

**Logan County Commissioners Work Session
July 9, 2019**

Present: Joe McBride, Jane Bauder, Byron Pelton, Alan Samber, Valerie Richards, Kristan Lange, Dusty Johnson, Darlene Carpio, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2019 work session as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA - The Board will discuss a request for a memorial bench at the DeSoto Building. Commissioner Pelton will report on the Eastern District TPR meeting he attended yesterday. The Board will discuss bids received for repair of the Assessor's Terrain.

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 9, 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 2, 2019. A bill from Logan County Investigations for coroner training for David Tennant's time to attend the conference was discussed. The bill will be held until a receipt for this amount is received. The Board approved all remaining bills as presented.

MEMORIAL BENCH DESOTO BUILDING - Debbie DeSoto has requested a memorial bench or gate for her father John DeSoto at the Gary DeSoto building. The family will pay for the bench with memorial funds. Chance Wright does not think that a gate is a good option since most of the fencing is completed in that area now. The Board agreed that the memorial bench could be placed near the DeSoto building. The Board will ask Ms. DeSoto to work with Chance Wright to get the details of the bench placement finalized.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS FOR MAY - The Board reviewed and approved the Commissioners Proceedings for May, 2019.

EASTERN DISTRICT TPR MEETING - Commissioner Pelton reported on the Eastern District TPR meeting he attended yesterday. CDOT officials reported on the projects they are working on. Many fully engineered projects are on the shelf waiting for funds to complete them. County priorities were discussed. Logan County's priorities are re-surfacing on all state highways in the county. Highways 6, 138, 61 and 14 are all within their last years of life in the county. CDOT is putting together the 2045 Transportation Plan which covers 2019 until 2045. CDOT wants to prioritize public transit, and bicycle paths. NECALG and County Express do a good job on local transit. Counties told CDOT funds are needed in the rural areas more for road re-surfacing than for public transit and bicycle paths. Six of the top ten agricultural counties in the state are represented in the Eastern TPR. All Commissioners present all voiced the same concerns that farm trucks, cattle haulers, beet haulers, tractors, etc. all are heavier and harder on roads than box trucks which were discussed by CDOT officials. CDOT was told that rural roads need to be maintained better. SB 267 has given counties more funding for county roads in the last two years. Several top CDOT employees have retired with replacements being recruited for those positions.

ASSESSOR'S VEHICLE REPAIRS - The Board requested that a purchase requisition be completed for the repairs to a bumper caused by a hit and run and hail damage. Repairs for the bumper are under \$500. Repairs to the gas cover are under \$100.

ATV/UTV REGULATIONS - Alan Samber has draft regulations finished. The Board will review and discuss at the next work session.

SILENT RAILROAD CROSSINGS - Don Saling has a contact at CDOT who may have a lead on possible funding options. Merino wants to be included on Silent Railroad Crossing discussions and possible contracts. Other communities can reach out to the county if they want to be included.

The meeting recessed 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

SENATOR CORY GARDNER'S OFFICE UPDATE - Darlene Carpio met with the Board to provide an update on Senator Gardner's accomplishments in the last several months. Gardner introduced the Map Improvement Act to improve broadband coverage maps to ensure federal funding for broadband expansion coverage goes to places where it is most needed. Standardized mapping is needed. Every provider has their own maps which determine underserved areas. The legislation hopes to address that problem.

The Trace Act (robocall bill) was introduced and passed in the Senate which will require phone companies to implement a system that will authenticate and verify phone calls. There is an allowance for emergency calls done by community emergency systems. Phone companies have the ability to do this now, however this bill requires it.

Senator Gardner has been working on Veterans issues. Eight initiatives have been introduced to address Veterans' issues. The Improve Act has been introduced and will help Veterans to transition from serving the country to civilian life with additional resources.

Gardner introduced the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) which has now been signed into law. Fifty percent of world's population resides in the Indo-Pacific and 50 percent of the world's gross domestic product comes from the Indo-Pacific. ARIA is important for trade and US agricultural commodities. It stabilizes relationships and goes a long way to stabilizing the economy.

Senator Gardner is ranked among the top ten percent for most effective senators in Congress based on legislation introduced and/or sponsored and the fifth most bipartisan Senator in the 115th Congress.

USDA Rural Development REAP loans and grants have been given to Wiggins, Akron and Yuma grocery stores. Airports in the area have receive several million dollar FAA grants for runway work.

Water system upgrades in smaller communities have been a priority. The EPA has identified \$2.6 million in new sources of funding for water infrastructure in the form of loans and grants.

Ms. Carpio recently attended the Logan County Municipality meeting, the recent South Platte Basin tour and toured the City of Sterling's drinking water facility. Ms. Carpio also attended the Opioid

crisis meeting yesterday.

CTSI LOSS ANALYSIS FOR LOGAN COUNTY - Marilyn Wagner, Senior Loss Prevention Specialist for CTSI provided loss analysis reports for the Casualty and Property Pool (CAPP) and County Worker's Compensation Pool (CWCP) to the Board.

CAPP ended 2018 with \$15.8 million in equity which allows a return to members of \$1.25 million returned with interest earnings returned to the pool members in the amount of \$700,000. Logan County's base contribution for 2019 was \$467,000 with a loss factor modification using the oldest three of five years worth of claims history. The modification factor applied was .79. Logan County's share of the interest returned to counties the amount being nearly \$22,000. equity 24,550. Net contribution was almost 325k.

The top five claims in frequency occur in Public Transportation and Law Enforcement. NECALG is responsible for the Public Transportation frequency of claims. However, in the severity of claims chart, Public Transportation is further down the list. CTSI has provided 32 classes for the county in the last five years. They have not done a defensive driving class in the last 5 years which is recommend every 3-5 years.

CWCP ended 2018 with \$18.9 million in equity which allows a return to members of \$1.25 million. Logan County's base rate started at \$280,600 and was modified by loss ratio of .96 using the oldest three of five years loss experienced. The loss ratio will never go beyond 1.07 no matter what the actual losses experienced. Logan County had a much higher loss ratio in 2017. The reason the two most current years are not used as that number could change if there are still open claims that have bills occurring. Logan County saw approximately \$38,000 in equity returned and making \$231,000 in the actual contribution for 2019.

Frequency and severity of claims were discussed. Someone had a body mechanics claim over \$200,000 in 2017 and another claim over \$300,000 someone tripping on a carpet. Looking at trends for the whole pool over the last five years, slips, trips and falls and body mechanics claims total over \$20 million.

The Board asked if CTSI investigates claims that they do not believe occurred at work. Ms. Wagner explained that CTSI does have a nurse case managers that review the claims and will look at the mechanics of the job to compare whether the injury would have occurred on the job. Previous claims history can also be studied.

CONGRESSMAN KEN BUCK'S OFFICE UPDATE - Dusty Johnson, staff member for Congressman Ken Buck met with the Board to report on recent legislative accomplishments.

Fourteen Colorado students in the Fourth Congressional district have accepted appointments to U.S. Services Academies. Seven will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, three will attend the Marine Academy, two each will attend Westpoint and the Naval Academy.

Five airports in the district have been awarded infrastructure funding by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a part of the Airport Improvement Program. Sterling Municipal Airport will receive \$290,680 to conduct an airport master plan study.

Congressman Buck co-sponsored Criminal Alien Removal Clarification Act. The act ensures that non citizens convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors are deported. The language simplifies the code and avoids immigration loopholes making it clear who does or doesn't qualify.

H.R. 586 - Fix the Immigration Loopholes Act was co-sponsored by Congressman Buck. This legislation allows the government to keep parents and children together throughout their immigration proceedings, restores the integrity of the asylum system and protects children at the border. The act also increases protection for victims of severe trafficking by ensuring that they receive a hearing with a judge within a maximum of 14 days of their arrival. The Department of Health and Human Services will be required to provide the Department of Homeland Security with biographical information about the family members or sponsors to whom each minor is released. To ensure kids are going to correct families and that they are actually with family members and not other adults for whatever reasons they may be with them. This requirement does not exist under current law.

The Board asked if any of the proposed legislation going to help with migrant labor. The proposed H2C program did not pass in the 115th Congress as there were many provisions that were not popular. They want to make sure it has a chance to pass before reintroducing it. Currently the topics are DACA and dreamers and children at the boarder. Migrant labor is necessary for seasonal crops and dairies, etc. States have different growing seasons and different needs.

Darlene Carpio joined the meeting again at the Board's request.

Commissioner McBride reported that he has been contacted by citizen who received a form from the Census called the American Community Survey or ACS. The survey is sent to 3.5 million random households across the country requesting more detailed information about the household. The ACS form asks information that is quite personal. It is surprising in this time for identity protection that a survey at this time is sent out by the federal government. The survey form states that there are heavy penalties (up to \$5,000) attached if you fail to complete and return the survey. The survey is said to take 40 minutes to complete and asks some very personal information. The confidentiality of the survey is also being questioned. There is no name on the survey, but there is the threat of a fine if it is not returned.

Both Dusty Johnson and Darlene Carpio have not heard of the survey but promised to look into it. If the individual who contacted them would like to contact one of them, they will be happy to discuss it.

Darlene Carpio explained that Senator Gardner's office was involved in interviewing over 1,000 graduates who had applied to military academies. A member of each military branch is invited to attend and sit in on the interviews. Students need to start pursuing the academy when they are sophomores.

Commissioner Bauder asked why adult original birth certificates are not returned when they apply for passport renewal. Commissioner Bauder's original birth certificate was not returned when she renewed her passport but her children's birth certificates were returned. She filled out the online form to get a replacement birth certificate from Lincoln, Nebraska but her paperwork was lost and the check never cashed. It is difficult to get to speak with a live person for assistance. Ms. Carpio offered to look into the situation and get back to Commissioner Bauder.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.