

## Logan County Commissioners Work Session

January 11, 2022

Present: Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Joe McBride, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Rhonda Chrisp, Marilee Johnson, Debbie Unrein, Rob Quint, Kevin Blankenship, Jeff Reeves, Jeff Rice, Faith Blankenship 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 from January 4, 2022 as written. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Commissioner Pelton added Jeff Reeves to the Work Session agenda for a conference call about the Red Lion Bridge. Commissioner Pelton also added Sterling City Manager, Kevin Blankenship.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated January 11, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented. The Board also approved the Human Services Payroll for the period December 18, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS** – Rhonda Chrisp met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated January 11, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**STERLING CITY MANAGER KEVIN BLANKENSHIP** – Commissioner Pelton invited Sterling City Manager Kevin Blankenship to join the meeting. Commissioner Pelton noted that he had phoned Mr. Blankenship concerning the ARPA funds coming from the State's Co-responder program. This program will put a Police Officer and a Mental Health Specialist together to respond to a disturbance or crime involving a person with mental health issues. Chairman Pelton called Mr. Blankenship to ask whether the City would be interested and he and Tyson (Kerr) indicated they would be. The funds must flow through county from the state. Mr. Blankenship stated that they would like to look into it to see how it could work with issues with behavioral health in the community and incorporate in the Police Department. Several Counties across the state are doing this. Centennial Mental Health does do a form of this. Funding will flow through the county to the city so that the city could hire personnel on their own. Chairman Pelton talked to Brett Powell several times about this. He indicated that he is not really interested. Ninety percent of the calls are within the city.

**FEMA UPDATE** – Rob Quint met with the Board to discuss FEMA. Rob will be meeting with Tom Birney and Doug Mahan from the State of Colorado today at 1 p.m. he will know more after that about how they want the county to proceed. Rob had a discussion with Tom before Christmas that went well. He thinks that the state will lay out a game plan and see how the county reacts. Rob will meet with them today and see if they would be open to a phone call with the Commissioners.

Rob will attend the Work Session again next week. If they would like to meet, the Commissioners would be happy to do that.

**TIENA PRICE TRUST PROPERTY CLEANUP** – Alan Samber has received emails from the trust attorney. The attorney is trying to contact the trustee, Steven Price. Commissioner McBride asked if there was a way to read the court case. Alan has access to that court file through Lexis Nexus. Alan Samber wants clarification

from their attorney whether Larry Price is authorized to be on the property to get it cleaned up. Commissioner McBride will go out with Alan and Rob to photograph the property. There was an eviction case filed and a court order restoring the possession of the premises to the trustee. The trustee did not follow through writ of restitution with the Sheriff. The tenant can remain until they execute a writ of restitution. Court order restored possession to the trust. How long before a court the court order would expire? Alan will let the Board know what he finds out. The neighbors are concerned that there are people living on the property – squatters living on the property.

**EXHIBIT CENTER PROJECT/DONATION** – Commissioner Bauder is working with Rob Hamil on the project. Chance Wright sent a sketch of what he would like to see done with the Exhibit Center. He would like to have a gable at the entrance. They are still working on ideas. It is not known with the supply chain issues when the building can be ordered and erected. Commissioner Bauder is researching grants. There are many categories to look at whether it is arts grants, 4-H grants, etc. They are brainstorming on what activities could happen in the building. GOCO will not cover all of the \$250,000 needed. Other sources of money will be needed. Commissioner Bauder does want to start the project until she knows it is paid for. Commissioner McBride has heard a lot of good comments about the project. He believes that it should go forward. Commissioner Bauder asked to subscribe to a web service called Grant Watch which details lots of grants that are available. A subscription is \$199/year. The Board agreed it would be a good investment.

**JEFF REEVES DEBBIE UNREIN** – Jeff Reeves and Debbie Unrein joined the meeting. Mr. Reeves placed a call to Wayne Howard, the engineer he has been working with on the Red Lion Bridge project. Mr. Howard has talked to CDOT and discussed options for the grant for the Red Lion Bridge. The low bid came in \$1 million over the project budget. The Meyers and Sons bid was the only bid close to being acceptable. Items that put the bid over budget were mostly the fill material and concrete. The remote project location causes increased trucking expense. Increased costs for labor is also an issue.

Mr. Howard noted the three options available, the first is to talk to Meyers and Sons, and ask them to look at value engineering. They believe that overall, the project will not see a significant decrease although there could be some savings.

The option offered by CDOT, was to reject the bids, re-advertise, and hope that costs come down, and also hopefully get more bidders.

The third option would be to move forward and accept the costs in the bid from Meyers and Sons. They have had discussions with CDOT and it looks like their bid is in compliance with the bid request.

Jeff Reeves believes that the option of rebidding it and hopefully generate more interest in the project would be the best option. More grant money may be available in October and the county could possibly get at least half of what the concrete might cost.

The grant expires four years from the initial grant award. CCI and CDOT would not have a problem extending the contract. The first grant only covered the design amount. The four years could be up this year.

The Board agreed that the bids would be rejected and then re-advertised. Mr. Howard agreed that that option is the most appropriate. This needs to be done fairly soon to make arrangements to rebid the project. Jeff will contact CDOT and let them know the county is rejecting all bids.

**WIND TOWER ROADS** – Jeff Reeves reported that the roads are in pretty good shape. They want a conference call with Jeff and the Board to release the bond. Jeff does not have any issues with the roads. They are in as good or better condition than they received them in. Jeff will put them in contact with Jennifer to schedule a call on the agenda. Some citizens don't care for the roads and the majority agree that the roads are better. Jeff and Pelton met with Blatner personnel because of near misses as far as accidents. They put a 35 mph speed limit on all of their vehicles.

**JEFF REEVES RE LOADER FOR UTILITY TRACTOR** – Jeff Reeves has requested a cost for a loader for one of the tractors. It would be pretty handy to have a loader on one of them. The bids came in lower than expected at \$51,000. There was \$85,000 budgeted.

**DEBBIE UNREIN AND CHANCE WRIGHT RE MARQUEE** – Debbie Unrein and Chance Wright met with the board about suggestions for the design for the marquee to be placed at the fairgrounds. The marquee will be purchased from grant money. The Fair Board turned the project over to Chance to put together. There are two bids in the suggested price range. The money has to be spent by June. The electricity will come off of the light pole or from near the rental house.

The Board agreed on a single-sided marquee. It will be located near the Elm Street area and be visible to the intersection of Third Street and Broadway. A lot of events could be advertised and possibly generate revenue. Chance will talk to the Fair Board Thursday night and let them know what he has come up with. The marquee will be 6' x 11'. Verizon has a similar sign but it is not that big.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.