

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session**  
**August 26, 2025**

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Yahn, Jim Santomaso, Alan Samber, Mike Burri, Jared Davis, Diana Korbe, Josh Klein, Dave Tennant, Brian Kailey, Josilyn Lutze, Rick Cullip, Debbie Unrein, Rob Quint, Pam Bacon, Callie Jones and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** - Commissioner Yahn moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025 Work Session. Commissioner Santomaso seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

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

**OPTING INTO PROPOSITION 123** – Jared Davis met with the Board. Mr. Davis would like the County to opt in to Proposition 123. Proposition 123 funds are derived from a .1% business sales tax that's carved out pre-Tabor. Currently, all the money goes to the Front Range area, to Denver, Fort Collins, Loveland, Boulder etc. He does not know if they have actually done any true rural projects with the money. They have done some rural resort projects in the Steamboat, Vail area, etc., but all the money is going to the Front Range. By opting into the program, the County agrees that they have an expedited process for permitting. Logan County's process is already expedited within that time frame. There are nine houses total that's affordability to be compliant. If the county's not compliant for whatever reason, then nobody in the county can get funds in the following three-year cycle.

There's no liability on the county's part for this. A nonprofit submits an application for the funds. The program that they will be going after is the land banking. The nonprofit will purchase the land that for the development and then have ten years to finish the project. They would be targeting 100 houses to start with. Davis ran the numbers for affordability. With available interest rates that are from USDA loans this would be a \$418,000 house for Logan County.

DOLA has a baseline assistance tool. There is an option of using the state numbers too, which raises prices even more. Davis used a conservative estimate with a household income of \$74,000 annually and 5% down. The program also can add a downpayment assistance program with it which would bring the downpayment down to zero. This will make the \$418,000 home \$465,000 that's still affordable. It's well within what would normally be selling here anyway. Davis's partner acquired the Cottonwoods Subdivision and other land around Cottonwoods Subdivision. They almost had a national company, Lennar Builders, coming, but the numbers did not work for them. They can't build cheap enough to make it worth their time coming here as a national builder. Another partner flew in last week from Kansas City. This partner is willing to move forward on the project. They are going to use as many local subs as they can, and they would need to target 30-60 houses per year. Their target price is actually \$300,000 to \$350,00. They are well below this. This helps give them additional grant opportunities for infrastructure for sewer, water and road infrastructure.

When Cottonwoods Subdivision was put in, there were 400 additional water, and sewer taps from the city that were dedicated to the property that weren't used yet. Everything was built out with the thought of 458 total houses. Davis met with the City engineer to verify that there's not a capacity issue there.

Utilizing Proposition 123 shaves about \$25,000 off the cost of the project, depending on what the state's numbers are. A very conservative number would be \$15,000. The profit margin, if they do this project and other grants, is probably going to be \$5,000 to \$10,000 per house. Davis said that the only reason that the

other partners are willing to come out here and help with this is because he has been beneficial to them on some other projects that they're doing in the Front Range. The nonprofit will purchase the land. They will purchase the land back from them per lot at a predetermined price. It's not much, like \$1,000 or \$1,500 a lot but that will put \$100,000 of this money back into the nonprofit's pocket just for passing paper. The grant money allows them to put infrastructure in but also puts the money into a nonprofit's pocket.

Currently, there are 20 duplex unit lots already plotted and ready to build on, but they won't be done under Proposition 123. Most of them will be single family houses. Commissioner Yahn suggested that there be no basements due to the high groundwater in the area. Davis said that a lot of the homes already in the area do have basements. From an affordability standpoint, basements are cheap square footage. Once they put the basement in, it actually knocks out 80% of the buyers in the area from being eligible to purchase the home based off the appraisal and the cost. Margins are very tight to get housing up. We need housing in our county not only to sustain the current industry but maybe to attract more.

Once the County opts in on Proposition 123, anyone in the County can apply for the funds. The City of Sterling has opted into Proposition 123 for quite some time already. They do not want to annex into the city to be eligible for the funds. The Board will need to pass a resolution that the County has an expedited permitting process.

It is technically a loan from the State which is forgiven after ten years. The County is not part of the application and does not need co-sign on the loan. The County has no say in who is approved and who is not approved. Faith Tabernacle Church in Merino is the nonprofit that has agreed to participate. They already have two sub-entities that provide affordable housing in the County and communities, so they've agreed to sign on for this. They apply for the money, buy the land, and then Davis will buy the land back from them at a pre-negotiated reduced price. Once the houses are built, the State will forgive the loan.

Davis discussed the record number of houses for sale nationwide. A lot of it is a surge of everybody thinking that they missed the boat and they are putting them on the market. Davis works with a lot of the major home builders and two or three of the largest developers in the State of Colorado. They're publicly traded, so they're able to sustain the risk. However, a lot of people want to move out of the Front Range too. Wiggins was a perfect example. There were 358 houses sold there in two years. Deer Trail sold 450 houses in 18 months.

After the resolution is adopted, the County will need to assign someone to do the filing at the State. Davis did not know whether it would be Rob Quint that would be doing this or someone in the Finance Department. This will need to be done every three years. Davis said that the County will submit the application, and the State will approve it. Then CHAFA will disperse the funds. State approval needs to occur by November 1<sup>st</sup>. All of the Front Range is locked out of the money right now until January 1, because they've not done any rural projects. Sixty percent of the money is still sitting there for this period of time that they can get after January 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be competing against Denver and all the other projects that have the influence there and they're going to win over their project.

The Board agreed to have Alan Samber write a resolution for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting agenda. It can be the same resolution that the City of Sterling used. The Board will determine who will be assigned to do the filing with the State of Colorado.

**OEM GRANTS** - Josilyn Lutze met with the Board concerning grants Jerry Casebolt had applied for in 2023 and 2024 through Homeland Security. Weld County is the fiscal agent for the grants. At the beginning of 2025, all of the funding was paused. Weld County has now given the approval and is willing to help close out the grants.

The county will need to purchase the grant funded items and submit requests for reimbursement from Weld County. One of the grants was for more security cameras for inside the Courthouse. Josilyn has requested a quote on installation of the cameras from Rodine Communications. Logan County's purchasing policies will be followed.

Pam Bacon also has a grant for security cameras from Homeland Security to replace cameras on the exterior that are no longer working. Rodine Communications is working on installation of those cameras. Pam stated that the cameras inside the building do not cover the basement rotunda. They do not show any of the three entrance doors in the basement rotunda. The first-floor doors all have security cameras on the inside showing the entry doors. There are no cameras on the second floor with the exception of one camera in the second-floor elevator lobby. All of the stairwells are visible to the security cameras. Josilyn discussed the cameras needed with Pam and added cameras to cover the areas that needed additional visibility.

Rodine has quoted a new DVR as all the additional cameras would fill the current DVR. The quote came in at about \$18,000. Rodine's quote came in cheaper, and he is local, and he does have knowledge of the building and how to route things through the building. The cameras will be installed inside the Courthouse and will need to be approved by the State Historical Society.

Pam described the cameras being added outside the Courthouse are to replace current non-working cameras. Two cameras on the gazebo will show the east side of the Courthouse and the east Courthouse entrance doors. One will show more towards the front of the Courthouse and the sidewalk that goes to the front. Two cameras will be located on the center island post again. One camera will point towards the Annex and also towards the Courthouse. The other camera will show the parking lot to the east. There will be two cameras on the Annex, one showing the west side Courthouse doors and then one showing where the ballot processing is done.

A camera will be located under the north entrance stairs focused on the ADA door. This is the intent on the cameras Rodine is currently installing. If the other cameras are installed in the basement rotunda, they should be able to see people through the glass doors under the east and west stairways.

The Board agreed to pursue the grant for the security cameras to purchase the cameras and install them to be reimbursed by Weld County.

The second grant Casebolt had applied for was for the Cart Animals Response Team (CART), which would be used to organize an emergency shelter for dogs and cats if necessary. This is a regional grant in the event something happened in Logan, Phillips, Yuma, or Washington County. The regional assets could be deployed. Josilyn asked the Board if they wanted to move forward with this grant. She did not feel like there was a need for quite as many items as Casebolt had originally planned to request. Some of the pricing for the equipment is no longer valid as the equipment is no longer on sale. The prices now are higher than they were back when the grant was applied for in 2023. The items would need to be stored in the event of a catastrophe. Josilyn said the items could be stored in her office where the Dive Team is moving equipment out, space could be identified for storage.

Equipment included is portable kennels, food and water bowls and leashes and totes for storage of the smaller items. Josilyn feels office supplies are not necessary and will delete that from the grant. She said she would eliminate the dog run, however Commissioner Brownell suggested that item be left in because the length of time the animals may need to be kept. The dogs would need someplace to be exercised and walked. The kennels would be collapsible for storage purposes. The Board asked Josilyn to get prices and exactly what she would recommend for the grant and meet with them again. She did not know whether there was a County match. Weld County would like to have everything closed out by January 31, 2026.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** – Diana Korbe met with the Board. She reported that there have been thirteen employee turnovers since the last time she met with them. There have been 43 new hires, with the reason for that being the fair ticket takers and ushers. There were 19 ticket takers and ushers. Towards the end of the fair, there were a lot of no shows of the individuals that we hired. It's going to be an ongoing problem, whether we hire people, or whether the Fair Board goes back to getting volunteers for those positions. Diana said that Tony Walden, the contractor that cleaned the restrooms and the stadium, had the same problem. Towards the end of the fair, those he hired were no longer reporting to work. Two of the 13 people that left employment were let go by the County.

Diana discussed the changing retirement elections in the Employee Handbook. There is situation with a part-time employee if they work 20 hours or more per week, they're eligible for retirement and PTO accrual. The two are separate.

If you look at the Employee Handbook, it states that employees can average for PTO accrual within a pay period. For retirement, it's 12 months a year, 20 hours per week, that they're eligible for that. What happens when we hire an employee that's working 20 hours a week but doesn't truly work 20 hours a week? We are not supposed to process their retirement. Diana met with retirement representative to see if there was a way for us to make a change to the policy. We would be making a change for one employee.

Currently, it says every employee of the participating employer who works at least 12 months per year, at least 20 hours per week. We would need to change that to all-benefited positions. Every employee in a benefited position of the participating employer in accordance with the participating employer standard personnel practices. We would have to amend our Employee Handbook. This would also affect the disability insurance. Diana has not had a chance to review the disability insurance contract. Currently, employees have to work 30 hours a week to be eligible for disability insurance.

Diana said when she was talking to the retirement representative, they said it's not unusual for employers to have in their handbook that PTO accruals include an average, but that it was unusual for us to change that here, unless we changed it to all-benefited positions. They said that we need to make sure that we're looking at all of our employees. We do have some employees at the Heritage Center that, on average, could reach that threshold where we possibly would have to offer them retirement and PTO accruals. Diana could work with Cynthia on that. Diana said that HR did pay the employee's retirement and the County's match. In doing so, the County will have to change the Employee Handbook and back date it to July 14th, to the date the employee started. She would like the Board's approval for this.

The Employee Handbook is normally approved by the Personnel Board. However, the County Commissioners make the decision on the retirement elections. Diana can then incorporate the decision into the Employee Handbook. There are several changes that need to be made to the Employee Handbook due to inconsistencies. In some places it states that employees must work 20 hours per week to accrue PTO and then in the next place it says per pay period. That needs to be clarified.

Alan Samber stated that there is a two-week pay period. If a 20-hour per week employee works 24 hours one week and 16 the next, that's still 40 hours of service in that two-week pay period. To him that is 20 hours per week.

Diana said that is not how retirement looks at it. Retirement was very clear, that is not how it's written. The County has always required 20 hours per week for benefits. As we've evolved, we've started adjusting to pay period. This is something that we need to look at. Heritage Center employees should not be part-time employees, they should be temporary employees, because they are not getting any benefits.

Another item that was brought to her attention is that if an employee has PTO on the books, they must use it. Sometimes what happens is that Department Heads or Elected Officials hire new employees on the condition that they are allowed time off for a previously planned vacation. That becomes leave without pay. When an individual has PTO on the books, it's common for us to tell the employee to use their PTO instead of giving them leave without pay. Then we get the call back from the Department Head or Elected Official that says, this was an arrangement I made with them when I hired them. This is something the HR Department has no idea that's been made. Diana asked if she could put something out to the Department Heads that if they're hiring and making these arrangements, we have to know about them, because we will come back and question them based on County policy. It is making their jobs more difficult to follow up on all of these cases.

The Board agreed to put the retirement elections change on the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting agenda.

Commissioner Brownell suggested that a change be made to the Salary Data Sheet that the Department Head or Elected Official sign and the Board signs. An area could be added to it for any special arrangements made with the new hire such as approval of a pre-planned vacation without use of PTO leave or leave without pay or any other special arrangements with the employee.

Diana asked Alan Samber if he was able to find out about the Sheriff's Academy and Schooling contract as an employee had left and the County needed to decide if he can be charged for the break in contract. Is the County limited on the number of years that the County can require deputies to commit to pay back for their training? The HR Department is collecting payment from a Deputy currently. The Sheriff's Office just signed another contract with a deputy. They always do it for two years. Once they complete the academy, they do the additional two years, and the County pays for that education. She asked if we need to bring Brett Powell up to date on this. He was just in the office asking about the situation. Alan asked Diana to email him the paperwork on the deputy's contracts.

Alan feels that it is for two separate considerations, two separate agreements for two years, but he wants to look at it again, because it combines them as a total of four years. The reason it was brought back up is because the deputy is moving, so the Sheriff's Office let Diana know he is relocating, and they won't be able to collect.

The County Health Pool health insurance renewal is September 11<sup>th</sup>. Diana said she got an email from Meredith Burcham. They believe that the renewal increase will be in the single digits this year which is rare.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT** – Debbie Unrein mentioned that she has budgeted a ten percent increase for projected health insurance increase until actual numbers are received.

The Board briefly discussed the Veterans Service Officer contract with Phillips County. Commissioner Brownell will see Phillips County Commissioner Terry Hoffmeister at the Board of Health meeting and can discuss it with him and ask him what the Phillips County Commissioners are thinking. Debbie discussed this with Chris yesterday. He thinks it is two separate budgets. Each county will have a certain amount to fund based on the IGA. Phillips County will reimburse Logan County approximately 18%. Office expenses for each county would be paid for by each county. Chris will need a new computer in his Logan County office next year, but that will be a Logan County expense. Phillips County will want to know if Logan County is giving Chris a raise or something like that, because they will have to pay for part of it.

Debbie asked if there were any comments about people not being happy with Silicon Plains. If there are, we should probably put something together for them to address it. The Board said that there were a few issues but not anything that is out of the ordinary. Sheriff Brett Powell has had some issues but nothing that the Board feels that would necessitate looking at a new IT company. Josh Klein at the Landfill has felt that there

have been slow response times there. Their printer has been knocked offline multiple times. Every month they have to call Silicon Plains in because they do something with an update or patch to cause the scale to not communicate with QuickBooks and the scale software and also the scale does not communicate with the printer.

Debbie said that the fairgrounds has struggled in the past but that could be something to do with their Wi Fi. Some departments have had problems with their phones. Josh Klein said that at one point they had Silicon Plains, QuickBooks and S&S Turbo on the phone all at one time trying to figure out the problem. Debbie said that Silicon Plains communicates with her. She will ask them about those problems. She gets copies of the service tickets. She has not seen very many of them, it may be more verbal discussion. Commissioner Santomaso said that it's not volume, it's importance. The Sheriff's Department and the Landfill are pretty important entities that need to be taken care of. Silicon Plains needs to be reminded of that. Debbie will check into the matter.

Debbie received new assessed values yesterday from the Assessor. The Pest Control District values went up a little bit. Their mill levy will be the most restrictive. The 5.5% would have given them a little bit more. But they went up \$70,000. The County assessed value is up \$37 million. Now we will be subject to the 5.5% It will be the most limiting factor but only by a mill. The County will still get more money. That could change in November. It could go back down or even increase. These are preliminary numbers. Right now, we are looking at getting the extra \$680,000 in property tax with the mill levy being set about a mill less than what our base mill levy is. If it stayed this way, we would take a temporary tax credit of about one mill and drop it down to 28.852. Based on the budget requests she has received it will probably be needed.

**LOGAN COUNTY LANDFILL** - Josh Klein, Landfill Supervisor met with the Board. He told the Board that everything is running smoothly. He has a full staff again as of August 11<sup>th</sup>. The crew is awesome right now. He has one loader, the Liebherr, that will be traded next year. Other than that, things are pretty good.

The Landfill had an annual inspection in February 2025. On the day of the inspection the wind was blowing up to 40 mph causing a lot of blowing trash. The inspector wrote him up for that. He got all the trash cleaned up and he finally received the letter from the State last week saying that he is back in compliance.

Josh explained that he is budgeting for a new track loader in his 2026 budget. The landfill has set aside money in the last few years in a reserve fund for new equipment. He will be trading in a newer loader then the backup loader. The 2019 Liebherr loader will be traded in; it only has 8,000 hours on it. The department plans to rebuild the undercarriage on the older loader; the bid they have to do this is \$37,000.

Josh found an aftermarket company to replace the rails on the Liebherr. It was about \$10,000 cheaper, but the Liebherr rails are not very good, anything is better than they are. So far, they are holding up really well. He replaced the DEF pump in it two or three weeks ago at a cost of \$3,000. Some of the parts have to come from Germany or Austria. Shipping on parts makes it very expensive to repair. It has been a lemon of a machine.

Commissioner Brownell stated that there has been a bit of a reprieve on the methane rules. They will know more on the grid sampling law after the first of the year.

Commissioner Yahn suggested a tour of the landfill would be good sometime. Klein said that anytime the Commissioners wanted to stop out he would give them a tour.

**LOGAN COUNTY CORONER** – Logan County Coroner Dave Tennant met with the Board. He feels it is time to move the Logan County Coroner's Office out of the mortuary. Especially with what happened in

Pueblo County. Davis Mortuary is the State contracted mortuary for the prisons. The owner of Davis Mortuary happens to be the Coroner for Pueblo County. It's a bad situation. He has been thinking about this for over a year and has been looking around the county for buildings. He has been talking to Josilyn Lutze about the old Sheriff's Posse building where her office is, possibly converting part of it into the Coroner's Office, where they could have their own office space, vehicle parking, and cooler storage, separate from everything. He wanted to bring this up to the Commissioners. Currently the Coroner uses the mortuary's cooler, vehicles, and office space. If Tennant is no longer Coroner, that will create a problem.

Another issue is that the County-owned body cooler was on its last leg. Tennant said that the cooler was purchased in 1989. It has been repaired so many times; he finally gave up and quit using it. It is no longer in use, and it is in storage now. He has a form to dispose of it as it is per County policy. Tennant has been talking to companies and getting prices for body coolers. He has talked to Mike Dahl in Fort Morgan, because this happened a couple of years ago in Morgan County. He sold his business and quit the coroner's office. It was very expensive for Morgan County to establish a Coroner's Office.

Tennant thinks the location is big enough. As far as the two offices are concerned, there would not be a problem. It is all fenced in, with the ability to keep things under control. The Coroner's Office has evidence and needs to limit people who have access to bodies in the cooler for evidence. The cooler would need to be inside the building. Tennant is asking for quotes on a 10-body cooler. Several times in the last few years there have been five bodies from the Coroner's Office stored in the mortuary's cooler.

Tennant told the Board that Larimer County has several used vehicles that they are trying to get rid of that he would like to purchase at a good price. He is working with them to get some prices. The Coroner's Office will need two vehicles; one will be available to transport to forensic pathologists in Greeley or Fort Collins then one is needed here in the event of a death or something to investigate. He is looking at a four-wheel drive truck. There have been occasions over the last 20 years that Tennant has had to use the Sheriff's Office vehicles to go out on a call, because their vans just can't make it. The second vehicle would be a van.

There used to be a Coroner's Office at the Justice Center. Tennant never used it. The former coroner never used it. The Justice Center took it over to use for a children's room for court hearings. Tennant checked with the courts, they still have the desk, file cabinets, tables, shelves, in storage in the basement etc. Other items needed would be a body lift, body racks, body trays, a computer, printer, monitor, metal storage cabinets, etc. Tennant is making a list and will have estimated costs for everything. The building will need to be remodeled to accommodate the 10-body cooler and two vehicles. The space is there; it's just a matter of reorganizing it. The Dive Team equipment stored there should be completely moved out.

Commissioner Santomaso asked if there were security cameras on the building. Josilyn Lutze said that the cameras were ordered but have not been installed yet. The system could be expanded if necessary.

Another concern is staffing for the office. The current death investigators may not want to continue on with this. Trying to find staff for a coroner's office is difficult. Most of the investigators are part-time, not full time. Currently the Coroner's Office has three death investigators. Death investigators must be willing to be certified through the Colorado Coroners Association. There are continuing education hours required every year for the death investigators. They are on call every third night. Dave takes the phones during the day. He rotates two nights with them.

The Board asked whether the Sheriff's Office could investigate deaths. Tennant said that it is better to not have law enforcement involved, because if law enforcement is involved in an incident where there is a death, the attorneys get involved. If the Coroner has a case and has to transport the body to Greeley or Fort Collins for an autopsy, it has to be somebody from the Coroner's Office and is a Certified as a Death Investigator, so

that if they have to go to court, the attorneys can't go after them for sending someone off the street to drive the body there. It is a chain of evidence matter. They have found with the Department of Corrections and more and more attorneys involved with families now that want to sue, they are very careful with inmates that they handle. So far, over the last 23 years, the County hasn't gotten in any trouble.

Tennant has not made a decision on whether he will run again for another term. He would like to get all of this under control before he leaves the office. His current term as Coroner expires in January 2027.

Tennant said he will be getting some more quotes for the items he discussed today and discuss them with Debbie Unrein and then meet with the Board again. He suggested that the Board go out and look at the Sheriff's Posse building to get a visual on what the possibilities are.

Commissioner Brownell mentioned that if this is to go forward, the HVAC system at that office may need to be upgraded handle more square footage. The 1950s ceiling mounted forced air heaters, and the makeshift air conditioning will need some updating.

**LOGAN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE** – Logan County Extension Director Brian Kailey met with the Board. He covered many of the Extension Office highlights of the summer. Jackie Wagner offered Dining with Diabetes. It's been a growing program for Logan County. There are a lot of stage one and stage two diabetics in the program. This class is based off of CSU research on dietary needs for those individuals. The program is offered in Spanish too. She's offered the program for all ages; a lot of the attendees have been adults. A couple of teenagers attended. A lot of caregivers of diabetics are attending it, so that they can better pertain to what their loved ones need, for food requirements.

JD has been really active with the MQA. They had 127 4-H members go through the Meat Quality Assurance trainings (MQA). Along with offering a couple of opportunities for the livestock judging teams. There were 22 members this year. Three seniors have full-ride scholarships now to do livestock judging at three different universities. There were 182 youth were here for the Livestock Invitational and also another 52 youth were here for the Field Days.

Kailey has been able to get almost 9,000 trees out the door to landowners for wind break tree development. About 1,200 acres were improved with those trees. The trees are all delivered on April 17th. He handled approximately 213 calls so far this summer, concerning tree disorders, plant care, lawn maintenance and different disease management plans. He's conducted about 23 soil samples for producers. The calls spanned from large producers, with a couple thousand acres to a couple pastures to backyard lawns. The soil samples are sent off to our labs. It's a little faster turnaround than sending them to our CSU labs. We try to support the CSU labs during the winter and give those students some experience, but when the producers need answers quickly, we send them off to the ward labs, and we get results within a week, week and a half.

We needed those back really quickly, to be able to sit down with them and do some suggested management plans with them. A lot of the soils that we've been seeing out here are coming around nine to 10 pH, so they're running a little higher. This is near Padroni where we're seeing the higher pH levels. They're trying to help them get the pH level back down into workable constraints, because it'll kill a lot of our plant material.

We've been sending in quite a bit of water samples too. JDS had 24 agent water tests that were sent off to Rock River labs. Most of those have been for livestock production, for nitrate levels. One of the producers just outside of town has lost a couple of calves. They're thinking it's probably a stagnant pond that they were drinking out of. They're waiting for the results back from that water sample. Brian went out there and assessed the pastures. He didn't see any poisonous points out there, a few, but nothing in high enough toxicity levels to cause a calf or cow, as both of them passed away. The calf passed away about a week prior to the



cow passing away, Coakley did a biopsy on them and figured out that it is something poisoning them. The livers were three times larger than they should have been. Some of the tissue samples have been sent off to the CSU labs too. So, they are trying to figure out what's happening to this herd. They are recommending they not let them water out of that pond until we get the water results back. The rest of them can water right out of the ditch.

They have been able to take 4-H youth on a lot of different youth conferences throughout the summer. Eighteen members attended the State 4-H Conference this year. There was the Livestock Team and the Family and Consumer Science team. The Livestock Team took the third overall team in Colorado this year. Three members from that team are seniors. The Family and Consumer Science team took second in a lot of their categories, and a lot of first in individual categories. They'll be able to compete now at the National level as they continue.

They were able to take twelve youths down to Burlington for a youth conference. A larger conference was hosted in Sterling for 110 youths, which was the Be Somebody Program. There are seven counties that make up the district. The 4-H Councils of every County put on a workshop.

We had just over 1,200 projects in the static project location, and then in the livestock location, we had over 400 animals. Just under 200 youth showed at the Logan County Fair. Right now, they're waiting for some of the sale results. They had a couple of youth at the State Fair make the sale. There are four families that are staying up there until Wednesday for the sale.

There were 156 projects sent to State Fair. Of those projects, there were 34 Champions, seven Grand Champions, and five Reserve Grand Champions. Out of the 156 projects, 136 of them made the top 10, and then out of the top five in each category. There were 116 projects that made the top five.

Extension received a \$99,548 grant from Colorado Outdoor Equity. Throughout the summer, Kailey and Jackie Wagner were able to put on multiple workshops every Monday morning for seven weeks with 120 participants in that program. Many of them were not previously involved in Extension or in 4-H and are now wanting to participate in 4-H and other programs that the Extension Office offers.

For adult education, the Extension Office was able to purchase a freeze dryer with the grant. They already have multiple requests on how they can do some training on dietary needs for folks that can't find certain products on the shelves in the supermarkets that are freeze dried, extended shelf life, expandable meals. For instance, like diabetes meals.

Extension just did their wrap up overnight camp out at the North Sterling Reservoir with 91 participants at the camp on August 15th and 16th. Twenty-eight families participated in the program, and all of them were sent home with \$2,500 worth of gear. They had to earn the gear throughout all seven weeks of the program.

Children's Waterfest is coming up on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds. Approximately 600 fifth-grade students from all over northeast Colorado will attend workshops about water from 30 presenters. Kailey will keep Commissioner Yahn updated on this as a presenter. Craig Brownell with Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District is helping along with Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

The Extension Office is functioning really well. They are starting to get ready for the Annual 4-H Banquet in November which usually has 280-300 people in attendance. 4-H leaders are working on their IRS forms to stay in compliance. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, they will start the new 4-H enrollment year.

Commissioner Yahn had someone who discussed upgrades on the DeSoto building with him. Kailey said

from the 4-H perspective, the building works perfectly fine the way it is. As far as aesthetics upgrades, which is what this person was really looking for, it is well utilized every weekend it is booked. He does not think people are too concerned about the inside looks of the building as they are still utilizing it. If the Board wants to give it a facelift, that would be great, it will look really nice.

The County owns the DeSoto Building but the DeSoto Bboard enforces all the rules and oversees cleaners and regulations and keeps all the rental fees. The Extension Office rents the building and hands out the key. The DeSoto Board will ask them to fill out a work order for something to be fixed. Kailey said that the Buildings and Grounds crew polished the floor one time and got yelled at for doing it. The Commissioners used it a couple of times in the past for various things and they got a nasty letter from the Board that basically says we would have said yes if you had asked, but you still should have asked.

The building is in good shape and will be used the same. It's still weather-proofed really well and there are no leaks in the building. 4-H uses it every week for club meetings, a different club meets there every Monday, a lot of birthday parties, and of baby showers are booked there. Every weekend there is some type of event booked in there. It's not being underutilized by any means. If we renovated it and made it look prettier, I don't think we're going to see a difference in booking. A lot of people are definitely booking the Mitchek Center for the larger capacity of that building, and for the better sound system and things like that.

**AI POLICY** – Commissioner Santomaso emailed the Board two AI policies from other counties. Logan County does not have an AI policy. The bill in the legislative special session died. The other one is moving through, and it says the counties are insulated. He does not believe that counties should take them for their word. He thinks that there should be an AI policy for Logan County. AI should not be used to make specific employment decisions or anything along those lines. No decision-making ability should be available.

A policy that educates the County staff of the usefulness of AI would be beneficial. There are drawbacks that could be problematic for the County. A policy would help create that awareness. Everyone will need to be careful how AI is used and relied upon. Alan will work on an AI policy.

**COUNTY ROAD 26** – Commissioner Santomaso received a call from a resident who lives on CR 26 who is concerned about the railroad closing the crossing. He assured her that the County is not interested in closing the crossing. Commissioner Yahn said he called her. She said that she had called each of the Commissioners. Yahn told her that the Board is not interested in having the crossing closed. The Board would like to meet with residents and explain what they would like to do with the road.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS SALES AND USE TAX BALLOT QUESTION** – The Board is working on the ballot question language on the Sales and Use Tax Extension. The Board discussed whether or not to make the sunset the tax at five years. Commissioner Santomaso said that the reactions he has gotten were to not have the tax permanent. Commissioner Brownell has heard that from several people also. Right now, the County has some surplus built up in the Sales and Use Tax Fund. Commissioner Yahn stated that if bigger projects were planned, the County would want to have some assurance that this is going to continue into the future. The mandates for jail improvements are going to come about. If this tax does not pass, the funding for them will have to come from property taxes. The Board settled on a five-year sunset.

The repaving of the fairgrounds midway should be included in the resolution as it does say “grounds”. Alan will have the final version ready for the agenda next Tuesday. September 4 is the date that he has to certify as the designated election official the exact ballot language for Pam.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.