

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

December 20, 2022

Present: Byron Pelton, Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Alan Samber, Ashley Smith, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Jeff Rice, Faith Blankenship, Don Masin, Rob Quint, Tom Kiel, Jerry Sonnenberg, Marilyn Hutt, David Unrein, Richard Holtorf, Gloria Fribler, Mark Earnhart, Darrin Luft, Judy Long, Pamela Brekel, Tabatha.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the minutes of November 29, 2022. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022, Commissioner McBride seconded, and the motion carried 2-0.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Commissioner Bauder asked to be added to minutes on December 6, 2022, work session minutes as an attendee.

REVIEW AND APPROVE HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Ashley Smith met with the Board to review Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated December 20, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS – Kristan Lange met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated December 20, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – The Board reviewed the Business meeting agenda for December 20, 2022. Rob Quint came forward to say that Stratus Sterling LLC wanted to postpone for January 17, 2023. Attorney Alan Samber asked, “if they published notice again for today?” On the agenda, the public has been notified that it occurred today so in this meeting it will need to be known that it will be postponed indefinitely until January 17th at 9:30am. Rob Quint said they wanted more time to reach out to the community. The outreach they had so far has been very positive, but they have some more things they’d like to work through prior to the meeting. Attorney Alan Samber suggested to postpone the meeting indefinitely. They will need to cover the cost of publishing the new notices for a different date.

Sky Ranch has an application for fireworks display on New Year’s Eve. They had not filled out an application previously, although they have displayed fireworks in the past. Scott Rubottom will oversee the display. He is not certified. Rob Quint told Scott that normally someone that is certified is on hand to set off fireworks. They wanted the county to be aware. It is not a huge show just about \$500.00 worth of fireworks. Scott Rubottom is planning to come to the business meeting to speak on behalf of the application to display fireworks.

DESOTO BUILDING – Don Masin with the Desoto Building came to discuss with the board about a water leak. Commissioner McBride stated that building may have a water leak. The usage for November last year was 13,000. This November the usage is at 95,000. October usage was at 177,000 and last year was 69,000. There is a leak somewhere between the building and service meter. Debbie Unrein said that Brian Kailey let Chance Wright know one of the urinals was running constantly. Chance was able to fix the leak from the urinal before he left

employment with Logan County. Once they receive the water bill in December, they will have a better understanding if the leak has been fixed. They may need to be prepared to cancel events that are scheduled if the issue still exists.

IGA - Centralized Computer Server – Alan Samber wanted to discuss with the Board of County Commissioners about an item that is not on the agenda regarding a discussion between Logan County and the City of Sterling about the IGA- Centralized Computer Server. Commissioner Pelton said the Sheriff has brought the IGA to them and they received an email. Alan asked the Commissioners if they are ready to proceed. The City Attorney reached out yesterday to Alan about the status of the IGA. Commissioner Pelton stated his issue was the City of Sterling had not given them the amount. Attorney Alan Samber will contact the City Attorney to let them know it needs more discussion before it can be put on the agenda.

The meeting recessed at 9:14 a.m. and reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

TRACEY JACKSON MEMORIAL Pamela Brekel, the mother of Tracey Jackson, wanted to know why the memorial sign was removed. Commissioner Pelton said that Jeff Reeves tried to reach out to let them know the sign was going to be taken down but was unable to get in touch with them. The family stated it was very disrespectful the memorial was removed, and they were not notified. They would have complied with the guidelines that were set in place had they known. Attorney Alan Samber said, "Since there were no county regulations in effect at the time it was installed, the family had a statutory right to install a sign as long as it did not exceed three feet in height, two feet in width, or six inches in thickness, but it no longer has that right now that the county has its own resolution in place. The three-foot, two-foot, six-inch rule doesn't apply anymore. The family wished they had been contacted to come to the meeting when the resolution was passed. Commissioner Pelton apologized that they were not notified at the beginning and that Jeff Reeves was not able to get in touch with them. According to Attorney Alan Samber, the proposed sign plans must be submitted to Road and Bridge for approval under the new resolution. The county can create its own rules, but if the county does not create its own rules, then the state rules stand. The county has now passed a resolution with certain standards, one of which is obtaining permission from the landowner before installing a sign. The Tracey Jackson family cannot be grandfathered in due to the sign not being within size regulations.

The meeting recessed at 10:28 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD HOLTORF – Representative Holtorf represents House District 63. He comes with a couple of messages. Number one, he is fighting for agriculture in our agricultural economies at the state capital. He wanted the Commissioners to know that he is open and available, and he works for seven counties in House District 63, one of them being Logan County. He is from Washington County, and he understands the importance of agriculture in our rural communities. He has purchased a lot of agricultural commodities for his cattle feeding operation, and those ag commodities primarily come from two counties.

He would like to thank Logan County for being one of the strongest supporters of his re-election. He is looking to reciprocate that, in turn, for the work that he does at the state capital to support agriculture and the things that we need to do to protect rural Colorado.

He has recently been elected to be the House Republican Whip. That is going to require him to step into leadership, which is a new responsibility. But his primary responsibility is to serve the counties and the people in House District 63. He wants to encourage as much participation from Logan County, the Commissioners, full-time staff, and citizens in those things that are going to negatively impact us through the virtual hearing process. For two years, we've had the ability to virtually testify, and it has been very impactful. It is important they hear from real people in real places in rural Colorado with a strong message as to why or why not with respect to certain legislation that's coming from committees. It is going to be an uphill battle in the statehouse. Republicans have lost five seats, and the Democrats in the State House do hold a supermajority. That is going to make it hard to promote Republican principles and our conservative ideals. The good news in the State House is that we now have Representative Julie McCluskey as Speaker of the House.

Commissioner Pelton wanted to congratulate Representative Holtorf on being appointed vice chair of the Web and vice chair of the Ag Committee. Commissioner Pelton expressed concern about the economic driver in agriculture and what kind of rules and regulations the legislature is going to put on agriculture.

Commissioner McBride expressed concern about the collective bargaining and unionization in rural Colorado, including county governments.

Commissioner Pelton stated that the Board of Commissioners, within the last year, has moved to give a 25% increase to our sheriff's office. The Board has increased the budget by 2.2 million over the last six years to retain employees by increasing payroll.

Representative Holtorf inquired about Logan County's mental health crisis. Is there anything about behavioral health and human services that he would need to take back to the committee? Commissioner Pelton said the JBC was surprised at the presentation from VHA and the number of employees that are asking for. The current amount is 175 employees, but they are requesting 180 employees. He would like to see more transparency and accountability.

Representative Holtorf said departments will get funding for FTE but if the FTE are not being filled and the money is not being spent, where does the vacancy surplus go? This causes a problem for the state and for JBC. Representative Holtorf suggested they contact Ron Bachman, CCI, and have CCI lobbyists give details as to where the money goes.

Representative Holtorf looks forward to working with Logan County in the future. The Board of Commissioners wish him well and good luck.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.