

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for January 30, 2023

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:30 Bid-opening regarding the election security room remodeling project
- 10:00 Jeff Belveal and Ethan Pruett with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, to discuss Resolution #1013; an adopted resolution to close a portion of Lincoln County Road 34.2
- 10:30 Andrew Lorensen, Human Services Director, to present the Department of Human Services monthly report
- 11:00 Dennis Kaan, CSU Extension Regional Director, to discuss the Lincoln County CSU Extension position
- 1:00 Ken Stroud, Emergency Management Director, to provide a monthly report
- 1:30 Evan Wiede with Scout Clean Energy, to discuss a potential solar project in Lincoln County

-To be completed as time permits-

1. Approve the minutes from the January 18, 2023, meeting
2. Review the Lincoln County Treasurer's Schedule of Receipts and Disbursements for the second half of 2022
3. Review and act upon a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Impact Assistance Grant Application
4. Review and act upon a letter of support for the Morgan Community College Foundation regarding the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative
5. Complete a Performance Evaluation for Jacob Piper, County Administrator
6. County Commissioner reports
7. County Attorney's report
8. County Administrator's report
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Approve Payroll

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on January 30, 2023. The following attended: Vice Chairman Steve Burgess, Commissioner Wayne Ewing, County Administrator Jacob Piper, County Attorney Stan Kimble, and Acting Clerk of the Board Mindy Dutro. Chairman Doug Stone and Clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel were absent and excused. Stephanie Zwick, with the Eastern Colorado Plainsman and Limon Leader, also attended.

Vice Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order and asked Mrs. Dutro to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ewing had one correction to the minutes and moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 18, 2023, as corrected. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Next, the Board reviewed the Lincoln County Treasurer's Schedule of Receipts and Disbursements for the second half of 2022. Then the Board reviewed the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Impact Assistance Grant application, and Mr. Ewing made a motion to approve the grant for \$1,017.54. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter of support for the Morgan Community College Foundation regarding the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. Mr. Ewing made a motion to approve the letter of support for \$3,463.00 for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Burgess tabled the performance evaluation for County Administrator Jacob Piper until Chairman Stone could attend the meeting.

Mr. Burgess gave his commissioner report where he reported that on January 18, he took the employee W2s to the Genoa Shop and discussed the county roads being a mess from the snow, the courthouse sent employees home early that day due to the storm and planned a two-hour delay for the following day. On January 19, all roads were closed until around 8 a.m. Commissioner Ewing called him to discuss free landfill dates, the Town of Limon asked about having it in conjunction with either Earth Day on April 23 or Environmental Day on June 5. Also on January 19, one of the District 2 road crew members had to pull out the mail delivery person who got stuck due to snowy roads north of Limon.

Next, Mr. Burgess reported that on January 20, the road crew was still working on plowing snowy roads. District 3 planned to borrow District 2's 950 Cat loader. Nathan Seymour also called on January 20 to tell Mr. Burgess that to fast-track repairs on their dozer would cost three to four thousand dollars more, so they decided to wait a week. On January 23, Mr. Burgess checked roads for blowing snow and went by the landfill to get a quote to have Power Equipment come out to service the BOMag compactor, which was around thirty-eight-hundred dollars. The filters and oil are twelve-hundred dollars, Power Equipment suggests running the machine to five hundred hours before servicing it, but Mr. Burgess felt it needed to be done at least annually. It currently has around one-hundred-fifty hours on it.

On January 25, Mr. Burgess spoke with Candace Payne about CD's and the rate of return and about having a kitchen in Limon for Meals-on-Wheels. They discussed serving Arriba out of the

Flagler kitchen, which would save staff a lot of mileage and time. There was a light snow on the Twenty-fifth, so they had the road crew working on equipment in the shop. On January 26, the road crew resumed plowing snow. Mr. Burgess spoke with James Martin about holding the free landfill day on Environmental Day, June 5, and learned that Mr. Martin had worked on Kris Smith's computer at the county shop. Mr. Burgess also attended the hospital board meeting, where he learned they had a small loss for the month of November and that the new Byers Clinic will open on February 5 if all goes as planned. Lastly, on January 27, Mr. Burgess went by the Genoa shop where he learned they were still plowing roads.

Mr. Ewing reported that on January 18, after a discussion with the Board and Mr. Piper, they closed the courthouse early due to the snowstorm. He also spoke with District 1 road foreman Chris Monks regarding Highway 40/287 and Interstate 70 closures. On January 19 and 20, Mr. Ewing kept in contact with Mr. Monks about which roads were priorities for plowing. The snow and wind continued through the weekend and on Sunday, January 22, District 1 had four plows out trying to clear the roads.

On January 23 and 24, Mr. Ewing kept in contact with Mr. Monks. They were down a couple of crew members due to sickness but tried to keep up with the snowy roads, made worse from the wind and drifting snow.

