

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**June 16, 2020**

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Rhonda Chrisp, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice, and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020 as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Commissioner Pelton added Jerry Casebolt to the agenda to discuss wind damage south of Fleming from the recent storm and waiver of landfill fees. Chairman McBride added County Treasurer Patty Bartlett to discuss HB1421.

**HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated June 16, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**HUMAN SERVICES PAYROLL** – Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services payroll for the period May 23, 2020 to June 5, 2020. The Board approved the payroll as presented.

**REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Rhonda Chrisp met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated June 16, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented. The bill from the City of Sterling for DeSoto Building utilities was an unusual amount \$828.00 and was questioned by the Board. Mrs. Chrisp stated that there likely is other buildings included on the billing. She will check on the bill and report to the Board.

**REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA** – The Board reviewed the business meeting agenda for June 16, 2020.

**2020 CENSUS** – No update.

**LANDFILL FEES WAIVER DUE TO STORM DAMAGE SOUTH OF FLEMING** – The Board requested Emergency Manager Jerry Casebolt check and map the damages the area affected by the micro-burst storm last week. The Board and Landfill Manager Matt Chrisp have received calls asking that the landfill fees be waived for debris from the properties affected by the storm. Casebolt believes that damage was mostly between State Highway 63 to I-76 up to State Highway 6 towards Fleming, and from the area of County Road 45 back to I76 and the Crook area. Many trees and buildings were damaged. Damages are worse further east towards Haxtun. Casebolt will give the Board a memo with a map of the area affected. The Board agreed that those residences within the storm path is allowed to bring storm debris to the landfill for no charge. If there is someone outside that zone, they can talk to Matt Chrisp to get approval.

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS, MAY 2020** - Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the Commissioners Proceedings for May, 2020. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:15 a.m. and reconvened at 9:18

**LOGAN COUNTY TREASURER PATTY BARTLETT DISCUSSION OF HB1421** – County Treasurer Patty Bartlett met with the Board concerning Governor Polis’ suspension of interest on delinquent property tax payments due to COVID-19. Commissioner Pelton explained that they have been working to get the original waiver of interest on the April deadline expanded to help businesses closed due to the pandemic. House Bill 1421 was passed on Sunday and signed by the Governor which states that the Board of Commissioners may, upon the approval of the County Treasurer, by resolution waive or suspend all interest between June 15, 2020 and October 1, 2020.

Patty provided everyone with a spreadsheet showing interest collected last year and how much each taxing authority received in 2019. The amount was just shy of \$50 ,000 in delinquent taxes.

The second column shows taxes collected through May 31. The deadline for payment of the second half of taxes was yesterday (June 15). The Treasurer’s Office has collected approximately \$4,000 in interest on 493 parcels. Patty expressed concerns as there was no waiver on interest between May 1 and June 15th. There are 493 parcels that have already paid interest and there is nothing in the bill that would refund that interest. She has a problem charging someone that is a little more timely in their payment and charging interest as outlined in the bill to the end of September. Patty is also concerned that this will delay receiving payments, and a lot of taxing authorities rely on the payments.

Patty talked to Sterling City Manager Don Saling who had no concerns with the bill and also talked with James of RE-1 Valley School District, who is concerned about any loss of revenue due to the bill.

Another difficulty is that this bill does not give an opportunity to give the money back. She does not think it is fair to charge one person (interest) and not others. The Treasurer’s tax collection software will have to charge for May and June as there is no waiver for that period.

The spreadsheet also shows percentages collected as of yesterday and one year ago. They are approximately 3% behind last year, however there are more dollars collected this year than at the same time last year. Bartlett said that she does not think 3% is alarming at this time. With what comes in the mail with a June 15 postmark, which will include the State-assessed properties, payments should total approximately \$904,000.

With this bill, the county may have to advance payments to entities which concerns her. Most of the schools have bond payments which must be paid.

Patty just participated in a call with the Treasurer’s Association. Six counties approve of the waiver of interest and seventeen counties do not plan to waive interest. A couple of counties

support only a 30-day waiver. This bill was brought by Weld County whose collections are 26% behind last year, the bulk of that is related to oil and gas. They felt that it was necessary to do something for oil and gas. The Treasurer's Association is not in favor of the bill, only five counties belonging to the Treasurer's Association are behind the bill. The others feel that it is not warranted. There are also concerns about Treasurer's Office software systems being able to handle something this complicated.

Commissioner Pelton noted that a majority of CCI's Taxation and Finance Committee. was in favor of the bill as they are concerned about local businesses. They wanted businesses to be able to free up some money and not have to worry about cash flow for their businesses. They were only OK with this for one time due to COVID-19.

Patty noted that they already have an option for a payment plan. She is more than happy to discuss with businesses if they have questions. The bill leaves the final decision up to the Treasurer.

The Board asked if there were any comments from the public on the matter. There were none.

The bill is not favorably supported by most County Treasurers. Patty noted that if they could have extended the first interest waiver, then it would have been better. Governor Polis was not willing to extend that first waiver.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.