

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
September 2, 2025

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Yahn, Jim Santomaso, Alan Samber, Rick Cullip, Mike Burri, Gregory Cucarola, Josilyn Lutze, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Sarah Waite, and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - The minutes of the previous Work Session were not ready for approval.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA – Mr. Cucarola requested to be added to the Work Session agenda under new business. Commissioner Yahn asked if there has been any progress on the animal control IGA for Crook, Colorado. Alan has not had a chance to work on that yet. Rick Cullip wanted to visit with the Board about pavers for the northeast corner.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT – Rick Cullip discussed the difficulty finding matching pavers for the northeast corner bumpout. He thought they had figured them out. They received a tile sample, but the tiles are not even close to the current tiles. The City of Sterling has asked for input on what we would like to do with our side of the four corner bumpouts. Rick thought if it was kept close to what it is now, that it would probably look good. It would keep the exposed aggregate and all the tiles and pavers that are there. He can no longer get the pavers. Rick suggested picking a spot that is straight and cut it off at that point and making the corner look the same as the other three corners. The cutouts for the handicapped ramps will be colored concrete that will match all four corners. The Board agreed with this plan.

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS – Gregory Cucarola served an Open Records Act Request on the Board concerning Sunset Memorial Gardens. He stated that he has ten relatives buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens. He asked that the Board respect the vested property rights of those people who purchased lots there prior to the Board's acquisition of the property.

Cucarola met with Sue Gress on August 13th. He stated that she refused to answer questions about policies and procedures. He also noted a recent news article where Gress and Ulrich appeared before the Board of Commissioners requesting to have certain property rights restricted in terms of conveyance limited to relatives. His family owns two more lots in the cemetery. He called the cemetery highly unsatisfactory and a massive fraud from day one. There were a few prominent local people who had the money to maintain the cemetery. The money was embezzled. The voters voted a ballot issue down.

Cucarola is asking that the Commissioners run it and make changes in accordance with due respect to the vested property rights to people who own the lots there. He has not looked up his ownership documents because he felt that he had to get here quickly today because things were moving pretty fast. The County owns the cemetery property. He stated that the attitude of "contempt" that the City has toward this cemetery is a pain in the neck to mow.

Cucarola presented to the Board a picture of a statue that has been in the cemetery from the inception of the cemetery. The granite has fallen off the statue. It has been in broken condition for over three years. He asked who is responsible for the repair of the statue.

The next complaint Cucarola had was concerning a road that was placed in the cemetery. Cucarola's position is that the road is a complete violation of the property rights of the people existing in the cemetery. He asked who put the road in and under what authority. There were posts in the road which Cucarola feels

are not effective in preventing traffic on the road. Cucarola asked who authorized the expenditure of money for a road like that when the statue cannot be fixed and what would stop somebody from riding horses or 4-wheelers on the road? There is no signage on the road. He has seen people running dogs on the road at least once. Dogs are defecating in the cemetery.

He feels that a change in management is necessary and a change in attitude in the cemetery because there are people there. The County bought a private cemetery. The County "took it, and bought it, against the voters will." His statement was that "...once you undertake something like that, you've got an obligation to do it right." He also said it's not being run in accordance with the expectations of people who paid for these lots.

Cucarola has not received notice of bankruptcy, which would have voided the contracts in some manner so that the rules could be changed. It is his position that the County is bound by the situation as it exists. He has eleven people buried there. He is told that most people have abandoned their lots out there.

Cucarola stated that the cemetery is being operated by Gress and others in a very discriminatory manner that is pretty egregious. The morticians tell him there's a variance in fees that are charged for burials depending on who you are and your status with personnel that's got to stop. He said that there have been bribes for some time.

He requested to be notified when the County meets with the City Council about the matter. Commissioner Brownell informed Mr. Cucarola that there has not been a meeting set up with the City Council. That will be sometime in the near future. The Board just met with Dave Appelhans who is working with the local monument companies to repair the statue. The company was going to donate some services to help repair the statue. Morgan County monument has also been contacted to set the monument on the base.

OEM GRANTS - Josilyn Lutze reported that both grants are 100% covered with no match required.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.