

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

March 2, 2021

Present: Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Joe McBride, Valarie Richards, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Mark Phillips, Trae Miller, Patty Bartlett, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Work Session as written. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried. Commissioner Bauder moved to correct the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Work Session to add the name of Brooke Mollahan to those present. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Valarie Richards met with the Board to review and approve the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated March 2, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Chairman Pelton added discussion of three letters of support for the Board’s signature and picnic tables. Commissioner McBride added discussion of coins and Jennifer Crow added discussion to schedule the Jail Inspection.

JAIL INSPECTION – Commissioner Pelton noted that the Jail Inspection will be scheduled on the first Business Meeting in April.

TAX ABATEMENT - Pastor Mark Phillips, Patty Bartlett, Logan County Treasurer and Trae Miller joined the meeting. Mark Phillips discussed a situation involving a former elementary school that was taken over by an individual which has delinquent taxes owed to the county which seems to be the only thing stalling the donation. The individual is desiring to sign over the building to a non-profit organization. The property will first be signed over temporarily to First Baptist Church under the auspices of Celebrate Recovery. They will be working with a consortium of organizations including a mobile unit that comes into town that area providing treatment and care. There is potential of working with Island Grove using the facility to augment what is available in the community.

Pastor Phillips received a phone call from Trae Miller with Logan County Economic Development which conversation lead to possible use of some of the school property for a Centennial Mental Health project.

The possibility of using the property for helping people with addictions and recovery. The concept is to include under one roof several of the different agencies working with and dealing with the same issues. The organizations all approach it from different aspects and have different resources to put towards it.

Family Resource Center wants to partner heavily in the project. Yvonne is researching grants for working on adding to the infrastructure in the building. The present owner is within a day of wanting to sign over. Pastor Phillips asked the Board about the possibility of getting some or all of the taxes that are past due on the property waived so that it doesn’t become a hindrance to the project.

Commissioner McBride noted that he would be fine with abating the county’s portion of the taxes and that the project would help that area of town. However, the other entities that would have to waive their

portion of the taxes would need to be consulted. The school district, the City of Sterling and several other taxing entities would need to be consulted. Pastor Phillips has a meeting with the school superintendent today to discuss the matter. Patty Bartlett will provide documentation of all taxes owed. She noted that the property already has a tax lien and it is probably a county held tax lien, and is not owned by anyone.

Phillips explained that they are hoping to establish more recovery programs and will be offering spaces to different counselors, the mobile unit has been looking for a resource of a facility to put more of a permanent facility here because the needs are high, would be one of the tenants of the facility. Other agencies involving medical people are interested to be there to help with that aspect of things. It is truly a consortium of people.

Commissioner Pelton, Mark Phillips and a Weld County Commissioner met with Island Grove of Greeley. Much of the eastern part of Weld County gets resources from Logan County. The idea was for Island Grove to operate a satellite facility working with resources in this area. The goal is to create a temporary facility for people to be detoxed and helped with resources available for them.

Celebrate Recovery is seeing 50 people a week for the last year and is drawing people from six different counties. Phillips wanted to meet with Logan County to see what role Logan County and others could play in this. He has attended a Centennial Mental Health board meeting to get their insight. Each group can bring those things they do well in to table. What they struggle with is what Celebrate Recovery does well.

To honor the person who has maintained the building for the past few years, they hope to allow local artists to display their art in the building and to do some garden work to make the place attractive. The zoning in the area will need to be determined. Trae Miller can check the zoning with city. Drug use and addictions are a huge problem in this area.

Alan Samber will look at the statute to determine what the right avenue to use for the taxes owed. There are limited reasons an abatement can be issued for such as a clerical error in assessment. There may be a way to grant sufficient funds to the non-profit that will allow the non-profit to pay the taxes with that money. Alan will research the matter.

Patty Bartlett commented that the Commissioners could apply for a deed to the property, making the County the owner. Then the County could convey the property to the non-profit. However, it is a minimum of three month process.

CATTLEMENS DAY RESOLUTION – Commissioner Pelton introduced a resolution he would like to put on the Business Meeting agenda today. The resolution came from Elbert County. Many counties across the state are going to adopt resolutions celebrating meat and cattlemen in their communities. Resolution 2021-7 recognizing past and current contributions of Logan County cattlemen and producers and other livestock producers.

FEMA UPDATES – Rob Quint met with the Board to give an update on the properties that are in violation of the FEMA regulations. Rob is working with Anne Korbe and an engineer, Forrest Leaf to get the missing elevations and information on four or five properties. He will also help Ms. Korbe with some of the documentation on some of the properties. On another property she has to shoot a final elevation (as constructed). That will clean up all of those properties and then it will be down to the ones that are problems. There is no timeline on the above because Ms. Korbe has to wait for Forrest Leaf to help her.

REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – The Board will need to open a public hearing for the approval of the Special Use Permit.

ANNIVERSARY COINS - Commissioner McBride has been contacted by a person who wants to sell 100 anniversary commemorative coins to the county at \$4 per coin. The coins date back to 1987 and were for the 100th anniversary of Logan County. The Board agreed that the county is not interested in purchasing the coins.

JASON SANTOMASO USE OF COUNTY'S PICNIC TABLES – Jason Santomaso would like to use the county's picnic tables on March 20. He has talked to Chance and he is ok with it. The Board agreed that Mr. Santomaso will be allowed to use the picnic tables and will need to transport them himself.

The meeting recessed at 9:27 a.m. and reconvened at 9:56 a.m.

SUPPORT LETTERS – The Board agreed to sign a support letter for the NJC Foundation for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarships Initiative. The Board also agreed to sign a letter in support of SB 2021-30 on Conservation Easements. Pam Bacon had requested that the Board sign a letter in support of the Electronic Recording Technology grants from the County Clerk's Association. The Board agreed to sign this support letter as well, noting that since 2018, Logan County has received approximately \$216,623.24 which has been used for the upgrades in technology for the Logan County elections equipment.

RIGHT OF WAY SIGNAGE - An e-mail was received from a person who wants election signs removed from county road right of way on County Road 30. The county does not have the same rules as the state. Commissioner Pelton discussed this with him Saturday that the county does not want to infringe on freedom of speech. The Board agreed. If the sign does not hinder the vision for traffic, there is no point in requiring the sign to be removed.

NJC NAME CHANGE SUPPORT LETTER – Commissioner McBride asked why the support letter regarding NJC's proposed name change went out without Commissioner Pelton's signature, as he was under the impression that the entire Board agreed to support the issue after the meeting with Jay Lee. Commissioner Pelton stated that he did not sign the letter due to a conflict of interest as his wife works at NJC. Jay Lee forwarded the letter to Senator Sonnenberg who contacted the Board and asked about the missing signature. Moving forward, support letters will be under individual signatures unless they have the support of all members of the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.