

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**January 16, 2024**

Present: Mike Brownell, Joe McBride, Alan Samber, Mattie Haney, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Dusty Johnson, Marty Gaines, Tom Kiel Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Mike Brownell 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 2, 2024 as written. Commissioner Brownell seconded, and the motion carried, 2-0.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – No revisions were made.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS** – The Board met with Kristan Lange to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated January 16, 2024. All bills were approved as presented.

**REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA** – There were no revisions to the Business Meeting agenda.

**DUSTY JOHNSON HOUSE 63 CANDIDATE** – Dusty Johnson introduced herself as this area’s candidate running for House District 63 Representative. Ms. Johnson is planning to hold community roundtables in every municipality and wants to attend as many local community meetings and events as possible to talk to people and get input on the issues that they are facing. She still has network contacts in the capital if the Commissioners have questions or need help with anything. She wants to be of help out here and ask the people what she needs to know so that she can go educate “the people at the dome and be the connection.”

Ms. Johnson noted that she is trying to do a manufacturing service provider outreach out here in northeast Colorado and Lockheed Martin is coming out this way. The tentative date is February 15, 2024. The Board suggested that she talk to Josh Sonnenberg for help with setting up some community roundtables in this area. Johnson noted that she has been in touch with him already and will be sure to stay in touch while planning these events. The Board also suggested that she contact Trae Miller with Logan County Economic Development and Logan County Chamber of Commerce Director Caitlin Baseggio.

Johnson is still helping draft some of the house bills and amendments as she is still under contract. She cannot share those until they are released because she is working as a drafter. They are going to benefit agriculture and rural communities.

The Emergency First Responder Chaplains Group for firefighters and police officers will be recognized on January 24<sup>th</sup>. These are the “supporters of the support.” They will be looking at the mental health of those who deal with mental health.

**MATTIE HANEY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NJC FOUNDATION** – Mattie Haney is the Executive Director of the NJC Foundation, the nonprofit organization that supports NJC in student scholarships and also capital improvement projects. For the past nine years, the County Commissioners have signed a letter of support for the NJC Foundation to apply for the COSI

grant. Ms. Haney wanted to discuss the success of the program prior to asking for another letter of support for this year's application.

The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative or COSI was started by the state of Colorado in 2014. There are many different COSI grants that change every year. The most consistent is the county matching student scholarships. The State of Colorado allocated \$6 million this year for Colorado counties. NJC has the opportunity to apply for counties in our service area. The NJC Foundation has applied for Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick Counties and shares Yuma and Washington Counties with Morgan Community College. Last year, the NJC Foundation through this grant, was able to award \$33,286 in COSI funds specifically to Logan County students. That is averaging about \$1,000 per student for 33 students. Students need to do two things to apply, complete a FASFA and a general application through the college. They are going to be working on getting the word out to more students to apply for this grant at the college.

COSI eligibility comes from PELL eligibility. If students are PELL grant eligible for federal grants for tuition support, then they're most likely COSI eligible as well. COSI keeps a lot of data. They had to do a lot of reporting every year based on these grants and the success of the grants. They found that COSI students that were awarded scholarships had a 90% persistent rate to their second year for NJC completion of their degree. The Colorado Department of Higher Education put out that number.

The newest grant that Haney would like to apply for will allow them to award \$28,332 scholarship dollars to Logan County students. That is the newest state allocation for Logan County plus the NJC Foundation raising money to match. The NJC Foundation is only allowed to get that allocation, the full allocation, if they can prove that they raise a 1:1 match of new scholarship dollars. Every year there is an incredible amount of fundraising. They would not be able to do this without community donors' support on this program. The county COSI grant numbers seem to be going down every year. That is because Colorado is shifting gears to focus more grant dollars on high in-demand jobs. While this program was successful, it will continue to decrease each year as far as the county grant goes. But they would like to ride it through to the end and access the allocation while they can. If the NJC Foundation is not able to access the Logan County allocation for this grant, then another college gets to take that allocation and that is another college recruiting our Logan County students to their college with these scholarship dollars and we would like to keep them at home in Logan County.

Ms. Haney supplied the Board with last year's letter of support to use as a template for a current letter of support. The Board agreed to sign a letter of support for this year's County COSI grants.

Ms. Haney also described another new COSI grant that was just applied for called the career launch. This is specifically for in-demand jobs. That is determined by the Colorado pipeline report that just came out. With their new Applied Technology campus building that is being built, they are going to have an incredible amount of capacity for welding students and electricians. They have their electrician program coming, and NJC just launched the newest paramedic program for NJC, their first in history. That is a different type of grant because it's competitive vs. an allocation. Ms. Haney would like to have the letter of support by February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE COLLECTION ASSIGNMENTS** - Commissioner McBride moved to approve the assignment of a Logan County Ambulance debt collections account to Wakefield and Associates, the account number ending in 1006 and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Brownell seconded and the motion carried, 2-0.

**DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNTY HEALTH POOL** – Commissioner McBride moved to designate Diana Korbe, as the Logan County representative to the Logan County Health Pool. Commissioner Brownell seconded and the motion carried, 2-0.

**APPROVAL OF LOGAN COUNTY GROSS SALARIES 2023** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the publication of Logan County Gross Salaries for 2023. Commissioner Brownell seconded and the motion carried, 2-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.