

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

January 17, 2023

Present: Joe McBride, Jerry Sonnenberg, Mike Brownell, Alan Samber, Ashley Smith, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Jeff Rice, Faith Blankenship, Rob Quint, Diana Korbe, Trae Miller, Russell Adels, Elinor Brown, Kristan Lange, Jerry Casebolt, Alicia Iannone, Breandan McEwen, Larry & Margo Mesch, Madison Hardman, Melvin Bustos, Barry Mason, Deanne Mason, Andy McClary.

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 3, 2023. Commissioner Brownell seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Commissioner McBride asked to add a storm update from OEM under Commissioner and Staff Issues.

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 January 17, 2023. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS – Kristin Lange met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated January 17, 2023. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA - None

RUSSELL ADELS – Mr. Adels asked about renting the indoor arena on Sunday afternoons. In the past, if the arena was open and not rented, the kids were allowed to practice getting ready for spring rodeos and other events they were involved in. The board would like to wait and hire someone to fill the building and grounds supervisor position before deciding on whether to open the arena on Sundays. In the past, Chance Wright would go over to the Exhibit Center and open the arena for Mr. Adels. The board will be doing interviews this coming Thursday. Mr. Adels stated that he will be in contact with the commissioners in the next couple of weeks for a decision.

PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS - Commissioner McBride asked County Attorney Alan Samber about the procedure and verbiage for opening a public hearing on the land use at the upcoming business meeting. Attorney Alan Samber stated, “If you don’t feel like you are ready to make a decision today, you can take testimony, hear the comments, close the public hearing, take it under advisement, and postpone indefinitely to another date at which time and place you will make your decision, and debate the merits of the application and whether or not you could do that.” Commissioner Sonnenberg asked if the chair could delay to until a certain date. This will give the two new commissioners a chance to listen to the tape of the first hearing because of a continuation that started in December.

STORM UPDATE – Jerry Casebolt, OEM, stated that as of four o'clock this morning, the weather service is calling for seven to twelve inches of snow. The I-76 corridor and the Fort Morgan area will be the hardest hit between seven and eight o'clock. Wednesday will be windy with gusts of up to 20 mph. Commissioner Brownell inquired as to how stranded vehicles will be handled. Mr. Casebolt stated they are in the midst of working with the four-by-four rescue and recovery group that was brought in back in December. They now have a pre-plan, and he will be deciding after the one o'clock call whether to pre-position them in the area. Mr. Casebolt spoke with Captain Valenti with State Patrol last night. Captain Valenti was on the call with CDOT and was getting some mixed messages. Mr. Casebolt contacted Greg Hafner, the head meteorologist, and he stated his confidence level is very high and to plan and prepare. Mr. Casebolt will contact all the major hotels in the area and find out what their availability is. The first line of defense is to place all the stranded motorists into hotels. They do not open shelters until the hotels are full. We do have our own cots and blankets plus all the rural fire agencies have 20-25 cots and blankets for stranded motorists. They can house them for a short period of time. Mr. Casebolt spoke with the Commissioners earlier this morning about a snow policy, we currently do not have a set policy. They are in the process of finalizing one. In the past, Mr. Casebolt and Commissioner McBride would go out at 5:30 a.m. to get an idea of what the roads may be like. This would give enough time for people that are coming in out of the county to get notice not to be out on the roads. Mr. Casebolt will set up a group text between him and the Commissioners for the Commissioners to make the final call. Mr. Casebolt would give his recommendations based on talking with Jeff Reeves, Road and Bridge Supervisor and Sheriff Brett Powell.

Commissioner Sonnenberg wanted to know how to fix the issue with Mr. Casebolt not being invited to the CDOT meeting. Mr. Casebolt stated that Captain Valenti with State Patrol is working to get that changed.

Commissioner Brownell asked about the communication to people about when the county roads are closed and impassable. Mr. Casebolt stated they used IPAWS, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. This sends a message to everyone that has a cell phone telling them not to get on county roads.

Commissioner McBride had a question on the bird flu and whether you are supposed to eat the wild birds. Commission McBride was just curious if the recommendations had changed. Mr. Casebolt stated that if you shoot the bird out of the air, it would be okay to consume it, but if the bird is injured on the ground, he would not recommend consuming it.

The meeting recessed at 9:20 a.m. and reconvened at 11:17 a.m.

