

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

September 21, 2021

Present: Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Joe McBride, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Rhonda Chrisp, Debbie Unrein, Jerry Casebolt, Marilee Johnson, Trae Miller, Kari Linker, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes from September 14, 2021 as written. Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Byron added discussion of an MOU with the Colorado Energy Office.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated September 21, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented. The Board also approved the Department of Human Services' payroll for the period August 28 through September 10, 2021.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS – Rhonda Chrisp met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated September 21, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented.

REVIEW BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – The Board reviewed the September 21, 2021 Business Meeting Agenda. The Board agreed to Postpone Definitely to October 5 the Subdivision Exemption on the landfill property. The Board is concerned about approval of the Subdivision Exemption if the company is not willing to put any earnest money down on the property.

Trae Miller joined the meeting and stated that the company is willing to pay \$1,000 earnest money down. They also paid for the survey work which was \$2,500. The purchase piece was their concern. They don't want to purchase the property until they find out if they can get permits. The Board is concerned that the company has very little invested in the project. The county still owns the property. Permits are submitted to the Colorado Department of Health and then it is out of their hands. The hope is that they would know about the permits less than 12 months but the reality is it may be 18 months before approval. This needs to be negotiated in executive session. The Board can approve the Subdivision Exemption after an agreement is in place. Alan Samber noted that the Board can approve both items in the same meeting. The Board agreed to postpone the Subdivision Exemption definitely until the October 5 meeting.

COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE MOU – Commissioner Pelton wanted to review the MOU in the work session prior to the business meeting and planned to add it to the business meeting if it was agreed it is ready. Alan has it ready for signature but is waiting on information for page four from Chance Wright and Debbie Unrein. The Board can approve it if they would like to and complete page four when the information is available. The Board put the approval on the next business meeting agenda.

IT RFP – Jerry Casebolt explained the IT RFP to the Board. Workstation locations and number of current work stations has been updated as well as firewalls needed:

- Commissioner's and Commissioner's Administration Office

- Assessor’s Office, Treasurer’s Office, Clerk’s Office
- Human Resources Office, Finance Office
- Planning and Zoning Office, Emergency Manager’s Office, Public Information Office
- Offsite Locations
 - County Attorney’s Office / CSU Extension
 - Road and Bridge Department
 - Fairgrounds
 - Visitor Center
 - Landfill (May need firewall.)
 - Heritage Center (Firewall needed for elections.)

Several of these locations have been added to the firewall locations to be maintained by the IT provider.

The infrastructure was updated to Office 365 licensing for work stations in use. VPN connectivity capability is added in the event people need to work from home. VOIP will work from home as well.

The maintenance of the Ubiquiti Unifi wireless system at the Logan County Fairgrounds. This is new since the first IT company came on board.

Another new addition is participation in CISA Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency. This is a yearly requirement for anyone who receives FEMA grants. Since the county receives FEMA money through the State of Colorado. The IT provider does this survey answering questions on behalf of the county on system vulnerabilities and steps taken to reduce vulnerabilities.

When it comes time to interview IT companies, Pam and Peggy will be involved in those talks due to the GIS System and the Tyler Tech System. Also, the CIC System for payroll. The company will be required to offer a customer service guarantee of some kind. Customer Service has not been good the last year.

A mandatory pre-proposal walkthrough will be held on Friday, October 1. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. October 29 either in person, mailed, e-mailed or through BidNet.

PREMIUM PAY – will not be on the work session any longer. This will be discussed in the business meeting.

MEETING OWL – Commissioner Pelton asked Jerry Casebolt to look into the purchase of a meeting OWL. The OWL is a 360° camera that is set in the middle of a meeting table. It has a sensor that will detect sound in the room and the camera will rotate to focus on the person speaking. There are microphones to pick up sound all around it and speakers as well. The cost is \$849 plus the cost of a carrying case. This will be useful in zoom meetings, Fair Board meetings, and any meetings that are remote meetings. The Board agreed to purchase the Meeting OWL.

The meeting recessed at 9:25 a.m. and reconvened at 9:46 a.m.

TRAE MILLER - EXECUTIVE SESSION Commissioner Bauder moved to go into Executive Session to determine positions relative to matters that are subject to negotiations, as concerns the sale or lease of county property. (as allowed by C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(e).) Commissioner McBride seconded and the motion carried.

The Executive Session concluded at 10:10 a.m. Chairman Pelton stated: Participants in the Executive Session were: Trae Miller, Alan Samber, Commissioners Jane Bauder, Byron Pelton, and Joe McBride and David and Paul Shein with PEL. Persons who participated in the executive session were asked if any substantial discussion of matters not included in the motion to go into executive session occurred during the executive session, or if any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law. No concerns were stated.

KARI LINKER - SENATOR HICKENLOOPER UPDATES – Kari Linker, aide to Senator Hickenlooper met with the Board to highlight what is happening in Washington DC. The deadline for approving a budget to keep the government running is approaching on September 30. Imbedded in the budget is the Infrastructure Bill. Hickenlooper is one of 22 senators who came together around the infrastructure package. A lot of time was spent on the western water infrastructure and imbedded in that package is Broadband. Linker spent a lot of time on Broadband research and understanding the true needs of broadband and the 90,000 Colorado residents who don't have access.

Senator Hickenlooper is taking the lead on a lot of the discussion around climate change and how that impacts Colorado and also how to connect the new energy economy and the transition from fossil fuels. He is a supporter of carbon pricing. The Recharge Act includes charging stations across Colorado.

Hickenlooper submitted four bills in the small business package, part of the reconciliation package. Three bills are being considered in the reconciliation package.

Linker is spending a lot of time with the coalition of western states on drought mitigation.

Senator Hickenlooper is Chairman on the HELP committee which is Health Education Labor and Pension which is spending a lot of time on the apprenticeship pathway and the get people to work act. He has some constituents from Colorado going to Washington to testify on that and the Senator is a big supporter of community colleges and the apprenticeship pathway.

CARES Act money rural hospitals had a deadline to spend the money they were given or return it to the government. \$8.5 million was returned and is back out now to the rural hospitals for the provider relief fund. There are huge needs in hospitals in rural areas.

REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER CONSERVATION – Senator Hickenlooper is working to expand the CREP Program to allow dryland farming and grazing. Senators Bennet, Buck and Hickenlooper are supporting this.

KIT CARSON COUNTY RENTAL RATES – They are working hard on the Kit Carson County rental rates. They are really distorted compared to the other counties. This happens every two years and they have to go in and fix it, but they want to find a sustainable plan so they don't have to keep going back every few years.

The Board had concerns over the possibility of a mandatory vaccination order from the President. Many in the rural Colorado workforce are concerned. Several counties have local hospitals in their communities that will lose 40-60% of their staff. Banner Health came out with mandatory vaccination policy before the state did. A lot of counties are losing workforce due to the mandatory vax policies.

Ms. Linker noted that Adria Paxton with Devonshire was one of the first to come to the Senator concerning Covid issues and nursing home issues. They want to keep temporary CNA status, allowing the training while working. This saved them through the pandemic. The nursing homes struggle because the pay rate is so low. They are losing people to fast food restaurants and Walmart that are paying \$15 per hour.

The EPA ban on pesticides was discussed. Ms. Linker has talked to applicators and companies who are struggling with bans and replacement pesticides.

The Board also discussed the drought and the 2013 and 2015 flooding. There is a reservoir that was approved 19 years ago which is still tied up in court. There are opportunities to have water if we can get storage. It is important for the Federal Government to understand that it is important to have water storage for the wet years. A big part of the infrastructure bill is western water storage.

Linker was asked about why the Federal Government is wanting banks to report every \$600 deposit into the bank accounts. Linker is learning more about this and will report back to the board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.