

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113 - BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Todd Wiltgen, Chair; Jennifer Brinkman, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr; and Roma Amundson

Commissioners Absent: Bill Avery

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; and 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 April 4, 2018.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 29, 2018

MOTION: Brinkman moved and Schorr seconded approval of the March 29, 2018 Staff Meeting minutes. Amundson, Brinkman, Schorr and Wiltgen voted yes. Avery was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Joe Kohout, Brennen Miller and Gordon Kissel, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates, LLC (Legislative Consultants)

Joe Kohout, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates, LLC, gave a legislative update and presented legislative bill summaries (Exhibits A-C).

Wiltgen suggested the need for clean-up legislation that would allow counties to acquire title to right-of-way by fee simple (the land is owned without limitations or conditions) rather than easement.

Kohout agreed to review a law that was passed two years ago requiring the State to work to get inmates receiving compassionate release from a state correctional facility due to terminal illness on Medicaid prior to their release.

3. LITTER CLEANUP FUNDING – Brad Johnson, Corrections Director; Ken Prey, Jail Administrator

Brad Johnson, Corrections Director, said Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) does not have funding available this year to support the Corrections Department's inmate crew litter cleanup

along county roads due to a reduction in Litter Reduction and Recycling grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). He noted the crew covered 588 miles and picked up 896 bags of trash during the last four years. Johnson estimated expenses at \$14,887 over that period (staff hours and vehicle mileage) and said the Corrections Department had received \$24,268 in grants. In addition, County Engineering provides trash bags, signage and safety vests for workers. He said the expenses will now come out of the Department's budget, clarifying that most are fixed expenses and he would not reduce staffing if the program is eliminated.

Ken Prey, Jail Administrator, said the Department sets goal miles and the crew works until that goal is met. He said the crew also performs landscaping work on the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) grounds and assists with maintenance at the Lancaster Event Center.

Wiltgen suggested the Corrections Department look for other grant opportunities.

There was Board consensus to continue the program.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Designation of County Representatives and Approval of In-Kind Contribution for the Prudential 2018 Client Conference in Naples, Florida (May 9-11, 2018)

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that the County's share of costs will be paid out of the Retirement Expense Account.

MOTION: Amundson moved and Brinkman seconded to: 1) Designate Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, and Doug Cyr, Chief Deputy County Attorney, as the County's representatives to the Prudential 2018 Retirement Client Conference; and 2) Authorize signature by the Chair on a letter to Prudential indicating the designation of County representatives and the approval of the proposal for an in-kind contribution. Brinkman, Schorr, Amundson and Wiltgen voted yes. Avery was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Claim for Review – Payment Voucher (PV) No. 605611 to Cole Meador, County Extension Office, in the Total Amount of \$446.04. The County Board Has Requested a Review of all Claims for Employee Reimbursement Other than Those Related to Travel for County Business.

NOTE: A written explanation of the claim was submitted by Karen Wobig, County Extension Educator, Unit Leader (Exhibit D).

MOTION: Brinkman moved and Amundson seconded to handle the claim as a regular claim. Schorr, Amundson, Brinkman and Wiltgen voted yes. Avery was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Village Meeting Agenda Items (Thursday, April 19, 2018)

The following items were suggested: historic designation properties, Lancaster County Rural Transit Program, County Engineering facilities, Infrastructure Task Force, recycling in rural communities, accessory dwelling units (ADU's), and roundtable discussion.

4. **WAVERLY OLDFIELD STREET PROJECT** – Pam Dingman, County Engineer; Jen Holloway, Deputy County Attorney

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, said the City of Waverly wants to pave Oldfield Street from Canongate Road to North 141st Street. She said County Engineering has a 1930's era shop on the north side of the Oldfield Street along the vacated North 141st Street right-of-way and a salt dome north of that building (see aerial map in agenda packet). To the south is a newer County Engineering facility, gravel and rock piles, a pipe yard, fuel facilities, and an outdoor storage area. Dingman said Waverly plans to acquire right-of-way on the north and south sides of Oldfield Street and eliminate access points to these County Engineering facilities. She said Waverly's engineer, Schemmer Associates, has provided a turning template for how tandem dump trucks would be able to access those facilities (see agenda packet) but said she has concerns and has requested additional information. Waverly is also proposing a trail that would run directly in front of the building that dump trucks access multiple times a day which raises safety concerns. Dingman explained that Waverly has indicated it will use its statutory authority to assess the County for improvements and said she has requested an estimate of that cost from Waverly's City Administrator and Schemmer Associates but has not received one to date.

Brinkman asked whether Waverly would be willing to assist the County with the cost of moving its facilities or partner with the County on a joint facility. Dingman said that has been discussed but felt Waverly's partnership proposal would not be beneficial to the County.

Amundson inquired about the timeline for the paving project. Dingman said Waverly initially indicated it wanted to construct the road this summer but the project is still in the concept stage.

Eagan said the County will need to get an appraisal and Waverly has already secured the services of the appraisal firm the County typically utilizes. Dingman said she can suggest a couple of firms. Jen Holloway, Deputy County Attorney, recommended the County also have title searches on the County's properties and the area that Waverly is proposing to vacate to the County.

5. **SALE OF TRABERT HALL** – Kerin Peterson, Facilities & Properties Director

NOTE: The County Board rejected all bids received during the public sale of County property at 2202 South 11th Street (Trabert Hall). The highest bid received was \$800,000. Trabert Hall was appraised at \$2,025,000 in November, based on R-4 (Residential with Landmark Designation) zoning and a special permit for historic preservation.

Kerin Peterson, Facilities & Properties Director, said she contacted the four groups that had expressed interest in purchasing the Trabert Hall property, either through discussions with the Board or as active bidders at the sale. She noted Topher Hansen, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CenterPointe, Inc., had made an offer of \$400,000 directly to the Board so she did not request a revised bid and is not sure of the status of that offer. **NOTE:** CenterPointe, Inc. is a local non-profit agency specializing in co-occurring mental health and addiction treatment for low income and homeless people. Speedway Properties, which was an active bidder at the sale, is apparently no longer interested in the property. Tru-Built Construction, which submitted the highest bid at the auction, indicated it would like to construct approximately 60 market-rate apartments, one or two bedrooms in size, and is willing to open it up to families and individuals that have Lincoln Housing Authority (LHA) vouchers or certificates. They also plan to provide community space at no cost on the lower-level. Peterson said Tru-Built has not revised its bid. Concorde Management & Development, Inc. indicated plans for a residential development using Section 42 tax credits which would require them to accept families and individuals with LHA vouchers or certificates. They would also like to get the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places which could open up additional financing options. Concorde plans to create a fitness room for the residents on the lower level and a community room that would be offered to groups free of charge in the remaining portion of the space. Peterson said Concorde's best and final offer is \$925,000.

Peterson noted the Board had also asked her to find out if any of the groups were partnering with a not-for-profit agency and said none of them indicated plans to do so. She also relayed that all the developers that looked at the property felt residential is the highest and best use of the property, not office.

Brinkman said Hansen plans to meet with the CenterPointe Board of Directors next week and would like to meet with the County Board after that so he can share whether his Board is willing to increase its offer.

BREAK

The meeting was recessed at 9:39 a.m. and reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Brinkman returned to the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

6. JUVENILE JUSTICE UPDATE – Sheli Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director; Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; Bruce Prenda, Chief Deputy County Attorney

Sheli Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director, prefaced the discussion by reporting that YSC's population numbers continue to decrease and currently range from 10-13. She said she has closed another unit as a result. It was noted the majority are being detained for violations in Juvenile Drug Court.

Wiltgen asked what happened to the staff that were working in that unit. Schindler said they are now working in the other units. She said she has held off on hirings, including two administrative positions.

Bruce Prenda, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; and Schindler gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lancaster County Juvenile Justice, highlighting the following (Exhibit E):

- Diversion Alternatives
 - Juvenile Interventions
 - Truancy Diversion
 - School-Based Diversion (RESTORE & SAMI)

NOTE: Project RESTORE is a collaboration between the Lancaster County Attorney's Office, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), Lincoln Police Department (LPD) and Lancaster County Department of Human Services. It is an arrest-based diversion program aimed at keeping youth out of the formal juvenile justice system while ensuring community safety. The program targets youth committing low level offenses and provides them with alternative programming rather than receiving a formal referral into the justice system. The School-based Alcohol and Marijuana Intervention (SAMI) Program is an early intervention program meant to prevent youth from moving further into the juvenile justice system.

- Early Assessment
- Juvenile Diversion and Intensive Diversion
- Truancy
- Law Violations

Hoyle said they are unable to divert half of the law violations because those youth are already being supervised. Schindler said only five percent of the detention population are youth that are new to the system. Prenda pointed out that the supervised population has moved from 25 percent to 50-55 percent high risk juveniles and said that indicates things are moving in the right direction. He anticipates that number will increase which could affect the detention population, adding Juvenile Probation will need to have placements available for that population.

- Early Assessment
- Juvenile Interventions
- Successful Discharges from Juvenile Detention
- 2011-2018 Average Daily Population (ADP) by Month

Prenda said the County Attorney's Office was able to absorb all the City violations without increasing the number of juveniles going into the juvenile justice system.

Wiltgen felt the reduction in the number of petitions through juvenile interventions should reduce the Juvenile Court docket. Prenda said freeing up the time the juvenile court judges spent on law violations, specifically truancy cases, has allowed the Judges to focus on their 3a (abuse/neglect) cases. He added that "reining in" those cases may delay the need for an additional juvenile court judge and attorneys. Hoyle added they are also saving court time on the discharges from Juvenile Probation.

Amundson noted success in engaging the families and felt that was also key (91 percent of the families that were referred completed early assessment).

Hoyle shared that Prenda has been invited to speak at the Symposium on the Future of Juvenile Community Supervision hosted by the Council of State Government on the Lancaster County Attorney's Office's ability to effectively control the "front gates" to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.

Wiltgen noted the recent discussions between the City and Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) involving funding six additional school resource officers for middle schools and said he has heard concerns that might increase the number of referrals. Brinkman suggested the need to advocate for a more wholistic approach to the issue beyond school resource officers, such as investments in afterschool programming and mental health support.

7. LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS APPLICANT – James Pinkerton

James Pinkerton, candidate for appointment to the Lancaster County Board of Zoning Appeals, shared his background and reasons for seeking appointment.

Eagan said he researched the issue of whether members of the Lancaster County Board of Zoning Appeals must live in the rural area. He said there is no requirement in State Statutes and said the County Zoning Regulations only require that a member be a resident and elector of the County.

8. BREAK

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Designation of County Representatives and Approval of In-Kind Contribution for the Prudential 2018 Client Conference in Naples, Florida (May 9-11, 2018)

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

10. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Claim for Review – Payment Voucher (PV) No. 605611 to Cole Meador, County Extension Office, in the Total Amount of \$446.04. The County Board Has Requested a Review of all Claims for Employee Reimbursement Other than Those Related to Travel for County Business.

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

- B. Prudential 2018 Client Conference in Naples, Florida, May 9-11, 2018 (Kerry Eagan and Doug Cyr)

See Item 9A.

11. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Village Meeting Agenda Items (Thursday, April 19, 2018)

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

12. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Meeting with Nebraska Department of Transportation – Wiltgen/Schorr

Wiltgen and Schorr reported on their meeting with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) to discuss the Saltillo Road Safety Study. Schorr said the State has awarded \$7,200,000 in federal aid to the County for improvements along Saltillo Road from South 27th Street to South 68th Street and said the County must provide funding in the amount of \$1,500,000. The County will also manage the project and be responsible for engineering.

In response to a question from Brinkman, Schorr said a consultant did the preliminary work necessary to apply for the safety funds. She said the County must now work with one of the State authorized consulting companies to refine the plan and determine how best to improve the corridor with the funds available.

B. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Coffee – Wiltgen, Schorr

Wiltgen said a variety of topics were discussed including visitor promotion, legislative issues, a proposed half-cent increase in the City sales tax to fund infrastructure needs, funding for improvements to Saltillo Road, the Infrastructure Task Force, and a proposal by the Mayor and Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) to form a joint public agency to levy a one-cent property tax for school safety programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Wiltgen reported on a discussion with representatives of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and The Bridge Behavioral Health (alcoholism and drug treatment program) to talk through funding issues involving that program.
- Amundson reported on allocation of Juvenile Justice Prevention Funds (JJPF) to non-profit agencies.
- Schorr suggested Jason Varga, Human Services Federation Executive Director, be scheduled on a future Staff Meeting agenda to discuss his agency.

13. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

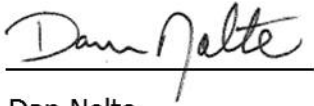
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14. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Amundson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m. Amundson, Brinkman, Schorr and Wiltgen voted yes. Avery was absent. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

