

FISCAL 2003-2004 BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, August 19, 2003
County Commissioners Chambers, Room 112
First Floor, County-City Building
7:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners public hearing on the Lancaster County Fiscal 2003-2004 budget was convened at 7:02 p.m.

1) PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FISCAL 2003-2004 BUDGET

Commissioner Heier opened the 2003-2004 Fiscal Budget Hearing and gave a brief opening statement regarding the overall budget, (Exhibit A), and the challenges of preparing this years budget in lieu of state reductions. Commissioner Heier invited those who wished to testify to come forward.

Carol Conner, Lincoln Public Libraries Director, and John Dale, Lincoln Public Libraries Assistant Director came forward and disseminated a memorandum containing information relating to the funding for library services for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 (Exhibit B). Conner indicated that the funding request for 2003-2004 will be \$614,260. Conner also discussed bookmobile services, summer reading programs and circulation issues. Conner also distributed copies of the Bookmobile Schedule of Services for September 2003 through February of 2004 brochure. Commissioner Hudkins questioned Conner regarding the expected life of the bookmobile. Conner replied that it is anticipated that the vehicle would last at least fifteen years, if not twenty. Dale commented that the vehicle was currently about ten years old.

Rich Wiese came forward and indicated his concern with the lack of County action regarding the placement of gravel on the road leading to his property.

Wiese indicated that he had been assured that this section of road was to be addressed within five years but indicated that they were now in year four with no action being evident. Wiese informed the Board that the section had been surveyed but not graded as of yet. Discussion was held by Mr. Wiese and the Board regarding available monies in the Engineering budget for this project and alternative solutions that could be used to grade and gravel the most critical section from Superior Street leading to Mr. Wiese's property.

Paul Edwards, representing the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA), came forward to express his organizations gratitude for the Board's willingness to keep the total increase from last years budget to around 2%. He also expressed LIBA's appreciation for the Boards inclusion of their organization in the budget process. Edwards commented that LIBA's concerns about the County's budget centered around the percentage of the budget that is property tax dependent and encouraged the Board to consider vertical cuts when attempting to craft their budget around state reductions. Edwards stated that LIBA would like to see more cuts and prioritization in the County's budget process. Commissioner Schorr thanked Edwards for their advertisement in the Lincoln Journal Star encouraging citizens to attend the public hearing on the County's budget.

Nancy Intermill, President of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC), came forward to address the issue of the purpose of the Commission. Intermill gave a brief statement outlining the conceptual mission of the Commission and also discussed more concrete accomplishments of the organization such as the Health Needs Survey conducted by the LLWC and the upcoming "Health Tool-Box" that is being developed in five languages for women in the community. Intermill commented that the Commission is also taking a role in the monitoring of women in leadership positions within the community and the development of a database of qualified women for positions on public and private sector committees and boards. Intermill urged continued funding for this organization.

Sue Anderson and Christine Denicola, representing the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center (RSACC), came forward to also express their support for continued funding of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission. Denicola discussed the Commissions role in serving as a liaison between her agency and the County. Denicola stated that the LLWC has worked in various ways with her organization to assist in the RSACC's mission. Denicola asked to enter into the record her organization's letter of support for continued funding for the Women's Commission (Exhibit C). Commissioner Workman questioned Anderson about their organizations other sources of revenue. Anderson indicated she did not have the figures readily available but indicated there was some federal support as well as United Way dollars.

Workman requested Lancaster County Budget & Fiscal Director Dave Kroeker to come forward and give the Board some information on the amount of funding the County provides to the LLWC. Kroeker indicated that Lancaster County shares the funding with the City of Lincoln on a 50-50 basis and the County's share would be \$92,567. A brief discussion on fringe benefits allocation between the two government entities was held.

With no other testimony from those in attendance Commissioner Schorr moved to close the public hearing on the 2003-2004 Lancaster County budget, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hudkins. Voting aye: Schorr, Hudkins, Heier, Workman and Stevens. Motion carried.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk