

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for February 18, 2025

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:30 Ken Stroud, Emergency Management Director, and Tom Nestor, Lincoln County Sheriff, to discuss radios

-To be completed as time permits-

1. Approve the minutes from the February 6, 2025, meeting
2. Review January 2025 reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff and County Treasurer
3. Review January 2025 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for County General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, Road & Bridge and Individual Road Districts
4. Review the January 2025 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool
5. Review and act upon the County Veterans Service Officer's Monthly Report and Certification of Pay
6. Review and act upon Annual Report COR900000 regarding Stormwater Discharges associated with Non-Extractive Industrial Activity for the Lincoln County Landfill
7. Review and act upon a contract with The Limon Leader regarding the preparation of the 2025 Lincoln County Fair Book
8. County Commissioner reports
9. County Attorney's report
10. County Administrator's report
11. Old Business
12. New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on February 18, 2025. Chairman Wayne Ewing, Commissioners Robert Safranek and Terry Jaques, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel attended. IT Director James Martin was working on Mr. Safranek's laptop when the meeting started and left at 9:40 a.m.

Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and said a short prayer.

Mr. Ewing had talked to Fairgrounds Manager John Palmer about the Ellis Allen building's HVAC at the previous night's Lincoln Day Dinner. He knew it would be expensive but asked Mr. Palmer to obtain quotes from SS Heating and Plains Heating and Air Conditioning and to find out how soon they could start the job. Mr. Jaques agreed it had to be done and suggested looking into energy company rebates. Mr. Piper noted that the annex unit would likely be a problem soon and that John Mohan had talked about replacing it last year; he would ask Mr. Mohan to send John Palmer the quote he'd obtained.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 6, 2025. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the January 2025 reports from the Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, and Treasurer. Mr. Piper had asked Sheriff Nestor to bring his report with him at 9:30 a.m.

Maintenance director John Mohan dropped off three quotes to install four twenty-amp receptacles and one twenty-amp circuit at the roundhouse to hook up the ultrasonic bat-repellent devices. Quotes ranged in price from \$2,890 to \$6,900 from David Brady, Leo's Electrical Services, and Lincoln Electric. Mr. Ewing noted the low bid covered three instead of four receptacles.

Mr. Jaques moved to accept the low bid, provided the cost of the additional outlet didn't exceed the next lowest bid. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed the January 2025 statements of revenues and expenditures for the General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, Road & Bridge funds, individual road district reports, and the January 2025 Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool reports.

Emergency Manager Ken Stroud arrived at 9:25 a.m. while the Board reviewed the County Veterans Service Officer's monthly report and certification of pay.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve the Annual Report COR900000 regarding Stormwater Discharges associated with Non-Extractive Industrial Activity for the Lincoln County Landfill. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

County Sheriff Tom Nestor and Captain Michael Yowell arrived at 9:30 a.m.; the sheriff brought the revenue report, which the Board reviewed.

Sheriff Nestor informed the commissioners that his department updated the radios in their patrol cars in 2024 and had approximately fifteen 800 MHz worth about \$6,000 each in storage. He offered the units to the commissioners to use in the Road & Bridge vehicles, stating that improving department communication was critical, especially during blizzards, outages, and fires. The sheriff noted that each unit would cost \$100 to program and \$200 to install but felt they were a tremendous resource for the county. He added that Captain Yowell had identified an unused county-owned channel that road supervisors and crew members could use; law enforcement would teach them how to access the emergency channel for situations where the agencies needed to communicate.

Mr. Ewing suggested putting radios in each road grader but wasn't sure it was necessary in every truck; Mr. Safranek agreed.

Mr. Jaques asked if they needed to keep the old radios; Sheriff Nestor said they would because each road district wouldn't have its own channel unless the county applied for them. Captain Yowell noted that road crew members could use the Simplex 1 channel to talk among themselves; it is a line-of-sight channel that doesn't use a repeater.

Sergeant Coley Britton arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. Jaques moved to accept the 800 MHz radios the sheriff's office held in storage, prioritize their installation first in road graders, and spend no more than \$10,000 to program and install the units, enhancing emergency services throughout the county. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Captain Yowell promised to obtain an exact count and coordinate with Mr. Stroud and the road supervisors to assign specific radios to their vehicles. Sheriff Nestor asked the commissioners to ensure the road supervisors knew everyone favored the project.

Mr. Ewing mentioned the Pretrial Services Program that 23rd Judicial District DA George Brauchler mentioned at the previous evening's Republican event. The sheriff responded that the program's biggest problem is judicial requests at the county's expense.

Captain Yowell explained the program, noting that when it started five years ago, the Chief Judge encouraged sheriffs to discuss it with their county commissioners. Because there was no backfill grant funding to hire an employee to identify recidivism and report to the judge before the judge set bond, it went no further, at least in Lincoln County. While the county currently runs its program through Douglas County, the captain noted that their people don't understand or see the needs of the Lincoln County community. He added there is definitely a need and suggested contacting Chief Judge Stewart to see if they could reignite the task force and determine a cost.

Sheriff Nestor stated a part-time person could easily fill the slot; it wouldn't have to be a full-time position. Mr. Jaques could see extensive personal liability for a county employee. Still, Captain Yowell said the person, while "kind of" a county employee, worked for the judiciary and received their wages and training from the state. Mr. Jaques preferred the position not to be a county employee and noted that he wasn't sure the program was effective.

Captain Yowell said they would reach out to the Chief Judge and DA Brauchler but noted it was hard to start the conversations knowing the cost would fall on the county. Mr. Jaques felt it never hurt to listen or start a conversation. Captain Yowell said they had many unanswered questions but were willing to open the discussion.

Mr. Ewing asked about vehicles; Sheriff Nestor said Vince's Chevrolet in Burlington has the new K-9 unit. However, since they originally ordered three cars, the sheriff dropped it to one to help reduce the 2025 budget; the county needed to help sell the two non-purchased vehicles to maintain a good working relationship with the dealership. The sheriff said they'd talked to Daniels Chevrolet in Colorado Springs, and they might be interested in the two used units. They received grant funding for a new K-9, so they kept the old K-9 vehicle, will put the new one in service when they get it, and will trade the old one next year. They hope to offset the K-9s and vehicles by rotating the dogs out when they can no longer work. Sergeant Ryan's dog, Baxter, will only be able to work a couple more years, but by then, Deputy Snover's K-9 should be ready to start.

Mr. Jaques asked Mr. Piper if the department heads met about the generator; Mr. Piper said they were scheduled to meet on February 25.

Sheriff Nestor mentioned a meeting they were attending at 11:00 a.m. to discuss better emergency correspondence for county employees. They will learn about an App that employees could download; it would cover road and courthouse closures, two-hour delays, and numerous emergencies. Employees could install it on their PCs, tablets, and phones. He wasn't sure, but the sheriff said he thought it was an annual \$1,200 fee. Sheriff Nestor noted that not all county employees have a company-issued phone and might not want the app on their personal devices, even if it didn't cost them anything.

Mr. Piper asked the sheriff to ensure that each employee wouldn't be subject to a CORA request if they used the app; Sheriff Nestor said he believed they wouldn't but would find out.

Sheriff Nestor, Captain Yowell, and Mr. Stroud left at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Ewing received a return phone call from the electrician with the lowest bid, so Mr. Piper called John Mohan to ask about the number of receptacles needed at the roundhouse; he said there were four. The electrician said he would revise the quote and call back later.

The Board reviewed a contract with the Limon Leader to prepare the 2025 Lincoln County Fair Book. Mr. Piper said the posters increased from \$200 to \$450, but everything else stayed the

same. Mr. Safranek moved to approve the Limon Leader contract for the 2025 Fair Book. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Jaques reported meeting with the District 2 road crew at the Genoa shop on February 7. They discussed road conditions and future summer projects, including crack and chip sealing. They also discussed concrete crushing and looking for a used plow truck to help with snow removal on County Highway 109 and County Highway 63. Mr. Jaques checked over 100 miles of roads in District 2. He noted that when Steve Burgess was commissioner, he'd planned to use FEMA money to pay for the crushed concrete, so the 2025 budget didn't include the approximate \$31,800 bill they received. Mr. Safranek cautioned that they must complete all FEMA projects first. Mr. Piper noted that since he wasn't familiar with the auditing process, the commissioners needed to be comfortable with the projects before tapping into additional money. Mr. Jaques said he had to pay the bill no matter what, even if it meant cutting something else.

Mr. Jaques reported discussing the Ellis Allen HVAC system with John Palmer on February 17 while attending the Lincoln Day Dinner. He noted that the evening was enjoyable and thanked those who made it special.

Regarding the District 3 FEMA project, Mr. Safranek reported that Road Supervisor Judd Kravig ordered rock and planned to rent an excavator to place it. Most of the work would occur on the north side, which was still icy and snow-packed, so they would wait until it thawed.

Mr. Safranek contacted Purple Wave, BigIron, and Auction Time about selling county items; neither Purple Wave nor BigIron used local representatives. However, Purple Wave had the best deal: \$100 to list and a four percent fee if the item didn't sell. Still, he felt that even though Auction Time would cost more, it provided more opportunities to tell the story behind the equipment and came with the advantage of a local representative. Mr. Jaques asked which he preferred; Mr. Safranek said he needed to research it further.

Mr. Ewing reported meeting with District 1 Supervisor Chris Monks after the February 6 commissioner meeting. They discussed asphalt and an employee. Mr. Ewing said he should have attended the Limon Town Board meeting but attended his grandson's basketball game instead. He later addressed the meeting highlights with a board member, and the most concerning were new wastewater regulations implemented by CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment). Mr. Ewing noted that rural municipalities would likely be unable to comply with the regs because of the increased cost. He asked Representative Chris Richardson to look into it.

