

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
March 19, 2024

Present: Mike Brownell, Joe McBride, Jerry Sonnenberg, Alan Samber, Rob Quint, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Rick Cullip, Pam Bacon, Jeff Rice, and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Sonnenberg moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2024 as written. Commissioner McBride seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – No revisions were stated.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS – The Board met with Kristan Lange to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated March 19, 2024. All bills were approved as presented.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – There were no concerns stated.

COOLING TOWER COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX – Rick Cullip met with the Board to discuss the cooling tower for the HVAC system for the Courthouse and Annex. Cullip informed the Board that it has been brought to his attention that the motor installed on the cooling tower is a single-speed motor. The previous cooling tower had a two-speed motor. They caught it in connecting the system. Some things came up with the new system, how it ramps up immediately and is on continuously until it shuts off due to the way it cools. They've brought to us that it would be a good idea to put a VFD on this motor, meaning a variable speed that changes that motor where it doesn't start slow and takes a little while to come on. They can regulate the speed, regulate the cooling, everything based off the program. Cullip noted he did go in and check and the cost is very reasonable. It is recommended. He checked with Xcel. We would qualify for a rebate of approximately \$1,300.

The cost for the change would be about \$400-\$550. Representatives from Evapco and Cisco say they won't even sell an evaporative cooler now that doesn't have either a two-speed motor or one wired with a VFD. There are two options, we could do this now, or leave the single-speed motor installed as it is and hope that we don't have any trouble. The single speed motor has been on the cooler for five years now.

Cullip did not know why the single-speed motor was installed five years ago. He thought maybe for the price difference. It is probably about an \$8,000 difference in the price of the motors. All the information that he is getting from the companies and from the electricians has said that the VFDs are with the new technology is that they are a great option that nobody has anything negative to say about them. Now is a good time to upgrade that motor with a VFD, or we could wait it out. If we do ever have any trouble with that, then we know we're going to

have to go with a two-speed motor for the replacement. Doing that though, we would still spend more than what they are offering this VFD for, which is \$6,883 for a 10 HP, three phase motor.

Commissioner Brownell's concern is that we have a brand-new heating and cooling system that is supposed to be operated with a variable speed motor. He is worried that long term, if there are issues with the system, that are under warranty that it might be a concern if we do not do what is recommended now. Cullip stated that Millig didn't indicate that, they simply have recommended this as a better solution than what we have. The total installed cost is \$14,000. Commissioner Brownell feels that the VFD is probably the better solution.

Commissioner Sonnenberg moved to approve the purchase of the VFD option and have Rick Cullip proceed with the installation. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

SPECIAL ELECTION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FOUR VACANCY - County Clerk Pam Bacon met with the Board to discuss the special election for Congressional District Four (CD4) to fill the vacancy. Pam explained that it could be combined with the primary election, which would save money, but it's still going to blow the election budget because they will still have to do separate ballots and envelopes. The way she understands it, it will be run like a general election, which means the whole primary will be run that way.

A normal general election costs \$60,000 - \$65,000. She is estimating that with the additional ballot, second envelope, postage, more judges, etc. we're probably looking at more like \$80,000 for the June elections instead of \$35,000 that we usually run.

She wanted to let the Board know she will be over budget by the end of the year due to the special election. There will be another meeting tomorrow night and she will know more about it. But what she is reading in the statutes, she is confident that it is going to be a primary election and then the CD4 vacancy election on the same day, same time with a separate ballot, separate envelope.

Every Democrat, Republican and every registered voter can vote in the vacancy on the special election. There was some talk about putting the vacancy on the top of the primary ballot. The State is still determining that. The Attorney General certifies the primary and CD4 candidates to the Clerk, so it's up to them how they will run it. If they put it all on one ballot, then it will cost much less, closer to \$35,000 versus \$80,000.

Debbie Unrein joined the meeting. The Board asked if there were funds in reserve to help pay for the special election. Debbie answered yes, that's where the money would come from to fund the special election. Debbie asked Pam if the state would help pay for any of the CD4 special election. Pam noted that unfortunately, the State does not pay for primary elections or vacancy elections. The cost will be paid for from all county funds. The election budget will not be overspent until the November election, and that is if they run separate ballots, envelopes, and postage, for the CD4 special election requiring more judges and equipment. There are 190

people that don't fall into Republican, Democrat, or the unaffiliated category. The Clerk's Office can print their ballots in-house for them on their VOD printer.

The Board thanked Pam for the information. Pam agreed to keep the Board informed of what is decided after tomorrow's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.