

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
DECEMBER 19, 2006
8:30 A.M.**

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

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

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

This item was held.

2 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A. Pension Plan Participation Request from Marsue K. Payne

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

3 MOTOR SPORTS TASK FORCE

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, distributed documentation regarding the Motor Sports Task Force from Marvin Krout (Exhibit A) and a memo from Mark Hunzeker (Exhibit B).

Commissioner Schorr asked about needing funds for technical assistance and if it would be legal to use lodging tax dollars.

Eagan indicated they should get a legal opinion.

Commissioner Heier suggested a representative from the County Board, City Council or Mayor should be on the Task Force and all areas should be represented, not just one. He believes Russ Bayer would be a good candidate to chair the Task Force.

Workman suggested Karen Kurbis, Registered Nurse; Gary Juilfs, Sheriff's Department; and Stan Patzel, Retired Plant Manager at Goodyear.

Stevens asked if the County Board was there to form a committee or to decide what the task force committee is. He wanted to know if they are looking at strictly a drag strip, or a facility that will be an oval track, or a facility that would be motocross. Stevens noted he isn't quite sure what the purpose of forming the committee is.

Schorr indicated there are 5 missions outlined in the letter from Marvin Krout (Exhibit A) on what the Task Force will do.

Heier believes the initial charge of the Task Force is to find an area for a Motorsports complex.

Hudkins suggested Carol Brown, who ran for Legislature; Larry Lewis, Mack Truck in Emerald; and he agreed that Russ Bayer would be an excellent candidate.

Heier suggested Lee Volker, Veterinarian at Pfizer.

Schorr said no Elected Officials should be on the Task Force, however there should be a Planning, City Council and County Board representative on it. Schorr suggested Jeff Maul, Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director and an appointee from the Visitor and Conventions Bureau; and Randy Harre, Schwisow Construction.

The Board also suggested Dave Dykmann, Moser Well Drilling; Chris Kingery, Kingery Construction Co. and Vice President of LIBA; and Mike Tavlin, Speedway Motors.

The County Board came up with 13 names for the Motor Sports Task Force, with 4 ex officio representatives being Kerry Eagan, County Chief Administrative Officer; Mike DeKalb, Planning; Jeff Maul, Convention & Visitors Bureau and a representative from the Mayor's Office.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to create the Task Force Committee and also seek a legal opinion from the County Attorney's Office on the use of using lodging funds with a recommendation from the Task Force by March 1, 2007. Workman, Hudkins, Heier and Schorr voted yes. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

Workman indicated a public hearing needs to be set on the application from Greg Sanford.

Hudkins said he believes it is the applicant's responsibility to bring forth the information regarding the hearing when they want to. In his opinion it would be very difficult to locate a drag strip on Hwy 77.

MOTION: Workman moved and Heier seconded to set a public hearing for the current application from Greg Sanford to be set no later than the March 1, 2007 deadline.

Stevens indicated the application was delayed by the applicant.

ROLL CALL: Heier, Stevens, Hudkins and Schorr voted no. Workman voted yes. Motion failed.

The meeting was recessed at 9:22 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

5 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - Gordon Kissel and Amy Prenda, Kissel C & S Associates

Gordon Kissel appeared and reported they have been working on transfer of development rights, paving district elections and gas tax.

Hudkins said the gas tax needs to be raised or they need to look at other alternatives like a toll road, which could be introduced.

Eagan noted the State will probably introduce D.I.S.H. (disproportionate share) and the County should support it, which would allow for the transfer of general assistance benefits.

Hudkins said one of the top priorities should be for the State to fully reimburse for State prisoners and they need to find a way to build up some revenue so the roads can be maintained.

Eagan suggested mental health and sex offender funding.

Amy Prenda indicated she spoke with Dennis Keefe who is helping draft legislation that would put all of the juvenile advocacy and legal costs on the State.

The Board also suggested looking at the Estate and Inheritance Tax.

Stevens indicated he spoke with the Noxious Weed Control who indicated one of the laws trying to be passed is to eliminate from state law the Noxious Weed Program and put the entire burden on the County.

Eagan noted they need to support the Amendment to the Recreational Liability Act, jail reimbursement, law enforcement liability and bubble packs.

Travis Parker, Program Director, Community Mental Health Center, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program of Lancaster County (Exhibit C). Parker indicated Lancaster County is one a select number of jurisdictions nationwide to receive federal grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Department of Justice to administer a behavioral health jail diversion program within the county. He believes LB1083 and LB1199 should be highly supported because of the behavioral health issues in the county and state.

Jim Addy, Vice President Research and Evaluation, Community Mental Health Center, distributed and outlined an Evaluation in Brief on the Jail Diversion Program (Exhibit D). He said he believes the program is working, because a lot of people that enter the program, leave the program in a positive way and don't return to jail.

6 PENDING LITIGATION - Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorney; Jim Shotkoski and Doug Pillard, County Engineer's Office

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to enter into Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Stevens, Heier, Workman, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:19 a.m. Workman, Hudkins, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent from voting. Motion carried.

7 VOTING MACHINE STORAGE - Dave Shively, Election Commissioner; Don Killeen, County Property Manager

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, appeared and indicated he needs an easy accessible place to store 180 voting machines, which are required at every polling location.

Don Killeen appeared and indicated they were using the old Blockbuster building on 48th and O Streets at no charge, but it has been demolished. He said they are currently leasing some space through the end of the year for storing the machines, however they will need to find a new place soon.

Shively and Killeen said they would speak with the Health Department about storing them on the 3rd floor of their building.

8 (A) GRANT APPLICATIONS TO NEBRASKA CRIME COMMISSION; AND (B) JUVENILE EVENING REPORTING CENTER - Corey Steel, Juvenile Justice Coordinator

Corey Steel, Juvenile Justice Coordinator, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the Juvenile Justice Grants for 2007-2008 (Exhibit E). He briefly went over the grants and indicated last year 900 kids were in the diversion program and 40% of them were city cases, 60% were county. He said the County money is down from \$530,556 to \$504,906 so the county funding has been reduced a little bit.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to allow Corey Steel to submit the grants to the Nebraska Crime Commission. Heier, Workman, Stevens, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Steel also indicated there was some JVC money that was returned because a program wasn't going to be utilized and they were looking at doing a 6 month pilot program on Intensive Diversion and a Community Service Project with Volunteer Partners with the funds. Steel noted they would apply for the full year grants next year. He said the Intensive Diversion Program would allow the person to go to diversion more than once, depending on the offense. Steel said the second part is a community service alternative and Volunteer Partners already has a community service for any person in the community to come and volunteer and they would start sending court kids or diversion kids to them.

Steel noted as of July 1, 2007, they will be working with 12 youth and the issue comes down to moving the Evening Reporter Center from CenterPointe to Cedars Youth Services for a savings of \$11,000. Steel suggested waiting another year to open up the bid for Day Reporting, Evening Reporting and Tracker Services to Cedars and CenterPointe to see which entity can do all three services at the best price.

9 DIRECTOR EVALUATIONS AND SALARIES

Eagan distributed 2 documents regarding the Directors Salaries for 2007 (Exhibit F), Letter from Norm Agena regarding his Chief Deputies salaries (Exhibit G) and a Lancaster County, Salary Recommendation Worksheet (Exhibit H) for Salaries Other than Elected Officials and Chief Deputies.

Workman indicated he does not like the merit increases and doesn't understand the point system.

Stevens believes and Personnel agreed that Shelly Schindler, Kim Etherton, Gary Chalupa and Rick Ringlein are all under compensated.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of a 3.5% cost of living increase for all Directors except for Shelly Schindler, Kim Etherton, Gary Chalupa and Rick Ringlein. Hudkins, Heier, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of a 7% increase for Shelly Schindler and Kim Etherton and a 5% increase for Gary Chalupa and Rick Ringlein. Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted yes. Workman and Hudkins voted no. Motion carried.

There was a long discussion on the increases for Chief Deputies and Attorney I and Attorney II's in the County Attorney and Public Defender's Office.

MOTION: Workman moved and Heier seconded to approve a 3.5% salary increase for all Attorney's and Bailiff's for 2007.

Schorr asked for a friendly amendment allowing 4.25% and the 3/4% will be for merit consideration and can be allocated however. Stevens seconded the amendment.

MOTION: Workman moved and Heier seconded a friendly amendment of a 4% increase for all Attorney's and Bailiff's. Heier, Stevens, Hudkins, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved to accept the Sheriff's recommendations of the salary increases for Sheriff's Captains. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to accept an increase of 4% for Sheriff's Captains, except George Lahners because he is retiring. Workman, Hudkins, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to accept a 4% increase for the Psychiatrists. Stevens, Workman, Heier, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

10 ACTION ITEMS

- a. Authorize Early Pension Participation:
 - 1. Alan Fulton, Community Mental Health Center
 - 2. Christopher Rosenthal, Property Management
 - 3. Kimberly L. Buser, General Assistance Office
 - 4. Lori Pracheil, Weed Control

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded approval of the early pension participations including Marsue K. Payne under additions to the agenda. Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins and Workman were absent from voting. Motion carried.

- b. Address Change Appeal from Doug and Sandy Christie (From 6201 South Coddington Avenue to 2121 Saddlehorn Road)

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to send a letter to the Christie's denying the Street Name Change. Stevens, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

- c. Support Letter for Never Too Late Grant

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to authorize the County Board to sign the support letter for the Never Too Late Grant. Stevens, Hudkins, Heier, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

12 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. Salaries for Chief Deputies and Unclassified Employees

This item was discussed earlier.

- b. Appointments to County Extension Board (Carna Pfeil, Clarice Steffens and George H. Bool)
- c. Reappointments to Air Pollution Advisory Board (Sitaram Jaswal and Kevin Horne)
- d. Allowance Modification Number 01 and Change Order Number 01 for 2200 Saint Mary's Re-Roof, \$5,000 from Contingency Fund and \$192 for Change Order

Items b, c and d were approved at the County Board of Commissioners Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

14 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- a. **General Assistance Monitoring Committee Meeting** - Schorr, Stevens

Stevens reported said they are getting a dental surgeon lined up through General Assistance. He also noted drug assistance with the Community Mental Health Center is not progressing and they are preparing for a Pharmacy RFP.

Schorr reported they are looking at a contract with LinCare.

- b. **Information Services Policy Committee Meeting** - Stevens

Stevens reported they have been looking at getting fiber optic connectivity through all the government buildings.

- c. **Monthly Meeting of the County Board Chair/Vice Chair and Mayor** - Schorr, Workman

Schorr reported they talked about the Women's Commission and the city will continue to fund it, but the County will stop the funding as of July 1, 2007. She said they also discussed the drag strip, getting a Motor Sports Task Force together and involving the Mayor, Planning and City Council. Schorr said they also discussed the paving of Yankee Hill Road and the city's budget.

d. **LIBA Budget Monitoring Meeting - Stevens**

Stevens said they discussed the city's budget shortfall and the hiring freeze. He said they also talked about the drag strip, the Motor Sports Task Force and a new jail.

15 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Stevens, Heier, Workman, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk