

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009
8:30 A.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman

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
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009**

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the September 24, 2009 Staff Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Tri-County Meeting (November 5, 2009)
- B. Press Conference (October 6, 2009)

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

3 GARBAGE HAULING BIDS - Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent

Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent, said Waste Connections of Nebraska/Midwest Refuse has submitted the lowest bid for waste hauling services for all City, County and Public Building Commission (PBC) facilities within the city limits (Exhibit A). The facilities were previously served by 13 different haulers. He said total savings of \$8,322.96 per year are projected.

Hudkins noted the County has three stops in close proximity (County Engineering Office, County Engineering Shop and County Extension Office) and suggested those departments look at combining their refuse for additional savings.

4 VACATION OF A PORTION OF ROAD NO. 1227 - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, asked the Board to initiate a vacation of Road No. 1227. The area of request is North 98th Street from Ashland Road to a point approximately 1,600 feet south of Ashland Road (see Exhibit B for aerial map). He said the dirt road has been closed for thirty years and is frequently flooded by Rock Creek. Nebraska Game and Parks owns the land on either side of the road, which feature wetlands, and the road vacation will allow them to expand those areas.

The Board indicated support for the request and asked that the County Attorney's Office prepare a resolution directing the County Engineer to conduct a study related to the road vacation request.

5 PURCHASE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Item was dropped from the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Microcomputer Request C#57197, \$1,473.95 from the Emergency Management Budget for a Color Laser Jet Printer

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the request. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. County Government Day (November 18, 2009)

Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant, appeared and requested \$500 to help offset expenses for the luncheon and rental space in a local church. She said the American Legion will also be assisting with the expenses.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to approve up to \$500 from the Keno Fund for the event. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Staff Meeting (October 8, 2009)

Board consensus was to cancel the meeting.

C. Joint Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Board of Education/City Council/County Board Meeting

Heier said the City-County Common Meeting scheduled for October 6th was cancelled with the understanding there would be a joint meeting with the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Board of Education instead. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a proposed overpass on Highway 34 to assist students crossing from the Highlands Neighborhood to the new Schoo Middle School in the Fallbrook Neighborhood.

Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant, appeared and said LPS informed her that Susan Gourley, Superintendent of Schools, and Don Mayhew, Board of Education President, would represent the Board of Education at the meeting. She said LPS later contacted her and said they would not be able to attend as a Special Board of Education Meeting had been called that day to discuss the search for a new Superintendent of Schools. Genuchi said she suggested several other dates but has not received a response from LPS. She said City Councilman John Spatz has asked that the City Council and County Board go ahead and hold the Common Meeting on that date to discuss the issue.

Hudkins said he and Spatz received information at a meeting with State Senator Ken Haar that needs to be shared with the two bodies.

Stevens said he spoke with Richard Meginnis, who is a member of the School Board, and said Meginnis indicated he had not been notified of the joint meeting. Stevens said LPS is an integral part of this and said he would prefer to hold the meeting when the School Board members can attend.

Board consensus was to suggest that the Common Meeting be held on October 13th and that members of the School Board be invited directly to attend and participate. An invitation will also be extended to State Senator Haar.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- C. Blood Chemistry Profiles
- D. Administration of H1N1 Flu Vaccinations

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

- C. Blood Chemistry Profiles

Sue Eckley, County Risk Manager, appeared and said Nebraska Occupational Health Clinic will provide blood chemistry profiles to interested employees in early November. The cost for females will be \$21.00, which includes a thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) blood test. The cost for males will be \$20.00, which includes a TSH and a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. She suggested the County pay the full cost of the blood chemistry profiles out of the Wellness Fund, since the pricing is so low.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to pay for the blood chemistry profiles out of the Wellness Fund.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Stevens offered a friendly amendment to require employees to pay a \$5.00 co-pay.

The maker of the motion and the seconder did not accept the friendly amendment.

ROLL CALL: Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board also authorized a paycheck flyer that will provide information regarding the blood chemistry profiles.

- D. Administration of H1N1 Flu Vaccinations

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska has offered to administer employee H1N1 flu vaccinations, at a cost of \$34.00 per individual.

Board consensus was to decline the offer.

A. Tri-County Meeting (November 5, 2009)

All of the Board members in attendance indicated plans to attend the meeting.

