

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County  
Agenda for May 31, 2016

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 Troy McCue, Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, to present the LCEDC monthly report

10:00 Patricia Phillips, Human Services Director, to present the Department of Human Services monthly report

11:00 Parker Newbanks, Jr., Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer, to present the Veterans Service Office annual report

1. Approve the minutes from the May 27, 2016, meeting
2. Review the Monthly Management Report from the First National Bank of Omaha
3. Review the Computerized System Maintenance Agreement between Saul's Creek Engineering, Inc. and Lincoln County, Colorado
4. County Commissioner reports
5. County Administrator's report
6. County Attorney's report
7. Old business
8. New business
9. Approve additional expense vouchers if necessary

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on May 31, 2016. The following attended: Chairman Greg King, Commissioners Doug Stone and Ed Schifferns, County Administrator Gary Ensign, County Attorney Stan Kimble, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

Chairman King called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Kimble to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Troy McCue met with the Board to give his monthly report, stating that he has completed the Blueprint 2.0 Initiative for the tourism board and will complete the Branding Initiative later this week. He reported on business retention visits in each of the municipalities, commenting that neither the town of Arriba nor the town of Genoa was interested in the OEDIT Initiative at this time. He is assisting Arriba with locating funding sources for the Bethel recreation improvement project. They hope to expand the west side of the facilities to provide better restrooms and a larger kitchen area, as there is a feeling that they lose possible events when potential renters see those portions of the facility. Mr. McCue is also working with the two young ladies hoping to create the Country Living Learning Center in Hugo. They have received preliminary approval from the town of Hugo, as well as a promise of a land donation, and are now searching for funding resources. They would like to obtain their own 501c3 and Your Community Foundation could help them with that aspect of the project as a pass-through. There are questions of what would happen to donations should the project not come to fruition. He spoke about the World Trade Day he attended with Joe Kiely on May 19, as well as his preparation for the SelectUSA conference in Washington, D.C., and the West Limon development. He is working with Jeff Thornton in Karval on a greenhouse project for the community.

Mr. Ensign asked about the plastic recycling since Kennard Holley had missed his appointment with the Board at a prior meeting. Mr. McCue relayed that Mr. Holley has moved from the area and he fears that the relocation will end the recycling service, even though Mr. Holley has assured him that he will continue to empty the bins.

At 10:00 a.m., Human Services Director Patricia Phillips met with the Board to give her monthly report. While reviewing the April financial report and employee timesheets, Mr. King asked if she had faced any issues with Andy Lorensen balancing his Human Services duties with those of the county coroner. Ms. Phillips responded that she had asked him to be cognizant of clocking in and out each time he performed coroner duties to ensure that his time is all logged appropriately. He does have adequate leave time with DHS so there is no problem with him taking that time to perform his coroner duties, and she said she has not had any issues with the arrangement.

Ms. Phillips spoke a bit about the fact that they may have to develop an Employment First program, which will be quite a bit of work for their department, and then provided the Income Maintenance, Child Welfare, and director's monthly reports. They did have to place a sibling

group of four recently, and will have three termination of parental rights cases coming up in the next couple of months that will most likely be contested.

Ms. Phillips produced the 2016/2017 Signal Contract, stating that it is the annual contract for substance abuse treatment and is paid for through Core Services. She added that the only change is a slight increase in fees for substance abuse testing; however, they tend to do most of their own testing at DHS as they have a couple of employees who are trained in some of those areas. Mr. Schiffers made a motion to sign the 2016/2017 Signal Contract for substance abuse treatment, Mr. Stone seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

DHS will have an excess of TANF funds at the end of their fiscal year, approximately \$65,000. Ms. Phillips said that they can turn the money back to the state and it will be used to bail out other counties in need, or they can choose to spend the money in Lincoln County instead. She listed several entities that they could provide mini-grants to; including, the schools, local organizations that provide teen pregnancy, child abuse prevention, workforce assessments and evaluations, and SSI application assistance, as well as a donation to the proposed child care facility in Hugo that Mr. McCue had mentioned earlier. After the division of funds, Ms. Phillips said there would still be around \$6,700 to use for Child Welfare close-out. She asked for other ideas in case some of the entities turn down the mini-grants or in the event they do not need the full \$6,700 for close-out. Mr. Schiffers suggested a mini-grant to the Lions Club since they provide eye glasses for kids and other individuals who cannot afford them. Ms. Phillips thought it an excellent idea and said she would let the commissioners know the outcome once she has contacted the possible mini-grant recipients. She added that they will still have \$100,000 in TANF reserves, which is the maximum amount that can be retained.

Ms. Phillips asked to keep the interns that were used the previous summer, as they are very helpful in many ways. They are paid out of the core funds for life skills and may be needed especially for transportation if the sibling group of four is placed in Yuma County, which is a possibility. They have checked the metro area as well but no one wants all four children and DHS is trying to keep them together. Two interns worked for DHS last summer and the two are willing to come back again, although one of them does have another job starting in July. Mr. Ensign asked her to keep an eye on the interns' overtime, as it was quite costly last year. Ms. Phillips said she hadn't realized that since her predecessor had made the initial deal with the girls, but she has since spoken with them and they understand that any time over 7 ½ hours a day will be donated to the county and not paid as overtime, which they have agreed to. Mr. Ensign asked that she be sure the interns have clearance from the county shop to pump gas and Ms. Phillips said she would.

Ms. Phillips told the Board that she has run into a problem with caseworkers being able to take off all of the time they have accrued since they lose annual time if they have more than the allotted amount when they reach their anniversary date. Several are losing time due to the amount of comp time they have, which is required to be used prior to annual leave. She explained that she has spoken to staff about combining visits if they travel to the city, in order to save on mileage and extra trips, but that tends to make for a really long day in which they

then accrue overtime. Staff also needs time to complete their documentation, which never seems to happen if they flex their time by coming in late the next day when they've worked late the night before. Ms. Phillips added that they are going to test a plan in the next couple of months in which caseworkers will spend one day each week in their office completing their documentation and not answering other calls or phone calls. Mr. King said the Board certainly can't set a precedent by allowing DHS to accumulate more hours than other departments and Ms. Phillips said she wasn't asking for that, she simply wanted the commissioners to be aware that there is a problem.

Lastly, Ms. Phillips wanted the Board to know that she had checked on the imaging work that Colette Barksdale had started before she was terminated. Ms. Phillips learned that she does not have access to it, but the gentleman she spoke with plans to come out and meet with her. At that time, she hopes to learn what documents were destroyed. It is her thought that it was probably part of the regular retention/disposal schedule, as they do not have to keep certain documents for more than three years.

At 11:00 a.m., Veterans Service Officer Parker Newbanks, Jr., met with the Board to present his annual report. He provided statistics for 2015, some of which were higher and some of which were lower, but stated that everything is still running smoothly and he hopes to continue with the job as long as the county wants him. He did attend the annual conference and commented that it certainly gets more expensive, but he does bring back valuable information and always learns something. He also let the commissioners know that once he sells his store and home he will need to return a desk that belongs to the county, as he will not need it at his new place.

After Mr. Newbanks left, Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 27, 2016, as submitted. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Computerized System Maintenance Agreement between Saul's Creek Engineering, Inc. and Lincoln County for the County Clerk's recording system. Ms. Lengel said there were no price increases or other changes. Mr. Stone made a motion to sign the agreement, Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Stone reported stopping by the county shop and speaking with Rick Ashcraft on May 19. He checked roads on May 23, and spoke with Rick again on May 24 about summer oil and bridge projects. He attended the fairgrounds walkthrough on May 25, and also received a call from Vernon Stone about the Karval area cemeteries and mowing and maintenance on them. On May 26, he and Rick Ashcraft checked on the roads they had discussed on May 24. He was also contacted by the Karval school business manager regarding Energy Impact money for 2017. He checked roads prior to the commissioner meeting on May 27, stating they had received four inches of hail in some places. Later that evening, he was informed that Rick Ashcraft was called about a tree falling on one of the county roads and had to go out and cut it up so it could be moved. Mr. Stone reported helping with the Karval 10K and attending the Memorial Day services at the cemetery on May 30.

Mr. Schifferns reported attending the fairgrounds walkthrough on May 25 and the hospital board meeting on May 26. They finally got their computers operating again and have raised \$5,000 for their Amazing Race. He attended the commissioner meeting on May 27 and the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Arriba cemetery on May 30.

Mr. King reported that he has been checking roads and doing quite a bit of campaigning at the same time (for which he does not charge the county mileage), but he did attend the Economic Development meeting on May 25. They discussed the fact that there are a lack of rental properties in Limon and how repurposing some of the old motels as efficiency apartments may be one way to help alleviate that problem. He attended the Karval Memorial Day ceremony on May 30, as well as the one in Hugo, and a barbeque at one of the road crewmen's homes that evening.

Mr. Ensign reported that Chris Monks and the road crews constructed the access road to the roundhouse, although it will need some gravel before it is finished. The kitchen at the jail has also been repaired and is fully functional. He provided a copy of an email from Michael Sandoval, an energy policy analyst and investigative reporter for Independence Institute, regarding the passage in the April 18 minutes referring to the letter of support for Xcel's proposal to build additional renewable energy generation in Eastern Colorado, and the letter submitted to the *Denver Post* allegedly written by Mr. Stone. Mr. Sandoval asked for clarification regarding Greg Brophy's involvement with Xcel/Public Service Company of Colorado, the assessment that the letter appeared in the *Denver Post* without permission, and if the Board felt the minutes were accurate. Mr. King said he took exception to the email, particularly the question of whether or not the minutes were accurate, and Mr. Kimble agreed. Mr. Ensign asked if he should respond to Mr. Sandoval since the gentleman had sent the email on Saturday, May 21, and had asked for a response by 9:00 p.m. that night. He has not heard from Mr. Sandoval since. Mr. Kimble said he would advise no response at this time but if Mr. Ensign receives another request, he should respond with the fact that the county has no idea what the relationship is between Greg Brophy and Xcel, and that the minutes are, indeed, accurate.

Mr. Kimble stated that the county attorney has traditionally attended the afternoon session of commissioner meetings on his designated days, but since the Board is often finished before noon, he would like to begin attending the morning session, in case he is needed. The commissioners agreed that it would be fine if the county attorney changed the time he met with them.

Mr. Kimble asked for an update on the Mauna Tower, LLC subject and was given the information from the May 18 meeting, as well as Sheriff Nestor's request that the county buy it back if it is for sale.

Mr. Kimble also asked if there was any further correspondence from the DOC inmate regarding his sweat lodge and the county fire ban. Mr. Ensign said the inmate has corresponded with

both Mr. DeWitt and Sheriff Nestor on occasion regarding the topic. He has been told that he needs to take the issue up with the Department of Corrections.

There was no old or new business to discuss so the commissioners approved additional expense vouchers for the month of May and then, with no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on June 3, 2016.

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Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

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Greg King, Chairman