

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009  
8:30 A.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Ray Stevens, Vice Chair

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
and Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009**

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded approval of the May 14, 2009 Staff Meeting minutes. Workman, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Hudkins was absent. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None were stated.

Hudkins arrived at 8:32 a.m.

**3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel and Joe Kohout, Kissel/E&S Associates (Legislative Consultants)**

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, presented a legislative update (Exhibit A). He noted action was taken to amend Legislative Bill (LB) 35 (Change legal process regarding limited liability companies, courts, civil and criminal procedure, grants, estates, real estate, adoption, foster care, juveniles, court appointed special advocates, and administrative hearings and change fees) to delay creation of a Lancaster County District Court judgeship for two years in response to the Governor's threat to veto the bill if the judgeship was included. Kissel said the bill was re-advanced to final reading and said Senator Coash has indicated plans to keep pursuing the change through interim hearings and by prioritizing LB 669 (Change the number of district, county, and separate juvenile court judges) next year.

Joe Kohout, Legislative Consultant, reported that LB 603 (Change medical assistance and behavioral health provisions) is on final reading.

## **DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

### **F. Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Press Conference - Hudkins**

Hudkins gave a brief report on the "Be a Tourist in Your Own Home Town" press conference, noting participants who visit at least 10 of 21 participating attractions can be eligible for prizes.

### **A. Region V Governing Board - Schorr**

Schorr said an interlocal agreement that will allow Region V to offer services, such as General Assistance (GA), Purchasing and Personnel, to counties was approved. Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, spoke in opposition, expressing concern that Region V would be moving outside behavioral health services. She said Region V will receive a minimal amount from LB 603, the "safe haven" bill, for the Professional Partners. Schorr also reported that the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) has closed down which will have a \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000 impact on the Region V budget.

### **B. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC)**

Meeting was cancelled.

### **C. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

Meeting was cancelled.

D. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Stevens

No report.

E. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare Safety Net - Stevens

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said he attended the meeting and said the group worked on identifying terms. He said he will give a presentation on General Assistance (GA) at the next meeting.

G. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Stevens

Eagan said concerns regarding the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) bid procedures and the lack of transportation from the airport were expressed.

## **14 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

A. Update on Arbor Road Project for Abbott Motocross Facility

See Item 6.

B. Greenbelt Applications for 2009 - Last Year's LB 777 (Redefine agricultural land and horticultural land for property tax purposes)

Eagan recommended that Board members advise anyone who calls them with questions regarding their greenbelt status to submit a new application.

C. Pension Census Information

Eagan said new hires are not included in the contribution file that Prudential is receiving and said Prudential would like them added to they can track hours for vesting purposes. He said it will require a small change to the computer system and estimated the total cost at \$400 to \$600 for application to the 401(a) Lancaster County Employees Retirement Plan. The cost will double to include the 457 (b) Deferred Compensation Program. Eagan recommended the Board approve the change.

Schorr asked Eagan to check whether the cost could be paid out of the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund.

D. Lancaster County Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (JPA)  
Meeting

It was noted the meeting will be held June 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

**4 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS QUARTERLY MEETING** - Mike Thurber,  
Corrections Director

Separate minutes.

**5 APPLICATION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY STIMULUS FUNDING  
BLOCK GRANT** - Don Killeen, County Property Manager; Krishna  
Amancheria, Lincoln Electric System (LES)

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, and Krishna Amancheria, Lincoln Electric System (LES), presented information regarding Lancaster County's application for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) stimulus funding (Exhibit B). Amancheria said the application for funding should be ready by the end of next week. The filing deadline is June 25, 2009.

Killeen and Amancheria were asked to have the County Attorney review the documents. Action to authorize the application, in the form of a resolution, will be scheduled on a regular County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

**6 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS** - Mark Koller, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Nicole Gross, Compensation Technician; Mike Thurber, Corrections Director; Kristy Bauer, Deputy County Attorney

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:47 a.m. for discussion of labor negotiations, potential litigation and the purchase of real estate. Hudkins, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:27 a.m. Hudkins, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

**7 POTENTIAL LITIGATION** - Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney; Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator

See Item 6.

Hudkins exited the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

**8     A) PROPERTY VALUATION PROTEST UPDATE; AND B) COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE REMODEL** - Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; Tom Kubert, Great Plains Appraisal Company, Inc. (Referee Coordinator)

**A) Property Valuation Protest Update**

Dan Nolte, County Clerk, said property owners filing protests this year will have the option of electronic filing. He said they will also be able to schedule their referee hearings on-line and said evening and Saturday hours will be available this year.

Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk, presented examples of the three (3) letters that will be sent to property owners who file protests (Exhibit C):

- 1) Referee hearing letter
- 2) Referee recommended value letter

The following changes were requested:

- Change the phrase "if new information" in the first sentence of the third paragraph to bold print and underline it
- Add the word "new" after the word "this" in the phrase "accepting this information in writing only" in the second sentence of the third paragraph. Change "new information" and "writing only" to bold print and underline them.

Nolte said the deadline for final action may need to be pushed back to August 10<sup>th</sup> if a large number of protests are filed.

- 3) Final value letter

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to not have the Board of Equalization personally hear the 2009 property valuation protests. Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Workman, Tom Kubert, Referee Coordinator, said the County Assessor's office was able to rectify a number of issues through informal hearings with property owners. **NOTE:** Approximately 7,000 informal hearings were held.

## **B) County Clerk's Office Remodel**

Beattie presented a three dimensional diagram of the proposed office layout (Exhibit D). She said a quote of approximately \$9,000 was received for additional systems furniture pieces and said they have tried to utilize surplus furniture but are competing with other departments.

Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent, appeared and there is a great deal of confusion regarding surplus items and said furniture that is tagged for one department is often disregarded by other departments.

Schorr suggested that the Public Building Commission (PBC) issue a memo to all departments informing them that the Purchasing Department is in charge of surplus.

Walla said he will try to coordinate efforts with Don Killeen, County Property Manager, and Mike Lee, Facilities Manager, and said departments with a plan in place should be given priority.

### **9 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT REFUND TO STATE - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director**

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, said Lancaster County was assigned \$200,000 in Homeland Security grant funds in 2006 to hold for the Paraclete Program (a statewide communications program). He said the State is now ready to spend the funds and said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be required. **NOTE:** Action will be taken at a regular County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

### **10 A) COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SPACE AT 9<sup>TH</sup> & J STREET; AND B) SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DUSTIN BARTLEY - Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director**

#### **A) Community Corrections Space at 9<sup>th</sup> & J Street**

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, said she needs additional space for Drug Court staff, programing, treatment and training and said she would like to utilize the 9<sup>th</sup> & J Street Building.

June Pederson, Lincoln Area Agency on Aging Director, appeared and said her department is also interested in the space.

Etherton said she needs the entire space but lacks the funds in her budget.

Pederson said her department could probably utilize space in the 233 Building instead, although the 9<sup>th</sup> & J Street Building is preferable.

The Board gave general direction to Etherton to move forward, as outlined.

Etherton indicated she would like to work with Aging on a mentoring program.

## **B) Substance Abuse Services Contract with Dustin Bartley**

Etherton said the substance abuse services contract with Dustin Bartley will be coming forward for action and said the requirement for \$1,000,000 in automobile insurance will probably be changed to \$300,000 since Bartley will not be driving as part of his duties.

### **11 YOUTH SERVICES CENTER (YSC) NURSING CONTRACT - Judy Halstead, Resource and Program Development Coordinator, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health (LLCHD) Department; Bernice Afuh, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, LLCHD; Andrea Mason, Community Health Services Division Manager, LLCHD; Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director; Kristy Bauer, Deputy County Attorney**

Judy Halstead, Resource and Program Development Coordinator, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health (LLCHD) Department, noted there is a registered nurse vacancy at the Youth Services Center (YSC) and said the position cannot be filled by the City, due to a hiring freeze. She proposed that the position be replaced with a county position and said the Health Department could provide in-patient evaluation, from a clinical standpoint. Halstead said the Health Department is willing to continue a second nursing position (public health nurse), on-call services, supervision and physician consultation over the next year while the County transitions to another vendor.

In response to a question from Schorr, Halstead said that period could be extended if it takes a little longer to find another provider. She also indicated the Health Department will continue to provide public health services to YSC.

Michelle Schindler, YSC Director, said she is not interested in making the position a county position, noting she lacks the expertise to supervise medical care. She said she would prefer to contract for nursing services, perhaps with one of the hospitals.

## **12 ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

### **13 CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no consent items.

### **14 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Update on Arbor Road Project for Abbott Motocross Facility
- B. Greenbelt Application for 2009 (Last Year's LB 777)
- C. Pension Census Information
- D. Lancaster County Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (JPA) Meeting

Items A, B, C and D were moved forward on the agenda.

### **15 PENDING**

There were no pending items.

### **16 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

- A. Region V Governing Board - Schorr
- B. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Cancelled
- C. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Cancelled
- D. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Stevens
- E. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare Safety Net - Stevens
- F. Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Press Conference - Hudkins
- G. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Stevens

Items A, B, C, D, E, F and G were moved forward on the agenda.

### **17 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Heier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

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Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk