

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session**  
**July 23, 2019**

Present: Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Byron Pelton, Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Jeff Rice, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Scott Szabo, John Draxler, Brian Lynch, Lisa LeFevre, Dave Webb and Jennifer Crow.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION** - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 work session as written. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried.

**REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA** - The Board made the following additions to the Work Session Agenda: Commissioner Pelton will give an update on a CCI Legislative Committee meeting he attended. Commissioner McBride will discuss Economic development, NEC RETAC Trauma and Advisory council position, sale of county land

**REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS** - Valerie Richards met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Resources schedule of bills dated July 23, 2019. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**REVIEW LOGAN COUNTY SCHEDULE OF BILLS** - Kristan Lange met with the Board to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated July 23, 2019. The Board approved all bills as presented.

**LOGAN COUNTY AMBULANCE COLLECTION ASSIGNMENTS** - Commissioner Pelton moved to approve assignment of Logan County Ambulance debt collections accounts to Wakefield and Associates, the account numbers ending in 2009, 9001, 8003 and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Bauder seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS FOR JUNE** - The Board will review the publication and approve at the next meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** - Commissioner Pelton updated the Board concerning several issues. The Logan - Prowers County bill that could be coming through CCI concerning MSO's or equity for rural and metro areas receiving funds for substance abuse services. A second issue included discussion concerning Sterling and the attempt by the Department of Corrections to circumvent the local Community Corrections Board. Larimer County would like to create a bill and send it through the legislature to prevent the DOC from circumventing local Community Corrections Boards when they are planning to release DOC inmates into the population.

The last issue concerns underfunded District Attorneys' offices. They are proposing the use of VALE Board money for district attorneys' offices. VALE funding comes from fines from certain tickets and crimes and is distributed by a Board to victim's advocates and certain non profits. There has recently been some significant shortfalls in the VALE fund just in the way the fines are assessed. Concern is if money is taken out of VALE there will be much less for Victims' Advocates.

The DOC's attempt to introduce the work program for the hemp growers has been suspended indefinitely. The suspension of the work program has little to do with the Community Corrections issue as none of the workers had qualified for Community Corrections.

**NORTHEAST COLORADO REGIONAL EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA ADVISORY COUNCIL** - Commissioner McBride was contacted by Marci Dowis who serves as Logan County's hospital facility representative on the Northeast Colorado RETAC. Ms. Dowis is willing to continue to serve. The Commissioners will reappoint her at the next business meeting.

**COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY COUNTRY CLUB HILLS** - Commissioner McBride was contacted by a citizen interested in purchasing county-owned property in Country Club Hills. The County owns several small properties that are either open space or park areas. Rob Quint has been asked to develop a list of the properties. It is believed that open space was the original intent of the property as the areas are wetlands. More research is necessary to determine if the county would be interested in selling the property. The property would need to be offered for sale by sealed bid.

**REVIEW 2018 AUDIT** - Scott Szabo and Debbie Unrein met with the Board to review the 2018 audit. Mr. Szabo stated that the county received a clean audit opinion and the audit went very well. The county audit received a clean opinion on programs looked at. The TANF program was the federal program looked at this year. Because of the level of federal expenditures, (\$3.3 million), a Single Audit is required. If a fund is over \$750,000, which the TANF fund is, it must be audited every three years.

The Ambulance Fund is the only fund that shows a negative cash trend in a two-year period, approximately \$160,000. The fund balance was down about \$140,000. The fund has experienced a decline in revenue recently.

The General Fund balance has gone up from 2013 to 2018 \$5.3 million to \$6.5 million. The Road and Bridge Fund increased from \$2.2 million to \$4 million from 2013 to 2018. Human Services Fund balance is up as well. From an audit prospective, there are no trends that are alarming. Financially everything is looking good. The county would receive an "A" or "A+" rating. The Board and Szabo gave kudos to Debbie Unrein, Finance Director and Karen Milner in the Human Services Finance Department for their help with the audit and keeping the finances in order. Szabo will file the audit as required with State and Federal governments.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS UPDATE** - John Draxler and Brian Lynch met with the Board to update them on Community Corrections and the Advantage Treatment Center. The center has 107 beds, 71 residents work in the community, Thirty-six beds are reserved for the residential treatment center. Over \$125,000 was paid in restitution in the county. ATC is recognized as one of the top facilities in state for its success rates. The also have the lowest escape rate in state.

Twelve residential beds may be taken and turned back to IRT beds. These are paid at the base rate.

The DOC's program was recently pulled from Sterling but is starting in Denver at meat packing plants. The DOC executive director said he does not have to go through community corrections boards for placement of prisoners in the workforce in communities. Weld and Larimer counties

are taking opposition to that position. County Commissioners rely on the community corrections board to screen the offenders who will be placed into the community. Mr. Williams noted that the offenders weren't eligible for community corrections so close to their release dates.

Draxler explained how offenders are sentenced to community corrections. A judge can sentence an offender directly to community corrections or they can come to community corrections as a condition of their probation or parole. Offenders can also be referred to an intensive residential treatment (IRT) program for 90 days for substance abuse. All offenders are screened for community corrections.

As of today, six of the residents are working for the Lebsock hemp field, another is working for Tom Westfall helping him growing hemp. Another fifty or so residents are out working in the community as the economy is as good as it has ever been. They are going to be using the Dave Ramsey financial program at center to help teach the residents learn to manager their money.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - There is no update on the Silent railroad crossings.

**NJC APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTER EXPANSION** - Lisa LeFevre, Vice President of NJC Administrative Services and Dave Webb, NJC Communications Director met with the Board to request support for NJC's Applied Technology Campus expansion and requested a letter of support for Enterprise Zone designation.

The Applied Technology Center, also known as the NJC North Campus is home for the Wind Energy Technician Program, the welding and auto mechanics programs among others. The demand for ATC programs is growing locally and nationally. The local area has experienced reductions in workforce-ready program availability with the closure of Ecotech Institute and the restructuring and reputation loss at WyoTech. The emerging occupational categories of Wind Energy Technicians and Precision Agriculture are some of the newer ATC programs at NJC.

Current facilities for the ATC are too small for today's requirements. The 54,000 total sq. foot disconnected buildings will be expanded to 89,150 square feet and will unite existing buildings to create a contiguous campus. This will improve student success with a design that fosters collaboration and will include a new consolidated library, more accessible faculty and administrative offices, virtual classrooms and a renovated/expanded computer lab. New agricultural mechanics and wind and diesel shop spaces will be added. Existing shop spaces will be renovated for welding, automotive and skilled trades.

The NJC ATC provides training in skilled trades and is a regional hub for technology programs. It is the only accredited wind program in Colorado. Employers in town cannot find the skilled workforce that they need.

With the expansion, NJC ATC hopes to increase certificates awarded by 75%, increase 2-year program graduates by 28 percent. Introduce cutting edge technology to curriculum, economic benefit of approximately \$1,200/student/yr locally.

Grow skilled workers in the region.

Groundbreaking will take place in May of 2020 breaking ground with completion of Phase I in August 2021. Phases 2 and 3 will be complete by August 2022. They will continue teaching programs in place as there is no where else for them to go. There will be a phase 4 if needed for

future expansion.

Need permission to list public entity and letter of support. 25% state tax credit enterprise zone. Anyone who donates to program would have that tax credit.

pledges for 2 million in matching funds for every dollar donated  
dola grant application for 1.5 million

RV technician training. Only training is in Indiana.

Industrial Maintenance companies,

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - Joe McBride presented ideas for economic development and discussed what Logan County can do to increase economic growth. Vibrant Tourism, Business Personal Property Tax Credit, Expedited Planning and Zoning Process are some of the topics already in place. A proposed idea is a five-year graduated property tax for new businesses. The Assessor is looking into whether it can be accomplished. Another idea is to double that tax incentive if a business locates in a small town like Merino or Peetz and for new daycare operations. Enhanced amenities, and the Heritage Center and fairgrounds expansion, may attract retirees to the community.

Another project proposed is a yearly entrepreneur grant challenge to encourage more of the entrepreneurial spirit in this area. A partnership with NJC, LCEDC, the county and city is proposed. The grant would go to one entrepreneur and include a one-year co-working space for free, one-year basic attorney consult in order to start a business. The project is similar to a Shark Tank project however, the larger part is including a crowd funding aspect. This helps local, private sector investors keep money in local projects.

The area has fast high speed internet and can attract people who want to escape the rat race of the front range to work from home or anywhere. There is a lot of broadband in Logan County which is an advantage along with a lower cost of living.

More ideas were discussed to determine what needs are for the community and the desire to build on strengths.

Marilee Johnson has just been appointed to the State Destination Development Board. The front range tourism places are so saturated, she hopes to help bring information to Logan County.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.