SPORTSMAN'S EXPERIENCE – Alicia Iannone is with Media Logic Radio. The Logan County Fairgrounds is hosting Sportsman's Experience for the fifth year. Last year, they had 136-gun tables sold and they anticipate the gun tables selling quickly. That is one of the main things that brings people in. They have vendors that come as far as Georgia, two out of New Mexico and Michigan, and multiple out of Wyoming. They have expanded their marketing and searched for more vendors to bring people into our community. They are currently featured in Colorado Life magazine, Kansas Life magazine, and Nebraska Life. They want people to know about the gems that are located here in Logan County, such as reservoirs, shooting ranges, and the hiking trails. Alicia is asking the Commissioners for a 50% discount on the rental of the

fairground's facilities for April 28th and 29th, 2023. Commissioner Sonnenberg would like to meet with the other commissioners to look at the fairground reservation form and discuss the fees.

50th NATIONAL TRUCK-IN ADDITIONAL AMENITIES – Faith Blankenship addressed the Board of Commissioners about additional pricing for added services/amenities. They are currently asking to rent the cowboy pavilion, the exhibit center classroom for Tuesday and Wednesday, campsite hookups on the road and bridge side, a tractor rental for people mover, placing an RV at the gate entrance of the Desoto building. The commissioners agreed to rent the cowboy pavilion for the price listed on the reservation form; there would be no charge for the exhibit center classroom; and tractor rental is prohibited due to liability concerns. They are okay with one of the county employees using the tractor and the organization paying the wages of the county employee. The Commissioners have no problem with the Vanners parking an RV at the entrance of the gate and not being exposed to the sun all day. Commissioner Sonnenberg is willing to help the group in whatever way they can. They were denied use of the Desoto building, and he would like to see the group have a pleasant experience in Logan County. Commissioner McBride stated they will be bringing a lot of business to the area, and he is looking forward to seeing the display of vans.

UPDATE FROM MILLIG – Breandan McEwen is a construction manager with Millig. He is wanting to introduce himself to the new commissioners along with Colton Heaps, director of engineering. Since the beginning of the construction, they have broken it down into two phases. They are almost done with phase one and will be starting on phase two. Once the weather warms up, they will start with phase two, which includes replacing the HVAC systems in the courthouse and some work at the Justice Center. Breandan would like to speak on the issue of owner deficiencies, which is best described as things that are going on in the county's buildings they did not know about or did not contract, design, or sell but are showing up as it pertains to occupancy comfort, performance, and energy savings. Commissioner McBride wanted Breandan to be aware they are currently looking to fill Chance's position as the building and grounds supervisor. In the meantime, Commissioner Brownell will be taking calls regarding that area. Commissioner Brownell has taken over Byron Pelton's position as County Commissioner.

Commissioner McBride asked Breandan and Colton with Millig when the Heritage Center will be completed? They advised Commissioner McBride the building will be ready for move in this week.

Commissioner Sonnenberg addressed the issue with Millig using local vendors in the area. He stated the local vendor in which they are having issues with is an icon with the community. They have supported the community with making donations, support the youth and doing public service. Commissioner Sonnenberg stated if the communication issue is not back on track and rebuild the relationship with this local entity, he will not have much faith in the company. Breandan stated that he accepts the challenge and will be looking at working with the local vendor in the future and mending those relationships.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the Commission Proceedings; Commissioner Brownell seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

FEMA – Need to consult with Rob Quint, Planning and Zoning for update.

LEBSOCK PROPERTY CLEAN UP – Commissioner McBride stated that Commissioner Bauder brought this to the past Commissioner board due to a complaint about the property.

TIENA PRICE TRUST PROPERTY CLEANUP – Commissioner McBride stated that Commissioner Bauder had brought Tiena Price Trust Property Cleanup to the board due to a complaint in the community. The county had gotten a court order for removal and cleanup. Commissioner McBride and Rob Quint with Planning and Zoning had visited with the landowner to start working on the cleanup. If he does not keep moving forward, they will need to take him back to court.

EXHIBIT CENTER PROJECT/DONATION – The Board of Commissioners met with Debbie Unrein to put out a bid on bid.net and on the county website. Debbie will be putting out the bid this week for contractors to start the bidding process on the addition of the Exhibit Center Community Room.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned at 12:43 p.m.