

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

March 17, 2020

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder (attending via phone conference), Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Rhonda Chrisp, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice, Rob Quint, 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 March 10, 2020 as written. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Commissioner Pelton added discussion of a memo to the Logan County Landfill to not accept wind turbine blades. Commissioner Bauder discussion on closing the Heritage Center which will be discussed under the COVID-19 Updates.

HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated March 17, 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 March 17, 2020. The Board approved all bills as presented. Commissioner Bauder asked for clarification of the amount to CenturyLink being paid out of Contingency Reserve as it is a long-distance surcharge. Rhonda will check on that and let the Board know. Commissioner Bauder also asked if Logan County Economic Development had paid for utilities for the Co-working space in the Annex and if they are being billed on a monthly basis. Rhonda will also check on that and report back to the Board.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA - The Board reviewed the Business Meeting agenda for March 17, 2020.

WIND TURBINE BLADES/LOGAN COUNTY LANDFILL - Commissioner Pelton stated that Landfill Supervisor Matt Chrisp has asked if there is a decision on the landfill accepting windmill blades. The Board agreed that the blades will not be accepted at the Logan County Landfill until further notice. More discussion will take place in the future. Jennifer was instructed to e-mail Matt Chrisp that the blades will not be accepted until further notice.

2020 CENSUS – A 2020 Census Kickoff was held last week. Commissioner Bauder completed her census online in 7 minutes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Tabled.

HERITAGE CENTER EXPANSION – Tabled.

CONGRESSMAN KEN BUCK UPDATE – Congressman Ken Buck's Aide Dusty Johnson met with the Board to update it on the Congressman's recent activity. Buck posted a video challenging Presidential Candidate Joe Biden and former Presidential Candidate Beto O'Roarke

to start with him if they plan to start taking guns from law-abiding citizens. Rep. Buck was given permission from Capitol Hill Police to display an unloaded, locked, American flag-wrapped AR-15 in his office located in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C.

Rep. Buck voted “no” on funding for the Coronavirus bill on March 5. The administration asked for \$2.5 billion and the Democrats added a lot of extra inappropriate and wasteful spending in the bill because they knew it would be difficult to vote against it. The increase of \$8.3 billion is ridiculous.

Johnson was asked about payroll tax cuts. Rep. Buck has not come out with a statement on that matter at this time. She will ask and follow up with the Board.

Rep. Buck co-sponsored HR 5862, the Stop Greenlighting Driver Licenses for Illegal Immigrants Act. The bill supports President Trump’s efforts to combat green-light sanctuary laws. The bill withholds certain federal grants for states that give drivers licenses to illegal immigrants and shield criminal illegal immigrants from deportation.

COVID-19 UPDATE – Jerry Casebolt updated the Board on COVID-19. It was decided that the Heritage Center is closed effective immediately. Meals will still be prepared at the facility and delivered to seniors. Meals will be placed outside the senior’s door and verify that the individual is home to receive the meal.

The Visitor’s Center is also closed as per the State of Colorado. Pam Bacon reported that her office is limiting the Motor Vehicle office to four people in the office at one time. They are recommending that the public do as much business as possible online or through the drop box.

Casebolt recommended closure of the fairgrounds. President Trump is discouraging gatherings of over ten people for the next ten days. Casebolt recommended that all county-owned facilities be closed to the public for the next 15 days. The Board agreed to close all county facilities for the next fifteen days to the public. The DeSoto Building will also be closed. The Landfill will remain open.

Casebolt reported that the Weather Spotter class and the Hazard Mitigation meetings are canceled.

The Board asked for comments from Elected Officials. Sheriff Brett Powell announced that the jail is limiting to summons and release of arrested people instead of holding them unless there are felonies and domestics. Those arrested must be medically cleared at the hospital before being booked into the facility. They will also be medically cleared by jail medical staff. Visitation of inmates has been shut down until April 6. Money can be put on inmates’ books via the internet. With the new telephone company, inmates can text family and others. The Sheriff’s Office will respond to calls as usual. Dispatch has put protocols into place which questions callers whether there are symptoms of illness present so that law enforcement knows what they are going into. Courts will postpone civil trials. Criminal trials will be postponed if possible, considering the defendants’ rights to a speedy trial. There is limited access to courts and probation departments.

