

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for February 27, 2025

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:30 Andrew Lorensen, Human Services Director, to present the Department of Human Services monthly report
- 10:00 Travis Miller with RockSol Consulting Group, Inc. to provide updates on the Big Sandy Creek Bridge Rehab project
- 10:30 Ken Stroud, Emergency Management Director, Tom Nestor, Lincoln County Sheriff, and Road and Bridge Foreman to discuss radio upgrades
- 11:00 Kelly Lowery, Lincoln County Attorney, to present a report via Microsoft Teams
- 11:00 Review and act upon Proposed Resolution #1149; A Resolution to establish new election precinct boundaries for Lincoln County, Colorado
- 11:30 Ty Stogsdill, Land Use Administrator, to present on the February 20, 2025 Land Use Board meeting
- 1:00 John Palmer, Lincoln County Fairgrounds Manager, to discuss replacing furnaces at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds

-To be completed as time permits-

1. Approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025, meeting
2. Discuss a vacancy on the E911 Authority Board
3. Review and act upon a letter of support for the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation regarding a USDA Rural Business Development Grant
4. Review and act upon a public contract for services from KP, LLC. Dba KP Elections Services for 2025 ballot printing and mailing
5. County Commissioner reports
6. County Attorney's report
7. County Administrator's report
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Approve Payroll

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2025. Chairman Wayne Ewing, commissioners Robert Safranek and Terry Jaques, county administrator Jacob Piper, and clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel attended.

Mr. Ewing called the meeting to order, Mr. Safranek led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mr. Jaques said a prayer.

Mr. Safranek moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 18, 2025. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mark Ward had given up his seat on the E911 Authority Board; Mr. Safranek moved to appoint George Ehlers to fill the vacancy. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The group discussed that they still needed to find a replacement Tourism Board member for Janelle Lausier, who had moved out of the county. Mr. Safranek recommended Dave Smith. Mr. Ewing called, and Mr. Smith said he would do it until the term expires at the end of the year. Mr. Jaques said he would find out when they met and follow up with Mr. Smith. Mr. Jaques moved to appoint Dave Smith to the Tourism Board to replace Janelle Lausier. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a USDA Rural Business Development grant letter of support for the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Safranek moved to sign the letter, Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a public contract for services from KP, LLC dba KP Elections Services for 2025 ballot printing and mailing. Mrs. Lengel explained she'd had several conversations with KP sales reps at county clerk conferences and that the company impressed her and her staff during a recent Teams call enough for her to request a proposal. While KP would cost around \$3,000 more than the old vendor, IVS, most of its components, like ballots and envelopes, were comparably priced. Mrs. Lengel said the company was much more professional and stable than IVS and came highly recommended by the Kit Carson County clerk. IVS had experienced numerous problems, such as decertification in California, and made several mistakes over the past few years; Mrs. Lengel noted it was the company that sent Huerfano County voter instructions to at least 200 Lincoln County voters, among other errors.

Mr. Ewing asked if the county would have to break a contract with IVS; Mrs. Lengel told him she had never signed one.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve the KP, LLC contract for 2025 ballot printing and mailing. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Ewing recessed the Board of County Commissioners meeting and opened the Lincoln County Board of Human Services meeting. Human Services Director Andrew Lorensen met with the Board and gave his monthly report. The commissioners reviewed the January

2025 financial statements, the February employee timesheets, Income Maintenance, Child Welfare and Adult Protection, and the director's monthly reports. Mr. Lorensen noted that if he finished this meeting before 10:00 a.m., he planned to attend an emergency Works Allocation committee meeting to discuss cutting \$800 billion from Medicaid/Medicare.

Travis Miller with RockSol Consulting Group, Inc., arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. Lorensen asked about donating the department's 2013 Chrysler 200 to a needy family. He explained that former boards of commissioners typically allowed DHS to donate its vehicles rather than sell them by sealed bid. Mr. Lorensen checked the Kelly Blue Book to determine the car's value based on age and approximate mileage of 120,000 miles: \$3,600 to \$5,900. Disclosing as little information as possible, Mr. Lorensen said the donation would support a family with direct connections to DHS programs and an ongoing court case.

Mr. Jaques moved to allow DHS to donate its 2013 Chrysler 200 to a family in need. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

District 1 Road & Bridge supervisor Chris Monks arrived at 9:50 a.m.

Mr. Lorensen answered several questions regarding DHS programs and provided an update on the HCPF and the RAE for QRPT and PRTP he'd mentioned the last time he met with the Board. He said they'd picked up numerous educational toys, coloring books, and supplies for the Family Voice center in Limon; they had used 100% grant funding to pay for the items.

Before leaving, Mr. Lorensen stated that Lincoln Health had canceled two of its scheduled meetings with DHS without much notice. He wanted the commissioners to know that while he was making the effort, the CEO was not prioritizing the meetings and hadn't attended since the first one. Mr. Ewing told him he would mention it, and Mr. Lorensen left.

At 10:00 a.m., Mr. Ewing adjourned the Board of Human Services meeting and reconvened the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Travis Miller provided updates on the Big Sandy Creek Bridge Project, reminding the group he'd already mentioned unexpected costs they'd run into regarding the sinkhole and water hole. When the contractors removed the deck, they discovered that the bridge's expansion and contraction sheared off the heads of fourteen galvanized steel bolts welded to bearing plates beneath the abutments. They also found a few bent bolts and several missing nuts. Mr. Miller said that since they were trying to return the bridge to a structurally sound state while keeping within the budget, they would redrill the holes, replace the bolts, and add nuts. Unfortunately, he didn't know how much it would cost and wouldn't until CDOT looked at it; however, they needed to fix it.

Mr. Piper asked if Mr. Miller thought the cost would fall within the grant allotment; Mr. Miller said there was still about \$20,000 left and hoped so. He noted that the structural engineers

said there was no easy fix; Mr. Safranek suggested asking the contractors to torch the bolts, which would be cheaper than drilling them. He explained the arc gouging process to Mr. Miller, who said he hadn't heard of the practice but promised to ask.

Rather than wait until the next meeting, Mr. Jaques moved to allow Mr. Piper to sign the Change Order when it came. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Monks asked if the new concrete would expand and retract like the old asphalt; Mr. Miller said it wouldn't because an expansion joint over Pier Three was locked in place.

Before leaving, Mr. Miller said they were still planning to complete the project by the end of April.

Road & Bridge District 2 supervisor Bruce Walters arrived at 10:20 a.m., and District 3 supervisor Judd Kravig, Sheriff Tom Nestor, Captain Michael Yowell, and Emergency Manager Ken Stroud arrived five minutes later.

Mr. Monks presented an idea for buying grader blades in 2026, stating the county can't get a discount because it doesn't buy an entire truckload (320) at once. They cost \$156 each, but the county could get them for \$120 each and free shipping if getting a truckload. Mr. Monks suggested budgeting for them in 2026 and then skipping 2027, putting them on a biennial cycle and saving \$9,000 or \$10,000 by buying in bulk. The commissioners agreed it was an excellent idea.

Opening the radio upgrade discussion, Mr. Ewing said that he and Mr. Monks felt they should switch all Road & Bridge vehicles to 800 MHz, but it sounded like they couldn't because they were using the repeater. However, the repeater recently quit working.

Sheriff Nestor said they'd counted them and have twenty-five radios to donate, but the county could purchase more as money allowed. Rampart Search and Rescue might have several more radios they cannot use, so if they donate them, Sheriff Nestor said he would let the commissioners know. Mr. Stroud noted that installation and programming cost \$350 each, totaling about \$7,500. A new radio costs about \$4,000, while a refurbished unit costs around \$500.

Discussion ensued regarding how many radios they would need, the most critical vehicles, and how the coverage worked. Mr. Stroud said road crews could use a Simplex channel similar to the VHF talkaround they used. The sheriff noted the overall advantage was that law enforcement and emergency personnel would be able to communicate with any road crew member who had an 800 MHz radio in their vehicle. Mr. Monks said they discussed it for years and felt it was time.

Mr. Kravig commented that they didn't use radios much in District 3 except when flagging, and Captain Yowell said they should decide what they spent most of their time in and start with those vehicles.

Mr. Jaques suggested using the \$10,000 they'd already agreed on for the sheriff's 25 radios and exchanging other units as they received more donations.

Mr. Stroud addressed the repeater on the County Road 2T tower, noting it had no power; Bill Drake gave him an admittedly high quote of \$12,000 to replace it. The repeater runs the tornado sirens; Mr. Jaques wanted further information as soon as possible with tornado season imminent. He noted that emergency services are critical. Mr. Monks asked if they still needed the repeater in Genoa if everyone moved to 800 MHz radios or if they could move it. Mr. Stroud said he would check and noted they'd abandoned the idea of using the tower at County Highway 109 because they never received the requested contract.

The sheriff said they'd also ask Bill Drake how quickly he could install the radios in the Road & Bridge vehicles. He noted that the county should decide future goals and determine a plan for moving toward them, particularly since the fire and ambulance services no longer use VHF. He mentioned CODERED and VOXER, stating that it might be time to stop using the tornado sirens and move to an alternative messaging system. Mr. Jaques agreed that they needed to start those conversations.

