

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

February 23, 2021

Present: Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Joe McBride, Shannon Graves, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Alma McArthur, Lavon Ritter, Sam Wolever, Debbie Unrein, Dr. Anthony Gerk, Brooke Mollehan Cook, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Work Session as written. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review and approve the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated February 23, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented. The Board also approved DHS Payroll for the period January 30, 2021 through February 12, 2021 as presented

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Chairman Pelton added discussion with OEM and an April 21, 2021 Consignment Auction.

NEXT ERA DONATION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT – Sterling Fire Chief Lavon Ritter and Fleming Rural Fire Protection District Chief Sam Wolever met with the Board. Next Era Energy is donating \$80,000 to the Fleming Rural Fire Protection District and the Sterling Rural Fire Protection District.

Jennifer Heron of Next Era Energy has asked how to deliver the \$80,000 donation to the fire departments that will be affected by the new wind turbine construction in Logan County. The majority of the territory affected is in the Fleming Rural Fire Protection District, with a small amount in the Sterling Rural Fire Protection District. Jerry Casebolt provided a map of the area.

The Board asked if the Fleming Fire Protection District has had training on the wind turbine rescues. Wolever has trained with the towers on the northeast side of town. He was also called out on a call when a wind tower employee was injured on one of the towers. Most of the training is scheduled during the day when the volunteer fireman are working at their jobs. There has been talk about doing some evening training.

The height of the new towers was discussed and not immediately available. The longest lifelines that the Fleming Fire Department has are 300 feet. They are approximately \$1.50 a foot to purchase. Mr. Wolever stated that Next Era had their own lifeline when he was on the rescue call a few years ago.

Both Chief Wolever and Chief Ritter stated that they would need to check with their rural fire district boards for a determination on how to divide the money. They will get back to the Commissioners after their board meetings.

OEM VACCINATION REPORT – Jerry Casebolt updated the Board concerning the Covid-19 vaccinations in the county. Logan County vaccination statistics as of yesterday were just 1% different than the state’s statistics. The Northeast Colorado Health Department is just starting to breakdown demographics on their website. The next group to be vaccinated is the 65 years old and older group. Eighty-five percent of Logan County’s educators have received their first dose, this includes the number of persons who do not want the vaccine. Educators are scheduled to receive their second doses during spring break.

Long term care and assisted living facilities are 98% complete on all of their second doses with a few stragglers. There are some facilities where patients did not want to receive the vaccine.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT – The Homeland Security grant application for the northeast region, two different grant applications were submitted. FEMA has put a high priority on IT infrastructure and soft-target securities. Logan County’s IT provider noted outdated equipment on an inventory done last year. He worked with the vendor put together quotes for the necessary updates. The grant has been tentatively approved. The application still has to be approved by the state and FEMA approval which will be decided sometime in May or June. The application requested \$13,000. Equipment costs are about \$18,000. Logan County must show matching funds for FEMA. This was built into the budget at the end of last year for 2021. Grant funds may not be available until the end of the year or next year. Funds will be built in to the next year’s budget if the grant funds are not received this year.

The second project was for the hardening of infrastructure at the Courthouse to include replacement of cameras, several outside cameras are non-functional. The project will allow the placement of security cameras on entrances and proximity access cards to the building. Since the Courthouse is where elections take place, it has been identified as highly vulnerable target. They would like to see the access control points where the click of a button can lock all doors to the building at one time. People can still get out but they can’t get in. Addition of cameras for surveillance on entrances and a camera is especially needed on the handicapped entrance as this spot needs to be monitored. If someone were to break in to the building, cameras would be able to identify the person or persons. The grant application request was \$23,000 with the county awarded \$21,000. Equipment costs are approximately \$29,000. Extra funding was included in the IT budget for 2021. This project was going to be done over a five-year period. The grant allows this to be done all at once. The Board thanked Jerry for his work on the applications.

COUNTY AUCTION – There was not enough surplus equipment to warrant a Logan County Auction. Equipment and four vehicles will be taken to a consignment auction at Sterling Livestock, on April 21, 2021. The Board agreed to place the surplus equipment on the consignment auction.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.