On February 10, Mr. Ewing spoke to Jon Lund with Burlington Ford about the landfill pickup and government payment cycles. Mr. Lund understood the situation and said the county could pick up the vehicle anytime. Mr. Ewing and Chris Monks discussed the same employee they'd mentioned on February 6, particularly their work ethic. Mr. Ewing checked several roads; it snowed that night. The District 2 crew plowed roads on February 11; there was more snow and

bitter cold throughout the night. Mr. Ewing again spoke to Chris Monks about the same employee. The commissioners agreed to open the county offices at the regular time on February 12 despite the frigid temperatures. He, Mr. Piper, and Sheriff Nestor discussed the Pretrial Service Program via email. The sheriff wanted to involve Captain Yowell. Mr. Ewing and Chris Monks had another discussion about the same employee, and Mr. Ewing attended the 21st Century customer dinner in Flagler. On February 15, Mr. Ewing briefly talked with Mr. Monks, who was plowing on North County Highway 109. Mr. Ewing attended the Lincoln Day Dinner on February 17.

Lastly, Mr. Ewing said he'd contacted the landowner about when they would re-pasture their cattle; it shouldn't be until around the first of May, giving District 1 plenty of time for County Road 3C mitigation and culvert installation.

Mr. Ewing asked if County Attorney Kelly Lowery planned to join the meeting via Teams, but Mr. Piper said she would do so next time; Xcel extended Rule 106 as she requested, and they would go over the resolution to reduce voting precincts.

Mr. Piper reported receiving information from other counties regarding how they handle maternity and paternity leave. While most do the same as Lincoln County, several have a written policy. Kit Carson County allows six weeks of leave but requires its employees to use annual leave; Lincoln County doesn't limit employees' time as long as they have it. Most counties utilize FMLA, either automatically or at the employee's request. Cheyenne County was the only county to give paid maternity and paternity leave, but only one week.

Mr. Piper had received an email from Candace Payne regarding the AR360 Regional Housing Needs Assessment. While they received funding from local banks and other entities, they asked Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, and Lincoln counties to contribute \$2,000 each. Mr. Ewing wasn't in favor of it, and Mr. Safranek stated they would have more pools of government money at their disposal once the assessment was complete. If the counties didn't contribute, they would likely return to their other stakeholders.

Mr. Jaques asked if there was a deadline; Mr. Piper said the email mentioned the completion of "spring 2025" but nothing else. Mr. Jaques wanted to wait and see what the other counties did before committing; Mr. Ewing repeated he wasn't in favor. He didn't believe the government needed to be involved in funding housing, although he admitted the government had a role in guiding toward funding.

Mr. Piper checked the budget and said the county paid \$5,000 to Regional Affordable Housing in 2023 but wasn't sure it was the same program.

Mr. Ewing tabled further discussion until they had more information.

Mr. Ewing asked about the water fountains; Mr. Piper said they were on the schedule but didn't know when.

Sergeant Britton left at 10:45 a.m.

The commissioners discussed repaving the annex parking lot; Mr. Jaques said they could try to do it in conjunction with the courthouse but might have to do less at the courthouse, depending on the cost. All agreed they needed to start the parking lot as soon as possible and asked if they needed to obtain bids or have Jerry Eurich do it again. Mr. Safranek said he'd prefer Mr. Eurich to do it. Mr. Jaques suggested getting a price for the front and north sides of the courthouse and the annex; he didn't believe that #5 rebar was necessary but felt they could use #3 or #4. Mr. Safranek disagreed with #3, saying it should be at least #4.

Mr. Piper asked about the drainage, noting that when Gary Ensign was the county administrator, he voiced extreme concerns about water flow and table contamination. Mr. Ewing said he and Chris Monks discussed it and agreed the drainage needed to follow the natural flow to the ditch at the front of the courthouse. Even though GMS did an engineering design several years ago, Mr. Ewing felt the county could do it without a daily engineer watching over the project. He called Jerry's Custom Concrete and left a message for Jerry Eurich.

Mr. Piper asked if redoing the parking lot also covered the sidewalks since there were issues with ADA accessibility and parking spaces. The group discussed removing the railing, adding sloped areas or ramps, moving all accessible parking places to one side, and moving the drop-box. Mrs. Lengel planned to move the ballot drop-box from Limon to the courthouse parking lot, possibly on the north end, to make it a proper drive-up ballot box. They could also incorporate that move with the parking lot project, move the current box closer to the building, and decide what barriers to install for safety.

Mr. Jaques asked about the landfill; Mr. Piper said that Mark McMullen had submitted the EDOP changes. When Mr. Jaques mentioned the crushed pipe and liner, Mr. Piper was confident that Mr. McMullen had submitted the liner information in the EDOP. He also said that the commissioners instructed American Environmental Consulting to bid or fix the pipe; Mr. Jaques asked him to contact Mr. McMullen for a status update. Mr. Piper suggested a workshop at the landfill and would let the commissioners know when AEC planned to come out. Mr. Jaques commented that he didn't like to put things off, especially if they were regulatory, and knew of several items needing attention.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2025.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

Wayne E. Ewing, Chairman