

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session  
June 4, 2024**

Present: Mike Brownell, Joe McBride, Jerry Sonnenberg, Alan Samber, Dusty Johnson, Kay Rich, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Rick Cullip, Jeff Reeves, Caitlin Baseggio, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024 as written. Commissioner Sonnenberg seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Commissioner McBride added Wakefield and Associates Collection accounts under new business. Commissioner Sonnenberg Jeff Reeves for discussion of paving additional roads in Logan County.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS** – The Board met with Kristan Lange to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated June 4, 2024. All bills were approved as presented.

**DUSTY JOHNSON COLORADO HOUSE 63 CANDIDATE** – Dusty Johnson joined the meeting. She has been meeting with each county in the district on a rotating basis every two to three months to listen to what is happening in the county and compare with different counties. She told the Board that Washington County is facing a problem of not having transportation funds when they release inmates from prison or jail to take prisoners to other locations. They open the jail doors, and the released inmates walk out and they're on their own to go where they can go. That is an issue because if they're not locals, they're not in the communities that are most likely to have resources and support systems for them. They believe they are more likely to commit the same crime or another crime and end up back in the system. Morgan County uses volunteers or Sheriff Deputies that will take their time and volunteer to drive them to Greeley or to Brighton to catch a bus or other transit. Logan County has never transported released inmates out of the county.

Ms. Johnson suggested a pamphlet or other information be available to help released inmates with resources so that they know what is available, so that the county is not adding them back to the system for mental health behavior, or lack of resources. Commissioner Brownell commented that the bus stop is at the Reata gas station which is close to the jail and prison.

Morgan County is partnering to get the free domain film to show called Devastated. It is about the Colorado fentanyl crisis. Ms. Johnson saw it in Greeley, with Sheriff Martin along with Centennial. She feels it needs to be more on the radar and is trying to connect more resources to it. It is free, we need to get it into communities, we need to get people to look for it on YouTube so that they see what resources we have. We do have a lack of resources out here, but what we do have is often not advertised and people do not know about it.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any bills that came through the legislature that are affecting Logan County resources. Commissioner Brownell stated that the one bill that he was watching died in committee. This bill wanted each governmental entity, municipality or jurisdiction to regulate pesticide use. In his opinion, the Department of Ag does a good job, and we need to have uniform statewide regulations.

Johnson said that there were rumors already going around the Denver area that PETA is going to try to bring back their bill to ban animal husbandry. They want to make sure that we can't capture it, we can't artificially inseminate it, etc. The reason the bill died last time was the pets. This time around, we're going to take the pet aspect out. We're starting to tell the story first as opposed to chasing it.

Commissioner McBride asked what the animal husbandry bill was trying to stop. Ms. Johnson stated that they say the cattle didn't give consent to get fixed, they didn't give consent to have someone artificially inseminate them, it's the animals' rights that we can't do any of that and choose what they can or can't do. PETA is that it lost on the livestock cattle. They might say that we have so many puppies and kittens that need homes. They might carve it out that way, that it is a humane practice for dogs and cats, but for the cattle industry they don't want them to be able to handle it that way. There's no common sense and no accountability.

**HERITAGE FESTIVAL FUNDING** – Kay Rich presented an updated budget and flyer for the Heritage Festival. The request is for the amount the Board has budgeted \$1,500.00. This year they are excited about the printshop demonstration by the people that did the restoration on their printshop after the flood. The group is from Nashville and will be coming back out to do printshop demonstrations. A big part of the entertainment budget is going for that. Mr. John Schaffner, the Cowboy Poet will be there and will also be doing Dutch Oven cooking at his chuck wagon. Dennis and Jack will be the main musical entertainment. The little train will be here. There are some great sponsors, such as First Farm Bank, Colorado Housing Authority, as well as the County and the City of Sterling.

Commissioner McBride commented that the buses supplied will be Prairie Express. Kay Rich commented that the buses are a huge benefit for them. Last year they had people from 27 counties outside of Logan County and about ten states attend the festival. Last year approximately 2,500 people attended the event. The Fourth being on a Thursday this year, they expect will keep attendance a little lower and more local. Ms. Rich will submit her request for tables and benches from the fairgrounds. The Board agreed to fund the amount again this year.

