

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2005  
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair  
Deb Schorr, Vice Chair  
Bernie Heier  
Bob Workman  
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY,  
JUNE 30, 2005**

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated June 30, 2005. Schorr, Workman, Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board Meeting
- B. Schedule Hearing on K Street Complex Valuation Protest
- C. Schedule Work Session on Transfer of Development Rights

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

**3 BUDGET WORK SESSION - Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, presented the following documents (Exhibit A):

- Lancaster County, Comparison FY06 to FY05 Expense Budget

The Board decided not to re-budget \$62,900 for Corrections (Agency 671) at this time.

- Lancaster County, Comparison FY06 to FY05 Revenue Budget
- FY06 Budget, Adjustments to Agency Budgets
- General Fund Miscellaneous, General Government (612)
- Bryan/LGH Claims (\$1,081,553.29)

Kroeker said some of the claims may have been paid by Medicaid or Medicare.

Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk, said she has requested a current statement from Bryan/LGH.

Kroeker noted that the bills are related to Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) and recommended that the Board allocate \$100,000 in the Community Mental Health Center budget and add \$550,000 to the Contingency line item.

- Correspondence relating to the Drug Tech Contract

Board consensus was to transfer \$7,300 from the Grants Fund to Juvenile Probation's budget.

Kroeker also presented correspondence from Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, regarding the contract with the Morris & Titus Law Firm for the representation of indigent parents and juveniles in the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County (Exhibit B). The firm has agreed to include all abuse/neglect cases where Roger Heideman was appointed before July 1, 2005 (approximately 50) as pending cases (at the contract compensation rate) and will be limited to 50 new cases, per year, up to a maximum pending of 120 cases (the first twelve months of the contract will provide compensation of \$48,000). Kroeker said payment will no longer be through the Juvenile Court Budget and said Keefe has recommended that the County add \$48,000 to the Juvenile Miscellaneous Budget for the expense.

The Board asked Kroeker to check with Juvenile Court to see whether the Juvenile Court Budget can be reduced by \$48,000.

## **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board Meeting**

Workman said the Board is working on salary guidelines for elected officials. He also reported on controversy concerning holding the 2005 National Association of County Officials (NACO) Annual Conference and Exposition in Honolulu, Hawaii. **NOTE:** Workman will represent NACO and Lancaster County at the conference.

## B. Schedule Hearing on K Street Complex Valuation Protest

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said the City filed a protest of the valuation on the K Street Complex property prior to June 30, 2005, which kicked it into the referee system. He said this classifies as omitted and undervalued property and said it would be more appropriate to schedule it before the Board of Equalization.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Stevens seconded to not send the protest through the referee system, but to bring it before the Board of Equalization. Heier, Stevens, Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

## C. Schedule Work Session on Transfer of Development Rights

The Board scheduled a work session on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

### **4 A) COUNTY FINAL PLAT NO. 05053, ADAMS STREET ACREAGES AT NORTH 155<sup>TH</sup> AND ADAMS STREET; AND B) STREET NAME CHANGE NO. 05004, ASHBROOK DRIVE - Mike DeKalb, Planning Department**

#### **A) County Final Plat No. 05053**

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, gave an overview of County Final Plat No. 05053, a request for four lots and one outlot on property located one-half mile east of North 148<sup>th</sup> Street and Adams Street. Planning Staff and the Planning Commission have recommended conditional approval.

#### **B) Street Name Change No. 05004**

DeKalb gave an overview of Street Name Change No. 05004, a request by the Director of Public Works & Utilities to name the road planned to connect Ashbrook Drive to Highway 2 as "Ashbrook Drive" (Exhibit C). The Street Name Committee has reviewed the request and recommends approval.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **A. Letter to Senator Hagel Regarding S. 852 (Asbestos Bill)**

Eagan presented a letter from Don Killeen, County Property Manager, indicating that in-house environmental staff, as well as a local contractor that the County has used on asbestos, lead and mold projects, believe the proposed legislation would be detrimental to local companies and the entire industry (Exhibit D).

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Workman seconded to send a letter to Senators Hagel and Nelson opposing S.852.

Schorr asked that the vote be deferred until later in the meeting.

The maker of the motion and the seconder agreed.

**5 EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A) LABOR NEGOTIATIONS** - Don Taute, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

**B) PENDING LITIGATION** - Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Doug Cyr, Chief Administrative Deputy County Attorney

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Workman seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:31 a.m. for discussion of labor negotiations and pending litigation. Heier, Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Schorr exited the meeting.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Workman seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:07 a.m. Heier, Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

**6 DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN** - Marvin Krout, Planning Director; Kent Morgan, Assistant Planning Director; Dallas McGee, Urban Development Assistant Director; Polly McMullen, Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) President

Kent Morgan, Assistant Planning Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Downtown Master Plan (Exhibit E).

