

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

September 8, 2020

Present: Joe McBride, Byron Pelton, Jane Bauder, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Jerry Casebolt, Marilee Johnson, Jeff Rice, Matt Chrisp, Debbie Unrein, Heidi Williams and Diana Korbe.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020 as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE 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 8, 2020 and Department of Human Services payroll for the period of August 17, 2020 to August 30, 2020. The Board approved as presented.

SHERIFF DISPATCH FEES – The Board received an e-mail from the Sheriff concerning an increase in dispatch fees paid to the City of Sterling. In 2018-2019 the increase was \$23,255 for 2019-2020 the increase was \$57,054 and 2020-2021 will see an increase of \$16,300. Costs for dispatching keep rising every year. The total bill for 2020 is \$309,000. The Sheriff's Office receives an average of 800-1,000 calls every year. The Board discussed doing the dispatching in-house or contracting with an outside firm. The increase over the years is due to salaries for dispatchers. Commissioner Pelton will talk to City Manager, Don Saling about the increases.

2020 CENSUS – Logan County's non-response rate is 20% below the state average. If census response stays where it is at, the area will lose \$7.9 million dollars in school funding and road funding.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT APPLICATIONS – The Small Business grant application for CARES Act funding has closed. The grant committee met Thursday to review the applications. There were 85 applications received totaling over \$600,000.

HEIDI WILLIAMS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE – RE OPIOD SETTLEMENT – Ms. Heidi Williams with the Attorney General's Office (AG) has been working since January on the state's opioid settlement response. The priority is to make sure the funding gets used for the opioid response, not other things. Ms. Williams asked what the gaps are in the community in regards to the opioid problems locally. The AG's office is seeing increased substance abuse due to COVID and an increase in overdose deaths from opioids. Colorado has lost over 5,000 people to opioid addiction in the last decade. Seventy percent of people who use heroine started with pain pills. Settlements will be negotiated now and the AG will ask counties or regions to sign off on the settlements to ensure the state can receive \$150 - \$200 million more bonus amount. Use of existing infrastructure is encouraged. If no infrastructure is in place, some of

the state's money can be used to help rural counties with this. The AG will also work with treatment centers.

Commissioner Pelton noted that Island Grove is the only treatment center for the whole eastern/northeastern part of Colorado. They will not accept anyone for detox unless they are high. After traveling 90 miles to get there, the subject is "coming down off their high" and the center will not accept them because they are not high. Another issue is transportation, counties can't continue to have Sheriff's Deputies transporting people to treatment centers. A facility is needed in the northeastern part of the state.

This area also has a huge methamphetamine problem in addition to the opioid problem. There is no treatment available for methamphetamine addiction. There is only one mental health treatment center in the county.

ILLEGAL DUMP SITE – The Board agreed to send a letter asking for an engineering report to the landowner concerning a suspected illegal dump site. If the landowner cannot produce this, then a cease and desist order will be issued.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.