

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session**  
**April 22, 2025**

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Yahn, Jerry Sonnenberg, Alan Samber, Diana Korbe, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Rick Cullip, Trae Miller, Mike Burri, Joe McBride, Rob Quint, Curtis Richardson, James King and Shawn Richardson, Josh Klein, Dave Tennant, Josilyn Lutze and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** - Commissioner Sonnenberg moved to approve the minutes of the April 8 and April 15, 2025 Work Sessions as written. Commissioner Yahn seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

**REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA** – There were no revisions.

**FARLEY MACHINE** - Curtis Richardson of Farley Machine met with the Board concerning the intersection of Iris Drive and County Road 37. Richardson said that he had an opportunity to purchase the land in the past but did not follow through with it. He did not consider changing the direction of the road. When he saw County personnel on the property several weeks ago, he talked to them about what they were doing. He asked the Board to reconsider the plans.

Over the years, there has been a fatality on a motorcycle at that location. Another time, a woman lost control of her vehicle and drove through their office. The foreman had just left the office, and the woman drove through and pushed the wall, the desk and everything to the inside of the building. People do not slow down when they are taking the curve. He has called the County several times and asked what can be done to get people to slow down. There have been two incidents where Spencer Walsh lost control of his vehicle with two people in his car, they were hospitalized. In 2020, someone's pickup was stolen early in the morning, they took the curve and lost control and flipped it. They took out the electric pole and electric boxes, flipped the truck up on top of their winch truck. No investigation was carried out because nobody wanted to go out and investigate during Covid, they did it all over the telephone. Just recently, a young lady was coming around their shop, heading toward Home Depot. She lost control and ran up into Scott Schaefer's trees.

Richardson took pictures this morning. A vehicle drove around a tractor and ran the stop sign and kept going. Another tractor had to pull over so that people didn't run into each other. People are constantly running the stop sign coming from the south going north. They'll run the stop sign at 50-60 mph. Semitrucks will pull up to the stop sign and a second one will come up behind them and think the truck is moving and run into the back of the first truck because the first truck had to stop again, because they cannot see the traffic.

If there's an opportunity to do something about the intersection, this is the best time to do it before the land is not available. Richardson is asking the Board to reconsider taking action on the road. It would benefit the County as well as safety. The County did not want to hold up the sale of the property. If the County decided to do something they could work with the new owner, Scott Rubottom. Rubottom is also concerned about the intersection and would like something done there. Mr. Richardson will contact Mr. Rubottom and visit with him about the property and the intersection.

**HUMAN RESOURCES, DIANA KORBE** – Diana Korbe met with the Board. She gave an update on how busy the Human Resources Office has been this year and employee turnover. So far this year, 16 employees have left employment with the County, four from the Department of Human Services, two from Road and Bridge and one from the jail. One employee technically bowed out on the first day, his hire date. One employee left the Sheriff's Department and one employee from Solid Waste, and the Veteran's Service Officer

left. Of the sixteen, two retired, two were let go, one was moving and the rest left for other jobs. There have been eleven new hires since January, five for the jail, four Road and Bridge, a seasonal mower and an Extension Intern. The seasonal mower is related to an employee in the HR Department. Due to the County's nepotism policy, Diana wanted to bring it to the Board's attention. She will sign all of the payroll paperwork herself so that there is no problem with the hiring. The Board felt that this arrangement would work out fine. He would not be supervised in any way by the employee in the HR Department. Alan Samber will take a look at the situation.

The Department currently has thirteen FMLA cases and four recertification cases. There is a lot of paperwork with these cases and getting things back from doctors. She is very busy with disability cases, there are eight new cases. Diana wanted to let the Board know sometimes going with the cheaper or lower premiums isn't always the best. With Hartford, the current disability insurance carrier, they ran into several things. One reason she feels the premiums were so low is because Hartford may have thought that the County had opted into FAMLI through the State. In the beginning, Hartford was not approving any disability claims. They were saying that employees had to go through the State first. Even though Diana let Hartford know that the County opted out of FAMLI, payments have been slow. On every one of the eight cases she has had to go back to the Hartford representative and tell them the County opted out of FAMLI.

There have been three requests for Leave Share Bank hours, one was denied, and two were awarded.

Diana let the Board know that Jennifer is feeling the pressure of the website digital accessibility and being the sole person that is working to understand the County's website transition and converting documents and trying to make sure decisions are made so that the County does not get into trouble. Diana asked if something happened to Jennifer, who would be her backup? Do we want to assign someone?

The Board is close to deciding on the company that will be redoing the website for the County to make sure that it meets accessibility standards. Marilee Johnson joined the meeting. Jennifer stated that remediating documents at this point is the biggest task. She is the only person doing this at the moment using the CommonLook Online software. Jennifer obtained a grant for the remediation software last year. However, this year the renewal cost is \$938. She renewed the license this year after the Board approved it. The County has two licenses, Jennifer uses one license and Danny uses the second license. Additional licenses can also be purchased for the same cost. All of the documents posted online will have to be run through the software. All of the larger documents will need to be done like the Planning and Zoning regulations and the Employee Handbook, etc. Jennifer wants to make sure those documents are remediated so that people using reader software can open them and read them.

The Board discussed whether it was necessary to have the Employee Handbook available on the website. It has been available on the website as a convenience for employees but could be removed because the public does not need to see it.

Alan Samber stated that the County must make things that are in active use available on the website. He researched the definition recently. Active use means: "regularly used by the public to access or apply for the programs and services of the County or regularly used by employees of the County in the performance of their jobs." Everything that's in active use has got to be accessible. The County audits and budgets are posted every year. Budgets are something that the public needs access to.

To remediate documents, the documents are pdf documents to begin with, then you have to run it through the software, but you have to go through the document page by page and make sure it picked up everything on the page whether it is a heading, a table, a list, a text paragraph, etc. It's quite a process; and it's time consuming.

Additional licenses can also be purchased for the same cost. Allyant will remediate 100 pages for the county. Jennifer would like them to do the zoning regulations as this is something that would be worth having done for the county. Rob Quint stated that many people want to find the Zoning Regs online.

We will have to figure out how to publish those. July 1 is the deadline to have a plan in place. Marilee said that she would not have a problem helping out and/or being a backup for Jennifer on the website.

Diana said that she noticed when Jennifer was typing the minutes she saw the reason why department meetings are being recorded. She wanted to find out why the department head meetings are in the minutes. The Board has never done this before, and it takes a large amount of time, the minutes are a minimum of eight to ten pages. Jennifer has tried to work on them as much as she can but you're getting your minutes a lot later. She and I discussed it, and I told her we could discuss it with the Board.

The Board said that it would be fine with less detail in the minutes as the recording is available. Diana also discussed that budget meetings are not recorded. Several years ago, they were recorded. Jennifer mentioned that several times someone has asked her to look up something in Work Session minutes. It was eventually decided the matter had been discussed in a budget meeting. Alan Samber suggested that the budget is on the radar for formal action later when it is finally adopted, so those meetings should actually be recorded. He also stated that the written minutes have gotten more detailed than they need to be. The actual minutes are the recordings of the meeting. It was explained that prior Board members have wanted the detail in the minutes. Alan will research and see what other county's minutes look like. The Board said they appreciate the minutes.

Alan Samber will talk to Diana privately about the items that she would like to discuss with the Board to determine whether an executive session is necessary.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT DEBBIE UNREIN** – Debbie Unrein met with the Board. She said that her staff is working great, and they both know their jobs very well. The DocuSign the Board is using has been working out very well and does not take the staff much more time to put together.

Overall, the department likes the new software program. They still have to convert the fixed assets, which will be a big job. Auditors will be here the first part of May.

Debbie has taken on the computer inventory and telephones with Silicon Plains/CTS. In some cases, departments still have things that have been listed as gone on their inventories. A handful of computers were not on the original list given to them during budget as far as what needed to be upgraded. One was the Tourist Information Center, and another was the computer that runs the cameras and the badges for the Clerk's Office. Debbie has access to the Sheriff's account, but she does not want to take this on. She is going to reach out to the Sheriff to see if he has someone that would review their computer inventory with Silicon Plains. The computers that aren't capable of being upgraded to Windows 11 will have to be replaced. Those computers won't be supported and they're much more susceptible to viruses, etc. The County will have to purchase new computers which can be charged to the IT budget, because the departments have not budgeted for them.

Along with the computer updates, she is also working on the telephone system. There are a lot of people listed in the system that have been gone a long time. She had to research them to get them off the system. There are ten fax lines that were still with CenturyLink costing approximately \$100 a month. We can move those to CTS for \$22 per month each. They are all electronic. Most offices don't use faxes very often anymore, but some do. The faxes will come in and go out as an email pdf document.

For some reason, Solid Waste and the Heritage Center were not brought over to the CTS telephone system, so Debbie did bring them over to CTS. In a year, these changes will have saved \$10,000 - \$12,000. Another thing that Debbie has found out is that the Department of Human Services and the Sheriff's Department employees have their own direct dial numbers. This allows them to receive calls without callers having to go through the Auto Attendant. Debbie is having CTS set this up for the Courthouse for those people that want it.