B. Press Conference (October 6, 2009)

Schorr said the Mayor's Office has asked her to attend a press conference on the Lincoln Haymarket Arena on October 6th as she is a member of the Mayor's Arena Task Force. She said the timing of the press conference conflicts with the County Board of Commissioners Meeting on that date.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to appoint Commissioner Schorr as the County's representative at the press conference. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Lancaster Manor Advisory Committee - Schorr

Schorr said she gave a report on the negotiations with Hunter Management. Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator, discussed the closing of the employee cafeteria and the Reduction-in-Force (RIF) process. She said the committee also discussed ways to boost the census.

B. Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization Officials Committee - Stevens/Workman

Stevens said they made changes to the Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. They also adopted a congestion management process.

C. Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC) - Heier

Heier said he did not attend the meeting.

D. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District Meeting - Heier/Hudkins/Workman

Heier said Larry Dix, NACO Executive Director, indicated plans to form a Salaries Committee and said he believes County Commissioners' salaries can be adjusted every two years.

Hudkins said there was extensive discussion regarding taxation and road funding.

6 LANCASTER MANOR UPDATE - Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator
A) CORRESPONDENCE FROM CRYSTAL SATO

Gwen Thorpe, Interim Lancaster Manor Administrator, reported the following:

- Census is 234
- Employee cafeteria will close on October 16th
- Thorpe will be working with union representatives on mandatory and voluntary overtime

Schorr noted there was discussion at the September 29th County Board of Commissioners Meeting regarding whether the appraisal of the Manor would be made public and said it is available on the Purchasing Department's website.

Eagan said appraisals that are obtained in anticipation of a sale are not public records. He said this appraisal was obtained to determine the property value.

Heier suggested the Board consider having a new appraisal done as there have been substantial decreases in the real estate market.

Hudkins said the demand for nursing homes may have increased.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to ask Great Plains Appraisal Company for a proposal for a new appraisal of Lancaster Manor. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

At the request of the Chair, an excerpt of the video recording of the August 11th County Board of Commissioners Meeting was played. The excerpt was of an exchange between Commissioner Workman and Melvin Moore, citizen.

Hudkins said Moore was not allowed to speak for the full five minutes allotted to a speaker.

Heier said Moore stated, "That's all I've got." He said that indicated he was finished speaking. Heier said there has been a lot of controversy concerning the exchange and said he plans to have the excerpt played at the October 6th County Board of Commissioners Meeting with the hope of resolving the issue.

A) Correspondence from Crystal Sato

Heier said the Board is unable to answer many of the questions Crystal Sato posed in her letter (see agenda packet).

Hudkins and Heier indicated they would be willing to speak with Sato if a phone number is made available.

Schorr said she recently met with Patrick Henry and his wife Patricia and had a "productive" discussion. **NOTE:** Patrick Henry serves as Lancaster Manor's ombudsman.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Thorpe said Patrick Henry has not been banned from the Manor and said it is up to the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging on whether he will retain that position.

Hudkins said he was told Henry could not access the Manor any longer and said he was trying to determine whether that was a rumor or fact.

The Chair suggested Hudkins provide the Board with the name of the individual who made that statement so the Board can provide them with factual information.

7 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Microcomputer Request C#57197, \$1,473.95 from the Emergency Management Budget for a Color Laser Jet Printer

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

8 CONSENT ITEMS

There were no consent items.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. County Government Day (November 18, 2009)
- B. Staff Meeting (October 8, 2009)
- C. Joint Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Board of Education/City Council/County Board Meeting

Items A - C were moved forward on the agenda.

10 PENDING

There were no pending items.

11 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Lancaster Manor Advisory Committee - Schorr
- B. Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization Officials Committee - Stevens/Workman
- C. Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC) - Heier
- D. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District Meeting - Heier/Hudkins/Workman

Items A-D were moved forward on the agenda.

- E. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Monthly Meeting - Heier/Stevens

Stevens said Lancaster Manor, the Nebraska Horse Park and a Highway 34 overpass were discussed.

- F. Highway 34 Meeting - Hudkins

Hudkins said he was unable to attend the second meeting called by State Senator Haar to discuss the proposed overpass. He said he spoke to Senator Haar's aide and said it appears there is consensus that an overpass is preferable to a tunnel.

12 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk