

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**February 7, 2023**

Present: Jerry Sonnenberg, Joe McBride, Ashley Smith, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Kristan Lange, Darlene Carpio, Trae Miller, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice, and Jennifer Crow.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the minutes of January 31, 2023. Commissioner Sonnenberg seconded, and the motion carried 2-0.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Commissioner Sonnenberg added Jerry Casebolt to discuss the meeting room sound system.

**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 February 7, 2023. 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 February 7, 2023. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA** – There were no questions on the Business meeting agenda. Jennifer Crow mentioned that Ed Lake of RF Systems had sent an amendment to the state lease to be signed through DocuSign but it was expired could not be brought up. Mr. Lake would like to get it signed soon. Jennifer will try to get a hard copy for the Board so they can review it before the next meeting.

**COURTROOM SOUND SYSTEM** – Jerry Casebolt reached out to Todd at Mega Music concerning the sound system in the courtroom. Todd has suggested that we go with a different type of mixer which is all digital and will have individual adjustments. It can be operated from a small tablet or computer. There would be settings for the commissioners at the table and for the Planning Commission. Two microphones would set on the table - called boundary mics. They pick up a 6-8-foot square area. It will go through the speakers and not have the feedback. We may have to move the front two speakers (on the wall) back a little bit just because the speakers when they broadcast, broadcast in a 45-degree angle.

Commissioner Sonnenberg noted that when he started attending Commissioners meetings, he could not hear in the audience. He would like to make sure the audience can hear the meetings. The Commissioners also want the meetings to be online. Commissioner McBride stated that he doesn't have a problem with the upgrades. It is a building improvement; it would be no problem to use the sales tax money to improve the building.

There are two options. They could just do a limited option with the two boundary mics and the podium mic first. Commissioner Sonnenberg said he was inclined to try that option first and if that didn't work then add in the mixer. There were questions whether the labor on the two boundary mics and the podium mic would be deducted as it was already included in the main bid.

The Board agreed to go with the option with the two boundary mics and the podium mic to start with to see if that will work. The amount for that option is \$510.00.

**DARLENE CARPIO UPDATES FROM CONGRESSMAN KEN BUCK'S OFFICE –**

Congressman Ken Buck released a statement after his reelection last November promising to advocate on behalf of Coloradans and focus legislative efforts on border security, crime, expanding American energy, and reining in big tech.

Congressman Buck is definitely a fiscal conservative, and he wants us to go back to having a balanced budget. We need to make sure we're not spending more money than we take in. His newsletter recently reported that the House voted to end the Biden administration's emergency pandemic powers and end the COVID era telework for 1000s of federal employees because they're still not required to be in the office and blocked oil from our country's emergency stockpile from going to China. Buck is also serving on the Judiciary Committee. They have recently had a hearing on the failures at our southern border. The lack of border security and the removal of some of the Trump era policies has created an alarming humanitarian crisis.

Congressman Buck and Senator Hawley have sponsored the "No Tik Tok on United States Devices Act" that passed in the Senate. Now, the two of them last week, entered legislation that there shouldn't be Tik Tok allowed on any devices in our country. They feel that there is such a compelling threat to all of the data going through to China from the app, that they would like to see it banned in this country.

On March 8, 2023, Ms. Carpio will host the new Colorado Housing and Finance Authority Eastern Plains Representative, Tricia Herman at a Meet and Greet in Northeastern Colorado. They have a new technical assistance grant that some of the smaller entities, counties, municipalities might be interested in.

Last week, Ms. Carpio attended the Rural Voices of Colorado event in Denver. There were some very good presentations on water. She offered to share those PowerPoints with the Board when the links become available.

She also attended a Colorado water conference and had good conversations with the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District members Jim Yahn and Don Ament. Attorney General Phil Weiser also discussed the Perkins Canal more than he has in the past. He still is opposed to it, but it has risen on the list of priority topics.

Ms. Carpio expressed her appreciation for the VA Townhall hosted by John Haynie that was held here and was so thrilled at the large turnout. She was able to collect business cards from all the VA representatives that attended. Now that she has cards from those representatives, she can contact them to be able to help veterans that have been told that they don't qualify for programs because they are in an area that is served by Cheyenne but because they are being treated by doctors in Denver, etc.

Ms. Carpio asked the Board if there was anything that they need support from the Congressman with. Commissioner Sonnenberg noted that he was glad that Congressman Buck is tying into the tech world and the issues going on there. Often the people that use Tic Tok have no idea the information being gathered from everything they do. He is also glad that the Congressman is

trying to pull the reins back on spending. Government has caused a lot of inflation by printing money and handing out free money and now trying to rein that back in, it is going to be painful. Commissioner Sonnenberg asked Ms. Carpio to thank Congressman Buck for us that he continues to get the economy back to some sort of stability. Then agriculture and business won't have near the supply chain issues, the export and import issues that help us run as the greatest country in the world.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.