

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**June 23, 2020**

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Rhonda Chrisp, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice, Cory Gaines and family, Darlene Carpio, Kaitlyn Maker, Tom Kiel, 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 16, 2020 as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Several Logan County Ambulance accounts will be referred to Wakefield and Associates for collection.

**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 23, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Rhonda Chrisp met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated June 23, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented. Commissioner Bauder noted that voucher number 129560 needs to be reimbursed by NextEra Energy. The Heritage Center subscription for anti-virus was discussed. Cynthia Mills sent for a refund on this as it will be taken care of by Paramount. The description on a payment to a ditch company was not for an inspection, it was the assessment on the shares.

**UPDATES FROM SENATOR CORY GARDNER'S OFFICE** - Darlene Carpio met with the Board to deliver updates from Senator Cory Gardner's Office. Senator Gardner spent time working in the Yuma Office during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

CARES Act funds are now being distributed down to the local levels. Local Governments feel they need more guidelines to tell them how to spend it. The Commissioners met last week with Logan County municipalities, to discuss how to divide CARES Act funds. The county is choosing to give money from the CARES Act to local businesses impacted by the COVID-19. The Board will sign an agreement today to detail how the funds will be distributed in Logan County. Counties are being encouraged to think outside the box for use of the funds for COVID related expenses.

Last week the Great American Outdoors Act which was sponsored by Senator Gardner and Senator Daines passed the senate. The President has said that this is something he will sign after it is hopefully approved through the House. The act is not funded from taxpayer dollars but is funded from a portion of royalties from off shore oil companies and will go to deferred maintenance expenses on public lands.

The list of projects that has benefited in the past from this funding includes a highway recreation park for the Town of Fleming in the amount of \$1,000. Pioneer Park tennis courts got \$21,640.

Merino School District got \$15,460, The North Sterling Reservoir in 1993 received \$235,000. Cities have also used funds for golf courses and tennis courts, high school tracks, and tennis courts and walking paths.

Also, the Senator has worked to get the Space Command Center located in Colorado Springs for the first six years. While this is an interim location it is hoped that it will be permanent. The jobs associated with the Space Command Center will be huge.

Locally Senator Gardner toured areas affected by the recent “macro-burst” including the Akron and Haxtun areas and during that time was engaged with Logan County Emergency Manager Jerry Casebolt concerning the Fleming and Crook areas which were hit hard. Gardner’s office has asked if this event can be considered regional for the assessment of claims. Wheat harvest will definitely be affected.

Highline Electric received a \$39 million dollar grant which covers six counties in Colorado and three in Nebraska for infrastructure improvements. The intern in the Yuma Office, Kaitlyn Maker was introduced by Ms. Carpio. Ms. Maker lives in Sterling and will be a senior attending Oklahoma Christian University in Edmund, Oklahoma.

**CORY GAINES RE NOT SHARING COVID-19 INFORMATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES** – Mr. Cory Gaines met with the Board to speak in opposition concerning the Northeast Colorado Health Department (NECHD) sharing addresses of persons who test positive for COVID-19 with dispatch and law enforcement so that first responders are aware that someone at that residence has or has had COVID-19 if they respond to a call to that address. This has been done with the hope that first responders will not be exposed to COVID-19 at a residence and have to go into quarantine for 14 days.

There was a concern that exposure of first responders could overwhelm the resources that the county has with limited personnel resources. Mr. Gaines noted that he understands the Board’s reasons for doing this and agrees and understands that in a rural area there are a lot less resources available. He also does not want to put first responders at risk for exposure to COVID-19.

Mr. Gaines believes that the county could achieve the goal of protecting first responders and the right of the public to keep private health information to themselves. Gaines believes that dispatchers should ask if persons who call for help are symptomatic. Sharing addresses of COVID-19 positive persons has been rejected by CDPHE, Arapaho County and Weld County.

Only the addresses are shared with the dispatch. According to a recent Sterling Journal-Advocate article, only one person sees the information and inputs it into the system. These addresses are flagged as COVID positive if they come up for a call. Gaines said that people talk without any reason and may share the confidential information. Also, computer glitches can cause an unintentional sharing of the information.

Gaines asked the Board to imagine if someone had shared addresses for people who own guns. This could be perceived as a risk as well. It is a right to have health information private as it is also a right to own and keep guns.

Mr. Gaines is not accusing anyone, but has a concern with how the implementation of this was not publicized. He only knows of it due to an AP article in a Denver paper and then contacted the Commissioners and city officials. This should have been publicized more.

Commissioner Pelton noted that the Board worked with the county's Emergency Manager and discussed the need to protect the community's first responders. Commissioner Bauder stated that at the time the decision was made was at the very beginning of the Pandemic. Numbers of a-symptomatic persons were unknown. Facts known about the disease were nil and the main objective was to keep first responders safe. Gaines asked at what point can sharing of the addresses stop and urged the Board in going forward if there is a second wave to not do this.

**COLLABORATION AGREEMENT REGARDING DISBURSEMENT OF CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT FUNDS BETWEEN LOGAN COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO AND THE TOWN OF CROOK, THE TOWN OF FLEMING, THE TOWN OF ILIFF, THE TOWN OF MERINO, THE TOWN OF PEETZ AND THE CITY OF STERLING** – Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the Collaboration Agreement regarding disbursement of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act Funds to County and Local Governments. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion.

During discussion the Board focused on business impact and helping them out rather than purchasing excess PPE for the county that will sit in storage for possibly years. PPE is part of the plan and will be available in the event of a second wave of the disease, so that businesses are not having to go out and purchase it at a higher price.

Long-term care facilities will also have access to the PPE as well to protect the most vulnerable among us. The motion carried 3-0.

**LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE COLLECTION ASSIGNMENTS** - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve assignment of Logan County Ambulance debt collections accounts with account numbers ending in 96001, 63005 and 46004 to Wakefield and Associates, and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**IGA, CITY OF STERLING EMPLOYEES LCSSC MEMBERSHIPS LOGAN COUNTY EMPLOYEES REC. CENTER MEMBERSHIPS** –Alan was working on this before the COVID-19 shutdown and had some questions. The City of Sterling has the working draft and sent it over for review. The IGA is intended to include all Logan County elected officials.

**TURQUETTE SEVERED MINERALS** – The Board received a letter from Patty Bartlett concerning assignment of several tax lien certificates for severed minerals. There was to be a transfer of the liens last year which included waiving interest. That deal failed but a new person has expressed interest in obtaining the liens. Alan Samber was going to work on a resolution last year to transfer the liens to the new party. Jennifer will forward the e-mail to Alan with Patty's letter and the information he needs to do a resolution.

**WIND FARM REGULATIONS** – Tom Keil, Planning Commission Member discussed wind farm regulations. The Planning Commission is interested in working on regulations. However,

the Board must instruct the Planning Commission to work on them. Keil asked the Board to relay to Rob Quint in the Planning Office to tell the Planning Commission to start work on the regulations. The Planning Commission did not look at the regulations recently suggested by the Fleming group. The Board also noted that the Planning Commission will need to start a Master Plan update discussion, which will need to include wind, gas, solar, and nuclear. The Board will let Rob know and to put the regs on the agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.