

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for January 31, 2018

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:00 Jerry Kelly, Xcel Project Manager, to provide updates on the Rush Creek II Project.
- 10:00 Robert Kraxberger to present the Department of Human Services monthly report
- 1:00 Lincoln Community Hospital to give a presentation on the update of their strategic plan
- 2:00 Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402 (4) (e) to determine strategy relative to negotiations with Lincoln Community Hospital
1. Approve the minutes from the January 30, 2018 meeting
 2. Review and act upon an agreement for sanction and approval with the Colorado Pro Rodeo Association
 3. County Commissioners' reports
 4. County Attorney's report
 5. County Administrator's report
 6. Old business
 7. New business
 8. Approve additional payroll and expense vouchers as necessary

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on January 31, 2018. The following attended: Chairman Doug Stone, Commissioners Ed Schiffers and Steve Burgess, County Administrator Jacob Piper, County Attorney Stan Kimble, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel. Will Bublitz with the Limon Leader and Eastern Colorado Plainsman attended until 11:30 a.m.

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Lengel to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Project Manager Jerry Kelly and Operations Manager Sean Buczek with Xcel Energy Services met with the Board at 9:00 a.m. to provide updates on the Rush Creek II wind project. Tim Brown and District One Foreman Chris Monks also attended the discussion.

Mr. Kelly said they are starting to build the turbines and the second crane and have about two weeks of delivering components left before they are finished with that. There are eighteen foundations left and once those are complete, the big trucks will be done hauling their heavy loads. They are currently on schedule, but wind and crane breakdowns are the only obstacles they might face going forward. Rush Creek II should be completed by October 31, but if some of the turbines have been commissioned, they may have several of them operational prior to that date. Mr. Kelly also informed the Board that Xcel has made an agreement to haul gravel from the Bledsoe pit.

Discussion turned to the repairs on County Road 2W and the \$8,400 payment that was made to the incorrect party. Mr. Buczek said the check was returned and will be reissued correctly. As for the fines charged for Mortensen truckers using the wrong haul routes, Mr. Buczek said they spoke with their attorneys, and contributing to the county's Enterprise Zone fund is not considered a good business practice for them, due to the fact that they do not donate to other such organizations. If the commissioners will send an invoice, he said it will be paid directly back to the county. He added that Xcel does organize volunteers for local projects if the commissioners can think of anything they might need volunteers to help with.

Mr. Schiffers asked if Xcel would put gravel from the Bledsoe pit back on County Road 2W when they were finished. Mr. Buczek responded that they didn't size the pit specifically to include a county road as well as their own roads, but if there is some left over, they can certainly use it. If not, Mortensen will have to haul the gravel from elsewhere, as part of the road use agreement specifically requires the county roads be put back in the original condition when the project is complete. He added that they may be able to amend their permit or get a new one if it turns out to be more cost effective for them.

Tim Brown asked what would happen to the additional aggregate put down on some of the turns, and Mr. Kelly told him it will have to be removed when they are done. They will be able to resource it out, possibly to residents for private driveways, or to the county, but legally it has to be removed. He added that it is much cheaper for them to give it away than haul it somewhere. Mr. Buczek put in that they will also have over four hundred 4' x 3' concrete

blocks that are used to hold the turbine blades down when they are delivered if the county could find any use for them. Mr. Stone said the school in Karval could possibly use something like that around their gas tanks. They can be given away as Vestas will not want to have to haul them off.

Mr. Kelly and Mr. Buczek left, and Mr. Schifferns made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 30, 2018, as submitted. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed an agreement for sanction and approval with the Colorado Pro Rodeo Association, and asked fair board chairman LaRay Patton to come over and speak with them about it. Ms. Patton said she had met with the Lodging/Tourism board and the organization will give another \$1,500 to support an additional \$500 purse for the bareback, saddle bronc, and bull riding events. Other CPRA events will remain at a \$500 purse. The county is required to pay a \$125 sanction fee, and Ms. Patton said she could deliver it in person when she attends the CPRA convention on February 10 if the Board wanted her to. Since the tourism board won't meet until February 16, she asked if she should assume they will approve the \$1,500 donation or if she should wait until they take formal action. The commissioners agreed it was safe to assume the donation would be approved. Ms. Patton said she hopes that the added purse will draw more performers to the Saturday rodeo, as there always seems to be more contestants at the Friday performance. Mr. Burgess asked if the purse could be higher on Saturday in order to draw those contestants, but Ms. Patton said that would mean holding two separate rodeos, as right now it is considered a two-performance single rodeo. Mr. Schifferns made a motion to approve the agreement for sanction and approval with the Colorado Pro Rodeo Association for the 2018 Lincoln County rodeos. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Burgess told her what Sean Buczek had said earlier about volunteer projects and asked if there was anything that could be done at the fairgrounds. Ms. Patton suggested that John Palmer would be the one to talk to but that she would bring it up at the next fair board meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., Robert Kraxberger met with the Board to present the monthly Department of Human Services report. The Board reviewed the financial reports and employee timesheets as well as the Income Maintenance report and the December 2017 and January 2018 Child Welfare reports. Mr. Kraxberger also asked for commissioner approval of the 2018 ECCOG Grandparenting Grant. Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the grant, which cannot exceed \$6,658. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Kraxberger informed the Board that the rolling files in the A-frame may be a danger to employees. When the ground settles, the files catch and are hard to move. John Mohan is looking into it to see if something can be done to fix it.

Mr. Burgess reported attending the Prairie Development Corporation meeting in Stratton on January 24 and a CDOT meeting in Denver with Mr. Schifferns regarding the roundhouse on

January 25. He also attended a meeting with Mr. Schifferns concerning the possible consolidation of Arriba and Genoa fire departments. He attended CCI on January 26 and met with a party before the board meeting about a complaint he had received, which he felt was justified. The party told him there were mistakes made with the way the situation was handled.

Mr. Schifferns reported receiving a call on January 23 requesting the commissioners attend the fire district meeting. He attended the CDOT roundhouse meeting and the fire district possible consolidation meeting with Mr. Burgess on January 25 and checked roads on January 26. Road crews in District One worked on the expansion cracks in County Road 109 the previous day.

Mr. Stone reported speaking with Rick Ashcraft about the loader on January 26 and learned the trainload of rock that Mr. Schifferns had mentioned was cancelled on January 29. The load should now be delivered on February 2.

Mr. Kimble reported that the letter he sent to Mr. Howard came back unsigned, so he will speak with Land Use Administrator Trey James about the next steps.

The Board had signed the amended Master Road Use Agreement with Xcel Energy Services some time ago, but Mr. Kimble said he'd never sent it to them for their signature because of the problems the county was having with County Highway 63. The newest agreement has further restrictions regarding the use of the road. Mr. Schifferns mentioned that the amount of the fines had changed as well, but Mr. Kimble said he believed that was actually in the last amendment they had signed but never sent. Mr. Burgess made a motion to sign the Amendment to the Master Road Use Agreement between Lincoln County and Xcel Energy Services, Inc. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Since District Three had cleaned up the Patel property, and Mr. Stone had provided a copy of the costs related to the clean-up, Mr. Kimble said he would get the Order sent to the courts as well as send Patels the bill of costs. They will have the right to file a complaint, so Mr. Kimble said he may file a lien in case they would decide to sell the property prior to the county getting its money back.

Mr. Piper reported that DOLA had approved the 2018 Lincoln County budget, including the Public Trustee's budget. He had heard back from COMPUSYS about handling the county's retirement funds. They would charge \$500 per month. The county currently pays \$9,000 per year, which includes the annual reports, although Mr. Piper said he still has yet to receive them. He did not know if COMPUSYS provides annual reports or if the GASB68 report would cover the same things. COMPUSYS will send a formal bid by January 7. They can take over the payments to the current retirees, using direct deposit through the First National Bank of Hugo, and they would also handle the annual retirement 1099 forms and payment calculations. Mr. Burgess wanted to know if they could take over the latest retirees since the county is having so many problems with United. United had told Mr. Piper they would have the information on those six employees by next week, so he felt they should wait and see if it actually happens. Mr. Burgess wanted to know if someone from COMPUSYS would come out and meet with the Board on

February 7 when Bill Noyce comes out, since they have an office located in Denver. Mr. Piper said he would contact them and see if they could at least participate in a conference call if they cannot send someone out.

Mr. Piper informed the Board that he would advertise for an assistant, possibly as soon as next week. He felt the person will also be able to help Mr. James with some general duties as well.

Lastly, Mr. Piper said he'd had a visit from Dennis Hunt who was a county administrator but now does some part time work for CTSI. He explained some things to Mr. Piper but also said that the county needed to have a resolution appointing the county administrator. No one had heard that it was a requirement.

Mr. Stone called for old business, and Mr. Burgess said he'd received a bid from Red Feather Fence Co., LLC to install 3,850 +/- linear feet of 6' field fence at the landfill. Installation cost only would be \$16,500, and a certificate of insurance will be provided upon acceptance of the proposal. Total cost of the project with materials purchased from Hugo Lumber would be approximately \$27,000. No one had any other suggestions or knew of any other fence builders, so Mr. Burgess made a motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$16,500 from Red Feather Fence Co., LLC. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

As for new business, Mr. Burgess said that he'd received an email from Gini Pingnot with CCI asking for support of HB18-1084. The bill CCI is initiating for their membership would allow counties to seek voter approval to use the existing 2% lodging tax for purposes other than marketing and advertising.

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report for the last six months of 2017 and then approved additional expense vouchers.

At 1:00 p.m., Lincoln Community Hospital CEO Kevin Stansbury, hospital staff members, and members of the hospital board met with the commissioners to give a presentation on their strategic plan. In addition to Mr. Stansbury, others attending the discussion were CFO David Usher, Erica Saffer, and Megan Mosher, and hospital board members Keith James, Linda Orrell, Colleen Luft, Lorie Coonts, Lucas Hohl, Greg King, and Roxie Devers.

Mr. Stansbury said the main question is what to do to sustain viable health care in Lincoln County. He felt they have a good outline for their strategic plan and stated that the hospital retained Percival Health Providers to study their environment and form their future. A Power Point presentation was given and once it was over, Mr. Stansbury requested an executive session with the Board.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to go into executive session, per 24-6-402 (4) (e), C.R.S. to discuss matters developing strategies for negotiations. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Those remaining for the session were: Mr. Stone, Mr. Schiffers, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Kimble, Mr. Piper, Ms. Lengel, Kevin Stansbury, David Usher, Keith James, Linda

Orrell, Colleen Luft, Lorie Coonts, Lucas Hohl, Greg King, Roxie Devers, Erica Saffer, and Megan Mosher. The session was recorded and the recording will remain on file in the County Clerk's vault for the statutory ninety days.

When the Board came out of executive session at 2:05 p.m., Mr. Stansbury asked the commissioners if they had any specific priorities for the hospital community and how they felt about expansion to the Bennett, Simla, or Kiowa areas.

Lucas Hohl spoke up to say that procedures, specialties, and surgeries drive up the revenues and will boost an economic return where the emergency room and clinics tend to put them in the red. Mr. Stone asked if they felt putting a clinic in the Bennett area would really be a benefit. Mr. Stansbury said there is already a natural Hugo/Bennett connection because of Eastern Slope. They do actually have a location in mind near the King Soopers store, and the town of Bennett has offered to pay the first year's rent.

When asked what a new hospital would cost, Mr. Stansbury said total acquisition would be \$80-\$90 million. They did look into the cost of renovation for the existing hospital, and it would be approximately \$140 million. Mr. Hohl said part of the reason for the larger expense is that new facilities would have to be constructed to code so that they were operational while the old area was being remodeled. They do have a location in mind for a new facility, and Mr. Stansbury said it would not be in Limon. He added that they have looked into a 40-year term with USDA at a 3% interest rate. Mr. Schiffers asked what the longevity of a new facility would be and was told it should last forty-to-fifty years. Mr. Stansbury admitted the hospital needs to get the balance sheet fixed first, and then they can start working on a new hospital in earnest. He believes it will be an eighteen month-to-two year process. Mr. Schiffers commented that it will take a while for the public to digest the concept, and Mr. Stansbury said that the message to the public needs to be refined and made more understandable. He also wanted the commissioners to know that they have appointed an excellent hospital board who do an amazing job.

Mr. Kimble said that since the hospital is county-owned, any obligation would need to be clear that if the project were to fail for any reason, the county would not be obligated for the building.

The group left and as the commissioners finished with the remaining expense vouchers, Mr. Burgess commented that it may be time to form a hospital district like other counties have.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 2018.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Doug Stone, Chairman