Rich also told the Board about an exhibit that is coming from the Smithsonian called Crossroads, Changes in Rural America. The exhibit will be here around the first part of August. It is all about rural communities and how we're dealing with change.

**ROAD PAVING MARTIN MARIETTA** - Jeff Reeves met with the Board. He has been in contact with Martin Marietta. There are two roads that need to be taken care of. The cost is \$285,600 a mile for a three-inch overlay. There is \$1,414,967 left in the 2024 overlay budget. To do these overlays will cost approximately \$1.2 million.

County Road 34 is in bad shape for the manure haulers and Co-op and the truck traffic. Commissioner Sonnenberg drove County Road 37 yesterday and saw the issues out there. He's had a lot of complaints from that road. It's a safety issue.

They will not be milling on County Road 37 and will not have that cost. Martin Marietta can mobilize there and keep the same prices that they bid. He will be able to have three inches instead of two and a half to get those four and a half miles done. Patching will need to be done on the road before the overlay is done. County Roads 37 and 39 are the worst roads, but County Road 37 needs to be taken care of now, or it's just going to get worse. If we can save that road this year and then next year, we can focus on what needs to be done further north.

Commissioner Sonnenberg thanked Jeff Reeves for his recommendation and moved that the Board authorize the Road and Bridge Department to overlay County Road 37 from County Road 46 north for two and a half miles and County Road 34 for two miles. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried, 3-0. Reeves said that Martin Marietta will move in this weekend and set up and get the overlay done by next Saturday. He said that they have been great to work with and have done a wonderful job.

**MONHEISER ROAD** – Jeff Reeves will talk to Mr. Monheiser to get clarification on his request. Monheiser would like to extend the road from Quality Equipment north to come out where the old dump road is, which is County Road 30. Reeves told Monheiser to call him when he has time to drive it so that he can look at it. Monheiser is trying to develop some thirty-five acre lots that this road would give access to. The Board discussed subdivisions and their infrastructure. Reeves told the Board he would not recommend that the Board adopt the roads in the future. Morgan County does not adopt roads and a lot of other counties do not adopt roads. For example, the Cottonwoods Subdivision. The Commissioners at that time adopted the roads. The asphalt was poorly done. The county had to spend a whole year's asphalt budget to repave it because it needed to be redone. The same with Country Club Hills. There's a lot of money involved in maintaining those paved roads. Country Club Hills and Pawnee Ridge paid for their roads to be paved and the county adopted those roads with the agreement that the county would take over and maintain them. It costs almost three times as much to pave a subdivision road as it does to pave a county road.

The meeting recessed at 9:31 a.m. and reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

**LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE COLLECTION ASSIGNMENTS** - Commissioner McBride moved to approve assignment of Logan County Ambulance debt collections accounts to Wakefield and Associates, the account numbers ending in 9001 and 9002 allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Sonnenberg seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

**INSPECTION OF COUNTY JAIL** – Alan Samber recommended that the Board go into Executive Session at the last meeting for the jail inspection because in Brett's email he indicated that there was going to be some substantial discussion regarding security arrangements. The Board shared that with Jeff Rice because Rice wanted to accompany the Board on the jail inspection. If there's substantial discussion of things, the Board should go into Executive Session. But when the Board is just doing a jail inspection, and if the Board is not discussing things amongst themselves, just asking the jail staff questions, Samber does not think that the Board needs to go into Executive Session every time jail inspections are done. The statute says the Board is supposed to inspect the

jail and note any irregularities. If the Board wants to discuss what to do about the irregularities, the Board can come back into open session and discuss what was seen and what needs to be done to fix it. Samber noted that the Board does not need to be in the habit of going into executive session every time it does a jail inspection. The Board has a statutory obligation to do a jail inspection at least once per year. Obviously, it can't be an open meeting because the jail is not open to the public. The CTSI Loss Prevention person, Dana Foley, will be at the jail inspection today. He did not think that the inspection needed to be recorded. Mr. Foley did recommend that Board members eat at the jail so that there was an inspection of food quality. Commissioner McBride appreciated the suggestion but said he will be having lunch at Baja.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.