

## **Logan County Commissioners Work Session**

**November 15, 2022**

Present: Byron Pelton, Joe McBride, Alan Samber, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Caseboldt, Jeff Rice, Faith Blankenship, Jennifer Crow, Dave Long, David Piper, Ken Kimsey, Trae Miller, Lori Jones, Elinor Brown, Brett Powell and Dave Conley.

Chairman Pelton called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the minutes of November 1, 2022. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** – Letter from CTSI regarding personnel changes after the election.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS** – Dave Long met with the Board to review Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated November 15, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented. The Board also approved the Department of Human Services payroll for the period October 22, 2022, through November 4, 2022.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS** – Kristan Lange met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated November 15, 2022. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA** – The Board reviewed the Business meeting agenda for November 15, 2022.

Commissioner McBride asked Attorney Alan Samber about the temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits related to the operation of wind power generating facilities extending it till March. If nothing is decided from the Planning Commission the Board of Commissioners will take it over.

**IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTH STERLING STATE PARK** - David Piper met with the Board of Commissioners about some updates that are coming to the North Sterling. He is currently working with contractors – Wold. They are helping with the design of a new visitor center on the south end of the park, shop complex to the north of the park and a working maintenance shop with two - three bays and a line shed for storage equipment with six to eight bays. The material cost is anywhere from \$400.00 to \$600.00 a square foot for buildings. They are looking into prefab buildings for this project as well. This is coming in at a lower rate than stick-built construction. Bids will go out in July 2023. They would like to start building September 2023. David stated the reason they are doing the new construction is the visitors center is on the wrong side of the park. A lot of people don't even know they are there. The current visitor center has black mold on the inside of the center which can cause some health issues. This plan is in line with the master plan they constructed in 1994 when it originally became a State Park. The visitor center will be at the top of the hill overlooking the reservoir. The old visitor center will be demolished. It is currently an old double wide trailer. The area will

be turned in a playground area and picnic site. This will increase the day use and will continue to draw more public to that area. Commissioner McBride commented that was his main concern “What was going to happen to that area.”. Commissioner Pelton asked where the money is coming from? David stated the money is coming from lottery and GOCO funds. This project will be in addition to a new boat inspection site that will be just down from the visitor’s center on the main park road. This will cut down on having customers drive a mile out of their way on a gravel road to have the necessary maintenance to their boats.

Overall, a new Visitor Center, Shop Complex, a new ANS boat inspection, redo the road going to the south boat ramp with all the new construction and upgrades will come to around 5.2 million dollars coming into the park.

Commissioner McBride felt the bids will be coming in at a good time due to prices coming back down by July 2023.

David Piper went on to talk about improvements that are taking place now. A project that is currently in place is at Chimney View. There is currently no electrical outlets for campers at the Chimney View campground. The campground will have 50-amp service once the project is completed. Also, Elk campground has 30-amp service that is being upgraded to 50- amp as well. These improvements are being funded from money that came from the government simulation package of 3.2 million dollars two years ago. North Sterling State Park received \$800,000.00 from the 3.2 million package for the electric upgrades to the campground. It was supposed to be completed last winter but due to the supply and demand they have been unable to get the supplies that are needed to complete the project. Hopefully, by the last of November or the first of December the supplies should be in. Better Electric in Sterling was awarded the bid.

Other improvements that were mentioned are at the swim beach. A restoration project was completed in February of this year. They are currently working on a cross net court and a volleyball court. They have just been awarded some small capital program for shade shelters at the south boat ramp and at the swim beach. They should be built and ready for Memorial weekend of the next year.

A project that was just completed last week was a car charging station by Reddit. They are placing the charging stations across the area. They are currently free but eventually they will cost the consumer money by using their credit card to pay for the electricity.

They are currently in the process of hiring an admin position. They lost that position in 2009 with the budget cuts from the state. David is just now getting that position refunded and working with HR to get that position filled. Once that position is filled the visitor center will have constant hours year around. Currently, they only have someone available seasonally. The problem now is that people are coming into the area from out of state looking to buy tags for hunting in the mountains. In the future there will be consistent hours that will draw those people in. Hopefully, that will help with bringing revenue into Logan County.

**CTSI** – Commissioner Pelton wanted to bring up to the board about a letter from CTSI that was received with the new elected officials, and they would like to remind them of the extreme

potential litigation and the tremendous cost associated within proper personnel action if they move forward. CTSI wanted the board to be aware of training that is available.

**COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS** – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the Commissioners Proceedings for October 2022. Commissioner Pelton seconded, and the motion carried 2-0.

**WIND POWER PROJECT** – Brian Barton is one of the vendors that will bring gravel to the Wind Power Project. He brought up concern about the many vendors that are looking forward to the opportunity this will bring millions of dollars to the county, and it will be lost if the county does not take the opportunity as to allow this to happen. He was a farmer at one time and lost everything. He said he knows that farmers would be able to benefit from this. Commissioner Pelton suggested he talk to the Planning and Zoning commission about the regulations. Rob Quint with Planning and Zoning suggested that he come and talk with the Commissioners today at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner McBride said the resolution for the moratorium for wind power projects will take place today. If nothing gets pushed through with the Planning and Zoning Board, the Board of Commissioners will take over in March of next year. The wind company is looking at a year from now before the project can start. Commissioners Pelton said regulations will come out in March. All of the Northeast county's corner of the state is looking at protecting both sides with regulations. Brian Barton is afraid the regulations will be so tight the project will not take place. Commissioner McBride said that if they come with a mile set back, he is a "no". Brian Barton wanted the Board of Commissioners to know how important this project is to the county.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 A.M.