

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County  
Agenda for September 29, 2015

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 Tom Nestor, County Sheriff, to meet with the Board regarding the proposed 2016 Sheriff's Office, Jail and Victims' Assistance budgets

10:00 Sue Kelly, Public Health Director, to meet with the Board regarding the proposed 2016 Public Health budget

11:00 Andy Lorensen, County Coroner, to discuss updates to the proposed 2016 Coroner's budget

1. Approve the minutes from the September 18, 2015 meeting
2. Discuss potential sale of county-owned vacant lots described as Lots 14-17, inclusive, Block 2; Grand View Addition to Genoa
3. Discuss 2016 employer options for the County Health Pool Plans
4. Discuss currently imposed county-wide fire ban
5. Old business
6. New business
7. Approve payroll and expense vouchers

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 29, 2015. The following attended: Chairman Greg King, Commissioners Doug Stone and Ed Schiffers, County Administrator Gary Ensign, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

Chairman King called the meeting to order and asked Jail Captain Michael Yowell to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Tom Nestor then presented his 2016 budget requests for the Sheriff, Jail, and Victim Assistance departments. They will not know how much the medical contract will be until it is received from the hospital, and the sheriff commented that they will need to do some serious work on the plumbing in the jail but he will hold off as long as possible. Sheriff Nestor also intends to request bids for the food contract to see if he can find something cheaper. Included in the Capital Projects budget request were two vehicles and upgraded Tasers for the patrol deputies.

Before they left, Mr. King asked about the current countywide fire ban. Sheriff Nestor responded that, by resolution, the Board gave him authority to work with the local fire chiefs to determine when fire danger increases from one level to another. He added that it would help tremendously if the state would mow the ditches along the state highways. Mr. Ensign asked the commissioners if they would like to put county trucks out for trash collection as has been done in the past. They agreed to discuss it in further detail later on and Sheriff Nestor and Captain Yowell left the meeting.

After a brief discussion about terminology in his commissioner report, Mr. Schiffers made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 18, 2015, as submitted. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 22, 2015, as submitted. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the potential sale of county-owned vacant lots described as Lots 14-17, inclusive, Block 2; Grand View Addition to Genoa, Mr. Ensign stating he had worked with the Clerk's office to obtain deed and survey information. The county gained possession of the property through Treasurer's Deed in 1961 and had it surveyed for some reason in 2004. Mr. Ensign said Ms. Devers did not know why the survey was done unless the county had considered building a new county shop on those lots at one time. Mr. King said the fifty foot lots may be worth \$600 or \$700 each, even though they are vacant lots with no utilities. He felt the county had no use for them and he would like to see them put back on the tax rolls if possible.

Mr. Stone made a motion to sell Lots 14-17, inclusive, Block 2; Grand View Addition to Genoa and to request a minimum bid of \$2,000 with the right of refusal. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At 10:00 a.m., Public Health Director Sue Kelly met with the Board to present her 2016 budget request. After some discussion, Mr. Stone asked if she would be able to reduce the Professional Services request of \$16,000 since less than \$10,000 was spent in 2014 and they have expended a little over \$5,000 in the first six months of 2015. Ms. Kelly said she would need to check with Kit Carson County to see if they expect any increase, but she could certainly cut it back. She said she had left it a little higher in the event that Peak Vista would come on board with family planning services and she had no idea what they would charge if so. Mr. King asked for Mr. Stone's suggestion, who said he felt \$13,000 would suffice. Mr. King said he would prefer \$12,000 and Mr. Schiffers agreed. Mr. King stated that since Peak Vista is a for-profit organization they could pay for it, adding that the county needs to support county operations and he personally didn't believe the need was there for another venue. Ms. Kelly said the state requires that Public Health provide the service but since they offer family planning and well-woman care in both Hugo and Limon, she felt that would be sufficient. The line item was reduced to \$12,000 and may be increased again depending on what Ms. Kelly finds out from Kit Carson County.

Ms. Kelly left and the Board discussed the 2016 employer options for the County Health Pool plans. Mr. Ensign explained that the county currently offers Plan A but the commissioners could choose to save a little money by going with one of the lesser plans; however, it would increase the out-of-pocket cost to employees.

Mr. Stone made a motion to leave the current employee healthcare plan as is; Plan A with the County Health Pool. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Discussion turned to providing county trucks to residents for their trash during the fire ban, Mr. Ensign stating he'd received an email from Patrick Leonard asking that the truck not be parked by the Karval Water Users shed in the event something toxic is placed in it that would seep into the water supply. Mr. Stone said he will find some other place to park the truck. Mr. King suggested asking Rob Fager to supply dumpsters but the group decided to discuss it with the road foremen later in the day and report back at the September 30 meeting.

Mr. King called for old business and Ms. Lengel asked for a few minutes to discuss the Human Services budget and pay schedule. She stated that she didn't know if the commissioners had noticed that Ms. Barksdale had made several requests in her 2016 budget for promotions resulting in three step increases for numerous employees. While Ms. Lengel did not know if the employees were all due step raises as well as the cost of living increase, she felt it was unfair that Ms. Barksdale is allowed to change the county pay scale by adding levels, steps, and different job titles for her employees while other departments strive to follow the pay scale as adopted by the departments. She went on to say that the department heads meet and work on the pay scale when it needs to be revised and they all agree to revisions, yet Ms. Barksdale always seems to make changes, particularly at budget time, that are never contradicted. She has also been known to change the pay schedule during the year when she feels it appropriate to promote an employee based on their job duties, without commissioner approval. Ms. Lengel stated she is certainly not against Human Services employees getting their due raises but did

not like the fact that other departments must follow the county pay scale, despite changes in job duties their employees may acquire.

County Coroner Andy Lorensen arrived at 10:50 a.m. to discuss updates to the proposed 2016 budget for his department. He had contacted Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association to ask the monthly fee of a landline for his office and learned it would be approximately \$40 for the phone, fax, and voice mail. They charge eleven cents per minute for long distance calls. Mr. Lorensen said he had recalculated the phone line item and with the cell phone and office phone, plus long distance, determined he would need to increase it to \$1,080. The Board agreed to increase it to \$1,100. Mr. King asked if he had found any surplus office furniture and Ms. Lengel suggested he be allowed to use the desk in the commissioners' office since no one ever really uses it for anything. She added they could replace it with a table when Mr. Stone commented that Will Bublitz with the newspaper sometimes sits there to take notes. Mr. Lorensen was happy to have the desk and said it would save at least \$300 and a search for something used. He did request a cabinet like the one County Assessor Jeremiah Higgins has in his office.

After Mr. Lorensen left, Mr. King called for new business. Mr. Schifferns asked that the November 6 meeting be changed to November 9, and then Mr. Ensign stated that Hugo Town Clerk Maria Nestor would like to know if any of the commissioners are planning to attend the Colorado Municipal League dinner at the depot on October 6. Mr. Stone said he would attend and Mr. Schifferns said he would let him know once he checked his calendar.

Mr. Ensign had received a notice from CCI regarding the fact that annual dues would not increase for 2016 but would remain at \$12,000. CCI also has a public lands committee and thirty-nine counties in the state are eligible to participate. Annual dues are \$26 this year but depending on what funding formula is ultimately adopted, could go as high as \$50. Mr. Ensign asked the Board if they would like to pay the dues, which they agreed to do.

The Board approved the September 2015 payroll and expense vouchers for the month and then, with no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on September 30, 2015.

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Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

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Greg King, Chairman