

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113 - BILL LUXFORD STUDIO  
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017  
10:00 A.M. OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD  
OF EQUALIZATION MEETING**

Commissioners Present: Todd Wiltgen, Chair; Bill Avery, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr; and Roma Amundson

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Brinkman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska web site and provided to the media on July 14, 2017.*

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 13, 2017**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Schorr seconded approval of the July 13, 2017 Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Schorr, Avery and Wiltgen voted yes. Brinkman was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**2. BUDGET UPDATE - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer**

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, gave an overview of changes to Lancaster County, Property Tax Funded Budgets, Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018 Requested Compared to FY 2016-2017 Adopted (see agenda packet):

- Increased the County Clerk's budget to cover additional salaries (overlap of salaries to allow for training for two positions)
- Increased projected revenues for the County Treasurer's Office
- Finalized budget for the Register of Deeds (ROD) Technology Fund
- Increased transfers from the General Government to the Crisis Center (\$200,000), County Engineer (\$1,000,000) and Workers Compensation Fund (\$100,000); and transferred \$1,000,000 to the Building fund for

the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (will be replenished when Trabert Hall is sold)

- Increased the Board of Equalization by \$30,000 based on the number of property valuation protests filed
- Increased Public Defender's budget by \$46,748 because of a new position
- Increased Sheriff's budget by \$46,874 because of a new position
- Increased County Attorney's budget by \$10,000 to restore its contribution to the Child Advocacy Center
- General Fund Receipts was increased by \$1,000,000 for the sale of Trabert Hall
- \$550,000 that had been transferred from the Keno Fund to the General Fund for property tax relief will set aside for the East Beltway Project instead
- Increased projected motor vehicle tax by \$800,000
- General Fund balance is approximately \$1,200,000 more than last year
- Net change is \$2,687,801

Meyer noted the request for additional correctional officers at the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) is not included these figures. He said that cost is estimated at \$187,435.

Meyer also discussed the Railroad Transportation & Safety District (RTSD) levy, noting the Board has kept the combined County and RTSD levy at 29.43 cents. **NOTE:** The Board increased the County levy to 28.43 cents in FY 2012-2013 which reduced the RTSD's levy to 1.00 cents. The Board has reduced its levy since then which restored a portion of the RTSD's levy. Meyer said funding the General Fund and the additional correctional officers for a total of \$2,875,236 would drop the County's levy to 26.63 cents (a reduction of 0.9 cents) and leave 2.8 cents for the RTSD. **NOTE:** the RTSD's maximum levy authority is 2.6 cents. He said it would be left to the RTSD Board to determine how much the RTSD needs.

Schorr, who serves as Chair of the RTSD Board, said the budget prepared by the RTSD uses a 5% valuation increase which would fully fund all of the projects in the RTSD's long-term Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Meyer said the RTSD should use that dollar amount to calculate a levy, adding it will need to fit within the 15 cent levy authorized for certain political subdivisions. Meyer said he will brief Roger Figard, RTSD Executive Director, later in the day.

Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center Director, appeared and said the increase in the transfer of funds to the Crisis Center that Meyer mentioned earlier is because of reimbursement issues related to Heritage Health, the new Medicaid Managed Care Program.

Wiltgen referenced the discussion the Board had regarding the County Engineer's budget at the July 13<sup>th</sup> Staff Meeting and comments Coby Mach, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA), made earlier in the day at the County Board of Commissioners Meeting regarding establishment of a sinking fund for County Bridge C-91 (North 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Raymond Road). Meyer said he spoke to Pam Dingman, County Engineer, and said they propose to fully fund Fund 22 (Highway Fund) and to move the sinking funds from the expenditure budget to the cash reserve. He said if Dingman decides during the year that she needs to spend funds in the sinking fund, the Board would need to hold a public hearing and amend the budget to provide her the spending authority to do so. Meyer also proposed that approximately \$4,000,000 in Fund 21 (Bridge & Special Road Fund) (funds for Bridge C-91 and the Road and Bridge Buyback funds) be moved to the cash reserve. He clarified that the \$1,500,000 that the Board had budgeted for Bridge C-91 is included in that figure. Meyer said the same process would be followed if Dingman decides that work on Bridge C-91 can move forward. He said that will leave approximately \$6,300,000 for other projects. Pam Dingman, County Engineer, appeared and said she believes this would bring more clarity to the budget. She said Bridge C-91 could be put out to bid as early as June of 2018, depending on how the Nebraska Department of Transportation's (DOT's) work on Highway 79 is progressing.

Avery asked whether a super majority vote would be required to amend the budget. Meyer said it would not.

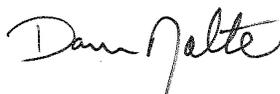
Avery then asked whether there are any restrictions in terms of how much of the cash reserve can be used. Meyer said it is 50% of the total budget, minus capital outlay items. There are also considerations if it is considered a special revenue fund. He did not feel the County would experience any issues.

### 3. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m. Avery, Schorr, Amundson and Wiltgen voted yes. Brinkman was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk

