

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session
November 10, 2020**

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Dusty Johnson, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the minutes of November 3, 2020 as written. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Commissioner Pelton added a presentation on an educational campaign on COVID-19 for the county.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS – Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated November 10, 2020. The Board approved the bills as presented.

UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN KEN BUCK’S OFFICE – Dusty Johnson met with the Board for an update on Congressman Ken Buck’s activities. Congressman Buck released an antitrust report that presents a “Third Way” to Take on Big Tech. The report details solutions to rein in Big Tech’s anticompetitive behavior. The report follows the majority staff’s report on the year-long Big Tech investigation conducted by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law. Companies like Apple, Amazon, Google, and Facebook have acted anticompetitively. The American people need a solution that promotes free and fair competition and ensures the free market operates in a free and fair manner into the future.

Congressman Buck and Rick Allen introduced The Saving American History Act, a bill that would prohibit federal funds from being used to teach the historically inaccurate New York Times’ 1619 Project in K-12 schools or school districts.

Congressmen Buck and Andy Biggs of Arizona sent a letter to the Department of Justice raising concerns about Netflix’s new film ‘Cuties’ and asking for an investigation into the exploitation of children.

Rep. Buck led 50 members in sending a letter urging Attorney General Barr and the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute groups responsible for violent riots in American cities. Individuals and groups responsible for funding, organizing, inciting and participating in the destructive riots taking place in cities across the country need to be prosecuted. Felony charges need to be added especially to those persons or groups attacking law enforcement officers.

Congress is working on the No. 4 Cares funding package. Johnson said that their office has been told that counties in northeast Colorado have not used all the money from the previous package. It was suggested that the federal government distribute it right to local governments instead of having money go through the state. It took such a long time to get guidance from the state and Logan County only got half of the money that was allotted to the county. First the treasury guidance was used which was not acceptable to DOLA.

Sterling's hospital has open beds, there has been one hospitalization for COVID in the last seven days. All four hospital beds in the ICU are open for COVID patients and all four ventilators are open. Most patients on ventilators are moved to other hospitals. Some patients from Devonshire Nursing Home were moved to Melissa Memorial in Haxtun and East Morgan County Hospital due to the outbreak among staff.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN – Commissioner Pelton discussed the county's educational campaign concerning COVID. The Board receives an update every Monday on the community's COVID numbers. As of October 26, Logan County had 72 cases due to Travel Associated Exposure, 46 cases due to Community Gathering Exposure, 30 Cases due to Outbreak Exposure (college) and 109 cases due to Contact with a Confirmed or Suspect Case, most likely from people going to work sick. The first campaign ads were sent out to newspapers and social media the week of October 26. In the last two weeks, Travel Exposure cases went from 72 cases to 23 with numbers for the other types of cases down as well. The educational campaign is working. Commissioner Pelton noted that Marilee's work on this is appreciated.

Ads are to go out on social media and be published in the newspaper this week. Stay Home if You Are Sick and Limit Crowd sizes is the theme of the ads.

Mobile testing will start next week on the 16th. They are looking at using several different tests. Jerry Casebolt noted that the governor had sent 1,000 rapid tests to the fire areas in the mountains last week. He is trying to get some of the rapid tests because of the outbreak at Devonshire.

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