Debbie is OK with being the go between with CTS right now. She believes it won't take much work after all of the things that need to be cleaned up are done. There were a lot of things in the IT room that the Finance Department had been told were disposed of, but they were all still sitting in the IT room. There were approximately 20 old monitors with old connections that aren't used anymore. There were a lot of boxes of unopened boxes of cords. The monitors and old computers were sent with CTS to be recycled after their serial numbers were recorded.

**LANDFILL JOSH KLEIN** – Josh Klein, Logan County Landfill Supervisor met with the Board. He explained that the landfill is short staffed by one person right now. He had an inspection at the end of February which went pretty good except that he needed to add more training. He has a consultant coming April 30<sup>th</sup>. The training will be on EDOOP and how to handle waste tires. This training will take about three hours; he will have to cycle people through so that he can keep operating. The training is a new requirement from CDPHE that he was not aware of. Once Josh takes the training, he can train other employees. The inspector was very happy with the way things were done at the landfill. There were just a few things that needed to be corrected.

One of the items was that Josh does not have a way to measure the head of the leachate. They just pump it once a week, because that is what Mark, the previous consultant told them to do. This was not acceptable for the new inspector.

Commissioner Brownell attended the inspection. The inspectors were very complimentary of the record keeping. The wind had forced the landfill to shut down that day with wind speed measuring 40 mph. Inspectors, they wrote him up for trash blowing around on a 40 mile an hour day.

Klein discussed the engine that was blown out of the old military truck. He found a truck in Arkansas for \$5,500 but it would have to be shipped which would cost an additional \$5,000. He can get the motor out of Utah for \$4,500 and have it shipped here for \$500. If Road and Bridge mechanics can install the motor when they have time. If they cannot do it, then he would have to go to Sterling Diesel which would cost around \$4,000-\$5,000.

**LOGAN COUNTY CORONER DAVE TENNANT** – Dave Tennant met with the Board. He expressed concern about the number of unclaimed remains or indigent people who don't have relatives or friends that will claim their bodies for burial. They are starting to see more people who either have no relatives or their relatives say they do not want anything to do with the body. There was an instance where a gentleman had been in a nursing home for almost eight years. The nursing home didn't have next of kin for this patient. The nursing home did have a number for an ex-wife that the coroner's office could not locate. Commissioner Sonnenberg asked if it is a strategy that some families are not acknowledging the death so that the County will pay for the burial. Tennant said that he is afraid that is what is going to start happening. If the person had a case worker with Social Services, they might put that in their case file, but a lot of them don't have anything in their file.

There is no way for the County to address that unless the statute is changed. Alan Samber stated that the statute says that the bodies can't be cremated unless the deceased left instructions that they want to be cremated.

The statute says if there's a deceased for which no financially responsible family or friends will claim the deceased for burial, then the obligation for burial is upon the Board of County Commissioners. It doesn't matter if the person was within the city limits or not. Mr. Tennant talked to the Larimer County Coroner, and they also have an issue with this happening in Larimer County.

Commissioner Sonnenberg suggested that CCI sponsor a bill to change the legislation. Tennant noted that the difficulty with that is if the family shows up later, and the body has been cremated and the person's religion happens to be opposed to cremation, they could sue the County.

If nobody claims the body for burial, the Commissioners should be able to determine the manner of disposition and what's most expedient and cost effective for the County, and counties would be immune from making those determinations in good faith in the absence of a family member indicating what the family's wishes would be.

Tennant indicated the only other concern with the unclaimed bodies is having to store them in a cooler for months while searching for family members. The cooler that the Coroner's Office owns was purchased in 1987 and is barely functional. They are currently using a mortuary cooler at no charge to the County. The Coroner's Office cooler is located in Tennant's pet crematory. It has been worked on many, many times. The problem with the Coroner's cooler is that it is so old, if you get a decomposed body in there, the odor is very bad. For example, it was originally located at the hospital in their lab. When the hospital remodeled, they asked him to take it out of there. When the remodeling was done, he asked if he could bring the cooler back, and they said no way, we will not have that thing in our building because of the odor. Just opening and closing the door on the cooler lets the odor out. Last year the office purchased a system to seal the bodies in a plastic bag which helps.

Tennant talked to the gentleman who took over the operations of one of the nursing homes. He was also concerned that they're not checking their records for next of kin. Tennant suggested that someone should talk to next of kin every six months to make sure they have a valid person to contact. He agreed and believes it should be the same with Social Services.

The Board discussed the purchase of a new cooler. However, the location of the new cooler needs to be determined. The Coroner needs to be able to access the cooler. The Sheriff does not want the cooler at the Justice Center.

**EMERGENCY MANAGER JOSILYN LUTZE** - Josilyn Lutze met with the Board. Josilyn has the OEM Durango back after repairs were finished. She has still been in contact with Jerry Casebolt to ask for help finishing up on some projects. She presented a report on some of the bigger things she has helped with since she started in November. She has helped with a few of the local fires while monitoring the radios.

The northeast area is working on updating the hazard mitigation plan. The money for that was through the BRIC grant. It sounds like the funding should not be affected because it's already been obligated and given to Washington County as they're the fiscal agent. Washington County has published that proposals are due May 9<sup>th</sup>. Josilyn is on the committee to help review the proposals.

BRIC grants are ended. The Trump administration has ended them. The Homeland Security grants are paused. Logan County has two of those grants.

Josilyn does not know what the plans were for the trailers that were purchased with the CARES money. Debbie Unrein stated that Jerry Casebolt used one of them for a command center at the fair. Brian Kailey recently applied for a grant and was going to purchase a trailer for \$8,000. According to Brian, the OEM

trailer hasn't been moved from its location in two years. Debbie suggested that the larger trailer be transferred to the Extension Office and the grant money be reallocated for more camping equipment and supplies for the camping program that Kailey is starting. Josilyn said that OEM also has another smaller trailer that she would have if she ever needed one. The Board agreed to allow the Extension Office the use of the trailer. The Extension plans to put removable racks in it. If the County needed to use the trailer for an emergency or another purpose at some point, it would be understood that the Extension would need to allow it.

Josilyn is part of the Incident Management Team and also this week Fire On The Plains is being held in Sterling at NJC. She did not know how Jerry Casebolt reported his hours with the EC IMT team. Was he on the clock and was the County reimbursed or was it considered training? The Board suggested that Josilyn ask Debbie Unrein as she would know if the County was reimbursed. Josilyn offered to help with Fire On The Plains to get the experience.

Josilyn will be working with Mike Burnet of the Northeast Colorado Health Department on having an ESF8, training, which is the health care side of the emergency support functions. With all of the extra Covid supplies stored in the Annex basement, she can see what agencies can use them for training, even though some of them have expiration dates.

The Board appreciates the text updates when there are fires or other incidents. Commissioner Sonnenberg assisted at the fire at the Shooting Sports Range fire with getting tractors in to help.

**PLANNING AND ZONING ROB QUINT** – Commissioner Yahn talked to Rob Quint about the Castlerock Construction project and the Morgans who live across from the batch plant. Commissioner Yahn called Pat Wait with Dinklage, and he's called Castlerock to clean things up and keep things wetted down.

Morgans are still calling now and then, but their main concern now is that Castlerock Construction dug some trenches out there and is putting the slurry from grinding the concrete in trenches. The plan is to cover it up with two feet of soil. Dinklage is aware that they are doing this, but it is not in their permit to allow the disposal of the material from the road in this manner. The material was supposed to go to Simon originally, but Simon did not want it. It gets hard after it gets wet. It's in a corner of the property where they don't farm, but if for some reason in the future someone decided to farm in that area it would be a problem. Dinklage agreed to it. The Morgans are concerned because there is a water well in the area.

The material can be used on the side of roads or around stock tanks. It will limit the infiltration of water.

Commissioner Yahn asked if there were any liability concerns for the county for not enforcing the permit for not telling them to quit disposing of the material in that manner. Alan Samber did not have any liability concerns.

There are a few RVs in the area where workers are staying. Supposedly they bring them to town for waste disposal. There are also some porta potties on location for the workers. However, the workers drive over to use the porta potties in the middle of the night with their radios blaring with no consideration for the people living nearby. Quint said that the County has had several batch plants in the past with no problems.

Commissioner Sonnenberg asked if the Planning and Zoning Department has heard anything on wind energy development. Quint said that they have not heard anything recently. They had heard something that Sedgwick project was permitted for a transmission through Logan County, but they've been silent since January.

Commissioner Sonnenberg said that a new company, Invenergy, that is trying to lease land that is coming out

of lease that Avangrid had. He doesn't know if it is going to be a "checkerboard" deal or if anybody's had a conversation with them. Quint said that when Niyol built the last project, they were hoping that would happen because they want Avangrid's leases. But that has been years at this point. NextEra is not one of the players for the Avangrid leases. Invenergy is not tied with NextEra. Some of the wind energy companies will lease land and pay whether a wind turbine is on their land or not.

Quint said that he had heard that Avangrid had sold to a company in New Mexico. When the department was writing the wind regs, they went through six different representatives from Avangrid.

Commissioner Yahn also mentioned that he wrote an email to Johnna Harris on Rick Johnson. They're still trying to get a certificate of occupancy. The letter that came from Jack was worse than the first one. He passed it by Alan and Rob before he sent it. She said she would send it to Jack to see if he could comply.

**HB21-1110 ACCESSIBILITY** - The Board agreed to schedule the award of the proposal to the company that they are interested in working with on the next business meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.