Schorr returned to the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

**RETURNING TO ITEM 9A**

Stevens said he would prefer that his name not be on the letter and that signature be by the Chair.

There was no objection.

**ROLL CALL:** Heier, Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

**7     A) HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE RATES; AND B) CONTRACT WITH AMERITAS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF DENTAL INSURANCE**  
- Don Taute, Personnel Director; Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

**A) Health and Dental Insurance Rates**

Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager, reported the following recommendations from Daryl Bell, Milliman USA (Insurance Consultant):

- Hold the health budget flat
- Reassess funding and reserving of the plan next year, when the plan has matured
- Increase the dental budget by 4.5%

**B) Contract with Ameritas for Administration of Dental Insurance**

Kostner said Ameritas has not asked for an increase to its administrative services fees (\$4.71 per employee, per month). He recommended that the County continue with Ameritas for another year and look at their administrative fees next year.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Workman seconded to direct Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, to work with no increase in the health premium and a 4.5% increase in the dental premium, as recommended by the insurance consultant. Schorr, Stevens, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

**H. Unclaimed Body of Pamela Vernon**

Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, said Jerry Vernon has signed a waiver relinquishing his rights to final disposition of the body to Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Heier seconded to direct the County Attorney's Office to disregard the County Board's request that it send a letter to Jerry Vernon notifying him that the County Board will authorize cremation of the body if it is not claimed within 48 hours of receipt of said letter and that he will be billed accordingly. Schorr, Workman, Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

## **8 ACTION ITEMS**

- A. File Public Employer Retirement Plan Annual Report for 2004 (Exhibit F)

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Stevens seconded to authorize signature by the Chair and to schedule action to receive and place the report on file on the Tuesday, July 12, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda. Schorr, Workman, Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

## **9 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Letter to Senator Hagel Regarding S. 852 (Asbestos Bill)

Item moved forward on the agenda.

- B. Board of Equalization Schedule

Owen presented the 2005 Board of Equalization Schedule (Exhibit G).

The Board made the following revisions:

- Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - Start the hearings at 7:30 a.m., with no hearings in the afternoon
- Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Start the hearings at 7:30 a.m.

- C. Gas Piping System in Sheriff's Storage Garage

Eagan said Building and Safety inspected the gas piping system and it met code.

- D. Claims for Review:

- 1. Industrial Services Inc. - \$42.08 for a Fuel Surcharge and \$42.08 25 for a 25-Yard Rolloff Dumped

Board consensus was to schedule the item as a Claim for Review on the Tuesday, July 19, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda and to notify the claimant.

- 2. Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Payments to:
  - a) Candace Vaughan (\$304.04)
  - b) Elizabeth Williams (\$1,200.00)

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Workman seconded to handle the claims through the regular claims process at the Tuesday, July 12, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Heier, Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

E. Invitation from Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) to Presentation by Dr. Michael Fullan on Sustainable Change (August 16, 2005, 8:30 a.m. at North Star High School, 5801 North 33<sup>rd</sup> Street)

Informational only.

F. Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission (LB 546)

Hudkins and Workman indicated interest in serving on the commission. Schorr said Bruce Bohrer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, has additional recommendations and she said she will share these informally with members of the Board.

G. Intersection of 148<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 2

Heier said a constituent contacted him and suggested that since 148<sup>th</sup> Street is being paved, consideration be given to installing right turning lanes to improve the traffic flow at the intersections with Highway 2 and Highway 34. He said Larry Worrell, County Surveyor, has informed him that it would be up to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Workman seconded to send a letter, signed by the Chair and the County Engineer, if he is agreeable, to the Nebraska Department of Roads asking that consideration be given to installing the turning lanes. Heier, Schorr, Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

H. Unclaimed Body of Pamela Vernon

Item moved forward on the agenda.

#### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to add discussion of a proposed county wheel tax to the agenda. Schorr, Workman, Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Schorr said an article in the Wednesday edition of the Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper stated the City and County may form a Joint Public Agency (JPA) with the authority to raise taxes for roadwork outside the city limits. The article went on to state that the County Board Chair recently sent a letter to the City Council Chair indicating the County

Board's willingness to extend the wheel tax into the county. She said she received a call from the Jim Hrouda, Mayor of Hickman, expressing concern and asked what forum would be available for the public to provide input on the issue.

Hudkins said the Board will set it for public hearing once the rates are established.

## **10     ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**     Workman moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:34 p.m. Workman, Stevens, Heier, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

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Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk