

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session
January 15, 2019**

Present: Byron Pelton, Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Alan Samber, Shannon Graves, Lindsey Reeves, Don Saling, Pam Bacon, Chris Connor, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice, and Jennifer Crow.

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

REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA - The Board reviewed the Business Meeting Agenda for the January 15, 2019 meeting.

The Board agreed to remove appointments to voluntary boards on the consent agenda. This includes the VALE Board, Family Resource Center and Sterling Community Fund Boards.

The meeting recessed at 9:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

CITY SPECIAL ELECTION - Don Saling, Sterling City Manager, met with the Board to discuss a special election on behalf of the City of Sterling. He is gathering information to take to City Council. Pam Bacon will pull together an estimate of the costs for a special election. The City raised the sewer rates to \$50 per month last year based on successful passage of the bond issue. However the bond issue did not pass but the vote was very close. If they do another election and it fails, the rates will need to be raised to \$84 per month vs. \$50 per month. The City needs to generate \$10 million dollars to do one phase of the project.

The City does not have the manpower or capabilities to handle a special election and would like the Logan County Clerk's Office to run the election. Pam Bacon will work with Deb Forbes at the City to develop a time line for the election.

The Board will put the City Special Election on the February 5, 2019 Work Session agenda.

BUMP OUTS - Don Saling discussed a request for in-kind donations on a City beautification project. The City asks for Road and Bridge equipment and labor to removed concrete curbing at Second, Third and Fourth Streets and Main Street. The Board agreed that they do not have a problem with the Road and Bridge department donating in-kind work as long as it can be scheduled during the off season. The County will be allowed to keep the rip-rap cement debris in exchange for the work being done.

Mr. Saling gave a brief description of the project. The Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) and the Sterling Urban Renewal Authority (SURA) have been working together on the project. The bump outs will extend curbing at the corners of Second, Third and Fourth Streets and Main Street. SURA agreed to participate up to \$45,000 for Third and Fourth Streets. CAB it to do Second Street. The City put the project out to bid as a City Public Works Project and the bids came in at \$261,000 due to the impact on the City storm sewer system and relocation of the storm sewer inlets.

SURA still wants to participate but they do not know to what degree. It was suggested that the County be asked to participate due to the Courthouse being part downtown with two of the corners that will be included in the project.

CDOT has informed the City that the traffic signals at Fourth and Main will be replaced by stop signs. Mr. Saling does not know what the plans are for replacing the sidewalks where the steel posts for the signal lights currently are.

The Board indicated that it is interested in participating in the Bump Out project with in-kind work from the Road and Bridge Department.

PAWNEE RIDGE PARK - Chris Connor of the Pawnee Ridge Homeowners Association met with the Board concerning the Pawnee Ridge Park. The HOA would like to purchase and install new playground equipment and other park improvements. The improvements also include solar lighting and resurfacing of the basketball court. The HOA is asking for the Commissioners approval for the park improvements.

The Board noted that the County purchased a playground set a number of years ago which was never used. Chairman McBride will look at equipment in storage and work with the Pawnee Ridge HOA on the park improvements. The park is available for use by the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 work session. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

REVIEW DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) SCHEDULE OF BILLS - Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the DHS schedule of bills dated January 15, 2019. The Board approved all bills as presented.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) PAYROLL REVIEW - Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the DHS payroll for the period December 22, 2018 through January 4, 2019. The Board reviewed various payroll reports. The payroll was approved as presented.

REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS - Lindsey Reeves met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated January 15, 2019. The Board approved all bills as presented.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY - Chad Harwood of Centerpoint Energy met with the Board. Centerpoint Energy purchases natural gas for the Justice Center on behalf of the county. Centerpoint has the ability to purchase natural gas during the spring and summer months when it is less expensive and store it until it is needed. Natural gas is now selling at over \$4 dekatherm. It has been as low as \$2 a dekatherm in the spring and summer. Harwood wanted to make the board aware of his ability to lock in the price at any time.

There are no up front or additional costs to lock in the price and store the gas. March and April are the best time to lock in rates. Commissioner Bauder agreed to watch the natural gas prices and contact Harwood at Centerpoint to purchase gas for the county.

