

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for September 17, 2020

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:30 Troy McCue, Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, to present the LCEDC monthly report
- 10:00 The Prairie Conservation District Board Members to discuss budget matters
- 10:30 The High Plains Conservation District Board Members to discuss budget matters
- 11:00 John Palmer, Lincoln County Fairgrounds Manager, to discuss Fairgrounds improvements
1. Approve the minutes from the September 8, 2020 meeting
 2. Review the August 2020 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for County General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Road and Bridge and Individual Road Districts
 3. Review the August 2020 reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff and County Treasurer
 4. Review the August 2020 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and the Workers' Compensation Pool
 5. Review and discuss the 2021 rates for the County Health Pool
 6. Discuss potential expenditures to be reimbursed through the Coronavirus Relief Fund
 7. County Commissioner reports
 8. County Attorney's report
 9. County Administrator's report
 10. Old Business
 11. New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2020. The following attended: Chairman Steve Burgess, Commissioners Ed E. Schifferns and Doug Stone, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel. County Attorney Stan Kimble was absent and excused. Juliet Lundy, with the Eastern Colorado Plainsman and Limon Leader, attended as well.

Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Stone to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stone moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 8, 2020, as submitted. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the August 2020 Statements of Revenues and Expenditures for the General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, and Road & Bridge funds, as well as for the individual road districts. The commissioners also reviewed the August 2020 reports from the Assessor, Clerk and Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer.

At 9:30 a.m., Economic Development Executive Director Troy McCue met with the Board to give his monthly report. He spoke briefly about Martin Metal, Denver Cutlery, and Wausau Supply, and then told the Board that Kaiser Premier is still undergoing the FTZ assessment with Ryan, LLC. He also said that housing development efforts continue, the roundhouse tours were successful, and Colorado's C-PACE energy program is now active in Lincoln County. Mr. Schifferns asked if he had an update on the Genoa Tower, and Mr. McCue responded that they applied for an EDA grant. Their primary focus right now is how they want to spend the money if they get it. He'd suggested improvements to the water system, but Pat Vice said they wanted to continue with community cleanup and development. Lastly, Mr. McCue said the Census was about 57% complete in Lincoln County. The latest figures show a total population of 5,610, including the 950 inmates in DOC.

At 10:00 a.m., Shelby Britten met with the Board to discuss a budget request for the Prairie Conservation District. Mr. Britten explained that their manager felt the county might have funds available if the district asked for them. He provided information about the district and what it does for county residents, such as giving trees for windbreaks, roadside vegetation projects, recruitment of potential producers, and education regarding conservation practices. They would like \$2,500 in 2021 to help supplement their sixth-grade poster contest and Homestead Barn tour for all three schools, their summer conservation kid's camp, and their coloring contest.

Mr. Piper explained that while the county had a Conservation Trust Fund, the money customarily went toward fairgrounds improvements. He said he would have to find out if donations to the conservation districts were eligible expenses. At the end of each year, he has to submit receipts for monies the county spent from the fund. The Board agreed that if they

were allowed to donate to the district, they would add \$2,500 to the 2021 budget expenditures.

Since he is also on the Weed Board, Mr. Britten said he felt obligated to report some instances with the county's new Weed Coordinator. He said there'd been mornings when he'd seen Mr. Leonard spraying in less than ideal weather conditions, and he felt it might be a liability to the county. There were also some reports of other activities, and Mr. Britten felt compelled to inform the commissioners.

When Mr. Britten left, the Board reviewed the August 2020 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property and Workers' Compensation Pools. Mr. Piper said he'd received check payments for the hail damage, approximately \$20,600 for the Road & Bridge vehicles, and about \$27,000 for the DHS vehicles, commissioner van, and Land Use pickup. He didn't know if DHS planned to have their cars fixed but said he'd let them know the money was there if they wanted to use it.

At 10:30 a.m., Steve Beedy met with the Board to request funding for the High Plains Conservation District. He explained that while the two districts have different boards, they share managers and office space, which prompted the meetings with the commissioners. Everything north of County Road 2W is in the High Plains Conservation District, and everything south of the road is in The Prairie Conservation District. Mr. Beedy said they'd received about \$20,000 in grant funds for fencing, stock tanks, windmills, and tree rows (or windbreaks), but that money was gone because they'd had so many applicants. Mr. Piper repeated the same things he'd explained to Mr. Britten and told Mr. Beedy he'd let him know what he found out.

Fairgrounds Manager John Palmer arrived at 10:45 for his 11:00 a.m. appointment. Although he'd talked to the commissioners previously about lighting on the south side of the arena, he and Carlos Leonard decided there were many upgrades to be made in that area, due to safety concerns. Mr. Palmer said nothing was user-friendly, and he was worried that someone was going to get hurt. Gates don't swing the proper way, people walk or step out in front of where the roping horses come out, and there isn't adequate lighting. They'd like to move the roping chute to the east end and pull the bucking chutes up and out of the dirt and move them thirty-five feet to the east. Moving the announcer's stand to a central location on the south side would allow them to make the adjustments. They could decrease the arena's size and still be within regulations, which would free up some space for more pens. Mr. Palmer said the ideas they had would make the grounds much safer for everyone. He provided a cost estimate from WWIT Dirt LLC for \$48,399 but noted that he would plan to help quite a bit, making the labor less. Most of that would be for welding and cutting, which would cost \$50 per hour.

Mr. Burgess asked if they would need to do much electrical work, and Mr. Palmer said they planned to use some of the existing poles and see if they could tie into them. They might need to add a couple more poles on the west end, but moving everything to the west would also put the arena under more of the light that's already there. Mr. Palmer said they'd like to start in October, and he hoped to have everything done by April of next year. He shouldn't need any

special equipment for the improvements, and Mr. Palmer said he'd discussed it with those involved with the fair, Ranch Rodeo, and the gymkhanas.

According to Mr. Piper, the 2020 budget reflected \$100,000 for fairgrounds' improvements, but they've only spent about \$5,000. Mr. Burgess said that if he needed to do anything else with the lighting to let them know.

Mr. Schifferns moved to accept the \$48,399 proposal from WWIT Dirt LLC for fairgrounds improvements to help alleviate several safety concerns. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Palmer also briefly discussed Extension Director Robin Halley's budget request regarding rabbit and poultry cages. He said that rather than spend \$2,387 for new cages, he had several that they could refurbish instead.

Mr. Burgess said that John Higgins would like a job description for the fair board members, and Mr. Palmer said he'd put something together.

Mr. Palmer left, and the group discussed the 2021 rates for the County Health Pool. Mr. Piper provided a handout and explained that if every employee covered under the health insurance were to switch to the high deductible plan, the county would still save over \$260,000 in the first year. He recommended prorating the HSA for new employees so that they wouldn't receive the \$5,000 until the January following their first full year of employment. He also suggested creating a full page in the personnel policy for benefits.

Mr. Stone moved to offer both the high deductible and Medical Plan A health insurance plans and a county-funded HSA to county employees beginning in 2021. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Schifferns moved to utilize the First National Bank of Hugo for the county-funded HSA accounts. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mrs. Lengel wanted to verify that the dental and vision insurance plans wouldn't change and that employees would still keep their AFLAC policies in place, and Mr. Piper said she was correct.

Mr. Stone commented that overall, the pool only increased by two percent, where it's averaged an increase of six percent for the past several years. The dental and vision plan rates didn't increase at all. Mr. Piper put in that Lincoln County's overall premiums went up four percent because of excessive usage. He added that the Workers' Comp would likely increase as well. There will be educational Zoom meetings for county employees before the new plans go into effect.

The Board discussed potential expenditures for the Coronavirus Relief Funds and agreed to purchase four additional laptops for the three commissioners and Mrs. Lengel to attend Zoom meetings. Mr. Burgess felt that virtual meetings would continue for quite some time and said that the group needed the means to properly participate. Since laptops were allowable expenses under the CARES Act, Mr. Burgess felt it would be an appropriate way to spend some of those funds. Mr. Piper said the computers were approximately \$1,000 each, which included cases. Mr. Burgess also asked Mr. Piper to order a wireless mouse for each one.

Mr. Stone moved to purchase four HP laptops for the three commissioners and the clerk using Coronavirus Relief Funds. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Piper said he'd talked with Greg Etl about other covered expenditures, and Mr. Etl felt that the tent for the fairgrounds, live streaming, and licenses for GoTo or Zoom meetings would qualify. Mr. Etl was still concerned about the business grant program and said that even though the revenue replacement option would be easiest, it was also a fairly gray area.

Mr. Burgess called for commissioner reports, and Mr. Stone reported attending the fair board meeting on September 8. He joined the CHP Zoom meeting with Mr. Piper on September 10. He and Mr. Burgess participated in the Eastern District Zoom meeting on September 11, discussing legislative changes for 2021. On September 14, Mr. Stone went by the Karval shop and talked with Rick Ashcraft. The road crew started hauling oil and should finish up today.

Mr. Schiffers reported talking with Chris Monks on September 9. They were starting to mow again, and their new mower should be in soon. He checked roads on September 11 and took a complaint about a fence on September 13. He and Mr. Burgess went to Akron on September 14 and checked roads along the way. He needed to go to Burlington on September 15, so Mr. Schiffers called Mr. Burgess to see if he wanted him to stop at the dealership and talk to them about a pickup. He said they'd either have to order one or check with other dealers, but ordering would save about \$4,000.

Mr. Burgess reported going by the landfill on September 8. He also went by the Genoa shop and received a text message from Mr. Piper about a laptop for the administrator, which he told him to order. On September 9, they got four inches of snow. John Higgins asked about job descriptions for the fair board members, and Land Use Administrator Fred Lundy called about the gravel pit the county took over from Mark Bain. Chris Howe called to see when he needed to start work, and Mr. Burgess talked with Bruce Walters about equipment. Mr. Burgess attended the Centennial Mental Health Zoom meeting on September 10. He and Mr. Walters looked at the Bain pit and decided what they would have to do to fix the issues. He also checked on the pipe they installed on County Road 39. Mr. Burgess stopped at the landfill and discovered that the tires might need replacing on their 2011 loader. On September 11, Mr. Burgess participated in the Eastern District Zoom meeting. He received a call from Emergency Manager Ken Stroud on September 12 about an oil field fire needing more water, so he sent some of the Genoa road crew to help. Mr. Burgess attended a hospital board retreat meeting at BOCES, where they discussed expanding services, the ten hospitals in the eastern district,

and building a new hospital. Mr. Burgess reported that he and Mr. Schifferns drove to Akron for the Eastern TPR meeting on September 14, only to learn it was a Zoom meeting. He made a video for CCI on September 15 and also joined the Public Health Zoom meeting. Mr. Burgess attended the Economic Development meeting on September 16. Ralph Bell called him with some material for sale, so he and Mr. Walters made plans to look at it. He talked with Veris Environmental about borrowing discharge hoses to water the gravel pit, and Ken Stroud called to let him know that he might be able to get some 800 MHz radios when the Limon Fire Department upgrades theirs. Mr. Burgess stopped by the landfill earlier this morning to look at the loader tires.

Mr. Piper reported that Nebraska Fire and Safety was at the courthouse the previous day testing the fire alarms and inspecting the smoke detectors. Fifty-six detectors need replacing because they're outdated. They are \$100 each. John Mohan told Mr. Piper they would also require new panels and a backflow system.

Mr. Piper asked for clarification about whether the county would still take October 12 as the Columbus Day holiday, even though the state instituted October 5 as Cabrini Day. The commissioners agreed that employees would follow the federal holiday schedule, and county offices would be closed on October 12.

Mr. Burgess discussed the tires on the loader at the landfill, stating that they would be around \$2,000 each, plus an additional \$2,000 for the foam filling. He suggested they add \$11,000 to the 2021 Landfill budget.

Mr. Stone asked if the others had received an email from Katie Zipperer regarding buying a used bookmobile. She'd found a 2016 with 92,000 miles on it near St. Louis. The total cost would be \$21,000; \$11,000 was for repairs, as the unit needed a new generator. Mr. Piper said Ms. Zipperer had added it to her 2021 budget request.

Mr. Schifferns moved to send a letter requesting a two-year extension on the Community Development Block Grant #18-611 set to expire on November 30. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Piper asked if the commissioners wanted to approve the \$470 expenditure to put netting on the roundhouse smokejacks, and they agreed.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Burgess adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m. The next meeting will be the annual budget hearings at 9:00 a.m. on September 21, 2020.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Steve Burgess, Chairman