MINUTES
LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
555 SOUTH 10TH STREET, ROOM 303
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013
8:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Ann Post, Chair; Dick Campbell; Mike DeKalb; Jan Gauger; Dale Gruntorad; James Jeffers; Larry Lewis; Darl Naumann; W. Don Nelson; Kerry Eagan (Ex-Officio); and Trish Owen (Ex-Officio)

Committee Members Absent: Russ Bayer; Jean Lovell; Larry Melichar; and Amanda McGill

Others Present: Karen Amen, Facilitator; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, Lancaster County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy Lancaster County Clerk; Richard Grabow, Deputy County Attorney; Steve Hubka, Lincoln City Finance Director; Laurie Holman, Legal Counsel for the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee representing Senator Amanda McGill; Jordan Pascale, Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper; and Ann Taylor, Lancaster County Clerk's Office

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

MOTION: Campbell moved and Gruntorad seconded to amend the agenda to reflect that minutes that are scheduled for approval are for the October 11, 2013, not the October 25, 2013, meeting. Campbell, DeKalb, Gauger, Gruntorad, Lewis, Nelson and Post voted aye. Bayer, Lovell, Naumann, Melichar and McGill were absent from voting. Motion carried 7-0.

1 APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2013 MEETING

MOTION: Campbell moved and Jeffers seconded approval of the October 11, 2013 minutes. Campbell, DeKalb, Gauger, Gruntorad, Lewis, Nelson and Post voted aye. Bayer, Lovell, Naumann, Melichar and McGill were absent from voting. Motion carried 7-0.

2 OVERVIEW OF LINCOLN INFORMATION SERVICES/OPPORTUNITIES FOR DATABASE CONSOLIDATION - Steve Henderson, Chief Information Officer, Information Services (IS)

Steve Henderson, Chief Information Officer, Information Services (IS), gave an overview of Information Services, including the organizational structure (Exhibits A and B). He also gave examples of enterprise (services that are delivered to both the City and County) solutions (see Exhibit A).

Henderson said he believes business should lead and technology should follow. He cited the City and County's finance systems as an example, noting the systems run separately with separate hardware and software. Henderson said they could run together from a technology viewpoint. However, the accounting practices are different (one is cash accounting and the other is accrual accounting) and the business climate is not ready to pull the systems together. He said there are times when consolidation isn't deemed right in the business climate, although it would be technologically possible.

Gruntorad asked what drives the decision making. Henderson said he receives input at the County Staff and Management Team Meetings and the Mayor's Cabinet Meetings. He then relays that information to the Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) and asks their advice. Henderson added that some decisions are so minor that IS just uses its best technical judgement.

Campbell noted the City and County Clerks indicated at the last meeting that they are on different databases and asked whether there is a technical reason for that. Henderson said there is not, adding they could be merged, from a technical standpoint. **NOTE:** The City Clerk's Office has used Access since 2001 but will soon be converting to OnBase, a web-based program. The County Clerk's Office has utilized the TRIM electronic records management system since 2001. Access is a Microsoft environment and TRIM is a Hewlett-Packard (HP) environment.

DeKalb noted some Task Force members have expressed concern that there could be potential weaknesses in the security system with multiple applications and asked Henderson to address that. Henderson said no one is ever totally safe but IS has taken steps to try to make the system secure.

DeKalb also inquired about the Geographic Information System (GIS), noting there are other departments that use other kinds of software. He cited Public Works/Utilities as an example. Henderson said Jeff McReynolds, GIS Program Manager, has made great strides at coordinating a more effective and comprehensive approach to GIS on behalf of both the City and County. He said the problem of departments using duplicate software has not been totally resolved but great progress has been made.

Gruntorad asked Henderson to address record retention and going paperless. Henderson said his department has taken steps toward going paperless, such as moving to electronic invoicing. Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and TRIM Administrator, explained the County is statutorily required to retain certain records in paper form and has retention schedules it must follow. She said the County manages its records with TRIM and is able to do many things without using paper. Henderson said in many ways the County is more advanced in their thinking about records management than the City.

Henderson discussed Enterprise Content Management (ECM) and how it differs from Records Management (RM) (Exhibit C). He said the City began implementation of Accela, a software product used primarily for issuance and management of permits in 2010. In the course of that integration, Accela suggested the City look at document management and recommended a third-party integrated component. Accela indicated it had not done an integration with TRIM but had a pre-built integration module for OnBase. Henderson said the City made a decision to use OnBase for the document management component. He noted there has been dialogue on the City side on whether OnBase is the direction the City should go for their ECM work. Henderson said he was asked for his input and he recommended that the City continue its use of OnBase for ECM activities (see Exhibit C). He said the City has decided to proceed in that manner.

Thorpe disagreed with Henderson's statement that TRIM is an RM (see Exhibit C). Henderson said there would need to be additional components to make it a full-blown ECM environment. Thorpe noted the United States Navy and several large governments, including Australia, use TRIM. She said it is a great product with many components.

Campbell said he would like to bring a different parameter into discussions of functions and possible consolidation and that is where is the citizen or business best served. He used GIS as an example that has created efficiencies for his company, explaining his employees no longer have to go out and personally measure houses and outbuildings. Amen recorded it as additional criteria to consider on a wall sheet (Exhibit D).

Naumann arrived at the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

3 REVIEW OF CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE TO DATE AND LOOKING FORWARD

Karen Amen, Facilitator, presented an overview of meeting outcomes as of October 11, 2013 (Exhibit E). She noted there are only three meetings remaining and posed the following question to the Task Force: *What would you like the outcome of this process to be in order to feel that it was worth your time, attention and expertise?* She recorded their responses on wall sheets (Exhibit F). Amen presented their responses when the same question was posed to them in a preliminary questionnaire in May (Exhibit G).

Amen noted pending decisions: 1) Adult Criminal Courts; 2) City and County Clerks; and 3) Information Systems (Exhibit H). Agenda items for the remaining meetings were tentatively identified (Exhibit I).

4 LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR EDITORIAL "A CHANCE FOR CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION?" (OCTOBER 21, 2013)

Post referenced the recent editorial which suggested the County Engineer's announcement that he plans to retire may make consolidation of that office with the City Public Works Department easier (Exhibit J) and asked Task Force members for their thoughts on this topic.

Nelson felt the Task Force should ask the Mayor if he has any objection to the Task Force recommending the County Board appoint Miki Esposito, City Public Works & Utilities Director, as the County Engineer. DeKalb noted state statutes require that the individual be a professional engineer and said it would be more appropriate to appoint Roger Figard, City Engineer.

In response to a question from Owen, Eagan said state statues require the County Board to fill a vacancy in an elected position within 45 days of the date of the vacancy.

Nelson said he believes this is an opportunity for the Task Force and County Board to go on record how they feel about consolidation.

Post said she is hesitant to recommend appointment of Figard to the position, noting he already has a full-time position. She said she also expressed concerns about a possible conflict of interest (Figard is under the control of the Director of City Public Works & Utilities and the Mayor).

DeKalb said Figard wears "multiple hats" now, noting he also serves as the Executive Director of the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) and must respond to both the Mayor and County Board. He also pointed out that the County Engineer and Figard both indicated in their presentation to the Task Force that if the departments were consolidated, division heads would probably run both departments.

Owen questioned whether it would be legal for Figard to serve in both capacities, as Figard is a union employee on the City side.

Nelson said if it doesn't work, the Board can appoint someone else. He said it is not the Task Force's role to figure out the answer to every roadblock to a recommendation. Jeffers said he concurs with Nelson's comments.

MOTION: DeKalb moved and Gauger seconded to recommend that the County Board consider appointing Roger Figard, City Engineer, to fill the County Engineer vacancy.

Campbell questioned whether approving the motion without verifying the legality would cause others to question the legitimacy of other recommendations the Task Force might make. Nelson felt it would not and said his intent is to "test the water" with the County Board.

Post said appointing Figard to fill the vacancy will not change the structure of the office or identify any of the cost efficiencies.

Gauger said she believes the purpose of the motion is to start a public discussion.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Lewis offered a friendly amendment to add the word "interim."

The maker of the motion and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Jeffers offered a friendly amendment to omit Roger Figard's name and recommend that the County Board consider appointing the City Engineer to fill the County Engineer vacancy.

The maker of the motion and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION AS AMENDED: Campbell, DeKalb, Gauger, Jeffers, Lewis, Naumann, and Nelson voted aye. Gruntorad and Post voted nay. Bayer, Lovell, Melichar and McGill were absent from voting. Motion carried 7-2.

5 FINAL REPORT UPDATE

Eagan disseminated copies of what he has drafted so far in terms of the Task Force's final report and recommendations (Exhibit K). The following corrections were noted: 1) Nelson was a former aide to Nebraska, not Wyoming, Governor Tiemann; and 2) Gruntorad is an active, not retired, certified public accountant (CPA). Eagan asked Task Force members to contact him if they have further corrections or if there is specific information they would like to see in the report, adding he plans to have a fully drafted report ready by November 22nd.

Eagan then disseminated copies of Section XV-18 (Governmental powers and functions; intergovernmental cooperation; Legislature may limit; merger or consolidation of counties or other local governments authorized) of the Nebraska Constitution (Exhibit L). He pointed out that the requirement in the Municipal County Act for each entity to vote separately to have a merged City/County municipal government is constitutional, which means a further study would have to show that merger is in the best interest of everyone.

In response to a question from DeKalb, Eagan said interlocal agreements, a joint public agency (JPA), or the Municipal County Act remain options.

Eagan also noted there is a short-term recommendation to merge the City Attorney's Misdemeanor Division with the County Attorney and said that is clearly in the best interest of the juvenile justice system. He said the City now pays the County approximately $280,000 a year to hold youth with City charges in the County's Youth Services Center (YSC) so there is a potential loss of revenue for the County.

Post said a number of individuals have expressed interest in the work of the Task Force. She said she has served as the point person up to now but said she is willing to share that duty if any of the Task Force members are interested. There was consensus to have Post continue in that role.

6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Campbell moved and Nelson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. Campbell, DeKalb, Gauger, Gruntorad, Lewis, Naumann, Nelson and Post voted aye. Bayer, Lovell, Melichar and McGill were absent from voting. Motion carried 8-0.

Submitted by Ann Taylor, Lancaster County Clerk's Office.

EXHIBIT
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Lincoln Lancaster County Consolidation Task Force
Information Services – A Quick Overview
October 25, 2013

- Who is Steve Henderson?
  - Serving as Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Information Services since August, 2010
  - Part of state's central information technology organization for more than 30 years
  - UNL Computer Science graduate (with honors); mathematics and music minors

- What is Information Services?
  - Division of the city's Finance Department
  - Delivers information technology services to both city and county
  - Interlocal Agreement available at: http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/dp/ispc_ag.pdf
  - Important active components:
    - Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC)
    - Geographic Information Systems Advisory Committee
  - Revolving Fund / Internal Service Fund – service rates based on full cost allocation

- Information Services organizational chart

- Henderson's definition of the over-used term, "Enterprise"

- Sometimes there are organizational factors that make enterprise solutions elusive
  - Ultimately, business should drive consolidation; technology is simply a tool
  - Finance systems as a "case study"

- Even with the previous "dose of reality", many examples of enterprise solutions, including:
  - Email
  - InterLinc web portal
  - eCommerce "engine"
  - Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)
  - Server and Desktop support
  - Network services
  - VOIP phone system
  - Payroll software

Information Services Division Organizational Chart

EXHIBIT
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Chief Information Officer
Steve Henderson

Administration
Peggy Hielen

Application Solutions
Terry Lowe

Geographic Information Systems
Jeff McReynolds

Technical Support
Craig Gifford

Mark Wieting
Jim Jambor
Chad Peters

Jim Walkenhorst[1]
Joyce Davidson
Wade James
Dale Wenzl

[1]On assignment to Accela Project

Jim Anderson
Chris Plock
Nicholas Wemhoff
Scott Zimmerman

Systems Programming
Jeff Ideus
Tim Travis

Operations
Robin Mulder
Chris Hardesty
Rodney Whitehall
(Vacancy)

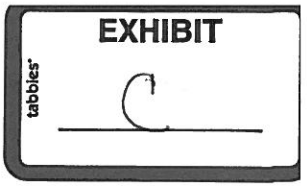
Help Desk
Rod Johnson
Sandy Ries
Lyla Walker

Networking
Jeff Jones
Mike Cutshall
Chad Dalton
Ben Ramirez

PC and Server Support

Judy Cable	Bob Loos	John Ludwig
Tanner Moormeier	Michael Rose	Brian Schwinck
Tim Storer	Tom Svehla	Terry Warner

October, 2013



Lincoln Lancaster County Consolidation Task Force
Enterprise Content Management – Background and General Facts
October 25, 2013

• Before I set foot in my office at Information Services – while still at the state – I started receiving phone calls from city employees seeking my help to advance Enterprise Content Management (ECM) within the city.

• Meanwhile, the state was in the midst of a rigorous Request For Proposals (RFP) seeking an ECM solution. This 2010 RFP had over 160 evaluation criteria. Ultimately, this RFP was awarded to eDocument Resources (now Databank) as an implementation partner using Hyland's OnBase ECM software.

• Because of active involvement from the city, the contract award specifically identified the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County as eligible participants.

• Enterprise Content Management versus Records Management (RM)

> From Gartner (a major industry analysis consulting firm): "The core components of an ECM suite are document management, image-processing applications, workflow/business process management, records management, web content management, social content management, and other extended components *like (but not limited to) e-forms, analytics, document composition and packaged application integration."*

• Shortly after my arrival, the city began the implementation of Accela – a software product used primarily for issuance and management of permits. Accela recommended a third-party integrated solution for document management. Inquiries with staff at Accela revealed no prior integrations with TRIM, but a fully-developed integration module for OnBase. Accela relies on OnBase today for document management.

• Work has continued over recent months with department directors and the mayor's office to solidify the city's business intent to use OnBase as an ECM solution. Some "production level" OnBase applications are now in place, and other candidates have been identified.

• My professional considerations regarding OnBase vs. TRIM characteristics, offered as part of the dialogue in the previous topic…Product niche: ECM vs. RM; technical support staff: 30+ vs. <5; server infrastructure: 75+ vs. 1; known active users: > 19,000 vs. < 200; stored documents: 20,000,000 vs. 100,000; document storage space: 7.7 terabytes vs. 50 gigabytes; financial structure: monthly payments/obligations for rate-based services vs. purchased licenses and annual maintenance. Additionally, stronger showing by Hyland (OnBase), compared to HP, in Gartner's September, 2013 "Magic Quadrant" regarding ECM.

• My professional recommendation, based on appropriateness of product, ability to rapidly deploy, technical stability and support, along with demonstrated scalability: the city should continue its use of OnBase for ECM activities.

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CRITERIA

- Where is citizen or business best served?

EX: OUR GIS SYSTEM

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Lincoln-Lancaster County Consolidation Task Force
Quick Overview of Meeting Outcomes as of October 11, 2013

EXHIBIT
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March 8: Organizing, Charge, Review of Statutes

March 22: Presentations: Public Works and County Engineer

April 12: Presentation: Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster Co Sheriff's Office

April 26: Presentation: Clerks' Offices; City and County Attorneys' offices

May 10: Public Works presents, cont; Facilitation methods and group process

May 24: Address and complete one grouping at a time; Key issues; Structural options

June 14: Public safety discussions and info: Financial data, Dashboard indicators, Co-location plans, Existing interlocals; First test of levels of support for structural options.

June 28: Two motions, unanimous 1) Formalize agreements between LPD and LSO; 2) Ask public safety leaders to present models for how umbrella organization might work.

July 12: Presentations: Consolidation and cooperation opportunities between County and City Attorneys' offices for Juvenile Division and Adult Criminal Division.

July 26: Presentation: Juvenile Court judges' perspective; **Decision: Merge City and County Juvenile Court functions into the County Attorney's office through interlocal agreement with the City and County, splitting actual cost of the merger.** For adult cases, subgroup to develop draft recommendation.

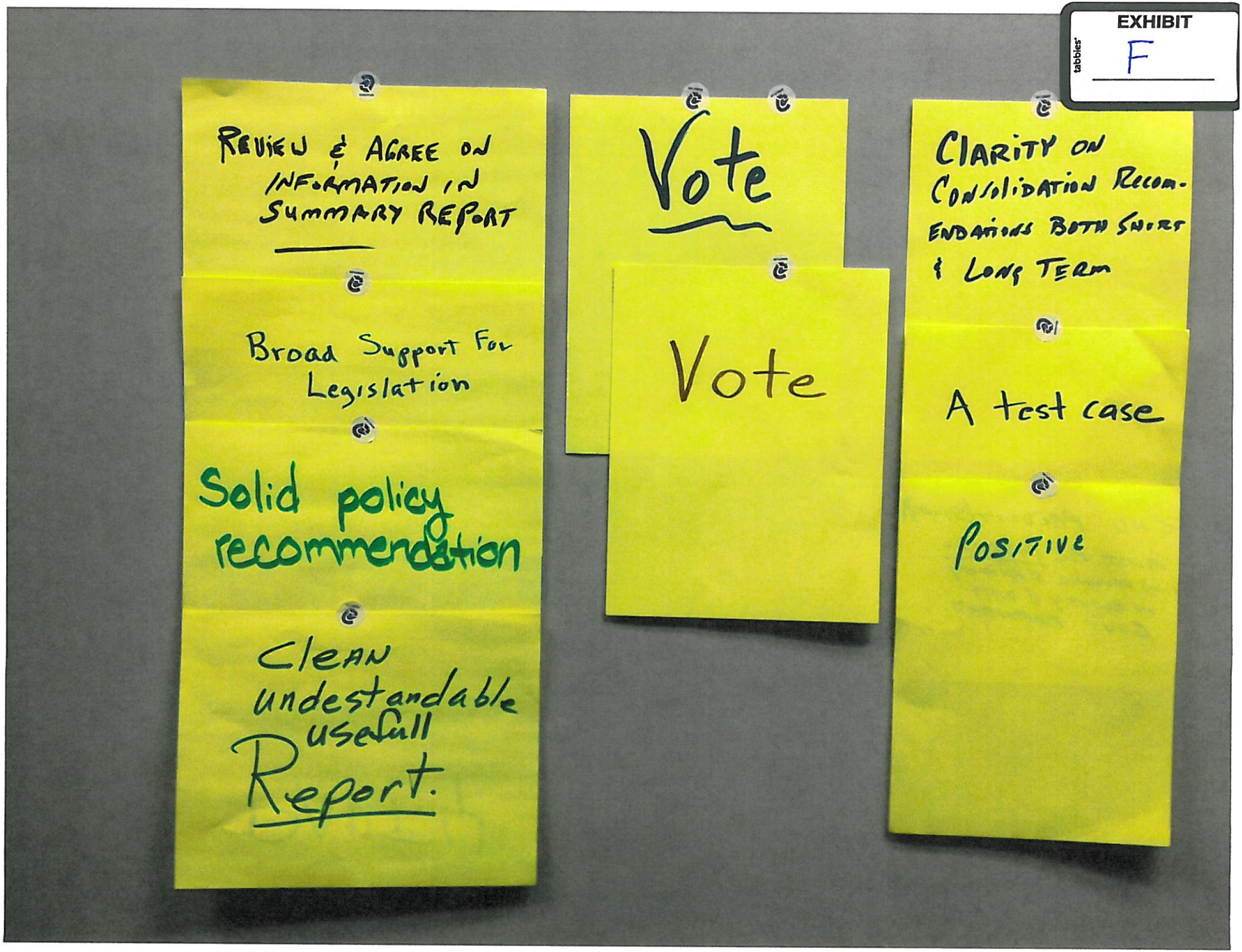
Aug 16: Presentation; Public safety officials' decision matrix for several models and options for further cooperation and collaboration. Concerns acknowledged.

Aug 23: Decision: Long-term goal (10 to 15 years out) is to have a merged public safety organization; specific steps to get there will be addressed at next meeting.

Sept 13: Potential Public Safety Umbrella rationale, structure; Details of followup study/white paper.

Sept 27: Presentations (cont) from Co Engineer & Public Works; Discussion re City Atty opinion; Subcommittee appointed (Lovell, Post, Eagan) to recommend re criminal prosecution functions.

Oct 11: Presentation: County Clerk (Dan Nolte) and City Clerk (Teresa Meier); **Decisions:** *for primary outcome from this Task Force*, **1) Recommend a consolidated City/County government as end goal,** and *for Co Engineer and Public Works short-term opportunities*, 2) **Consolidate now physical assets & GIS systems; Enhance written understandings; and Privatize certain work and tasks.**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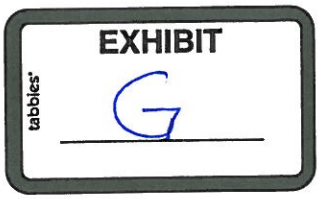
Review & Agree on Information in Summary Report
Broad Support For Legislation
Solid policy recommendation
Clean understandable Usefull Report.
Vote
Vote
Clarity on Consolidation Recommendations Both Short & Long Term
A test case
Positive



Lincoln Lancaster County Consolidation Task Force: Facilitated Decision-Making Process Responses to Preliminary Questionnaire

as of Thursday, May 9, 2013

Question 1: What would you like the outcome of this process to be in order to feel that it was worth your time, attention and expertise?

- The report out of the committee should be based on realistic recommendations that take into account operational, legal and fiscal impacts. If no economic savings can be realized, or no operational efficiencies gained, total consolidation should not be recommended to the elected bodies. Rather it should be stated that rather than consolidation of the two departments they should look at interlocal opportunities for cooperation.

- Offer valid suggestions for consolidation provided the consolidated agency (or services):
    i. continues to meet the expected needs of the constituency
    ii. is at least as effective as the two separate agencies / services
    iii. the services are provided more efficiently

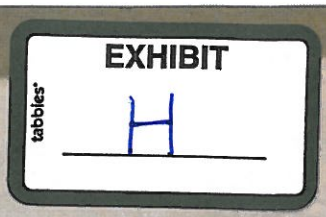
- I want to feel like we have been thorough, whether or not we have substantial recommendations. I also want to feel like we have thought outside of the box. It is possible that we don't find any consolidations that make sense.

- A consensus of findings of 1) if any consolidation of any agencies is appropriate. 2) if so, what potential savings in time, staff and money may be there. 3) if not, are there areas of potential interlocals or sharing of duties that may help.

- I would like to see the committee recommend both long term and short term consolidations. I would like to see positive short term recommendations that are very achievable despite the inherent political tensions involved in most consolidation recommendations and, if possible, I would like to see the committee develop a long term more ambitious bipartisan consolidation plan.
    - That is my ideal outcome. If this process comes out with just one or two consolidation recommendations, even small departmental recommendations, I would feel my time was well spent.

- That the elected officials who launched our journey are satisfied with our work products.

- What we might like the outcome of the process to be and what it may very well turn out to be may possibly be two different outcomes. However we can always hope and move forward with an optimistic attitude.



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- CLERKS)
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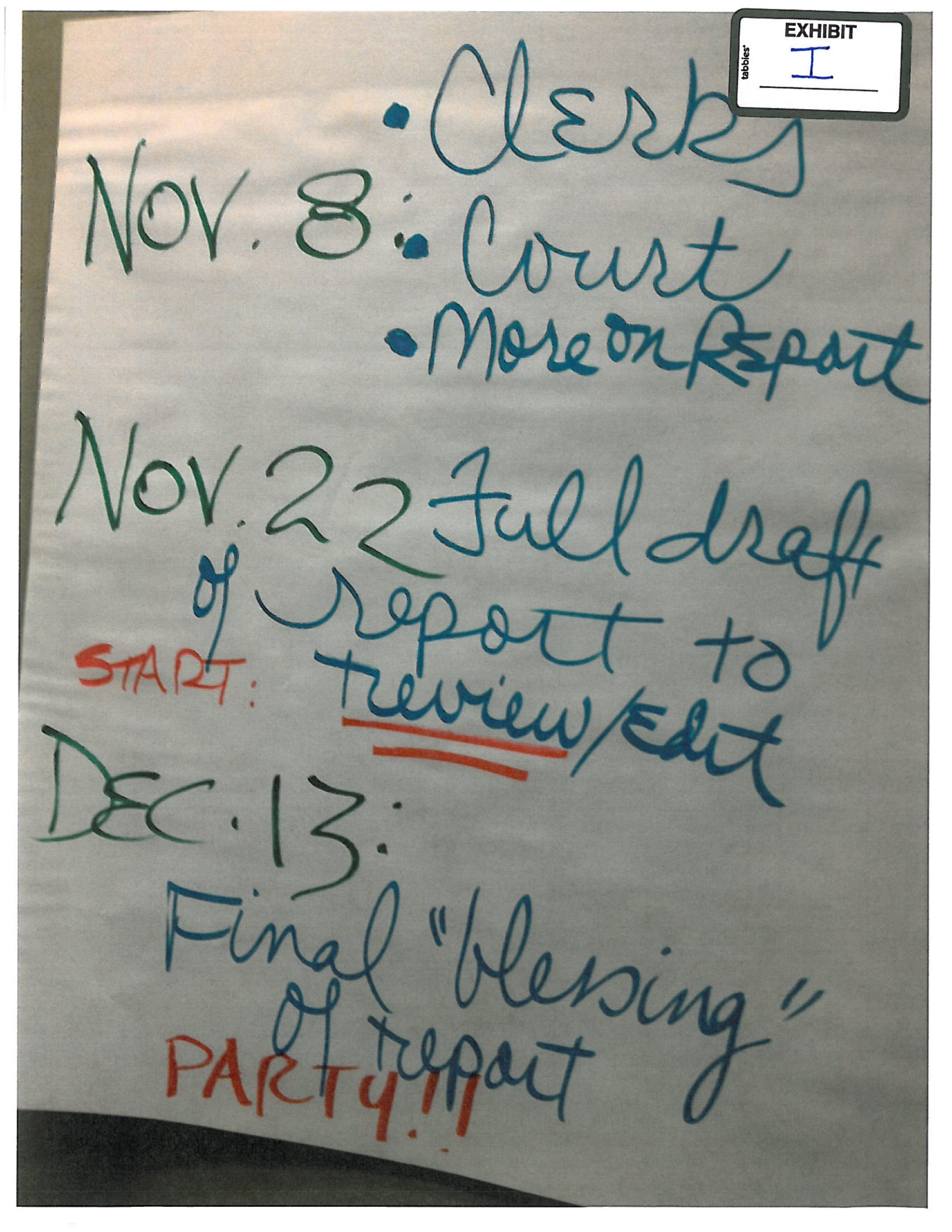
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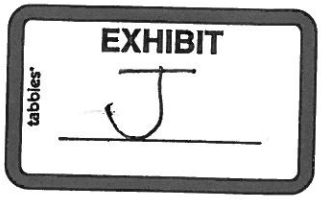
• Clerks
Nov. 8: • Court
• More on Report
Nov. 22 Full draft of report to
START: review/Edit
DEC. 13:
Final "blessing" of report
PART 4!!!



JournalStar.com

Editorial, 10/21: A chance for city-county consolidation?

OCTOBER 20, 2013 11:59 PM • BY THE JOURNAL STAR EDITORIAL BOARD

Local leaders were given a rare opportunity to study another step toward consolidation of city and county government when Lancaster County Engineer Don Thomas announced his retirement.

Combining that county office with the city Public Works Department would allow for better coordination of city and county projects and increase efficiency, former Mayor Don Wesely suggested in an email.

"We've talked about this for years -- always waiting until Don Thomas retires," Wesely wrote. "Well, now is that time."

There's little doubt that consolidation would be easier now that the popular Thomas has decided to vacate the office.

But there still are significant hurdles to be overcome.

For one thing, the Legislature might have to authorize consolidation, depending on the specifics of the proposal.

And, as former Public Works Director Allan Abbott pointed out, if the Lancaster County Board still had authority to approve road funding decisions outside of city limits, coordination still would be difficult.

Making it easier to properly consider the benefits and drawbacks of consolidating the county and city departments is the fact that a committee has been studying city-county consolidation for seven months.

The committee hopes to have a preliminary recommendation ready in December, according to Chairwoman Ann Post.

Post said there already was a great deal of cooperation between the city and the county on street and roads projects.

An important step in that area came in 2006, when the city and county signed an interlocal agreement for the Rural to Urban Streets program. The so-called RUTS agreement calls for the county to build major roads to city standards and to acquire enough right of way so roads can be expanded easily when more lanes are needed.

Post said the city and county also cooperate in other areas. For example, the county helps maintain gravel roads within city jurisdiction in return for city help in other areas.

She also noted state and federal funding for road projects in rural Lancaster County projects often comes with strings attached that would prevent the funds from being used within city limits.

Meanwhile, the County Board is accepting applications for the position until Nov. 1 and plans to appoint a replacement for the remainder of Thomas's term. The office will be on the ballot next year.

Nevertheless, history suggests it might be decades before an opportunity for government consolidation on street and road construction and maintenance comes along again. Post's committee should make sure the opportunity does not go to waste.

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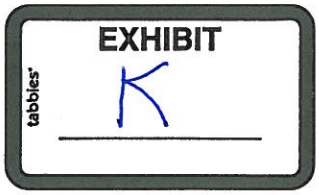
CITY OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS DECEMBER ___, 2013



INTRODUCTION

The City of Lincoln-Lancaster County Consolidation Task Force was established by the Lincoln City Council, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, and Mayor Chris Beutler in March of 2013 to study consolidation and cooperation opportunities between the City and the County. The Task Force was asked to examine the following agencies and make recommendations on possible mergers or additional areas of cooperation:

- Lincoln Public Works Department and the Lancaster County Engineer's Office;
- Lincoln Police Department and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office;
- Offices of the Lincoln City Clerk and Lancaster County Clerk; and
- Lincoln City Attorney's Misdemeanor Prosecution and Juvenile Court Divisions and Lancaster County Attorney.

The original charge to the Task Force did not include the City Attorney's Juvenile Court Division, but was added after discussions with the City and County Attorneys.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Consolidation Task Force members were selected by the City Council, County Board and the Mayor, with the Mayor and each member of the City Council and County Board appointing one member of the Task Force. The selection process produced a diverse group of members with a broad range of experience in government, business, planning, and law.

Task Force Members:

- Ann Post (Task Force Chair), Director of Policy and Research for the Lincoln Independent Business Association
- Russ Bayer, businessman and former Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commissioner
- Dick Campbell, president of Campbell's Nurseries and former president of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
- Mike DeKalb, retired planner with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, with expertise in rural areas
- Jan Gauger, former Lancaster County Commissioner
- Dale Gruntorad, retired certified public accountant and chairman of a previous county consolidation committee
- James Jeffers, founder of James Arthur Vineyards of Raymond and previous owner of Quality Pork International
- Larry Lewis, semi-retired transportation engineer with Speece Lewis
- Jean Lovell, retired Lancaster County Court Judge and former director of the Nebraska Board of Parole

- Amanda McGill, State Senator and Chairwoman of the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee
- Larry Melichar, regional director for Homes Services of America (known as Woods Brothers Realty and Home Real Estate) and former chief executive officer/president of CBS Home Real Estate in Omaha
- Daryl Naumann, Sales and Marketing Director for Ayars and Ayars, an engineering firm, and former City of Lincoln Economic Development Director
- W. Don Nelson, publisher of the Prairie Fire Newspaper, business man, and former aide to Wyoming Governor Tiemann, Nebraska Governors Exon and Kerry, and former U.S. Senator Nelson

Facilitator

Karen Amen

Support Staff

Trish Own, Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Beutler
Kerry P. Eagan, Lancaster County Chief Administrative Officer
Ann Taylor, County Clerk Records Specialist

TASK FORCE PROCESS

All meetings of the Consolidation Task Force were conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The Task met _____ times from March 8, 2013 through _____, 2013. Agendas and minutes from all Task Force meetings are available on the Lancaster County Clerks web site. A list of documents presented to the Task Force can be found in Appendix A to this report, also maintained on the County Clerk's web site.

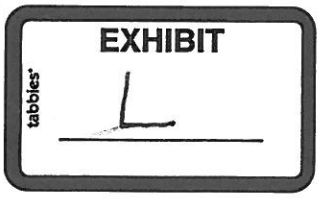
As a preliminary matter, the Task force reviewed Nebraska statutes governing intergovernmental cooperation and consolidation, and previous consolidation studies relating to the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

ANALYSIS

RECOMMENDATIONS

XV-18. Governmental powers and functions; intergovernmental cooperation; Legislature may limit; merger or consolidation of counties or other local governments authorized.

(1) The state or any local government may exercise any of its powers or perform any of its functions, including financing the same, jointly or in cooperation with any other governmental entity or entities, either within or without the state, except as the Legislature shall provide otherwise by law.

(2) The Legislature may provide for the merger or consolidation of counties or other local governments. No merger or consolidation of municipalities or counties shall occur without the approval of a majority of the people voting in each municipality or county to be merged or consolidated as provided by law. If the proposal is a merger or consolidation of one or more municipalities with one or more counties, the vote shall be tabulated in each municipality in the county or counties separately from the areas of the county or counties outside the boundaries of the municipalities. If the merger or consolidation is not approved by a majority of voters voting in the election in a municipality proposed to be merged or consolidated or the areas of the county or counties outside the boundaries of such municipality or municipalities, the proposed merger or consolidation shall be deemed rejected. Any merger or consolidation of local governments may be initiated by petition as provided by law. Annexation shall not be considered a merger or consolidation for purposes of this section. If the Legislature provides for the merger or consolidation of one or more municipalities with one or more counties, the Legislature shall provide for the reversal of the merger or consolidation. No such reversal shall occur without voter approval. The vote shall be tabulated in each municipality which is proposed to be created by the reversal separately from the areas outside the boundaries of the proposed municipalities. If the reversal is not approved by a majority of voters voting in the election in the area within the boundaries of any proposed municipality or the areas outside the proposed municipalities, the reversal shall be deemed rejected.

Source: Neb. Const. art. XV, sec. 18 (1972); Adopted 1972, Laws 1971, LB 604, sec. 1; Amended 1998, Laws 1998, LR 45CA, sec. 2.