

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**May 31, 2022**

Present: Jane Bauder, Joe McBride, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Rhonda Chrisp, Jerry Casebolt, Jerry Sonnenberg, Faith Blankenship, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Mike Lechman, Jennifer Crow, and Jeff Rice.

Vice-Chairperson Bauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the minutes from May 17, 2022 as written. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Commissioner McBride added Jerry Casebolt, for the Fleming water issue to the Commissioners Staff Issues. Commissioner Bauder said a gentleman met her at the door this morning and wanted to voice his concerns, his name is Mike Lechman.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated May 31, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented. The Board also approved the Human Services payroll for the period May 7 through May 22, 2022.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS** – Rhonda Chrisp met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated May 31, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS FOR APRIL 2022** – Commissioner McBride asked that these be held for the next meeting as he had not had a chance to read them.

**PROCTOR PEPPERS DOOR PAINTING** – It has been recommended to use the same rope border around the door glass with the event schedule and times and the saddle up in the corner. The Board agreed to purchase the door painting with the saddle and schedule same as last year.

**FLEMING BOIL WATER ORDER** – Jerry Casebolt briefed the Board about an issue in Fleming. Sunday evening, he got a text asking him to call Frank in Fleming. He called and was told that they lost a well or the well went out and they lost water pressure because they were only using one well, so they had to issue the boil water order. They have fired up another well and will have to run it through the drain and go through the process. They don't feel that anything got contaminated, they just lost pressure. Being a holiday weekend, the labs were not open, they have to do three good tests before they can clear it so they can do a test today and Wednesday. Thursday is the earliest the boil water order will be lifted. They sent out a message over Code Red and went door to door in Fleming to notify residents. Assistance was offered to the town with bottled water but they did not accept the offer.

**GUY MCENDAFFER FAIR UPDATES** – Guy McEndaffer, Logan County Fair Manager, gave an update. The Fair is still short on ticket takers, ushers, and sellers. Everyone he has reached out, to and the last one was last Wednesday, he went out to the Lions Club Regional because he knows the former

president, they do not have the manpower or there are too many people on vacation. Everyone else that he has talked to has still got some “feelers” out there but they have not come back. Worst case scenario, he reached out to the volunteer staff at National Western to see what the possibilities are there. However, they will only work for non-profits and the Logan County Fair is not non-profit. He won’t know until July if anyone volunteers. Lisa (Leeman) has not heard from Merino. Commissioner Bauder said that the last they said was that they were not going to do it again, because they were having too much trouble getting people scheduled and the no-shows and the younger people cannot work over a certain number of hours they could not get volunteers.

Commissioner Bauder has reached out to a couple of churches. Their kids are younger, and they have trouble scheduling because of vacations. Merino High School has done it for years and Caliche High School has done the ticket takers. One of the things that she heard from Trinity was that they didn’t feel like the money was enough. The budgeted amount was \$4,000 for ticket sellers and ticket takers was \$3,500. This might need to increase the amount in next year’s budget. Jen from Trinity said that their dinner and auction raised \$10,000 in two hours.

Another suggestion was to put all ticket sales online only, however there are people who decide at the last minute to go to the concert and want to purchase at the fairgrounds or those that do not have the internet. Mr. McEndaffer also reached out to Steve at the carnival to see if he had any ideas. It was suggested that he call other counties to see what they are doing. However, all county fairs are happening at the same time. Shelby Rich, who is in charge of Education at National Western was going to check with some groups.

Marilee Johnson, Fair Board member, spoke from the audience and stated that she has reached out to as many groups as possible. She suggested determining the amount the Fair can pay and the number of people needed and offering it as paid positions to the public. There are employees in the Courthouse that would be interested in working. Marilee believes that the Fair has exhausted all of the group possibilities. It needs to start now because it will take awhile to get all of the people hired and trained. Commissioner Bauder agreed. Mr. McEndaffer stated that he has talked with Commissioner Pelton about it and what the wage should be. Some people have expressed to him that at \$4,000 for ticket sellers and the number of hours required, the groups do not do well, i.e. make enough money. If you keep in mind that you are volunteering for the group and keep that in the equation then it keeps that within reason. Marilee then explained that the Human Resources Department has run some numbers, if they are hiring adults that can work longer hours, it is better than hiring groups of kids that can only work so many hours per day. Adults can work any number of hours in a day as long as they don’t exceed 40 in a work week. Kids can only work 8 hours in a rolling 24-hour period.

Diana Korbe is working with Jerry Casebolt, the former Fair Board member who worked in the grand stand area, to determine the minimum number of ticket takers and ushers needed during each event at the gates to make sure people would not leave with alcohol. Ushers are needed at the north and south gates to make sure people are not leaving with alcohol cups in their hands. There was some confusion with Lisa, she thought that the ushers could leave 30 minutes after the event started, but they cannot leave until 30 minutes after the event ends. Mr. McEndaffer asked Diana to come up with a total dollar number to see how far apart the total is from the \$3,500-\$4,000 budgeted number. County employees

can apply and work as long as it is a separate position and not the same job duties as their day-to-day job. Everyone agreed to move forward and start advertising the positions open at \$14.50-\$15.00 per hour. The Commissioners will have to approve the final number on the budget. It can be approved outside of a regular meeting. Ticket takers and ushers are needed for five events.

