

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session
September 16, 2025**

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Santomaso, Jim Yahn, Alan Samber, Mike Burri, Josilyn Lutze, Marilee Johnson, Debbie Unrein, Trae Miller, Callie Jones, and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Yahn moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025 Work Session. Commissioner Santomaso seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA – There were none.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – There were no comments.

LCEDC INDUSTRIAL SITE ENGINEERING REPORT – Trae Miller, Logan County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director met with the Board. He followed up on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that he discussed last week. Commissioner Yahn asked what parameters the PER would be looking for. Miller stated that it will help them put together a budget for the grant application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The PER will cover potential infrastructure including access, rail components, utility capacity, what's available there now and potential capacity. It will not be a whole engineering plan but will allow LCEDC to advance to the next steps in order to apply for the grant. They are eligible for the grant through the disaster supplemental program from the 2023 flooding event which changes what the parameters are for their typical grant programs. Aside from what happens with the EDA grant, just to have this information helps them move forward with potential for the site, regardless if they are awarded the grant.

The City of Sterling has agreed to share one third of the \$52,900 cost of the engineering report. The engineering report will be done on State Land Board land. The State Land Board has is fully aware of where LCEDC is in the process. Olson and Associates will be doing the study. Miller said he believes their headquarters are in Omaha, Nebraska. They worked on the rail engineering piece for Scoular's potential expansion a couple of years ago. About a year ago, they did some initial review for Miller where a rail switch could go in and where a potential rail spur could be located, this was all done for free.

Commissioner Santomaso moved to approve a \$17,633 cost share for the economic development PER. Commissioner Yahn seconded. Commissioner Santomaso reiterated that the current lessee on the property will not be affected. Commissioner Yahn stated that the County does not have any control over what the State Land Board does with lessees. If someone wanted to come in and develop 20 acres, if the State Land Board approved, they would probably just fence off the portion that they need to use at this time and hopefully still lease to the Ag lessee that is already there. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS: SENTINEL MISSILE RELOCATION PROJECT - Commissioner Yahn reported that he had received a letter about his own property concerning the Sentinel Missile Relocation. They want to start doing some things like environmental and wildlife assessments. He said his neighbor received the same letter but he does not know if any others have received letters. There may be other letters sent out as part of this project. Commissioner Yahn has called them to see what exactly is happening. It may be that they are doing some geotechnical work or initial assessments in certain locations.

OEM GRANTS – Emergency Manager Josilyn Lutze told the Board that she received more information about

the EMPG grant. The State has their application into the Feds for EMPG and Homeland Security. They are waiting to hear back whether it will be awarded or not. They have set up two scenarios, the first is if the State receives the Federal money and accepts it, how they plan on running the grant. The second scenario is if the State does not get the Federal money, the State's appropriated \$15 million, to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is to be spread out over the entire division.

It will probably be a reduced EMPG grant similar to this year, but it would run from October 1, 2025 through the end of June, 2026, when the State's fiscal year ends. Either way, this quarter will be covered with funding until June 30, 2026 whether it is with Federal funds or State funds. They should know around October 1 which way it will go.

Commissioner Yahn remarked that one scenario that the State did not include was that they would work with the Federal government on immigration and ICE rules and then get the funds without any problem. The Board asked Lutze to keep them informed on any other developments.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY – Josilyn said that Patty Bartlett talked to her before the meeting about the person walking around the Courthouse yesterday afternoon with the rifle. This was the first time that Josilyn had heard about the situation. Patty wanted her to bring it up to the Board. Josilyn asked if Pam Bacon had brought it up to the Board.

Commissioner Yahn stated that he was here yesterday. The man was not close to the Courthouse but on the sidewalk close to the street. Jennifer called dispatch to report it, and the police came out to talk to him on the corner for quite a while. Law enforcement did not take him into custody. Commissioner Yahn talked to Pam. Her office did not know anything about the incident until later after it was under control. Pam has protocols that she uses for all kinds of scenarios whether it's a tornado or fire. Commissioner Yahn asked her to send them to him so he could forward them to Josilyn to come up with a plan for the building. Josilyn said after hearing about the incident she has been thinking about a practice lockdown drill. Other practice drills such as fire drills and tornado drills also need to be formed.

Commissioner Yahn said apparently it was not illegal what this person did as he was not taken into custody, but it did seem inappropriate after what has gone on in our nation in the last few days. Josilyn said that she will work on lockdown plans in the next two weeks. Commissioner Yahn said that NJC also has protocols and that she might want to work with law enforcement for different scenarios such as an active shooter or lockdown if someone was outside, etc.

BALLOT INITIATIVE DISCUSSION – Commissioner Brownell discussed that Sugar Beet Days is coming up this weekend. He asked if there is anything that the Board would like to do about informing the public and answering questions about the ballot initiative on the sales tax extension at Sugar Beet Days.

Alan Samber reminded the Board that it is a lot more limited now that the question has been formally referred to the ballot. Members can field questions and answer them. They can give people the facts about what has been done with the money. The Board can pass a resolution or take a position of advocacy on the ballot issue and report the passage of the resolution through established customary means other than paid advertising, so it could be reported in the minutes of the meeting.

Commissioner Yahn said that Re-1 Valley School District is having a booth at Sugar Beet Days. It is a committee that is set up for Re-1 Valley.

Commissioners can respond to questions from the public as long as they don't solicit the questions. Elected Officials may express a personal opinion on the ballot issue. Elected Officials can expend personal funds or

make contributions or use personal time to urge electors to vote in favor of the initiative. Sometimes the Republicans and the Democrats have a booth at Sugar Beet Days. Possibly they would allow a fact sheet about the initiative at their booth.

Pam Bacon will be publishing a Tabor notice booklet, the "blue book." It will contain all of the ballot questions that are going to be on the ballot, as well as any statements for or against the issue that have been submitted by members of the public. The County question has one favorable opinion that Alan has received already. It was pretty well written.

Marilee has about 100-150 cards that were mailed out before the question was referred to the ballot. They were returned as undeliverable from the mass mailing. Alan Samber is hesitant to use the cards because they were paid for by the county. Marilee asked if there was anyone that would want to form a committee to promote it. The committee would have to register with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Brownell will talk to the Town Manager of Fleming. He was going to bring it to the Fleming Town Council last week to ask if they were interested in writing a letter of support.

Commissioner Yahn asked if the County could pass a resolution in favor of the school district ballot questions and the City of Sterling ballot questions. Maybe the City of Sterling would pass a resolution in support of the County's ballot initiative. Alan thought that would be okay.

The Board agreed that they would like to pass a resolution in favor of the County ballot question sometime in October.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.