

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

January 19, 2021

Present: Byron Pelton, Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Valerie Richards, Alan Samber, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Callie Jones, Jay Lee, Darlene Carpio, Wayne Johnson, Lindsey Bruntz, Alicia Iannone Trae Miller and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Pelton 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 12, 2020 as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Bauder abstaining as she was absent.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – The following topics were added to the Work Session Agenda: Assignment of a Logan County Ambulance Account to Wakefield and Associates for collection. The RFP for asbestos abatement for the Sunset Memorial Gardens building.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated January 19, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – The Board reviewed the Business Meeting agenda for January 19, 2021. The Intergovernmental Agreement creating the STAR is the local entities collaborating to create one tactical unit instead of each of the entities having their own tactical teams.

NAME CHANGE FOR NORTHEASTER JUNIOR COLLEGE - Jay Lee, President of Northeastern Junior College met with the Board concerning an effort to change the names of the junior colleges in the State of Colorado. Mr. Lee presented historical background on NJC. NJC has been around since 1941. In the beginning it was called Junior College of Northeastern Colorado and then later it was Sterling Junior College. In 1951 it was changed to Northeastern Junior College. Three junior colleges remain in Colorado, NJC, Otero Junior College and Trinidad-State Junior College. There are only 15 junior colleges still existing in the country.

Junior colleges were created as an extension of secondary schools, to allow local kids to complete their 13th or 14th year in their home towns before going out of town for college. , They were generally in small towns, or affiliated with universities.

Mr. Lee explained that the name change is being sought for several reasons, one being that there is a negative connotation with the word “Junior” implying that it is lower in rank than other colleges. There is a lot of confusion about the difference between a community college and a junior college. Recruiters for NJC always start the recruiting process with an explanation of what a junior college is and have been pushing for a name change for a long time. Also, there is a loss in the search process on the internet as NJC does not show up in a search engine using the key words “community colleges.” NJC’s enrollment has declined 30% over the last 10 years which is significant. The college feels that it needs to appeal to broader audience and that Junior College limits their ability to do that. The college’s mission has also changed, they now

have the ability to do Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in the institution. They are asking for Northeastern Junior College to become Northeastern College-Colorado.

Arguments not to change the name include the tradition, history, and devotion to the institution that they have known and loved over the years. Mr. Lee noted a majority of NJC employees are not in favor of the name change, many having graduated from NJC themselves and have lived in this area their entire life. Mr. Lee has not talked to the NJC Alumni association yet. He suspects that the alumni won't be in favor of the name change.

Mr. Jay Lee agreed to draft a support letter for the Board's signature and will send to the Chairman Pelton.

CONGRESSMAN KEN BUCK UPDATE – Darlene Carpio, Congressman Ken Buck's new aid met with the Board. She previously served for Senator Cory Gardner in the same region.

Congressman Buck sent a letter to President Elect Biden to ask that he speak with Speaker Pelosi and asked that she discontinue efforts to impeach President Trump for a second time. On January 13, he announced that he would vote no on the impeachment with a statement noting that Speaker Pelosi gave members just two hours of debate to discuss the rushed articles of impeachment. There were no testimonies under oath, no witnesses, no deliberation and no regular processes of the House Judiciary Committee. The rush to impeachment undermines the constitution.

Congressman Buck was able to get the BRICKS Act introduced at the end of congress last year which increases penalties for rioters especially those that involve serious injury.

The Water Act was introduced last year along with Senator Gardner. The legislation will be reintroduced again this year and allows mutual water storage and delivery companies to maintain their tax-exempt status even if they receive more than 15% of their revenue from non-member sources, as long as their monies are reinvested into maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

The Department of Labor announced, President Trump's requested administration change to the H-2A agricultural visa program. The program allows farmers and ranchers to combine their efforts to bring people from another company to work as seasonal harvest labor. If one farmer only needed them for half the time they were needed, they can share with another farmer in the same agricultural industry. Before, the farmer that brought them over would have to keep them and pay them even though their jobs were done and they could not share them with another farmer. The other thing it does is, if an application is done and the fee paid, they would have to all come over on the same date. If the workers were needed on staggered dates, a separate application and fee would have to be done for each date and each application would go through the same application process. Now they can use one application and stagger the dates.

The Board was asked where Logan County might need support. Commissioner McBride asked about the Space Force, The U. S. Space Command center headquarters were awarded to Alabama. It has been temporarily housed in Colorado Springs. The infrastructure in Colorado Springs area already and the support in the industry would have made a good location for permanent headquarters.

Ms. Carpio was asked about the length of time it took to release the CRP lands for grazing last year during a drought year. If the federal government could release CRP for grazing earlier this year especially if we have another dry summer, it would help the community.

LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE ACCOUNTS – Commissioner Bauder moved to send account 191204 in the amount of \$200 to Wakefield and allow the Chair to sign, Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:16 a.m.

SPORTSMEN EXPO – Representatives from Media Logic Radio, Wayne Johnson, Lindsey Bruntz and Alicia Iannone met with the Board to discuss the use of the Logan County Fairgrounds for the Sportsmen Expo April 30 – May 1. Media Logic Radio is planning to move forward with the event if things with the pandemic keep on path that they are on with Covid-19 infection rates consistently going down. The group will utilize the area under the grandstands for the ability to control traffic flow and for increased social distancing. They will need to know by April 1 whether the event will be allowed to be held.

They have already had a good response to save the date e-mails sent out. They expect a big event as vendors have been doing nothing for a year due to Covid-19.

Media Logic may be hosting the gun show themselves and will have appropriate insurance in place. Gun vendors all have their own firearms license and liability insurance. Firearms sales are dependent on the FFL license. There is no need to check them, however Media Logic plans to make sure every vendor is currently licensed in the State of Colorado to sell firearms. The Tanner Gun Shows have no gun shows listed for year. They normally do not get large gun show vendors here due to other gun shows in the larger communities. This may be an opportunity to help build this gun show for the future. So many of the major events are not happening, they might take the opportunity to come to this show and then come back for future events.

The group talked about getting a firearm vendor that may allow some hands-on demonstrations and asked about the potential of using the Logan County Shooting Sports Range. They would like to attract a manufacturer of scopes or other accessories could allow people to use their products and see how they work.

Media Logic is hoping to partner with NJC Mudevil Days again. Some students are being allowed back on campus starting tomorrow. There is no official word from NJC on that. They hope to have fun interactive events for the kids in the indoor arena.

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS ASBESTOS REMOVAL – Dave Appelhans has put together and RFP for asbestos removal in the building on the property. The columbarium came in a little lower than expected, so the City of Sterling has a little of that money left. The Board would like Alan Samber to review the RFP. There will be no asbestos waivers for the Logan County Landfill.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.