

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session
February 4, 2025**

Present: Jerry Sonnenberg, Jim Yahn, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Rick Cullip, Claire Mull, Kay Rich, Kent Vance, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

Vice-Chairman Sonnenberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – County Attorney Alan Samber explained a correction that was necessary in the minutes of the last meeting. Vice-Chairman Sonnenberg moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025 Work Session after correcting the fourth sentence in the second paragraph on page two by striking the words “but the first \$28,000 is exempt.” Commissioner Yahn seconded, and the motion carried, 2-0.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA – There were no revisions.

REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – The Board will remove the reappointment of advisory board members from the Consent Agenda until next week when Commissioner Brownell returns.

INDUSTRIAL WELDING RE: MITCHEK KITCHEN EQUIPMENT – Claire Mull met with the Board on behalf of JD Stone and the Roger Stumpf family regarding a proposal to donate kitchen equipment for the Mitchek Event Center. Roger Stumpf and Alan Mitcheck were business partners for over 50 years on many projects. Roger’s wife approached JD about a bronze plaque at the fairgrounds in Roger’s memory. JD asked Ms. Mull about the plaque because of her background in 4-H and FFA and asked if she had any other ideas. Ms. Mull has spent quite a lot of time at the fairgrounds with 4-H kids. She talked to Marcy and Daryl Nestor with the Topsy Cow who are always very supportive of the 4-H kids. They discussed the event center kitchen needs and developed a list of items that would be useful for the kitchen. Ms. Mull said she also has a background in food service.

Ms. Mull explained that she initially started with a small proposal, but JD is willing to do more if necessary. They need direction from the Board. The proposal is to honor Roger’s close relationship with Alan Mitcheck and what the Mitchek Event Center means to the community. JD and the Stumpf family would request when the project is completed that the kitchen be named the Roger Stumpf Memorial Kitchen. Commissioner Yahn had not seen the proposal. Commissioner Sonnenberg commented that the Board has discussed this since last September after last year’s fair. The Board has not been interested in naming or selling the naming rights to the kitchen. He stated that the Board would be open to the placement of a plaque or some sort of memorial noting that the kitchen equipment was donated by the Stumpf family.

Rick Cullip joined the meeting. He stated that he is in favor of the project, however it is the Board’s decision whether to name the kitchen after Mr. Stumpf. Ms. Mull stated her experience is that you can never have enough refrigeration. Cullip thinks there is room for another refrigerator. Currently, in the kitchen there is a three-door refrigerator and a three-door freezer in the space. They could probably slide those two over and move another refrigerator in. Cullip stated that there are many different groups that use the event center. Cullip explained that multiple groups use the facility during the year, and their needs should be considered also, not just the needs of one group that uses it one week of the year during the fair.

Ms. Mull asked if there are other needs in the kitchen. JD would like to know what the needs are and if he can help with those needs. She suggested that there is a significant need for shelving and storage to get supplies off of the floor. The health department could possibly come in and shut someone down for food safety violations because they don’t have any place to keep supplies off of the floor.

Commissioner Sonnenberg said that the Board is willing to continue the conversation about the proposal, especially now that they know that the family would like the naming rights for the kitchen. It would be a wonderful tribute for Roger because of the long relationship with Alan Mitchek. However, other businesses might say they wished they had thought of that in exchange for the naming rights. The Board would also like to wait for Mike Brownell to return to get his input as well.

Ms. Mull will also discuss this with Brian Kailey to ask if he knows of any needs for the kitchen as the 4-H banquet was held there this year. Commissioner Yahn asked if the Board would need to discuss this with the Mitcheks. Commissioner Sonnenberg agreed that it would be necessary to have that conversation with Judi Mitchek if and when the Board gets to that point.

OVERLAND TRAIL MUSEUM SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT SUPPORT LETTER – Kay Rich, Curator of the Overland Trail Museum, met with the Board to explain about an application that she is submitting to host a traveling Smithsonian Exhibit and to request a letter of support. The exhibit is called the Americans. The exhibit is only going to five museums in Colorado in 2026. She is not sure that she will get it since the museum just had a Smithsonian exhibit recently. The timing is perfect as it will be during the 2026 America 250 - Colorado 150th Anniversary Celebration. She is requesting a letter of support from the Board to put with her application which is due next week. Ms. Rich also has letters of support from the Chamber of Commerce and from Marilee Johnson, Tourist Information Center Director. The Board agreed to sign a letter of support. Jennifer already had a letter done but will modify it to include Mike Brownell's signature as he will return Wednesday. Ms. Rich said that Jennifer can email the letter to her after the Board signs the letter.

NECALG REGION ONE GRANT NAVIGATOR – Kent Vance is NECALG's Region One Grant Navigator for Northeastern Colorado. His job is to convince the Commissioners that there is money in the federal budget to give out to the right people. It is a matter of identifying a grant that the county wants to apply for.

He was not sure whether Logan County is already part of the 2024 Raise Grant which became the Build Planning Grant that NE Colorado did. It was a Planning Grant that Northeastern Colorado did together. He knows that the City of Sterling was a part of it but is not sure whether Logan County participated. The Raise Grant is a planning grant for road repaving.

Commissioner Yahn asked what other grants were available. Mr. Vance told the Board about the IJJA Grant (Infrastructure Jobs Act). It is the big money pool where the Raise Grant came from. Right now, there is also the Protect Grant which it is a bit late to try for because the application due date is February 24 which is specifically tailored to culverts, bridges and unsafe roads to try and bring the roads into safer conditions.

Mr. Vance suggested the Board start looking at grants for 2026 if they want some paving done. The maximum grant is \$25,000,000. The minimum for a construction grant is a million dollars. They recommend that you match 5% - 10% but there is no specific match. With a Planning Grant there is no match whatsoever.

There is the SS4A grant, (Safer Streets For All). It's mostly tailored to streets, not highways specifically and more of the mobile transportation type things. He is not sure of the date when it will come out. Commissioner Sonnenberg asked if there were any grants available for ambulances, EMS or fire engines. Vance has not seen any grants out of the federal government specifically. The City of Julesberg has asked for the same thing, so he has been looking.

Mr. Vance sends out the NOFOs or Notice Of Funding Opportunities as often as he can. Typically, they come out somewhere between three to six months before the application is due. He sends these out to everyone on

his mailing list. Commissioner Yahn asked if the infrastructure money is only for Roads and Bridges. Mr. Vance answered no, but it is not for buildings. President Trump is changing things right now. There's also the IRA, the Inflation Reduction Act out of the federal government, it is for "green energy", wind turbines, solar panels, batteries or electric cars, etc. President Trump has been targeting that one really hard. The money may stay there, but it may get repurposed for something else.

Vance said that his contract goes until the end of May. Hopefully it will be renewed, but he cannot say for sure that it will be renewed, because that's something else that President Trump is looking at changing.

Commissioner Yahn asked about water infrastructure. Nebraska is coming on to the Perkins County Canal, a lot of our farmers are going to need sources of storage to make sure they can continue to pump their wells. Vance said he has been specifically looking for potable water infrastructure for the City of Brush but can't recall seeing anything for irrigation water infrastructure. He will start looking more for irrigation water grant possibilities also.

GRANT WRITER - Commissioner Yahn asked if the County had a grant writer. The County does not have a person to specifically write grants. The County Clerk has written grants and others have written their own grants for their departments.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE IMPACT ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION – Jennifer stated that the Assessor had emailed the application for the Board's signature. This is for land owned by the Colorado Parks Department and the Colorado Division of Wildlife for Payments in Lieu of Taxes or PILT. The Board will wait for Commissioner Brownell to return tomorrow to sign the application as he is the Chairman.

MOBILE HOMES – Will be discussed next week.

LOGAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSE - Jennifer told the Board that a special meeting will be needed next Tuesday to approve an application for a Special Events Liquor License on behalf of the Logan County Republicans for February 15, 2025. The group sells tickets for the meal and serves alcohol, so therefore, they will need a Special Events Liquor License. They were under the impression that the caterer had a liquor license. They filled out the application today and will post a sign on the premises advertising the hearing today. The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting for next Tuesday.

ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Since the Board will be having a special meeting next week, the Board agreed to hold off on reappointment of advisory board members until Commissioner Brownell can be present.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.