

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session  
December 8, 2020**

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Corey Curtis, Kaden Piel, Tabitha Piel, Trae Miller, and Jennifer Crow.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION-** Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2020 as written. Chairman McBride seconded and the motion carried.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – The Board will add a Wakefield Ambulance collection assignment. The Board will add approval of CARES Act funding payments.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS-** Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated December 8, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE COLLECTION ASSIGNMENTS** - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve assignment of a Logan County Ambulance debt collections account to Wakefield and Associates, the account number ending in 81007 and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**CARES ACT FUNDING** – Commissioner Bauder reported that there are checks going out today on the grants. She thanked the Board for approving up to \$50,000 cash to restaurants who can provide receipts. Several restaurants requested smaller grant amounts although they had receipts for more than what was requested. Restaurants will be allowed to resubmit their requests. They have until Friday to submit the request in writing. Commissioner Bauder will hand deliver the restaurant checks this afternoon.

Commissioner Bauder noted that the committee is still working with several applicants. The committee hopes to be done next week and will have granted approximately \$1.3 million in CARES grants.

Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the Small Business Grants as listed. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The Small Business Grant approval will be ratified on the business meeting agenda next week.

**YOUTH POLICIES FOR COVID-19** - Corey Curtis, Kaden Piel, and Tabitha Piel met with the Board to discuss their concerns for the mental health of the youth being affected by the government's Coronavirus policies not allowing sports and extra-curricular activities to operate during the pandemic. The group explained the situations that the youths are struggling with. There have been several suicides in the area recently. One reason is that the youth have nothing left to look forward to.

Kids are not participating in things that they enjoyed previous to Covid-19 shutdowns because they fear that it will be taken away again at any time. The mental health of the youth is important and a society of hopeless teens is being created. There have been six suicides in the region over the last six months as of this date.

Schools are not allowing sports and other practices due to the liability issues involved. Other gymnasium locations have been investigated but have also refused to allow sports practices for the same liability issues. The group asked for the Board's help and advice in changing these policies. It was noted that students must eat lunch in the gymnasium along with 35 kids, but cannot practice sports in the gymnasium or attend other activities in the gym.

The Board explained that it does not have the powers to change the CDPHE restrictions. It would be much different if it was left up to them.

The Board encouraged the group to write letters and start a social media campaign to get their message out. Their story needs to get to the governor's ears. A campaign might put more pressure on the CDPHE to look at the suicide aspect and change the rules. CDPHE needs to know that the risks of student suicide is more important than Covid is to students. The group was encouraged to join with other schools' wellness committees. The Board will support the efforts every step of the way.

Commissioner Pelton suggested the group meet with Trish McClain of the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

**HOSPITAL UPDATE** - Trae Miller reported that the hospital is at 60% full.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.