

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

February 25, 2020

Present: Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Byron Pelton, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Kristan Lange, Rhonda Chrisp, Marilee Johnson, Derek Hood, Todd Settler, Tony Gerck, Lauren Gerck, Susanne Workman, Ainsley Powell, Karah Karg, Jennifer Crow.

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2020 as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated February 25, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PAYROLL – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services payroll for the period February 1, 2020 through February 14, 2020. The Board approved the payroll as presented.

REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Kristan Lange met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated February 25, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE ACCOUNTS REFERRED TO WAKEFIELD – Commissioner Pelton moved to refer Logan County Ambulance accounts with numbers ending in 232028, 232029 and 810004 to Wakefield and Associates for collections and allow the chair to sign, Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

TURN KEY HEALTH CLINICS, LLC AMENDMENT - Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the First Amendment to the Contract for Health Care Personnel and Administration between the Logan County Sheriff's Office and Turn Key Health Clinics, LLC which changes the start date to May 1, 2020 Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

2020 CENSUS – Commissioner Bauder reported that Bob Brown is working on a banner that will be hung over Main Street. The first round of letters went out with the City's water bills this month. Commissioner Bauder is working on printing a flyer to give to Janie Glenn to distribute.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN – No update.

HERITAGE CENTER EXPANSION – Commissioner Bauder has received two work plans from engineer/architects. Another plan is needed to be eligible to apply for a DOLA grant. She has contacted another company and is waiting for a reply.

DR. GERK - COMMUNITY CONCERNS – Dr. Tony Gerk represents a large group of landowners (Concerned Citizens for a Safe Logan County) who are seeking a voice in the community concerning the future of wind development in Logan County and potential long-term liability associated with it.

Dr. Gerk pointed out that wind energy companies must be held to the same standards of other energy companies in the county. The Logan County zoning regulations contain numerous pages concerning oil and gas regulations but only one line for wind energy development. The group believes that the county disregards the rights of landowners that do not wish to sign contracts with wind energy developers.

Wind turbines 300’ – 350’ tall have been in Peetz and Fleming for over a decade. New wind energy development towers are 500’ towers. Companies are seeking projects in Logan, Phillips and Washington Counties with over 250 500’ – 600’ towers.

Gerk believes that Logan County must address zoning concerns for these developments. Yuma and Kit Carson Counties have adopted zoning regulations for wind energy development. Copies of these regulations were provided to the Board. Gerk asked the Board to consider the significant decommissioning problems that the county will face in the future. In Weld County there is an abandoned wind project with 44 deteriorating turbines that have been idle since 2015. There were no requirements to set aside money to take the towers down.

Dr. Gerk requested that the Board consider reasonable zoning and decommissioning standards for the wind energy projects, and to consider every landowner who must live in the area of the projects. They do not want to take landowners’ rights and are not attempting to run the wind energy companies out of Logan County but believe that non-participating landowners have just as many rights as the landowners who contract with these companies. Gerk used the example of a neighbor who wants to “erect a 550’ tower with flashing lights and that makes noise 24 hours a day and flings ice up to a half a mile in the winter.” This represents a zoning issue that the county must address that affects all landowners’ rights.

The construction of a 500’ turbine on a neighbor’s property could prevent aerial spraying on neighboring crops, prevent neighbors from constructing facilities on their own properties, and may decrease the value of neighbors’ properties.

The group plans to bring forward proposals for the Board’s consideration in the coming weeks.

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

INSPECTION OF THE LOGAN COUNTY JAIL - The inspection of the Logan County Jail will follow the meeting.