

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County  
Agenda for September 27, 2018

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

10:00 Darlene Carpio, Regional Director for Senator Cory Gardner, to present legislative updates

1. Approve the minutes from the September 17, 2018 meeting
2. Approve the minutes from the September 19, 2018 meeting
3. Review the monthly management report from the First National Bank Omaha
4. Review and act upon an employer option sheet regarding enrollment for health insurance plans through the County Health Pool
5. Review the 2018 Lincoln County Property Assessment Study
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Approve payroll and expense vouchers

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2018. The following attended: Vice-Chairman Ed Schifferns, Commissioner Steve Burgess, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel. Chairman Doug Stone was absent and excused.

Vice-Chairman Schifferns called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Burgess to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

James Martin with Evergreen Systems and Technology requested a few minutes of the Board's time to present a proposal on a new server for the accounting system upgrade. Tyler Technologies asked him to complete a system audit on the current accounting hardware, and once he did so, informed him that the old server is out-of-date and not compatible with the new system. Mr. Martin asked Tyler for a quote on a server, which he presented to the commissioners, along with a comparable quote from Dell. The Tyler estimate was \$10,084 and did not include travel time, while Dell's cost was \$6,277.89. The county will still have to purchase the SQL software from Tyler for \$1,024, regardless of which server the Board agrees to select. Mr. Burgess wanted to know if he could use the old server in any other department, but Mr. Martin felt every department already had what they needed. He also asked when the Board had to make a decision. Support for the current software through Sage expires at the end of February, so Mrs. Lengel told Tyler they would need to have the project completed by then. Typically such a project takes close to a year, so as soon as the county has the equipment in place, Tyler can begin building the rest of the system. Mr. Piper stated that Capital Projects funds from the 2018 budget could pay for the server.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the purchase of a Dell server independently from Dell and SQL software from Tyler Technologies for a total of \$7,301.89. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Lengel asked Mr. Martin how they would pay for it since she didn't have that high of a credit limit on her county card, which prompted the commissioners to discuss increasing the credit limit on Mr. Piper's county credit card. Mr. Burgess made a motion to increase the credit limit to \$12,000 on the County Administrator's credit card. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 17, 2018. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Burgess also made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 19, 2018, as submitted. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried.

The Board reviewed the monthly management report from the First National Bank of Omaha and an employer option sheet regarding enrollment for health insurance plans through the County Health Pool. Mr. Piper said he'd done some research on potential changes for 2019 based on information from Kit Carson County. Before the Board could discuss it further,

Darlene Carpio, Regional Director for Senator Cory Gardner, arrived for her meeting to present legislative updates.

She began with the Farm Bill, stating that there is the discussion of a second farm aid package that may never come to fruition. Mr. Burgess said in his opinion, the current format of the Bill would cost more to administer than what it is worth. Ms. Carpio explained that the biggest problem with it at this point is that although the House version was approved and the Senate version was approved, the two are not the same, so the entities will have to come together to create a workable version. The main difference is that the House version supports the work requirement program before SNAP benefits are permitted, which is not in the Senate version. Ms. Carpio said they most certainly won't meet the September 30 deadline for an agreement but should receive an extension. She added that Senator Gardner's office supports the current conservation requirements in the Farm Bill, and they are working hard to make sure there are no changes in that regard.

At 9:50 a.m., Sheriff Tom Nestor and Emergency Manager Ken Stroud stopped in to listen to Ms. Carpio's presentation.

Mr. Burgess commented that his personal opinion is that farm ground taken out of production and put into CRP should never be eligible for farm programs again, even if the land changes ownership. He added that he wished the parties would begin working together again. Ms. Carpio stated that Senator Gardner received an award as the most non-partisan senator in federal politics and agreed that the parties must work together.

Mr. Burgess asked the sheriff to let Ms. Carpio know what a burden the current marijuana laws are for law enforcement, and Sheriff Nestor said that there are too many loopholes in the law, particularly in the area of allowable grows. Because rural areas have far fewer resources, they are unable to keep up with the number of places in the Lower L where marijuana is illegally grown by the Cuban cartel. He commended the DEA out of Colorado Springs but said they are also overwhelmed and cannot provide adequate resources for the rising problems. Sheriff Nestor made the plea for consistent restrictions statewide, adding that the vague wording in current laws makes them difficult to enforce. Various agencies have different outlooks on the outside marijuana grow laws, to consistent restrictions would be extremely beneficial to everyone. They have discussed putting an ordinance into place for a twelve-plant cap, but haven't done so yet. The sheriff added that black market marijuana is also a huge issue because there is little funding available for storage or equipment when they confiscate a large operation. He went on to say that the penalty portion of the law is too lenient as well since marijuana is no longer considered a drug crime.

Mr. Burgess told Ms. Carpio that another issue is medical reimbursements for hospitals. Ms. Carpio responded that HR3729 provided for the extension of reimbursements for ambulance and other medical-related services in rural areas, but it was a House bill, and a Senate version was never created. She felt the extension would be approved and added that Medicare and Medicaid are moving to a value-based reimbursement system rather than a fee-based system.

Senator Gardner also introduced the Rural Physicians Workforce Act, which provides for physicians doing their residency in rural locations.

Hugo Mayor Tom Lee had asked about water infrastructure problems, and Ms. Carpio said that the USDA came out with a program to address the issue. Mr. Burgess asked if it would also help Karval since they are unincorporated, but she wasn't sure, so Mr. Burgess gave her Patrick Leonard's phone number.

Sheriff Nestor said that mental health has become a big problem in rural communities as there are no resources anymore. Several years ago, there were an allotted number of beds per county, but that is no longer the case. Ms. Carpio asked if opioid misuse is an issue and said that although the application deadline passed, the commissioners might want to check the website as USDA will come out with more programs for funding. The Rural Economic Development also addresses numerous issues with new funding programs.

Mr. Schiffers asked if there was any funding available for a drug dog for the sheriff's department, and Ms. Carpio said she would check. Mr. Schiffers also stated that residents of the town of Arriba recently received a survey regarding the type of water pipes they have. He wasn't sure if the directive came from Arriba's new manager of the water and sewer system or CDPHE.

Sheriff Nestor asked Ms. Carpio to relay to Senator Gardner that he appreciated the senator's support of law enforcement.

Ken Stroud briefly discussed the communications infrastructure that the county wants to upgrade, stating there is no funding for a backup radio system that isn't an 800 MHz system. The county would like to put a VHF radio system in place in conjunction with the 800 system to improve communication between law enforcement, Road & Bridge, and fire and ambulance vehicles. He explained they've reached out to USDA and DOLA, but none of the funding sources that are currently available work for an analog system, which is critical for rural communication. Sheriff Nestor put in that they are still using the same 800 MHz radios that they bought ten or fifteen years ago because they can't afford to upgrade.

Ms. Carpio thanked the Board for their input and said she had excellent information to take back to the senator.

At 10:45 a.m., CSU Extension Director Travis Taylor stopped in to discuss the fencing and pens at the new fair building. He provided the Board with diagrams he'd drawn to scale, stating that if they went with 5' x 5' pens, they would probably need sixty of them. Mr. Taylor originally thought they'd need ninety-two ten foot panels but felt they should bump that up to one hundred. He also felt that 180' of tie-rail instead of 120' would be better, which could also be used to create horse stalls for other events. His estimate was \$42,202 without the tie-rails, and Mr. Taylor felt those would probably run another \$5,000 or more. The group agreed that they should estimate around \$50,000 for fencing. Mr. Piper said they would need to submit

accurate numbers to use Conservation Trust funds, and Mr. Taylor said the commissioners might want to request bids.

When Mr. Taylor left, the discussion returned to the county's health insurance plan. Mr. Piper provided the group with his research, stating the potential annual savings to the county could be well over \$200,000. He felt there would be no detrimental effects on the employees, particularly if the Board chose to create an HSA for each employee, which would involve contributing their full deductible at the beginning of each year. The cost savings to the county would be due to the new plan being an HDHP, which is a High Deductible Health Plan. He added that it would be one of his 2019 projects to gather more information, and the commissioners agreed it would take time and education on the part of the employees as well. Mr. Piper agreed, stating that each employee would be responsible for their own account, but it would benefit them in the long run as he didn't believe there would be copays with the new plan either.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to continue to provide health insurance to county employees under Plan A of the County Health Pool for 2018. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the 2018 Lincoln County Property Assessment Study, and then Mr. Schifferns called for old or new business. Mr. Burgess said it could wait until the following day, and Mr. Piper said the Genoa-Hugo School contacted him to ask if the county wanted to place an ad in their yearbook. The commissioners agreed that if they did it for one, they would have to do it for all schools and declined the offer.

The commissioners approved the September payroll and expense vouchers and then, with no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Schifferns adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on September 28, 2018.

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Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

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Ed E. Schifferns, Vice-Chairman