COUNTY BANK ACCOUNTS - Chairman McBride talked to Sheriff Powell about a monthly fee report for the agenda. The Sheriff's Fee Account Report will be on the Consent Agenda. The Board discussed Wells Fargo Bank's refusal to give the county a list of accounts under Logan County's name and Federal Employer ID number without a court order as there are no current elected officials as signors on the account(s). Alan Samber will research the legal

authority to get a court order. All other banks complied with the request for a list of accounts.

SILENT RAILROAD CROSSINGS - Jim McNay met with the Board in November 2018 and requested the Board's assistance with silencing trains at railroad intersections inside the City limits. It has since been discovered that two of the crossings are in the jurisdiction of Logan County. Mr. McNay contacted Chairman McBride to ask about the project again. The Board discussed if those railroad crossings are addressed then the small towns would request assistance with railroad crossings in their areas. The project would need buy-in from the towns as the county cannot afford to do them for the towns. DOLA may have funds available to help. It was estimated that it would take \$200,000 per intersection for the extra crossing arms. There were no decisions made.

PEETZ TOWER GENERATOR - An explanation is needed on who will pay for the generator. Jerry Casebolt noted that the State DTR funds are for new builds only. The county is responsible for maintaining the current propane generator as it was purchased with State funds. Better Electric gave the county a bid for a new Generac generator some time ago. However, Kent Sager of Kentec Communications does not believe the generator needs to be replaced but that it can be repaired. Better Electric services the generator and has said that it has exhausted what it can do with it as it is out of date.

Newer generators have timers that start them up once a week so they can run and cycle. The current generator does run once per week but is not firing properly and is overcharging thereby causing issues with equipment.

The Board asked Jerry Casebolt to research and find a service company to get a second opinion on the generator and to get a letter from Kent Sager stating that he thinks the generator can be repaired. The Board also asked Jerry Casebolt to provide copies of the previous bid from Better Electric for the new generator.

NECHD BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FROM LOGAN COUNTY - Trish McClain of NECHD noted that the representative must be from the City of Sterling. The Board has advertised the vacancy. Someone with a background in the medical field would be helpful.

COUNTY AUDIT - The Board discussed bidding out county audit services for the 2019 audit. It has been recommended that counties change auditors once in awhile. Alan Samber noted that there is nothing in the law that requires bids on audits. However, the Logan County Purchasing Policy requires bids on the purchase of services in excess of \$5,000. The Board noted that there is no problem with the current auditor.

WORK CAMPS - Nothing new to discuss.

NECALG BYLAWS CHANGE - Commissioner Pelton reported that there is an upcoming discussion to change the NECALG bylaws. Currently only entities that contribute to NECALG can vote on expenditures. The Board agreed that the bylaws should remain the same.

SHERIFF SALE OF EVIDENCE WEAPONS - Sheriff Brett Powell has asked for the Board's permission to sell fire arms and ammo that has been held and not claimed from evidence lockers at an upcoming Sterling Livestock auction. Powell would like to use funds received from the sale of the weapons to replace SWAT team vests that are expiring. These are not service

weapons but guns from the evidence locker. The Board agreed to the sale of the weapons at auction. Powell will need to request a supplemental budget at the end of the year approving the use of the funds to purchase vests.

OUTSTANDING CHECKS - Debbie Unrein sent an e-mail asking how to dispose of several old outstanding checks. Patty Bartlett has held the checks and has tried to contact the parties and get the money to them. The county could send the money to the State to hold in the Great Colorado Payback program which is set up to find owners of forgotten money, or it could keep the money in an account. The county can keep up to \$25 per check for administrative costs of forwarding the money to the State. There is one check that is \$24 and it would be kept in its entirety.

The Board agreed to distribute the funds to the Great Colorado Payback and keep \$25 per check which is being canceled. The Board instructed Jennifer Crow to notify the Treasurer of this.

ROAD AND BRIDGE IN KIND WORK FOR LCSSC - The Board agreed to use actual costs for Road and Bridge equipment and labor in-kind work done on the Logan County Shooting Sports Complex. It was pointed out that some federal grants the county cannot charge the grant more than what they would actually pay for the work. Jerry Casebolt commented that the county could not charge FEMA more than what the county would actually spend to get the work done.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.