

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

July 28, 2020

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Alan Samber, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice, Dusty Johnson, Chip Steger, Marla Foxhoven, Rod Lenz, Gil Anderson, Deb Daniel and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020 as written. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Representatives from the Republican River Water Conservation District will give a presentation to the Board.

2020 CENSUS – There were no updates.

IGA CITY OF STERLING EMPLOYEES LCSSC MEMBERSHIPS/LOGAN COUNTY EMPLOYEES REC. CENTER MEMBERSHIPS – There has been no communication from the City of Sterling.

TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE – Sterling Golf Investments, LLC d/b/a Northeastern 18 located at 17408 Highway 14, Sterling has applied for a Transfer of Ownership of the L7BG, LLC Liquor License and would like a Temporary Liquor License issued while that application is under consideration. Closing is Friday July 31. Alan Samber noted that a temporary permit can be issued if the Transfer of Ownership application has been filed. The application is missing a statement required by statute that all accounts for alcohol beverages sold to the applicant are paid. Also, notification that fingerprinting has taken place is required. The Board can approve the temporary permit but not sign it until all the conditions are met.

Commissioner McBride moved to approve the temporary Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License application on behalf of Sterling Golf Investments, LLC dba Northeastern 18 provided that all conditions are met and paperwork is submitted (finger prints and a statement that all accounts for alcoholic beverages sold to the applicant are paid) and authorize the Chair to sign when items are received. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN KEN BUCK'S AID – Dusty Johnson, Aid to Congressman Ken Buck met with the Board to give an update on the Congressman's efforts.

Buck is leading a bill to ban use of the Tik Tok app on U.S. Government phones, computers and interactions. Tik Tok has admitted to sharing technology and resources with China. The bill will help with cyber-security and will not affect private individuals.

This month is National Parks Month. Each July since 1985 the nation has celebrated National Parks Month to honor the amazing lands in which we live. There are several national parks in Colorado and in the Fourth Congressional District including Bent's Old Fort in La Junta, Pony Express National Historic Trail, the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and many more.

Congressman is on Judicial Committee which is hearing police reform/defunding the police arguments. Buck feels that this needs to be a local and state jurisdiction.

Ms. Johnson noted that the nominations are open for military academies. There are thirteen appointed and accepted into academies from District Four.

Congressman Buck has introduced the No Bailouts for Illegal Aliens Act. The legislation would ensure that taxpayers aren't bailing out states or local governments that are setting up programs to send COVID-19 cash payments to illegal immigrants. This is a "sister" bill to the Senate bill with the same wording which should help the bill get through the next CARES Act package in August.

Commissioner Pelton asked about the status to allow grazing on CRP land in the northeast corner of the state. Ms. Johnson will check into it. Senator Gardner's office has said that the FSA has not released it yet.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT MATCHING FUNDS – The Sheriff has called about the \$10,000 from gun sales. Jerry Casebolt noted that this is for the 2018 Homeland Security Grant. The funds received from the sale of guns in the amount of \$10,000 were approved to be used as matching funds. The grant amount is \$21,000 and will purchase SWAT vests and equipment. The SO is joining forces with the Sterling PD. The Board approved the use of the matching funds. Jerry will let Ken Kimsey and Debbie Unrein know the decision. Everything will be purchased through the City of Greeley, which will invoice the county for the \$10,000 in matching funds.

SUGAR BEET DAYS – Chip Steger met with the Board concerning Sugar Beet Days (SBD) in September held on the Courthouse Square. Jerry Casebolt also joined the discussion. SBD organizers have decided to eliminate music performances to discourage people congregating. Vendors will be spaced six feet apart with social distancing practices. Sanitation of restrooms and portable toilets was discussed. Double the number of hand washing stations was recommended and placing several near the portable toilets was recommended. Courthouse restrooms are requested to also be opened for the public. Health Department requirements will be looking at the number of hand washing/sanitizing stations. The Health Dept. will want to know the number of vendors that normally attend the event and the number of vendors expected at this year's event. Mr. Steger estimated 120 vendors normally attend the event. The SBD committee would like to have 90 vendors. This may not be possible due to social distancing requirements. Closing off nearby streets to provide for more vendor space was discussed, however Main Street is part of Colorado Highway 14, and the State would have to approve the closure.

The Commissioners must approve a variance for SBD and it will have to be approved by the Health Department. SBD will limit the event to vendor booths and food booths. The Logan County variance would not apply to this event. A Protect Our Neighbors Variance must be approved and which requires approval of all of the municipalities and the Sheriff. A mitigation plan must be submitted along with the variance and must be initiated by the Health Department.

There has not been enough support for the Protect Our Neighbors Variances. Very few of them have been approved.

CARES GRANT APPLICATION MEETING UPDATE – Jerry Casebolt briefed the Board on the meeting held last night regarding the CARES funding. The went well, with information distributed. Those attending decided to push through to the deadline. They hope to have the grant out to businesses on August 14. Jerry will try to have a rough draft finished for the group by Friday. Once they look at it and approve it will be delivered to the Commissioners. The Board will approve the grant application on Tuesday at the Business Meeting.

REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RRWCD) - Rod Lenz, Gil Anderson, and Deb Daniel gave an update on the RRWCD. The Colorado State Legislature created the District in 2004 to assure local involvement in the State's efforts to comply with the Republican River Compact between Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. The Republican River Water Conservation District's mission is to keep Colorado in the Compact Compliance. To get into and stay in compliance, the RRWCD built a \$60,000,000 pipeline in 2012 to keep irrigation in local communities.

RRWCD is now focusing on conservation through voluntary participation. By utilizing federal programs, the District has brought in millions of federal dollars to offer financial incentives to producers who voluntarily retire water rights to reduce consumptive use to the stream flows. The water retirements reinforce the District's efforts to conserve the Ogallala Aquifer for future generations. Once land is entered into a contract to be retired, it is tied to the land and can only be canceled with interest and penalties and payback of all payments received. If the state does not stay in Compact Compliance by restricting water flow, the State will close down all wells.

Two different programs are being offered to retire acreages, the EQIP program offers \$1,500 per acre supplemental funding with the NRCS program which offers \$239 per acre retired. In Logan County the CREP program offers \$158 per acre with FSA. Land must be planted to native grass and left in the program for 15 years. Payments are received for 15 years. All of the wells within RRWCD in Logan County are groundwater wells which have a higher value than flood irrigation.

The District is offering a training program called the Colorado Master Irrigator Program. The educational program offers advanced training in conservation and efficiency-oriented management practices. New ways to use less water and still be profitable are discussed in the program.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.