their concerns and suggestions of amendments to the bill.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Items a and d were moved forward on the agenda.

- b. Leave Requests (Exhibit A)
 - 1. Request from Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, to Attend Nebraska Jail Standards Workshop in Kearney, Nebraska, March 20-21, 2000
 - 2. Request from Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, to Participate on the CARF (The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission) 2000 National Advisory Committee in Tucson, Arizona, April 9-11, 2000
 - 3. Vacation Request from Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, for March 29-31, 2000
 - 4. Vacation Request from Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, for March 29-31, 2000
 - 5. Vacation Request from Russ Shultz, Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent, for March 21-22, 2000

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the leave requests. Steinman, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

- c. Request from Catholic Diocese of Lincoln to Commence Grading at Site of Proposed Monastery in Northwest Lancaster County (Exhibit B)

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to authorize the Chair to notify John Sampson, Sampson Construction, that the County Board will not object if grading is initiated, but the Special Permit must follow the standard procedure. Hudkins, Workman, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

- e. Response to Letter from Fred Loder Requesting Lock Boxes in the Justice and Law Enforcement Center

Board consensus to place the item on hold, pending review by the Public Building Commission.

- f. Air Pollution Advisory Board Meeting on March 6, 2000

Eagan said a letter has been sent to Leon Vinci, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Director, requesting a report on the Air Pollution Advisory Board's recommendation of an Asbestos Demolition Renovation Civil Penalty Calculation Policy.

Campbell said the matter has also been discussed with the Mayor.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

a. Cheever Construction Company Insurance Contract

Eagan said it has been determined that the performance and payment bond that is already in place should be sufficient to meet the County's liability concerns in construction of the Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center.

b. Animal Services Subcommittee

The Board asked Eagan to notify the Animal Services Subcommittee that Board members will be unable to attend meetings of that body, due to scheduling conflicts.

c. Opposition to the Firth Viaduct

Campbell said Don Thomas, County Engineer, has recommended that the Board notify the Firth Village Board and Rural Fire Board of the landowner's opposition to the viaduct and request an opinion on whether to proceed with the project.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to authorize the Chair to send such a letter to the Firth Village Board and the Rural Fire Board. Hudkins, Steinman, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

g. Dedicated Planner for Stevens Creek

h. Board of Health Meeting

i. Microcomputer Request C#2000-076 for the District Court, \$962.20 for a Laser Printer (Exhibit C)

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

g. Stevens Creek

Campbell said she met with Kathleen Sellman, Planning Director; Kent Morgan, Assistant Planning Director; Ann Harrell, Mayor's Office; and Coleen Seng, City Council, to discuss dedication of a planner to Stevens Creek. She said Sellman indicated that a newly hired planner will work with several areas, but agreed to have the planner focus initially on Stevens Creek. The Mayor agreed with this plan. Campbell reported that an Internet website will be developed as part of that process. Members of the public will have an opportunity to submit questions or information and to apply to serve on a citizens group. She added that a joint press conference will be held announcing that this is the plan.

h. Board of Health Meeting

Hudkins said the Board of Health will vote on the Mayor's new appointments to that board on March 14th. These appointments require ratification by the City Council and County Board.

Board consensus to support retention of Chris Caudill, Lancaster County Medical Society.

- i. Microcomputer Request C#2000-076 for the District Court, \$962.20 for a Laser Printer, Sound Card and Speakers (Exhibit C)

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded approval of the request, with the stipulation that the cost is to be deducted from the District Court Budget. Steinman, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

6 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

a. Information Services Policy Committee - Steinman

Steinman reported the following:

- Enhancements to the mainframe
- Work is proceeding on Ecommerce issues
- A study of Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center computer needs will be completed in March

b. Joint Budget Committee - Campbell, Steinman

Steinman said a presentation was received from the Child Care Advisory Committee. She said it appears that additional representation is needed from the business community. The Child Care Advisory Committee was advised that the City Council and County Board must approve new appointments.

Steinman also reported on funding requests for 2000, noting \$100,000 in requests were received from currently funded agencies with new programs, \$150,000 were from new agencies and over \$250,000 in requested increases were from current agencies and current program areas.

Campbell added that requests must fit with the priorities established in the Human Services Needs Assessment and Comprehensive Plan for funding.

c. Railroad Transportation Safety District - Steinman, Workman

Workman reported that the 3rd and "A" Street project is proceeding, adding an ecological study is being performed on all six routes.

Workman also noted that the six year budget was submitted.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Workman said the RTSD has not committed additional funds to the Baseball Partnership Project.

d. Monthly Meeting with the Mayor - Campbell, Hudkins

Campbell said the City plans to distribute *Informational Material and Supplemental Questionnaire for Ambulance Services* (Exhibit D). She said Mayor Wesely has indicated that he would like information on provision of services to rural residents included in the proposal.

Campbell said she and Hudkins met with Mayor Wesely and staff earlier in the day and decided that the County will be included in *Section 2, Description of Service Area* and *Section 7, Performance Review*. She said Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, was asked to prepare a supplemental fact sheet for the County. Campbell noted that the Mayor has asked to brief the County Board on proposals received at a future Staff Meeting.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Campbell said there is the potential for six ambulance companies to submit bids.

The Board asked Eagan and Ahlberg to serve as the Board's representatives at other meetings being held on the ambulance issue.

Campbell said additional discussion focused on the County Board's letter to the Air Pollution Advisory Board and the Griffin Grant Writing proposal. She noted that the Mayor said he had visited with Dan Nolte, Register of Deeds, on the Lancaster County Consolidation Committee's recommendation that the County Assessor and the Register of Deeds be merged and indicated that he does not support the consolidation.

e. Human Services Needs Assessment Executive Committee - Campbell, Steinman

Campbell said an updated final draft of the *Human Services 3-Year Comprehensive Plan* was received. She noted that the Joint Budget Committee will review the report at a special meeting.

7 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk