

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008
10:30 A.M. OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

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

Commissioners Absent: Ray Stevens

Others Present: Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the Staff meetings minutes dated January 29, 2008. Schorr, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

A. Jail Workshop Participants

The board determined no further workshop participants are needed.

B. NACO Leasing Corporation meetings.

A request was made to add NACO Leasing Corporation meetings to member meeting reports on Thursday Staff Agendas and possibly to the committee assignment list.

C. Gage County Jail

Heier talked to Alan Grell, Gage County Commissioner, regarding Gage County's possible participation in Lancaster County's new jail. Commissioner Grell spoke for himself, not the Gage County Board.

D. LPED/Common meeting schedule

Schorr asked about dates when both meetings are scheduled for the same day.

E. NACO Request - HHS Committee representation.

Schorr reported she was asked to serve on NACO's HHS Committee and asked that some other Commissioner serve. Hudkins volunteered.

3. PENDING LITIGATION - Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Bill Peters, Attorney for Board of Equalization.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to go into Executive Session. Schorr, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to return from Executive Session. Schorr, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to direct Board's Attorney Bill Peters to appeal the Tax Equalization and Review Commission's (TERC) ruling in the 4 cases decided to date. Schorr, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to direct Mike Thew, Deputy County Attorney to represent the Board at the 22 taxpayer appeals scheduled in front of TERC. Schorr, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

4. CAPITAL HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT - Bob Downey, Humane Society Executive Director; Don Wesley

Following discussion the Board asked Capital Humane Society to bring a fiscal request to the Board in March or April, prior to budget hearings. Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer will print a report for the Board showing what the County has paid under the current contract for the past several years.

**5. (A) SHERIFF'S SHOOTING RANGE
(B) VEHICLES** - Sheriff Terry Wagner; Chief Deputy Sheriff Bill Jarrett.

A. Sheriff's Shooting Range

The Board reported to the Sheriff that this request was approved at the Mid-Year Budget Retreat. The approval included payment of \$25,000 at signing of the contract and \$25,000 up to 6 weeks after closing. The money will come from Keno funds.

B. Vehicles

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to allow the Sheriff to purchase 5 vehicles. Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr voted nay. Motion was carried.

Sheriff Terry Wagner briefly discussed the request for an officer in the rural schools. This item was

not on the agenda. The discussion will be rescheduled to the February 14th agenda.

6. CITY BUILDING AND CODES USE OF ORION - Rob Ogden, Chief Deputy Assessor/Register of Deeds.

Ogden explained that Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, is working on the interlocal agreement with the city to facilitate this request. Mike Merwick, Director of Building and Codes, has indicated there is money in his budget to pay for their use of the software. The Board gave verbal agreement to bring the contract for approval on a Tuesday Agenda.

7. (A) CLAIMS FOR REVIEW

- 1. PV 152320, \$2,559.68 TO T.H.E MEDICAL**
- 2. PV 154363, \$1,068.57 TO PITNEY BOWES POSTAGE BY PHONE**
- 3. PV 152319, \$3,733.00 TO NU STEP, INC**

(B) THERMAL PATCH MACHINE - Ron Fetters, Lancaster Manor Administrator, Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent; Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent

A. Claims for Review

After review the Board directed all 3 claims move to Tuesday's agenda for approval.

B. Thermal Patch Machine

The Board gave Ron Fetters authority to work with Purchasing for a replacement machine.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Kissel/E&S Associates.

Kissel gave a brief update of Lancaster County's priority bills and other legislation of interest.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to send a letter in support of LB 846, Senator Fischer's bill dealing with funding for roads, to the Revenue committee with the Chair's signature. Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion passed.

LB 597: Raise the cap on jail reimbursements. At this time there appear to be votes to move the bill forward. Schorr will contact Senator Fulton, Hudkins will contact Senator Engel to explain Lancaster County's position regarding the bill.

LB 862: Russ Schultz will testify on the noxious weeds funding bill.

LB 777: Senator Hudkins' bill to change provisions relating to property valuation for taxation purposes issues will be heard February 20. Hudkins asked if the Board should support the bill. Kissel suggested that if the Board supports the bill they should provide testimony. Thorpe will print the bill for Board members to read prior to discussion February 14th.

LB 268: Election of Commissioners by District advanced to second round. Board members expressed concerns about the bill. Kissel will arrange a meeting between Workman and Senator McGill to discuss the possibility of amending the bill by adjusting the population levels, and to let her know the Board is open to other amendments so Lancaster County can remain as it is regarding election of the Commissioners.

- LB 979: Change county building levy tax provisions (extend bonding authority from 10 to 20 years). This bill is in the Revenue Committee. Senator Cornett indicated she will assist in moving the bill forward.
- LB 734: Change employee benefit plan provisions for certain political subdivisions. Don Taute will testify for the County at the hearing.
- LB 759: Change provisions relating to re-labeling and re-dispensing prescription drugs for the jail. Mike Thurber and Gordon Kissel are working with Senator Hudkins' office on the bill.

There was a general consensus to allow testimony as noted above.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Request from County Attorney to extend records retention schedule.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve extending the records retention schedule. Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Village Meeting Agenda (February 14, 2008)

The Board suggested a brief roads update from Don Thomas be added to the agenda.

- C. Pension Seminars

There was consensus to schedule the seminars as requested.

- D. Keno Human Services Prevention Fund Recommendations

Recommendations will be scheduled on a Tuesday Agenda for approval.

- E. Correspondence from Otoe County Regarding S. 190th Street

The Board will request an opinion from the County Attorney regarding options in this matter. Additionally, a letter will be sent to the Otoe County Roads Superintendent with a copy of Lancaster County's One and Six Year Road and Bridge Program. The letter will be copied to Don Thomas, County Engineer, and the Otoe County Board of Commissioners.

- F. Youth Services Center Connectivity

The Board will contact Michelle Schindler, Director of Youth Services, and inform her that if she is interested in the wireless upgrade to include a more specific estimate with next year's budget request.

- G. Claim for Review: PV 153861, \$1,696.75 to NCS, Pearson, Inc.

The claim will move to Tuesday for approval as a regular claim.

- H. Agenda Items for Monthly Meeting of the County Board Chair, Vice Chair and

Mayor scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2008

The Board suggested discussion of County and City Attorney Offices and a possible change in City Ordinances regarding weed height and posting of notices.

I. Jail Construction Project Manager

The Board did not take action to move forward with this position.

13. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Ecological Advisory Committee Meeting - Heier

Wastewater discussion was the main topic for the meeting.

B. LPED Meeting - Workman

Did not attend due to Commons Meeting.

C. NACO Board Legislative Meeting - Heier

The meeting was reported on previously.

D. LIBA Monthly Meeting - Workman, Heier

The meeting was reported on previously.

E. Youth Services Center Advisory Board Meeting - Heier

Michelle Schindler indicated she would provide a tour of the facility for the new Advisory Board member and Heier when the new Board member is on-board, and would also provide a tour for any other Board member if requested.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Heier was absent from voting. Motion carried.