

# **CITY-COUNTY COMMON MINUTES Tuesday, June 7, 2011**

**Present:** Doug Emery, Deb Schorr, Jon Camp, Adam Hornung, Mayor Chris Beutler, Larry Hudkins, Carl Eskridge, Jane Raybould, Brent Smoyer, Bernie Heier, Jon Camp, and Gene Carroll

**Absent:** Jayne Snyder and Jonathan Cook

**Others Present:** Jeff McReynolds, GIS Program Manager; Steve Henderson, Chief Information Officer; Kit Boesch, Human Services Director; Tom Casady City Public Safety Director and Phil Tegeler, Cornhusker Place Executive Director

Chair Commissioner Deb Schorr opened the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

## **1. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 2, 2011**

Commissioner Heier moved approval of the Common Meeting minutes of Monday, May 2, 2011, seconded by Councilman Camp. Motion passed 10 - 0. Please note Commissioner Hudkins arrived after the vote was taken and Councilman Eskridge obtained.

## **2. Introductions:**

Commissioner Schorr welcomed newly elected City Councilman, Carl Eskridge, followed by introductions of the County Commissioners.

## **3. GIS Funding Update:**

Jeff McReynolds, GIS Program Manager stated they are currently working on the governing side of the GIS program. Steve Henderson, Chief Information Officer for Information Services, shared that McReynolds and the GIS Program was funded by a narrow group of organizations including county government. There has been discussion whether there might be a way the cost could be distributed over a larger audience of organizations and they were asked by the County Board to work on developing some alternatives. Meetings have been held with members from Information Services, members of the GIS community, budget directors from both the City and the County and the administrative team that currently provides governance and oversight for the program. At each meeting, the attendees were asked for their opinions on what some options might be.

Jeff McReynolds gave a brief history on GIS. The GIS administration team was officially formed via a resolution in 1999. Members of the team are:

- Planning Department
- County Engineering
- Building and Safety
  
- Lincoln Electric System

- The Assessors Office
- Public Works
- Information Services
- Lower Platte South NRD

A need to for a combined plan was recognized by the team and a visioning session was held in 2003. A GIS master plan was created in 2005 which sited a need for centralized GIS management. The program management position was created in 2006 and McReynolds was hired in 2008. This position coordinates the management for the City and County GIS program, plans for the future, maintains technical viability, identifies cost savings and efficiency through existing resource, eliminates redundancy and markets GIS internally to the City and the County as well as externally to agencies. In the past the budget was somewhat renewed through the sales of GIS data, however, it was later determined the data was public and the ability to renew some of the dollars was lost.

GIS is currently looking fora way to support Enterprise GIS, a desktop level software which similar to an e-mail system and is used throughout the City and County. It is too expensive for each department to have individual systems.

McReynolds distributed **Exhibit A**. The total budget proposed was \$399,169 which includes:

- Data portion - \$125,277(Ortho, Oblique & Lidar)
- Enterprise - \$55,534 (data, hardware and software)
- Administration - \$218,358 (includes GIS managers salary, 30%of 1 ½ FT's from IS)

**Proposal one: Cost Proposal - Equal Split of Administration**

The first page of the handout shows an equal spilt of administration. Outside of the web, any person who uses GIS at the desktop software level, has to fill out a GIS access request from which is then sent to McReynolds. Currently there are over 368 users with 197 of them active. The Ortho cost were equally split by department. Oblique cost is split 80% by the three primary users, Police, Fir and emergency Management for the County. The Lidar information is split three different ways with 80% between the three primary users, County Engineering, Public Works and LES.

**Proposal two: Cost Proposal by Percentage of Connected Users Consuming Services**

The percentage of responsibility in each department was defined by the number of users per department and split by percentage.

### **Proposal Three: Cost Proposal by Tiered Percentage of Connected Users Consuming services**

Tier one is defined at 15% of the cost, tier two, 35% and tier three 50% of those cost. Then come back as a per user cost for each one of those. That give different options. One of the highlights of that option in my opinion is by structuring in this manner the small user is not discouraged from participating and don't discourage other new comers to GIS.

Page four showed a breakdown by cost comparisons, between every department by options. This is the first time a GIS budget has been created and all options are being considered.

Other items for consideration that are still being looked at are finding external users, such as the University, LPS and private utilities. Before any of the proposals are implemented, he would personally like to meet with each of the department heads and directors.

The Mayor inquired which of the proposals McReynolds considered the fairest and why. McReynolds responded that he like option two best because it has a middle of the road approach and it does not put too much weight on the responsibility of the departments.

Commissioner Raybould inquired if McReynolds would discuss some of the cost savings that he has identified. McReynolds responded that through the state GIS Counsel, there is a state master purchase agreement for software licenses so there's a reduced cost to all state, local, city and county purchases for the GIS software. Joining MAPA (Metro Area Planning Agency) in the purchase and acquisition of arial. Internally identifying cost savings through existing software whether to update or not and shared licensing. Raybould asked what percentage reduction in the software and hardware cost has been identified. McReynolds stated he could not put an actual number on it, however, he would be happy to research it and respond back.

Henderson added that one of the things he has witnessed McReynolds accomplish both for the City and the County, is that the purchase of this data in all forms is greatly benefitted by aggregation of consumers so the extent of which we can identify a number of organizations that wish to use that data and reach agreement with them for helping to fund the purchase of that data. There have been some pretty dramatic examples of this over the last few years showing cost savings.

Councilman Camp inquired who else in the community does similar GIS work such as utilities. McReynolds responded, that they are using GIS through some means. The driver for utilities is the ability to have the legal lot location, the location of their facilities and any additional information they place on top. They have maintained their own data in the past. While

working at LES one of the cost savings he identified was to partner with the City and the County in updating and maintaining data.

Councilman Camp asked if the proposals have been run by and of the departments, and if so what responses was he receiving. McReynolds responded it has only been presented to the GIS administration team and has not gone out to any of the departments that maybe effected and have shared cost over the past. Currently all of the cost have been supported by the seven members of the GIS administration team.

Henderson, stated that the list of 21 identifies departments that today have some level of involvement and interest in GIS data. However, the number may change depending upon whether they can participate at the levels of cost. Also, there could be more than 21 departments depending on who might be interested in using GIS.

Commissioner Smoyer asked if there had been any dialog with the state about partnering with them or Sarpy and Douglas Counties to save cost and create a GIS hub. McReynolds stated these were good ideas and worth looking into.

Commissioner Schorr inquired if the \$399,169 includes the half time position? McReynolds responded that it includes 30% of 1 ½ FTE. Henderson stated the reaming 70%, could be paid for by special projects for individual departments.

There was a brief discussion on what are the characteristics of an organization that would qualify it to participate in the governance process.

#### **4. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Funding:**

Kit Boesch, Human Services Director introduced Phil Tegeler, Executive Director of the Cornhusker Place and Tom Casady, Public Safety Director for the City. Boesch stated that last year the JBC budget was \$1.8 million which funds 26 non-profit agencies in the community. These agencies provided prevention activities to 50,000 residents in the community and served 6,000 additional residents in intervention activities. These same agencies leveraged their JBC funding to bring in over \$4 million new dollars. She asked the Mayor, the City Council and the County Board to continue to provide a safety net. She asked the County for \$794 thousand, a 20% cut from last year and \$500 thousand from the City, the same as last year, for a total of \$1.3 million.

Tom Casady, Public Safety Director voiced his concerns regarding the decrease in funding for human service agencies that have an impact on City Policy and Lincoln Fire and Rescue and those in emergency services. So far this year LPD have been on 951 mental health investigations which is approximately 7% over the same period last year.

Phil Tegeler, Executive Director fo Cornhusker Place addressed the impact of potential reduction in funding for the communities emergency service network. As an agency that is staffed 24/7, Cornhusker Place is a key element in this collaboration. Over the last year there have been more than 6,500 admissions to protective custody. This number has risen 25% in the past 5 years. They also collaborate with the Community Mental Health Center to serve individuals that are identified by law enforcement as needing emergency protective custody because of a mental health issue and that are also under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. The number of admissions this year already exceeds the number for last fiscal year.

They also operate a respite program that is funded by Region V, which is designed to provide a safe and sober environment for people in crisis or transition. So far this year, there has been a 25% increase in the number of clients and bed days in comparison with the last fiscal year. The agencies in the community, including Cornhusker Place, depend on the City and County for funding to be able to sustain themselves and to be able to leverage other resources to best serve their clients in the community.

Commissioner Raybould distributed **Exhibit B**, which she stated came from Boesch. She stated that some of the County Commissioners had expressed a concern the County taking on more than their fair share of the funding for JBC.

Page two showed funding of \$405,000 for local JBC investment. Those non-profit agencies throughout the city have leveraged that \$405,000 to \$15 million, which she stated was is a wise investment of tax payers dollars.

Councilman Hornung stated he has been very impressed with the way Boesch and all the JBC has operated and encouraged the City Council members to continue to support the JBC with a \$500,000 contribution.

Mayor Beutler asked Boesch what the difference between the \$795,000 that she was recommending, which is a 20% cut and the \$1,4 million figure that Exhibit B shows as the County contribution last year.

Boesch responded that last year the County contributed \$1,392,500 of which approximately \$400,000 targets Juvenile Justice, a Federal mandated function of the county Board. The County removed the \$400,00 from the JBC budget and put it into the Juvenile Justice Fund. The remaining, almost \$1 million is what was being discussed. The County Board has made it fairly clear they do not have another million dollars. Boesch has suggest to the County Board, the \$794,000 continue to be spent on the Human Service System.

Commissioner Schorr stated the County Board thought these funds more accurately belonged on the Juvenile Justice side because the programs directly effect the juvenile jail population as opposed to other JBC funds that are directed toward other human service needs.

Councilman Emery stated it was unusual to make a plea for dollars at this point, however, some agencies have to submit their budgets in many cases, by July 1 and as chair of the JBC, he understands JBC will be funding less agencies this year. JBC has a deep concern if they are not funded at least at a 20% reduced level, there will be agencies that will no longer be there. And if those agencies are not there, what do we do when we have the tsunami of people who no longer have services available to them.

Boesch stated that all the agencies have contracts that are up June 30<sup>th</sup> and she needs to know funding options especially if agencies will no longer be funded.

Casady stated the one concerns he has is the declining funding for mental health and substance abuse and the impact it is having on police and fire. Any time services can be delivered in the community to people with complex problems and it keeps them out of jail we save money.

Commissioner Schorr stated the next meeting is July 12, 2011 for the Commons Budget Hearings, starting at 1:00 p.m. in Room 113 of the County-City Building.

There being no more business the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. by Chair Commissioner Deb Schorr.

Minette Genuchi  
Administrative Aide - Lancaster County Board of Commissioners