New cleaning supplies will be in this afternoon to help disinfect county buildings.

Casebolt noted that a form is available to provide to small business owners to track losses due to COVID-19. Commissioner Bauder has forwarded the form to the Chamber of Commerce Director. Guidelines are available for businesses to apply for federal funding on SBA.gov. The county does need a copy of the form to track losses in the county.

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight must be held as scheduled. The department is encouraging people on the agenda to the meeting tonight to call in and answer the board's question if there are any.

City Manager, Don Saling reported that City Hall is going to close to the public. The City has a drop box operating and citizens can call in for assistance. Saling also stated that the Rec Center, Library, and Museum are closing doors. All utilities may be paid by utilizing the drop box. There is no threat on the water plant.

The Work Session recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 9:55 a.m.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION CONTINUED - County Assessor Peggy Michaels expressed concerns about the public traffic in the basement of the Courthouse. Employees must use the restrooms, as long as the building is open to the public, it is difficult to keep employees safe. She plans to stop sending appraisers out to do appraisals for the foreseeable future.

County Clerk and Recorder Pam Bacon has procedures in place to operate if the building must close. The Courthouse Motor Vehicle Office has the most public in and out of the building.

There are no positive cases of COVID-19 in Logan County as of this morning. The Merino school has been exposed twice. Commissioner Bauder has been exposed through the school. Rural areas are not closed down and people are coming from the front range for services such as marriage licenses.

Employees that are able to work from home may be assigned a laptop computer and a VPN network to access all files and shared drives on the server. Department Heads and Elected Officials will be asked to submit names of employees to be assigned a VPN.

It was suggested that the Courthouse could close all but two main entrances with a manned service desk in the basement to avoid people traveling around the building. Extra cleaning of the buildings will be provided throughout the day. Disinfectant will be provided to each office. Disinfectant will be provided to each office to take care of employee's personal space. Cleaning staff will clean door knobs, railings and restrooms.

DHS – Dave Long reported that he is waiting for State guidance as to what he can do. They are screening customers with health questions. He is willing to say stop all visitations. However, many are court ordered. Although the paperwork is available online, many of the clients need help completing it.

Departments on the front range are all closed but they have different processes in place to complete the required paperwork.

Jerry Casebolt and Chance Wright have a meeting at the fairgrounds to work out logistics for receiving supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile.

Jerry Casebolt distributed copies of a Mutual Aid Agreement for Disaster-Emergency Mutual Aid and Disaster-Emergency Funding Assistance between Logan County and the Northeast Colorado Health Department. The agreement that is currently in place is very outdated. Alan Samber has reviewed the agreement. The Board signed the agreement previously and it needs to be ratified today. Commissioner Pelton moved to ratify the Mutual Aid Agreement for Disaster-Emergency Mutual Aid and Disaster-Emergency Funding Assistance between Logan County and the Northeast Colorado Health Department and allow the Chair to sign. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman McBride moved to approve Resolution 2020-9 a declaration of local disaster emergency due to the COVID-19 issue. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

Alan Samber presented a resolution to authorize the Board to conduct emergency meetings without prior notice, Resolution 2020-10 concerns Colorado Open Meetings. Commissioner Pelton moved to approve Resolution 2020-10, Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The Board discussed that all three commissioners should be present for discussion on COVID-19 matters. It was determined that voting would be done via e-mail, that way it is all on record. The County Attorney will be included on so that it is all on record. The Board will move the Commissioners calendar to the parking lot door window.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS Chance Wright reported that the fairgrounds are closed and all events occurring the rest of the month are canceled except the Food Bank Distribution which will distribute food to people as they line up in their cars and drive through. NJC classes are on extended spring break.

Jane noted an e-mail from the Combined Courts. Due to COVID-19 courts are closed with the exception of those items which need to be scheduled due to the right for defendants to have a speedy trial, because the courts are tasked with protecting rights of citizens.

Commissioner Pelton moved to post notification of Commissioners meetings on the south doors of the Courthouse until the Courthouse is open to the public again. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

Marilee Johnson reported that the announcement of the fair entertainment for 2020 will be done virtually through the Logan County Fair Facebook page. Tickets will go on sale that night for all events. Tickets will be on sale online and over the phone.

Dave Long reported that TANF dollars will be made available. Counties will be using reserves. State reserves are also available.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.