

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for August 15, 2019

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:30 Fred Lundy, Land Use Administrator, to discuss land use matters

11:00 Scheduled time to discuss potential changes to the Lincoln County Retirement Plan

1. Approve the minutes from the August 6, 2019 meeting
2. Review the July, 2019, reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff, and County Treasurer
3. Review the July, 2019, reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and the County Workers' Compensation Pool
4. Review a letter from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Property Taxation, regarding the 2019 Final County Notice of Valuation for State Assessed Properties
5. Discuss the upcoming event in which the Union Pacific Locomotive "Big Boy" is coming to Limon
6. County Commissioner reports
7. County Attorney's report
8. County Administrator's report
9. Old Business
10. New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on August 15, 2019. The following attended: Commissioners Steve Burgess and Doug Stone, County Administrator Jacob Piper, County Attorney Stan Kimble, acting Clerk to the Board Mindy Dutro until 10:00 a.m., and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel beginning at 10:00 a.m. Juliet Lundy with the Eastern Colorado Plainsman/Limon Leader attended until 10:50 a.m. and Chairman Ed Schiffers was absent and excused.

Vice-Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order and asked Mrs. Dutro to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 6, 2019, as submitted. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried.

Gillian Laycock with the Colorado Prairie Arts and Music Council attended the meeting at 9:00 a.m. She thanked the Board and the county for supporting the concert at the fair on August 10, 2019. It was a huge success, including the setup and the "meet and greet" event with the musicians. Mr. Burgess asked Mrs. Laycock how many tickets they sold, and she responded that they had around 800 attendees. Concert-goers purchased 751 tickets online, and the rest were tickets sold at the gate. Mr. Burgess and Mr. Stone both agreed that it was a great event and that they enjoyed it. Mr. Stone said the only complaints that he received were that the 4-H & FFA members had to have their animals out of the show barn early so that they could set it up for the concert. Mrs. Laycock asked if it was too soon to ask if they could start planning another concert for next year's fair. The Board agreed they would like to see another concert next year, but all groups involved would need to prepare better so that the animals wouldn't have to be out until noon on Saturday. Mrs. Laycock agreed and said that the earlier they start planning, the better luck they'd have securing a more popular band. Mrs. Laycock left at 9:10 a.m.

The Board reviewed the July 2019 reports from the Assessor, Clerk and Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer, as well as the July 2019 Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and the County Workers' Compensation Pool reports.

Land Use Administrator Fred Lundy met with the commissioners at 9:15 a.m. to discuss questions that arose regarding subdivision exemptions. A county resident would like to divide property that sits outside of the town of Limon. Mr. Lundy asked if both the county and the Town of Limon would have to sign off on the subdivision exemption since around twenty-five feet of the property is in Limon's town limits. Mr. Kimble suggested having the landowner ask the town board for a waiver for the twenty-five feet. Mr. Lundy then asked the Board if the issue had to go before the Land Use Board, and they confirmed that it did.

Viaero wants to run a telephone line along the section line of what would be County Road 3 if there were a road there. The company contacted Mr. Lundy to see if they needed anything from the county since the county has the first right to a thirty-foot right-of-way on both sides of the section line. Mr. Lundy thought that Viaero needed an agreement with the landowner for

the right-of-way outside of the county's sixty-foot implied right-of-way. Mr. Kimble agreed with Mr. Lundy and said he was safe to tell Viaero that. Mr. Lundy left at 9:30 a.m.

Next, the commissioners reviewed a letter from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Property Taxation, regarding the 2019 Final County Notice of Valuation for State Assessed Properties. Mr. Burgess brought up the upcoming event in which the Union Pacific Locomotive "Big Boy" is coming to Limon in November for two days. He said that when the train was in Julesburg, they had over two thousand people come to see it.

Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Stone to give his commissioner report. Mr. Stone reported attending the fair August 6-10. On August 12, he went to CSU Pueblo for interviews for the new Lincoln County CSU Extension Agent. On August 13, Mr. Stone attended the community interviews at the fairgrounds in Hugo with the candidates. Everyone had great things to say about the fairgrounds and the buildings. Lastly, Mr. Stone reported that on August 14, Rick Ashcraft went to pick up the new truck District 3 purchased. It had a broken window, so they are fixing it and delivering it today, August 15.

Mr. Burgess reported that on August 6, he went to the Genoa shop and spoke with Bruce Walters about new trailers and then went to the horseshow at the fairgrounds. He also picked up the road agreements from Mr. Kimble and took them to Mr. Lundy. Mr. Burgess stopped by the fairgrounds as 4-H and FFA members checked in their livestock. He spoke with John Palmer about changes for next year. On August 7, Mr. Burgess called Brazos and set up an appointment for him and Mr. Walters to discuss new trailers. He also attended the sheep and swine shows at the fair that day. All five sets of bleachers were full, and there were also people standing and sitting in lawn chairs. Mr. Burgess said that one concern people had was that the sheep were in the sun for three hours on Tuesday and that there was no space for the horses in the new show barn.

On August 8, Mr. Burgess called the landfill and spoke to the employees about the rates for county business owners that haul trash in from outside the county. Brenda Howe thought that they should charge the out-of-county rates. They decided to leave it as it is for now and then address it starting January 1, 2020. He and Mr. Walters also went to Brazos Trailers in Denver that day and signed an order for three new belly dump trailers with the price of \$100,650. They gave the county \$40,500 for the two trade-in trailers. Mr. Burgess also attended the beef show and said there was good air movement through the building and that the sun was not a problem on the west end. Mr. Palmer told him that Cheyenne Wells had damage on their show building's curtains from high wind and hail.

On August 9, Mr. Burgess went to the county fair. He also met with CDOT director Shoshone Lew, Travis Miller, highway representative Gary Beedy, and Commissioner Stone about the county's highway needs. Dave Copsey at Haynie and Company said he didn't have time to do a pre-audit for the county, but he would have his firm check to see if anyone else would have time. He told Mr. Burgess he would let him know by mid-week. On August 10, Mr. Burgess went to the county fair and said there was a good attendance at the rodeo and concert. Marvin

Thaller commented that there were some lights out in the rodeo arena, and if the county wanted to go with LED lights, the program with the rebates would end this year.

On August 12, Mr. Burgess attended the Interim Power Committee in Fort Morgan where they discussed clean energy in each county. District 3 had a county truck lay on its side on County Road 21 north of County Road 3W while hauling gravel. The driver had some injuries, and the Limon Ambulance transported him to the Lincoln Community Hospital. George's Towing towed the truck to Genoa, and both it and the trailer have some damage. On August 13, Mr. Burgess went to the fairgrounds to interview the three candidates for the Lincoln County CSU Extension Agent's position. He also got workmen's compensation and accident forms from Jacob Piper for Mr. Walters and the employee involved in the truck accident. Mr. Burgess stopped by the State Patrol office to pick up the accident report, but they did not have it finished yet. Lastly, on August 14, Mr. Burgess picked up the bill from George's Towing and sent the accident report to Mr. Piper. He also spoke with Structures Unlimited about a 30' x 100' open-faced cover, and Bart O'Dwyer will get a quote back to him.

Mr. Burgess called for the attorney's report. Mr. Kimble said that conversations with other county attorneys lately have been regarding "at-will" employment language. He handed out examples of the wording in other rural county personnel manuals in case the commissioners were interested in updating the Lincoln County personnel manual.

Mrs. Dutro left the meeting, and Mrs. Lengel took her place while Mr. Piper reported that a past employee of the county returned to work after being gone for only five days. He wanted to know if the commissioners would allow another employee to donate five days to him so that he wouldn't have to start as a new employee. Mr. Kimble said there shouldn't be any legal reason why they couldn't do that as long as someone was willing to donate the time. Mr. Stone said he was sure it wouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Piper informed the Board that Karval Water Users would like to increase their monthly payment to the county as well as extend their loan for another two or three years. The county helped to pay for their recent media purchase, and Mr. Piper thought it was around \$4,400 that the county contributed. He said that the original loan should be paid off in 2022. If KWU extended the loan for three years, their payment would increase around \$730 a year starting with the 2020 payment. The Board agreed to the plan.

Mr. Piper handed out copies of the Treasurer's account balances through June 30 and asked if the Board wanted to consider cost-of-living raises for county employees in 2020. Both commissioners agreed to have department heads figure a two-step COLA for their employees when they started working on their 2020 budgets.

Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Piper to look into the cost of a dehumidifier for the commissioner meeting room that could hook into the cooling system and drain directly outside.

Mr. Burgess called for old business and said they needed to discuss a time frame for how long the sheriff's office took calls in the town of Hugo. Mr. Piper sent a text message to Sheriff Nestor, but the sheriff wasn't available to talk about it. Mr. Kimble advised that they should enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the town when they decided what they wanted to do.

As for the county-owned 2015 Dodge pickup, Mr. Burgess said the commissioners agreed to re-advertise it for the next two weeks with a minimum bid of \$9,000. Mr. Stone asked if the previous ad appeared in the Mile Saver Shopper. Mr. Piper said the county shop took care of placing the bid request, so he wasn't sure. Mr. Burgess suggested they also put it on Facebook for the next two weeks. The Board agreed to open bids on September 6. Mr. Piper said he would put the information regarding the walk-through for the automatic door locks on Facebook as well.

Regarding several damaged vehicles throughout the year, Mr. Piper said that the auditor suggested the county add contra-expense accounts to the 2020 budget for insurance claim reimbursements. At least three of the county funds should have the line item added.

Jim Covington arrived at 11:00 a.m. for the pension plan discussion. Shortly after that, Chris Fox stopped by the meeting to let the Board know that RPI planned to promote the "Big Boy" event in November. He felt there would be a lot of people in the county at that time, and they would like to capitalize on that if possible.

After Mr. Fox left, the group discussed the county pension plan and the email sent by Leslie Thompson with GRS Consulting. Two of the points the commissioners considered were changing the period of final compensation to an average of five years of employment and reducing the vesting period. The Board felt that using an average of five years rather than the highest of the last two years of employment was a better idea. They also agreed to drop the number of years that it takes for full vestment from twelve years to five. Eliminating the age limit but requiring an employee to work a full year before joining the plan were also discussed. Mr. Burgess was in favor of doing away with the lump sum option at retirement, but Mr. Stone, Mr. Covington, and Mrs. Lengel all disagreed. All agreed that an employee would have to leave employment with the county if they took a lump sum; they could not take the money and continue working. An employee could, however, buy back service time, with interest, if they returned to employment with the county.

Regarding the 1,500-hour rule, Ms. Thompson's email advised the county to check with legal counsel to see if that was still a good idea. Lastly, Ms. Thompson suggested that the commissioners ask the plan attorney if it were acceptable for the county to increase the member contributions. Mr. Piper said the plan would be much more solvent if the Board agreed to put in \$150,000 annually as they did at the beginning of this year. After some discussion, the commissioners agreed to increase employee contributions to 4.25% if the plan attorney said they could do so. Doing so would help decrease the annual \$150,000 contribution from the county.

Mr. Covington left, and Mr. Piper stated that the walk-through for the electrical companies installing the magnetic door locks would be at 10:00 a.m. on August 21. Mrs. Lengel said she would be out of town but asked them to make sure and add a switch at the back of her office at the finance director's desk.

Mr. Piper also informed the Board that he'd received three applications for the courthouse janitor position. Mr. Burgess said that he and Mr. Stone would review them after the walk-through on the Twenty-first. They will decide who to interview at that time and schedule them for one of the last days of the month.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Burgess adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on August 29, 2019.

Mindy Dutro, Acting Clerk to the Board

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Steve Burgess, Vice-Chairman