

August 13, 2024
North Platte, Nebraska

Special Meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. Present were Commissioners Kent Weems, Micaela Wuehler, Chris Bruns, Jerry Woodruff and Deputy County Clerk, Nicole Fisher. Joe Hewgley was absent. Also present were the Nebraska International Port of the Plains & Inland Port Authority Board and members of the North Platte Area Chamber & Development Corporation.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 P.M.

Vice Chairperson Wuehler announced the Open Meeting Act with amendments is posted for public review and the county board will comply with the open meeting requirements.

Bruns offered prayer.

North Platte Area Chamber and Development President Gary Person stated that the reason for the meeting was to discuss the next steps necessary for development. He said that a transloading facility would be a great place to start and they have identified a number of companies that are interested. He also stated that drop and pull lines and possibly adding assets to the property would be beneficial.

Wuehler said this is a new venture and we need to do it right and do it well. It is a new road with no map to follow. We need to establish rolls and responsibilities.

Vince Dugan said it is time to take real steps. He said if a tenant will be developing on leased property, they would need to know who they would lease from.

Wuehler said, that is why we are here today.

Bruns stated that the ultimate goal is operational infrastructure to provide those services. Ownership will eventually be transferred to the county; they never intended to get rid of Greenbriar. Once we have ownership the county could lease the facility to the Inland Port & provide authority to the Port to move freight. They will need to come up with an easement and hopefully get that ironed out.

Jim Hawks said that the Port needs to generate revenue to be in control and hire people.

Wuehler said that's why they were formed to do research and do what needs to be done to manage.

Vince Dugan said that the Port doesn't own the land and there is concern about properties on land not owned or leased. If there is uncertainty about authority for leasing structure it makes it harder, unless parameters are clear.

Bruns said that will be what is hammered out in closed session. These are questions that need to be addressed.

Vince Dugan said that he would discourage a decision on that now and they need to explore. Decisions would be premature.

Bruns stated that no decisions would be made, it was strictly a work session.

Patrick Keenan asked if the Union Pacific would allow single cars or groups?

Gary Person said the Union Pacific will be flexible.

Patrick Keenan stated that transloading would bring freight savings if they would allow it. They used to have transloading by the Poplar St. viaduct and he thinks the opportunity is even better now.

Dwight Porter said he thinks they (Union Pacific) would be looking for volume.

Gary Person said they haven't put any restrictions on it.

Woodruff said that was a good point.

Vince Dugan questioned if Union Pacific would say it was OK and then change their mind.

Woodruff said it would be great to have assurance.

Vince Dugan asked what the requirements would be for that? What do they (Union Pacific) get?

Woodruff said it certainly should be part of the discussion.

Wuehler asked if anyone in the public had any comments?

Todd Von Kampen asked if they intended to take any action?

Wuehler said that no decisions will be made today.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Woodruff to enter closed session at 2:55 P.M. Upon roll call vote Weems, Wuehler, Bruns and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none. Hewgley absent.

Vice Chairperson Wuehler restated the motion for the closed session.

Motion by Bruns, seconded by Woodruff to go back into open session at 4:24 P.M. Upon roll call vote Weems, Wuehler, Bruns, and Woodruff voted "aye". Nays, none. Hewgley absent.

An agreement was made to hold another meeting in 60 days.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 P.M.

Advance notice and the agenda for the August 13, 2024, board meetings were sent to the county board and all others requesting the same. Advance public notice (includes agenda) of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners meeting and the Lincoln County Board of Equalization meeting was posted at the Lincoln County Courthouse, City Hall, and the Lincoln County website on August 12, 2024; and was also emailed to the media on August 12, 2024.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Tuesday August 13, 2024, will be kept continually current and open for inspection at the office of the Lincoln County Clerk. The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will be at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 9:00 A.M. The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Equalization will be at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 9:15 A.M.

Nicole J. Fisher
Lincoln County Deputy Clerk