

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
January 7, 2020

Present: Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Byron Pelton, Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Kristan Lange, Jerry Casebolt, Cyndi Vandembark, Darlene Carpio, Rob Quint, Jeff Rice, Karah Karg and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the minutes of December 24 and 31 with the addition of Karah Karg in attendance at the December 24 meeting. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bauder abstained, as she was absent.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA - Jerry Casebolt will discuss the MOU with Super 8 for a warming center. Commissioner Pelton will discuss: 1) A proposed resolution in opposition to the re-introduction of wolves to Colorado; 2) The transfer of funds from the landfill to the CPC fund; 3) A CADE support letter. The Board will also add the Wakefield Tax Time settlement campaign.

REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF 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 7, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS - Kristan Lange met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated January 7, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA - The Board reviewed the Business Meeting agenda for January 7, 2020. The Board will add the Veteran's Service Officer's Report and Certification of Pay form for the month of December, 2019 to the consent agenda.

SUPER 8 WARMING CENTER MOU - Jerry Casebolt has been working with the Super 8 Motel on an MOU for a warming center facility to be used in case local highways are closed for people to rest and wait until the highways are opened up again. The agreement with Super 8 Motel was signed on December 27, 2019 by motel managers. Recently during a major storm highways were closed and hotels were full. Due to a lack of personnel, the Red Cross did not open any shelters and people were left without a place to go to wait until the highways were opened. The Super 8 Motel has a large common area which can be used for a warming center facility. The agreement will be placed on the next business meeting agenda. Mr. Casebolt is working on more MOUs for warming centers.

ANNUAL WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS - Jerry Casebolt distributed a flyer for the annual Weather Spotter Class which will be held on March 23, 2020.

DESOTO BUILDING USE AS A WARMING CENTER - Attempts have been made to reach out to Sandy Ills concerning the use of the Desoto Building as a warming center. Mrs. Ills has not returned his four calls. The Heritage Center was discussed as an alternative location for a

warming center. Jerry Casebolt will investigate this possibility. A warming center is a shelter operated by the county operates instead of the Red Cross.

EMERGENCY MANAGER IGA WITH MORGAN COUNTY - Jerry Casebolt discussed an IGA with Morgan County to allow him to assist with emergencies in Morgan County if needed and the Morgan County Emergency Manager would do the same for Logan County. Alan Samber has reviewed the IGA. Weld and Larimer Counties use the same document. The IGA will be scheduled for the next Business Meeting.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REINTRODUCTION OF WOLVES TO COLORADO - Commissioner Pelton presented a draft resolution in opposition to the reintroduction of wolves to Colorado. He has been in contact with Senator Sonnenberg and people in county resolution oppose the reintroduction of wolves. Colorado Parks Wildlife has come out against it. Several counties have come out against it as well. Resolution for next Board meeting. Board does not have enough information to decide.

LANDFILL TRANSFER FUNDS TO CPC FUND - Commissioner Pelton discussed an e-mail from Landfill Supervisor Matt Chrisp. Chrisp would like to transfer money to the Closure Post Closure (CPC) fund to catch up the CPC reserve fund. Patty Bartlett needs something in writing from the BOCC to do this. The Board will discuss this further at the work session next week.

SENATOR CORY GARDNER UPDATE - Aid to U. S. Senator Cory Gardner, Darlene Carpio, met with the Board to update the Board on Senator Gardner's achievements during the previous year. The Board asked for an update on the recent drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska. Senator Gardner is taking the issue seriously and has asked for an investigation.

Jerry Casebolt joined the discussion and reported that he attended a meeting yesterday morning concerning drone activity. A special task force has formed to search for answers to the drone sightings. Drones were seen in Logan County and more were seen in Morgan County Monday night. One was seen hovering over the Sterling hospital here night and over the power plant in Brush. One drone was chased by the task force until 9:30 p.m. last night to try to determine where it was going and it outran them. There is a danger of drones flying over the hospital if a patient needed to be transported by helicopter.

The FAA's stance is nothing criminal is going on. There are no rules to say the drones can't be flown. Lights as well as a waiver are required at night. Authorities don't know what companies are flying the drones. The FAA has reached out to all drone companies that have night flying waivers. They have all denied that they are the company involved.

The working theory is that the company that is doing the night flying is afraid to come forward because of the backlash that would come against it. The airspace above the hospital is not designated a no-fly zone. Airspace over Mile High Stadium is supposed to be a no fly zone. An officer from the Boulder SO put in artificial intel to be able to tell what drones are up in the air and who owns them. This only works on level five drones. These drones are using DJI technology and are probably level three drones, the military drones are level one drones although it is not known for certain because there are no good pictures. The drones can fly 2.5 - 3 hours and the pattern has been that they are flying from 7-9 p.m.

A drone expert from Boulder attended the meeting yesterday who actually works for the Boulder SO. They have a level 3 drone that can be programmed to fly from Boulder to Cheyenne and return with 30 lb package without having to land for further programming.

FAA did put a report out that they have been engaged with local airports. There was a drone above the Sterling airport Saturday. They aren't appearing hostile and nothing criminal has happened. There are no FAA regs to enforce at this time however, the FAA will probably be bringing out new regs because of this incident.

Ms. Carpio reported on many of Senator Gardner's achievements for the State of Colorado for 2019. He holds a record with 9-10 pieces of legislation being signed into law by the president. In comparison, the entire Colorado delegation combined, representatives and senators together have fewer pieces of legislation signed in to law than Senator Gardner alone has had signed into law.

Of interest to Logan County is legislation Gardner introduced to create a suicide hotline for people who are seeking help. Instead of an 800 number, Gardner suggested a national 9-8-8 suicide prevention number. The FCC quickly picked up on it and is making it happen. However, without legislation it could go away, so he will continue to support the legislation.

The Senate passed Gardner's VA Provider Accountability Act which brings more accountability to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill is part of Gardner's VA Readiness Initiative.

The National Defense Authorization Act was approved with Gardner amendments added including the largest pay raise for troops in a decade and 12 weeks of paid parental leave for all federal employees.

The Board previously asked about a program that funded a law enforcement task force that deals with drug related issues. Gardner's amendment to increase funding is included within the year-end spending bill. Previously this was handled through NECALG. It is available again, and is a grant that must be applied for by Sheriffs.

The Sheriff's organization needs to vote on the program. Yuma County volunteered to be the fiscal agent for a grant. Lincoln County Commissioners are also very interested. The Commissioners are interested in forming a Drug Task Force, however the Colorado Sheriffs have to decide.

The TRACED Act was signed by the president last week which cracks down on illegal robocalls and scams. The FUTURE Act was also signed into law which included Gardner's legislation to simplify the federal student loan application process.

Senator Gardner has pushed for the Department of Defense to re-establish a US Space Command. It will function under the Air Force located in Colorado Springs.

Ms. Carpio asked what top challenges the Board feels that counties are facing today. School funding, housing, childcare were top concerns identified.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

BEHAVIOR HEALTH DRAFT BILL - Commissioner Pelton presented a draft Behavior Health bill he is working on with Prowers County concerning improving public accessibility to behavioral health system information for entities that receive public funds. The bill is not yet ready to be introduced. The performance audit discussed on page 16 is proposed to be paid by the audit committee in legislature. They are currently looking for other co-sponsors. Current sponsors are Senator Sonnenberg, and Representatives Singer and Pelton.

WAKEFIELD - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the Wakefield and Associates Tax Time Settlement Campaign and allow the chair to sign. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

HERITAGE CENTER - Commissioner Bauder reported that she is looking for companies to bid on engineering for the expansion of the Heritage Center. She is looking for companies who are willing to work with focus groups and to plan to work with city officials. Commissioner Pelton noted that the county's purchasing policy does allow bid requirements to be waived for certain "one-of-a-kind" items. Commissioner Bauder stated that the engineering company used by the City of Brighton was highly recommended.

CADE LETTER - Commissioner Pelton presented a letter of support for the Board's signature with language taken from the CADE website.

2020 CENSUS - Commissioner Bauder noted that another meeting needs to be scheduled. The census will be Split up into marketing and outreach marilee and joe marketing. A lot of money available for project. Jane take care of meetings and working with census personnel.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN - The Board has reviewed the Economic Development Plan. Alan Samber noted that Enterprise Zone laws extend tax credits from 5 to 10 years. Commissioner McBride noted the reason the five year plan was chosen over the ten year tax incentive plan was due to the SYKES building being shut down and nobody was paying taxes for so many years because of the program it was under (becausee of the TIFF that was created.) The Board agreed to proceed with the plan - Commissioner McBride will work with Alan Samber to prepare the plan.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - Cyndi Vandebark of the Concerned Citizens for a Safe Logan County, asked the Board to work on zoning for wind energy projects.

Ms. Vandebark noted that the repowering only does blades and motors. The towers are "growing" and quickly becoming out of compliance with their own safety manuals. Companies are looking at 900 foot towers. Lightning striking those towers puts homes in danger if towers are allowed to be built within 1,000 feet of homes. There is no bonding for decommission of towers. If the company decides to leave, there is no recourse. Landowners are stuck with the towers.

The Board told Ms. Vandebark that these issues should be brought up before the Logan County Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