Everything else is on track. He does not have the ice arranged for yet, he verified that it comes out of Ft. Morgan.

The meeting recessed at 9:27 a.m. and reconvened at 9:48 a.m.

**BOB SCHAEFER CHS PROJECT** – Bob Schaefer with CHS and Trae Miller Director of Logan County Economic Development Association met with the Board. This is a follow up to the last work session about potentially waiving building permits and use tax. The facility was destroyed in 2020 by a derechos wind storm and they have been struggling to get it built back. It is a combination of lots of insurance claims from the area at the time which diminished the pool coupled with Covid delays in the process. They have made due the last couple of years but here it is two years later they still don't have a facility. This facility is so critical to southeast Logan County growers. They knew at CHS High Plains they were going to be there for the growers and build something back. They thought it might be a great opportunity for the county to let growers know that they are important and make an effort to show them that too. CHS approached the Board a number of years ago about putting in some roadways to make it more accessible because it is such a remote area out there. They were fortunate enough back then to have the county put in four miles of gravel roads out there so that gave them greater capability to get around.

The current request is for the county to waive the building permit and use tax fees. Rough numbers are up to \$27,000 for the facility to replace the one destroyed. CHS High Plains employs approximately 155 people. This facility is seasonal and employs 3 people most of the time during harvest seasons. Alan Samber will research and find statutory authorization for the waiver of the use taxes as economic incentives. The Board agreed to waive the building permit fees and is in favor of allowing the waiver of the use tax fees if it is allowed by law. The Board will let Mr. Schaefer know when Alan has done the research.

CHS has their own construction management team but they do have a local contractor that has done all of the dirt work, the concrete, and the bin erection. The project is being done in three phases, the first phase total cost is \$3.1 million. The next two will be an additional \$3 million, so the total project cost will be somewhere between \$6-\$7 million and will be completed in the next 3-5 years.

**MIKE LECHMAN RE: JAKE BRAKES** – Mike Lechman met with the Board. State Senator Jerry Sonnenberg was also invited to join the discussion as he is a candidate for County Commissioner for Commissioner District Three. Mr. Lechman began by saying he can't understand why semis running past residential homes use their Jake Brakes on Hwy 14 across from Walmart where the speed limit is 30 mph leaving town and 35 mph coming into town. Mr. Lechman used to drive semi-trucks and knows what it takes to stop a truck. Coming into town at 35 mph you don't need a Jake Brake.

He was told by the police to take pictures of those trucks that do use the Jake Brakes. He followed a truck into the Walmart parking lot and talked to the truck driver. The driver said it was a safety factor. The majority of truck drivers do not use the Jake Brakes. He believes it is a state law that Jake Brakes cannot be used in a residential area and would like some signs put up. He believes it is disturbing the peace. Commissioner McBride did not think it would fit the municipal statute for disturbing the peace.

Jerry Sonnenberg noted that state law does not ban the use of Jake Brakes, it requires an engine muffler to be used on the Jake Brakes. Mr. Lechman wants signs put up that you can't use the Jake Brakes. It is only illegal to use the Jake Brakes without the muffler.

The county has some signs that can be put up on the state highway for free. If the signs are to be placed on a county road, they must be paid for. Jeff put the signs up and they were taken down after the letter to the editor in the newspaper. It was thought that Jerry was not in favor of what Commissioner Bauder was doing. Commissioner McBride said that what Mr. Lechman is doing i.e. taking pictures of the trucks that are using their Jake Brakes coming through, then taking it to the police to file a complaint is the best route. The police can issue a ticket and the truck driver would have to go to court and testify. The citizen does not have control over enforcement. The Board agreed signs concerning engine mufflers are required to be used on Jake Brakes would be appropriate.

**FEMA** – No update.

**LEBSOCK CLEANUP** – No update.

**TIENA PRICE PROPERTY CLEANUP** – Commissioner McBride and Rob Quint went out last week to look at the progress that Mr. Price has made on the cleanup. It was a little disappointing There is such a massive amount of piles of stuff. There are piles of wood and in the middle of the pile are bricks intermixed and instead of getting rid of the wood he stops and separates the bricks. He is spending a lot of time on little mundane projects. There are two sections that he is supposed to focus on before the next visit in August. They would like him to focus on getting the metal out of there. Matt Chrisp said there is a company in Denver that would come and chip all the wood basically for free. He has a good attitude and is working with them.

**EXHIBIT CENTER PROJECT** – They plan to open RFP's on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the design phase. RFP's are due May 31, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.