Mr. Ewing reported that on January 25, Mr. Monks asked District 3 commissioner Doug Stone for help plowing snowy roads in the south part of District 1. District 1 also asked the area school districts for bus routes and received Genoa-Hugo and Karval but were still waiting on Arriba-Flagler and Limon. Mr. Ewing also stated they had three requests from landowners to open roads later in the week for livestock deliveries. On January 26, Mr. Ewing attended the Xcel Control Center tour in Denver set up by Greg Brophy, and on January 27, he attended the CCI legislative breakfast at the State Capital and the CCI Steering Meetings. He also visited with Mr. Monks, who felt all the roads should be open by that evening and the road crew would be able to take the weekend off.

Mr. Burgess asked Stan Kimble for his attorney's report. Mr. Kimble reported receiving a two-week extension on the Cameron cleanup, and after some investigation regarding the road encroachment issue on County Road 3G, he learned the land taxes haven't been paid since 2018, so it could possibly go up for tax lien sale soon. Mr. Kimble thought the next step was to have the county surveyor survey the road to see if (and how much) the landowner was encroaching on the county road. He assumed they could recoup the surveyor's costs in court. Mr. Kimble stated he would make sure the surveyor took a sheriff's deputy with him when he surveyed the area.

Next, Mr. Kimble reported that he had been working on old, platted roads in the town of Bovina, and when his office contacted DOLA, they had no record of Bovina being an incorporated town. He thought that may take a quiet title action to take care of the issue.

At 10:00 a.m., Jeff Belveal and Ethan Pruett with Colorado Parks and Wildlife joined the meeting to discuss Resolution #1013; an adopted resolution to close a portion of Lincoln County Road 34.2. Mr. Belveal stated that CPW wants to close County Road 34.2 from County Road 2G

to County Road 36 with a physical gate to keep non locals out during big game season. CPW owns both sides of the road; however, any other landowners needing access would still have that option. Mr. Belveal stated he planned to implement a new rotational grazing plan for cattle on the land and hopes to reestablish the native grasses that have died off due to the over use of traffic and campers over the years. Closing that portion of County Road 34.2 would not cut off access to the Hugo Ponds, people would have to access them from the east entrance on County Road 36. Mr. Belveal said CPW would be able to confine camping to one portion of the road, which would help with the current trash and litter problems.

Mr. Piper asked Mr. Kimble if closing that portion of County Road 34.2 would require a new resolution, and Mr. Kimble responded that it would require a hearing to close and vacate County Road 34.2 from County Road 2G to County Road 36. Mr. Piper said he could run the notice and schedule a public hearing on February 27, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Burgess suggested that Mr. Belveal bring a diagrammed map with his plans for the closed portion of the road. Mr. Belveal and Mr. Pruett left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Human Services Director Andrew Lorensen joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m. to provide his monthly report. Mr. Lorensen stated that food assistance has been the largest item on the financial statement but that will probably change in March when SNAP allotments go from the maximum payment that were changed at the beginning of the pandemic back to normal allotments. Mr. Lorensen told the Board that his department expects to have a lot of angry clients come March, but that they cannot appeal the changes. He also told the Board that PHE Medicaid Unwind will end in April, which means that people won't automatically get approved for Medicaid just because they applied. However, the clients can appeal the decision if they get denied.

Next, the Board reviewed the memorandum of understanding with Elbert County for childcare. Mr. Lorensen stated that Lincoln County has very few children they have to find childcare for each year, so each time they do, it's like they have to relearn the program. Elbert County does them all the time and is willing to take on Lincoln County's few cases. Mr. Ewing made a motion to sign the memorandum of understanding with Elbert County for childcare. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board then reviewed the contract with ECOG to administer the Grand Parent Grant. Mr. Ewing made a motion to sign the contract with ECOG to administer the Grand Parent Grant. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board also reviewed the Annual Merit System Certification of Compliance, and Mr. Ewing made a motion to accept it. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Last, Mr. Lorensen told the Board that a roof in one of the DHS offices still leaks, and with all of the recent snow, they are worried about mold growing. The Board asked Mr. Lorensen to come back to the meeting around 1:30 p.m. so they could talk with him and Maintenance Director John Mohan regarding the leak.

At 11:15 a.m., CSU Extension Regional Director Dennis Kaan, and Amelia Sharp, Extension Program Assistant, joined the meeting to discuss the Lincoln County CSU Extension Director

position. The Board also called commissioner Doug Stone to join the discussion. Mr. Kaan asked the Board what specialties they wanted the new director to have. Mr. Burgess stated he would prefer they look for someone with youth development and agriculture specialties, Mr. Stone said that 4-H and agriculture were what most local kids were involved with, and Mr. Ewing agreed with the other two board members. Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Kaan when he thought they could get the job posted, Mr. Kaan responded that after their discussion today he would finish the job description and run it through CSU review, hopefully posting it by the end of the week. Mr. Kaan stated that he was willing to come to Lincoln County and help the Extension Office if they needed it while they were in the process of hiring a new director. Mr. Stone asked if the hiring process included a committee. Mr. Kaan replied there would be a state committee as well as a local committee. Mr. Kaan also told the Board that the advertisement for the job has to run for three consecutive Saturday's, so as soon as he updated the ad, he would let the Board know.

Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Kaan if there was a process for offering the job to other county directors. Mr. Kaan replied that the job was open to everyone at the same time and that there was no internal posting. Mr. Burgess asked if he could have the ad ready by February 7, to which Mr. Kaan stated that he should have it done for the Board to review and hoped to have a new director in the Lincoln County office by the end of April or beginning of May.

Next, Mrs. Sharp told the Board that the extension office would like to hire summer help, and Mr. Burgess asked her to put together a job description for the Board's review so they could post it as soon as possible. Mr. Kaan and Mrs. Sharp left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

While the Board had Commissioner Stone on the phone, they also called Clerk and Recorder Corinne Lengel to discuss the sealed bid they received for the construction of the new election security room. Mr. Burgess opened the one bid they received from Pellett Carpentry & Finishing, and after the group reviewed it, Mr. Ewing made a motion to accept the bid from Pellett Carpentry & Finishing for \$88,725.39 for construction of the new election security room. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Stone and Mrs. Lengel ended their calls. The Board called Andrew Pellett and asked him to come in at 1:00 p.m. to answer questions regarding the bid and signing a contract.

Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Piper for the administrator's report, and Mr. Piper stated that fairgrounds manager John Palmer had concerns regarding some upcoming events at the fairgrounds and the insurance requirements. Mr. Piper also informed the Board that several county employees had fallen in the parking lot due to the lingering ice. The Board called Mr. Monks and asked him to bring the sanding truck to sand the parking lot, and Mr. Monks said he would. The Board broke for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Mr. Burgess reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. Andrew Pellett, Emergency Manager Ken Stroud, and Evan Wied and Pat Landess with Scout Clean Energy joined the meeting. Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Pellett if he would have difficulty acquiring supplies for the election room construction. Mr. Pellett stated the glass was sixteen weeks out for installation, but he had the supply orders ready and could purchase everything else as soon as he had the required half down payment from the county to do so. He also wanted to make sure the Board knew that he

did not bid taking down the partition wall that currently separated the two rooms or the final painting. Mr. Pellett said that as soon as the partition wall was down, he could build the knee wall, and then the glass installers could get their final measurements.

Mr. Kimble and Mr. Burgess told Mr. Pellett that the county required he sign a contract before he could receive payment. Mr. Pellett said that as soon as he knew what carpet and Formica they wanted he could give them an itemized bill for the contract. The Board made a plan to write the contract and have it signed before they paid bills again on February 7. Mr. Pellett left at 1:20 p.m.

Mr. Stroud gave his monthly report to the Board, including that the new AEDs were distributed throughout the county buildings and vehicles that needed them. Then Mr. Stroud told the Board that James Martin, IT, completed the cybersecurity deliverable for DHSEM. Mr. Piper had learned that the county's cybersecurity insurance covers less on cyber-attacks due to the county's email not having two-factor authentication. Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Stroud if the county were responsible for the County Road 2T tower maintenance, Mr. Stroud replied that the owner of the tower, Tom Hagans was responsible for the maintenance.

Land Use Administrator Ty Stogsdill and Taylor Henderson from Outshine Energy joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m. for the Scout Clean Energy presentation. Mr. Landess informed the Board that they wanted to give a brief introduction for their Dunaway Solar Project planned for east of Hugo. Mr. Landess stated they currently have around nine thousand acres that Scout Clean Energy has either purchased or leased for the planned four hundred mega watt solar farm. Mr. Kimble asked the duo if they were aware of the county's two percent use tax and asked what kind of solar panels they planned to use. Mr. Wied stated they were aware of the county use tax, and Mr. Landess told the Board that the industry standard right now was to use tracker panels that follow the sun.

Mr. Kimble asked what the life expectancy of solar panels was, and Mr. Wied stated thirty years was the average life expectancy for the most widely used solar panels. Mr. Kimble told them that the county also has decommissioning requirements if the project goes defunct. Mr. Landess said they were aware of the requirements and probably would not apply for their development permit until possibly the end of 2023. Mr. Ewing asked if they had a plan for disposing of the batteries. Mr. Landess replied they did not for the current project but would include it in their project plan. Mr. Kimble, Mr. Landess, Mr. Wied, Mr. Stogsdill, Mr. Stroud, Mr. Henderson, and Mrs. Zwick all left the meeting.

Mr. Lorensen and John Mohan arrived at 2:00 p.m. The Board asked Mr. Mohan if he could help them decide what to do with the leaking roof in the Department of Human Services office. Mr. Mohan told the Board that he would not get on the roof until the snow was gone, and the Board agreed. Mr. Burgess asked if he could check for mold in the insulation, to which Mr. Mohan responded he would need at least a twelve foot extension ladder or taller in order to get up in the ceiling to remove the insulation and check for mold. The Board asked him to do it at his earliest convenience.

The commissioners approved the January 2023 payroll, and then, with no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Burgess adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 2023.

Mindy Dutro, Acting Clerk of the Board

Steve Burgess, Vice Chairman