

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2000
9 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair
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 THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 16, 2000**

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of November 16, 2000. Steinman, Heier, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Personnel Requisition for Defense Eligibility Technician
- B. Vacation Request from Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director, for December 1, 2000
- C. Authorize Members of Transition Team to Tour Several Detention Centers and Assessment Centers in Denver Area, December 11-13, 2000
- D. Report on Meeting with Scott Sidwell, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director, to Discuss "Greenbelting" Issues
- E. Report on Lancaster Manor Advisory Committee
- F. Report on Air Pollution Advisory Committee
- G. Report on Families First & Foremost (F³) Retreat

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

3 COUNTY FINAL PLAT NO. 00029, LITTLE NEMAHA LAKE ESTATES, NORTH AND WEST OF THE CORNER OF SOUTH 148TH STREET AND WITTSTRUCK ROAD - Mike DeKalb, Planning Department

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, reviewed County Final Plat 00029, a request for a final plat (split jurisdiction with the Village of Bennet) to create 9 residential lots, one outlot reserved for the Little Nemaha Natural Resources District (NRD) lake and one outlot for a private roadway at a location north and west of the corner of South 148th Street and Wittstruck Road (Exhibit A).

4 STREET NAME CHANGE NO. 00010, WEST WENDLIN ROAD -Mike DeKalb, Planning Department; Larry Worrell, County Surveyor

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, reviewed Street Name Change 00010, a request from the County Engineer to name a new street north of West Olive Creek Road and east from Southwest 100th Street "West Wendlin Road" (Exhibit B).

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Personnel Requisition for Defense Eligibility Technician

Eagan said a department number is required on the personnel requisition form. He recommended that County Court be used, which is Department 21. Eagan further recommended the creation of Division 01 under this department.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded to indicate Department 21, Division 01, on the personnel requisition form. Steinman, Heier, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Vacation Request from Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director, for December 1, 2000

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

C. Authorize Members of Transition Team to Tour Several Detention Centers and Assessment Centers in Denver Area, December 11-13, 2000

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

D. Report on Meeting with Scott Sidwell, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director, to Discuss "Greenbelting" Issues

Hudkins reported that the ramifications of the new regulations proposed by Catherine Lang, Property Tax Administrator, were discussed. He noted that a number of counties are dependent upon the increased valuation and it may be difficult to gain their support.

Campbell suggested forming a coalition with other counties that use "greenbelting", valuing property as to its use, not on the price it would bring on the open market.

Hudkins said Sidwell also plans to meet with Lang on the issue. He added that Lancaster County and NACO have agreed to coordinate legislative testimony.

E. Report on Lancaster Manor Advisory Committee

Workman said Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator, is concerned that the State will move to a prospective payment system for nursing homes. Governor Johanns has stated that this type of system will allow the State to do a better job of budgeting for nursing home expenditures and will let each facility know at the beginning of the year the rate increase they will be paid so that they can plan accordingly. Van Hunnik has stated that this will not be possible and that the County will be forced to absorb shortfalls.

Campbell and Workman agreed to meet with Pat Snyder, Executive Director of the Nebraska Healthcare Association, on the issue.

F. Report on Air Pollution Advisory Committee

Workman said a new study on non-stationary sources was discussed. He said questions as to whether the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had requested the study and who is responsible for costs were not fully answered.

Workman said increases in the Air Pollution budget were also discussed. He said a subcommittee was formed to assist Marcia Wilhite, Air Quality Supervisor for Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, in preparing a line item breakdown of the budget.

Hudkins said the Board of Health rejected the Health Department's recommendation that standards be set that are double the State's standards.

Heier said vegetative pollution is a "big deal". He explained that dry land farmers put approximately 7 tons of vegetation per acre in the ground versus 12-13 tons of vegetation per acre for irrigated farmers. He said no-till programs, which keep the vegetation in the ground, are encouraged and the possibility exists that credits could be issued to farmers who choose to participate. Industry could then purchase these credits from farmers, which is less costly than taking steps to cut back on pollution.

Workman said he is concerned that the Health Department's system of assessment will result in disincentives, rather than incentives, to not pollute.

G. Report on Families First & Foremost (F³) Retreat

Steinman said a cooperative public agency will be set up to pool resources and provide for more flexibility. She said it is anticipated that this will initially be a County run agency.

Campbell said the structure will probably be similar to the County's Joint Public Agency Agreement with the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, with representatives empowered to vote on certain issues.

Steinman said it is hoped that eventually the needs of all youth in the community will be addressed.

Campbell reported that Dr. Michael Epstein, evaluator from the University of Nebraska, has completed his initial evaluation of 60 families served by the F³ Grant and all of the indicators are positive. Epstein also plans to apply for funds to conduct an evaluation of whether wraparound services actually work.

5 DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE AWARDS - Pat Kant, Personnel Coordinator; Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator; Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

Item dropped from the agenda.

6 PUBLIC WAY CORRIDORS - Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Planning Department; Allan Abbott, City Public Works/Utilities Director; Don Thomas, County Engineer

Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Planning Department, presented a copy of Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-58, a proposal to amend Chapter IV (Transportation) of the 1994 Lincoln City-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to adopt the Boulevard Concept for Public Way Corridors and to incorporate the Lincoln Fringe Area Primary Public Way Corridor Study by reference, and gave a brief overview of amendments passed by the City Council (Exhibit C).

Don Thomas, County Engineer, said he believes *Figure 32a - Primary Public Way Corridors* (See Exhibit C) is a more realistic projection of public way corridors than the original grid map that depicted every road within the City's three mile limit. He said he also supports carrying the public way corridor concept into review of the Comprehensive Plan for further discussion. He said this will allow time for his department and City Public Works/Utilities to figure out ways to work together on roads that should be public way corridors and to look at what other roads should receive this designation. Thomas noted that it may be difficult to accomplish 120' of right-of-way in some areas, as homes have been built close to the roadways.

Allan Abbott, City Public Works/Utilities Director, said there has been a great deal of rhetoric about taking land out of production but 120' of right-of-way was actually approved in the Long Range Transportation Plan. He said Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-58 merely increases the right-of-way to 130' at intersections and commits the City and County to working together on acquisition of right-of-way in advance of development and transition from rural to urban roadways.

Campbell noted it has been suggested that a Technical Committee be established so that parties seeking to develop outside the City limits, but within the City's three mile zoning jurisdiction, would be required to meet both County Engineering and City Public Works/Utilities.

Heier said if we give developers a plan, we need to stick with the plan.

Abbott said, in the future, he would like to see more input from developers as the City develops its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the County develops its One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program.

Heier asked what effect Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-58 will have on the One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program and asked whether the County will need to acquire 120' of right-of-way on those roads.

Thomas said it will depend on what conclusions he and Abbott reach on what type of roadways should be built. He said 100' of right-of-way has already been acquired on most of those roads and said he does not envision going back and reacquiring the additional 20' of right-of-way. Thomas said that dedication will come with development.

Abbott said if right-of-way has not been acquired, then the City and County would work together to acquire the 120', with a sharing of costs for the additional 20'.

Heier asked whether individuals seeking building permits in the County are being advised to build a sufficient distance back from the road.

Campbell asked that Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, begin work to amend language in the County Zoning Regulations and Lancaster County Land Subdivision Regulations to increase setbacks to accommodate 120' of right-of-way.

Heier and Hudkins said they oppose placement of trees between the sidewalk and curb as shown in the Boulevard Concept (See Exhibit C).

Fleck-Tooze said the City Council supports that concept as part of the City's urban street network.

Abbott said he wants to avoid a narrowing of the distance between the sidewalk and curb for reasons of safety, snow removal and utility placement.

Fleck-Tooze said there should be an opportunity to revisit the Boulevard Concept with revision of the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

In response to a question from Workman, Abbott said an additional 6' of right-of-way will be required where there will be a trail along the arterial.

7 UPDATE ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS WITH RURAL FIRE DISTRICTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE; EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS - John Huff, Deputy Chief of Administration for the City Fire Department; Jennifer Brinkman, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor; Connor Reuter, Assistant City Attorney; Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director; Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff

Jennifer Brinkman, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, distributed the following documents:

- < *Restated Articles of Incorporation of Emergency Medical Services, Inc.* (Exhibit D)
- < Membership list for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Inc. Board (Exhibit E)
- < List of duties of the EMS, Inc. Board (Exhibit F)

Brinkman said the contract with EMS, Inc. for independent medical oversight of ambulance service has been extended through 2005. She said appointments to the Board have been restructured and asked that the County Board make its appointment in early December to allow for transition.

John Huff, Deputy Chief of Administration for the City Fire Department, said the Fire Department is on target to begin providing ambulance service on January 1, 2001. Transport service will be provided by 24 transport medics, all experienced employees. A billing partner has been selected and a seamless data transfer is expected. He said ambulances will be re-bid and a short term arrangement will be worked out to provide the Fire Department with ambulances until a purchase is worked out.

In response to a question from Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, Huff said ambulance service be supported by patient fees and will not impact the City budget. He added that a certain amount of uncollectibles have been built into the budget.

Huff said the Fire Department sent a letter in October to the fire chiefs of each of the jurisdictions that it will be interfacing with, along with a list of potential services. He said an indication of needs has been received from most of the rural fire districts.

Campbell said the County Board believes there needs to be a formal contract between the Fire Department and the rural fire districts. She added that the County Board has no jurisdiction over the rural fire districts, it merely oversees their budgets.

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, asked whether each rural fire district will need to contract separately with the Fire Department or whether there could be one contract with the Lancaster County Firefighters Association.

Connor Reuter, Assistant City Attorney, said separate contracts will probably be required.

Steinman asked about provision of non-emergency ambulance service.

Brinkman said the Fire Department will provide emergency ambulance service. Private providers can apply for a license to provide non-emergency ambulance service. She said two private companies have expressed interest, to date. Brinkman said the City will seek legislation to give the City regulatory authority over non-emergency ambulance providers.

Steinman asked whether the Fire Department will provide non-emergency ambulance service.

Brinkman said the Mayor could authorize the Fire Department to do so, if there were no other providers.

In response to a question from Campbell, Huff said 911/Emergency Communications has the ability to identify what resources are required in a jurisdiction when a call is received. He added that the Fire Department will provide ambulance service to the full 911 service area, which extends beyond the County's geographical boundaries.

The Board requested a follow-up meeting in late December.

Also in attendance were: Connor Reuter, Assistant City Attorney; Terry Dickinson, Southeast Fire Department; Jim Densberger and David Wacker, Malcolm Fire & Rescue; Mike Miriovsky, EMS, Inc.; Mike Gaver, Rural/Metro Medical Services; Bob Claycomb, Waverly Rescue Squad, and Dennis Heckman, Mayor of City of Hickman.

8 NEBRASKA CRIME COMMISSION JUVENILE GRANTS - Kit Boesch,
Human Services Administrator

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, reviewed a summary of 14 juvenile justice grants, five of which require County match funds (Exhibit G). She noted that the Expediter Services and Juvenile Diversion grants are the priority grants for the County, as they directly impact the correctional facility.

Workman said City Councilman Jeff Fortenberry had contacted him and expressed concern that some of the funds that the County gives to the YWCA are funneled to Planned Parenthood.

Boesch said Fortenberry is actually referring to the Joint Budget Committee's funding of the Teen Parent Center which is part of the YWCA's Survival Skills program. She said Planned Parenthood provides public education as one component of that program, as does Birthright Inc. Boesch said she does not micro-manage funded programs, but focuses on whether they are inclusive and meeting the goals of the program.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded to authorize Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, to proceed with writing letters of support for the Nebraska Crime Commission Juvenile Grants and to submit them on behalf of Lancaster County. Steinman, Workman, Hudkins, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

RETURNING TO ITEM 7

Campbell said Connor Reuter, Assistant City Attorney, has asked whether the County would consider contracting directly with the Fire Department for rural ambulance service.

Brief discussion took place with consensus to leave the matter of contracting for the service to the rural fire districts.

RETURNING TO ITEM 2D

Norm Avena, County Assessor, appeared and asked that no action be taken on the "greenbelting" issue at this time, as the Property Tax Administrator plans to draft new proposed regulations.

9 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Steinman seconded to adjourn the meeting. Heier, Steinman, Hudkins, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk