

September 17, 2024  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING  
LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

**SANDHILLS GLOBAL EVENT CENTER FAIRGROUNDS  
Lancaster Room  
4100 NORTH 84<sup>TH</sup> STREET, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

President Kendra Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society to order at 6:56pm. Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star with notice of open meeting law displayed in the room.

By roll call, the board members present were: Kendra Ronnau, Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, Lynn Hagan, Ron Suing and Karen Rutt, Laura Hardesty, John Cooper, Mitch Sump. Absent: Ron Dowding.

Also present: Staff Ron Bohaty, Hannah Stara and Jason Rief.

Chair Ronnau asked the public if anyone had any communications about the annual budget published in the newspaper. No comments from the public were submitted.

The annual Ag Society Budget proposal was presented for fiscal year 2024-25.

The personal and real property taxes required are \$1,774,838 for fiscal year 2024-25 against a total general fund certified valuation for all counties of \$42,905,046,996. The annual budget was reviewed by the board.

The budget was forecasted with input from Managing Director Bohaty based on actual revenues and expenses over the last few years plus significant additional funds from multiple federal, state, and local sources. Significant factors considered in next year's budget:

1. The impact of unspent ARPA funds carried from previous years
2. The need for additional funds of roughly \$1.4MM for capital improvements and deferred maintenance which have been on hold for years under budgetary constraints.
3. This budget reflects a potential max spending of \$9.1 million in case all funds are received and spent this fiscal year. But in no way is LEC required to spend, nor does the board anticipating spending, that level of dollars unless it is funded by grants and other revenues.
4. However, it was noted the operating expenses are budgeted relatively close to forecasted ongoing operational needs.

The general property tax receipts were set at the maximum increase of 2.5% allowed by state law, plus the additional 1% allowed on an Ag Society board public annual vote on which it was assumed the board would vote affirmatively tonight.

The Ag Society is required to submit a signed copy of the minutes of the budget hearing with the budget documents to the State no later than September 30th, so the minutes are being updating in real time and they will need to be approved at the regular Ag Society meeting which follows the budget hearing tonight.

Motion made by John Cooper and seconded by Lynn Hagan to authorize a 1% increase in the restricted funds authority. No discussion. Voted and passed 8-0.

Motion made by Ron Suing and seconded by Mitch Sump to adopt the annual budget for the Lancaster County Agricultural Society for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 as presented. No discussion. Voted and passed 8-0.

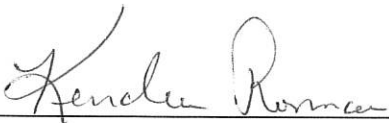
Motion to adjourn the public budget hearing made by Hagan seconded by Hardesty. Voted and passed 8-0. Adjourned at 7:23 pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Submitted by the

LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA



President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper