September 17, 2026
Lincoln, Nebraska

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

SANDHILLS GLOBAL EVENT CENTER FAIRGROUNDS
Lancaster Room
4100 NORTH 84TH STREET, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society to order at 6:30pm. 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: Ronnau, Suing, Cooper, Cusick-Rawlinson, Hardesty, Rutt. LCAS Members not in attendance Hagan and Dowding.

Also present: Bohaty and Juengel from Sandhills Global Event Center.

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 2026-27.

The personal and real property taxes required are $3,401,251 for fiscal year 2026-27 against a total general fund certified valuation for all counties of $49,760,875,505. 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. Significant factors considered in next year's budget:

1. The need for additional funds of roughly $3,013,416 for capital improvements and deferred maintenance which are currently being addressed.
2. This budget reflects a potential max spending of $12.1MM in case all potential grants and other funds are received and spent this fiscal year. But in no way is LCAS required to spend, nor does the board anticipate spending, that level of dollars unless it is funded by grants and other revenues.
3. 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 Sump and seconded by Rawlinson to authorize a 1% increase in the restricted funds authority. No discussion. Voted and passed 7-0.

Motion made by Suing and seconded by Hardesty to adopt the annual budget for the Lancaster County Agricultural Society for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 as presented. No discussion. Voted and passed 7-0.

Motion to adjourn the public budget hearing made by Cooper; seconded by Rutt. Voted and passed 7-0. Adjourned at 6:59pm

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 17th day of September, 2026.

Submitted by the

LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau

Secretary John Cooper