

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session**  
**March 26, 2024**

Present: Mike Brownell, Joe McBride, Jerry Sonnenberg, Alan Samber, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Neil Murrin, Rick Cullip, Pam Bacon, Jerry Casebolt, Diana Korbe, Trae Miller, John Haynie, 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 19, 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 26, 2024. All bills were approved as presented.

**NEIL MURRIN RE: NAMING COURTHOUSE ANNEX** – Neil Murrin, the son of Robert J. Murrin of Murrin, Kasch, Kahn Associates, Architects who designed the Logan County Courthouse Annex met with the Board requesting that the building be named after his father. He presented the Board with a packet of information about the many buildings that Murrin, Kasch and Kahn Associates designed in Sterling and the surrounding area. Mr. Murrin suggests that the Annex be named the Robert J. Murrin Courthouse Annex.

County Attorney, Alan Samber stated that a resolution by the Board would be all that would be needed to name the building. Commissioner Sonnenberg is willing to continue discussion regarding naming the building after Mr. Murrin due to the extensive involvement of Mr. Murrin in the entire community. Mr. Murrin's preference is that the Annex be named after his father as it was the first project that Mr. Robert Murrin was commissioned to do in Logan County. Commissioner Sonnenberg noted that the Board would have a conversation with the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor regarding costs to put signage on the building. The Board thanked Mr. Murrin for coming in and told him that they will be in touch.

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS FEBRUARY, 2024** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the Commissioners Proceedings for the month of February, 2024. Commissioner Sonnenberg seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

**COURTHOUSE GENERATOR SECURITY GRANT** – Pam Bacon met with the Board concerning a security grant for elections. She was just made aware of grant funds available through the state for elections for a generator. The state will pay for generators because they are infrastructure. The county already has a generator that was purchased from the hospital last year, it just needs to be installed.

Jerry Casebolt joined the meeting. The generator that was purchased from the hospital was undersized for the hospital's use. Tom Kiel said that it was a good generator for the Courthouse as it's hardly been used. It would need to be converted down, but it would run the entire building and part of the Annex. Pam said she will need a quote for installation if the Board would like to pursue installation of this one or she would need to get quotes to purchase a different one. Rick Cullip joined the meeting. There was question whether the Courthouse was three-phase electric. Rick will check on this. The County purchased this generator from the hospital last year for either \$3,000 or \$5,000. It is not known whether the hospital ever invoiced for it. Installation will require a cement slab which can be done by the Buildings and Grounds staff. Pam would like bids to install the permanent generator and bids for portable generators for all of her areas to turn in for the grant application.

The generator may be enough to power the entire Courthouse along with at least half of the Annex. Tom Kiel did not have all the power specs at the time for the Annex. Commissioner Brownell noted that the boilers are at the Annex for heating and cooling of the Courthouse. The basement is the location where they draw their power from.

The group discussed whether the generator would need to be housed in a permanent enclosure. Jerry Casebolt said that at the hospital it was out in the open, just sitting on stanchions. If the grant funds awarded are enough, it would be good to go with a permanent enclosure. The Board discussed applying for enough funds to purchase a generator to cover both buildings and utilize the hospital generator at another building. Rick Cullip will get the numbers put together for Pam's grant application. The location of the generator was discussed. The hospital generator is a diesel generator. However, the natural gas line is closer to the Courthouse near the Planning and Zoning office window.

Jerry Casebolt still has a bid from Tom Kiel from two years ago for a generator for the Courthouse for a Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$115,000, but the bid was too high, and the grant wouldn't cover it. They had decided at that time that the best place to put it would be where the bushes were dug out on the corner of the Annex because that's where the power for the Annex comes in. If the generator is set next to the Annex it is not an historical building. If it is set next to the Courthouse the Historical Society will be involved.

The Board would like to compare the costs of a diesel generator and a natural gas generator. Pam noted that this is a 100% reimbursement grant. The county will need to spend the funds and then be reimbursed. The county must provide receipts to be reimbursed. The Board asked for three bids; however, they do not have to be sealed bids. Pam will check but she believes she has until December 31, 2024 to complete the project.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FOUR ELECTION** - Pam Bacon updated the Board on the CD4 election. The Colorado Secretary of State has determined that the CD4 election will be on the same ballot as the June primary election. The costs for the primary election run about \$35,000. There should be only about an additional 200 minor party ballots that will be printed in house with obviously the additional mailing costs. The Clerk's Office will use a sticker on the back of those envelopes to know when those ballots come back. They will have costs with additional judges but are doing things

in-house and using envelopes they already have. Hopefully they can keep it around just about a \$5,000 budget increase.

They will be required to have one other VSPC to be open on election day. They are reporting by precinct which is going to be an added cost because instead of having just four styles - and they have 64 styles, so she will have all those ballots at that additional site as well. That's going to increase costs.

**LOGAN COUNTY WEBSITE DIGITAL CONTENT ADA ACCESSIBILITY** – County Attorney Alan Samber discussed a July 1 deadline coming up because of legislation that was passed last year that requires that the county make our online digital content ADA accessible. The Office of Information Technology has finalized their rules to implement that law. Alan asked Jerry Casebolt if the County's IT provider is aware of that law. Jerry Casebolt said that they are aware of the law. Logan County's website is hosted through the State of Colorado. The Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) – the website administrators, have sent a new Intergovernmental Agreement for Mike Brownell's signature. Jerry does not think the county's website complies right now because some of the colors that are in use. According to some of the Emergency Management meetings he has attended, there are certain colors that aren't allowable due to the new ADA standards. The structure of the site is also the State's structure. The County does not have the ability to go in and reconstruct the entire site, all we can do right now is add to the site.

Jennifer will reach out to the website administrators and ask if they can give us guidance to get the website into compliance and ask if there are plans to make any changes to help get websites that are hosted through SIPA ADA compliant. Alan Samber said that the Board does have to adopt a policy to implement the requirements of the legislation. He will prepare a resolution for the Board to adopt before the July 1 deadline.

**SANCTUARY COUNTY RESOLUTION** – The Board discussed a sanctuary county resolution. Yuma County adopted a resolution which Jennifer modified for Logan County at Commissioner McBride's request. Commissioner Sonnenberg is pursuing some other options as Yuma's resolution is bare bones. Commissioner Brownell has emailed Sheriff Powell regarding whether they notify ICE when they arrest someone that's undocumented. Sheriff Powell confirmed that they do notify ICE and tell them that they will detain the person until they bond out or ICE picks them up.

Commissioner Brownell heard on the radio that some non-governmental entities are taking the undocumented people from Denver shelters to El Paso County. In the last two months, they have had 1,200 people show up there that identify as asylum seekers in their hospital systems for medical care. Alan Samber mentioned that he heard that El Paso County is considering passing an ordinance that prohibits dumping asylum seekers, but it will only be as good as whatever enforcement is available.

If some group rents vacant hotel space here, Commissioner Brownell wants to make sure Logan County is not on the hook to house and feed and provide medical care for these people if they do that.

Commissioner Sonnenberg mentioned a bill that passed last year HB23-1100, that made it illegal for local sheriffs to contract with ICE to get paid to hold illegal immigrants. It is important to send a message that we can't afford to provide services to illegal immigrants.

Commissioner Brownell discussed the public health order from Northeast Colorado Health Department if the City of Denver or some NGO comes out and rents half of the old Holiday Inn, before they do that, they are to talk to the health department and make sure it is inspected and is habitable, and they're supposed to provide the names of the people, their immunization records, etc. They are also supposed to provide information on how they are going to feed them, clothe them, and provide medical services for them. If you bring them here, they are your responsibility financially.

Jerry Casebolt added that some of this does not apply to Denver, because Denver is a sanctuary city. He commented that we've had them in Sterling, people just don't know it. Weld and Yuma Counties have had a lot of immigrants come in because of the seasonal workers there. There have been illegal immigrants here, but they generally don't stay, because there's nothing for them here. The Director of Emergency Management had a conference call with the City and County of Denver's Emergency Manager, the Mayor of Johnstown was also on the call with him. They were talking about what they do and what new steps they're trying to put into place, so they don't blindsides another community. There have had approximately 23,000 immigrants come in last year through February of this year that have come into Denver. At the high point, there was about 300 a day, it is now down to about 450 a week. Not all have stayed, they may have gone back to warmer states, no one knows exactly. Jerry offered to send the recording of the meeting to the Board if he has it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.