The sheriff, captain, and emergency manager left at 11:05 a.m., and County Attorney Kelly Lowery joined the meeting via the meeting owl.

Mr. Monks and Mr. Kravig provided asphalt paving bids from Bettis Asphalt & Construction from Kansas, United (formerly A&S), and Martin Marietta in Colorado Springs. The latter was the cheapest at \$217,000 a mile, plus a \$6,500 mobilization fee. Mr. Monks said the county had purchased mix from them over the years and felt it was the best option, although it might be higher if District 2 wanted some. Mr. Jaques stated they would continue patching as District 2 didn't have the money in the budget. Mr. Safranek felt there wasn't a question if Martin Marietta was faster, cheaper, and could complete projects in the county's timeframe.

The Road & Bridge supervisors left, and Land Use Administrator Ty Stogsdill arrived at 11:15 a.m., as County Attorney Kelly Lowery started her report. Still dealing with Xcel Energy on the 106 litigation, Miss Lowery admitted she didn't know what was happening on the company's end as she hadn't heard from anyone.

As for the District 3 right-of-way resolution, Miss Lowery said that CDOT expected the commissioners to sign it today. Mr. Piper said he hadn't formatted it onto the county's resolution template, nor had he listed its adoption on the agenda. He planned to have the Board adopt the resolution at the next meeting, which Miss Lowery said was fine.

Miss Lowery had checked into maternity, paternity, and adoptive parent leave and asked if the county opted out of the FMLI (Family Medical Leave Insurance) program. Mr. Piper told her it had but that employees could still join it on their own. He also explained that he'd contacted several other counties; most followed the same practice Lincoln County did. Mr. Jaques felt his questions had been answered and he didn't need to pursue the topic further.

Regarding the February 20 Land Use Board meeting, Miss Lowery asked if the commissioners posted it since two of them had attended. She reminded them of the Sunshine Law, cautioned against more than one commissioner attending a meeting without a public posting, and recommended a joint meeting posting if they did.

Mr. Stogsdill said he'd hoped for a more productive meeting since he advised the Land Use Board members of the meeting over a month ago and provided copies of the zoning regulations. He was hoping they would all come prepared to work on revisions. Mr. Jaques felt they accomplished what he wanted, which was to establish the need to work together toward future goals.

Mr. Jaques told Miss Lowery he received a call from Steve Sitton regarding progress on the Bovina Cemetery; he wanted to know if the county had an easement ready. Miss Lowery asked the group to refresh her memory on the details and then asked if they had completed a survey. Mr. Piper told her to check the tote from Mr. Kimble, as he thought it might be there. Since there was no record of the cemetery's establishment, Mr. Kimble had suggested a resolution reaffirming its existence. All Mr. Piper had found was documentation supporting the fact that the commissioners had appointed cemetery district board members at one time. He offered to send what information he had to Miss Lowery, and Mr. Jaques said he'd call Mr. Sitton to let him know Scott Kimble completed the survey but they were still putting together additional documentation.

After a brief conversation, Mr. Jaques moved to adopt a resolution establishing new precinct boundaries, effective January 1, 2026. Mr. Safranek asked for further discussion; a Genoa constituent contacted him about losing representation. Mrs. Lengel reminded the group that the party would keep the number of delegates to the county and higher assemblies but that it would reduce the number of precinct committee people. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Colorado, held in Hugo, Colorado, on February 27, 2025, there were present:

Wayne Ewing, Chairman	Present
Robert Safranek, Vice Chairman	Present
Terry Jaques, Commissioner	Present
Kelly Lowery, County Attorney	Present Via Telephone
Corinne Lengel, Clerk of the Board	Present
Jacob Piper, County Administrator	Present

when the following proceedings, among others, were had and done, to wit:

RESOLUTION #1149 It was moved by Commissioner Jaques and seconded by Commissioner Safranek to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101(1) directs that the county clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, shall divide the county into as many election precincts for all general, primary, and congressional vacancy elections as is convenient for the eligible electors of the county; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101(3)(a) directs that every clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, shall establish at least one precinct for every one thousand five hundred active eligible electors in the county at the time of the most recent federal decennial census. However, the county clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, may establish one precinct for every two thousand active eligible electors; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101(7) states that the county clerk and recorder may alter the precinct boundaries when necessary to ensure that no precinct is located in more than one county commissioner district; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101.5(3) states any changes in election precinct numbering shall be completed and reported to the secretary of state by the county clerk and recorder; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-103, 1-5-104, and C.R.S. 30-11-107(1)(f) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to organize and change boundaries of election precincts for all elections, including partisan and nonpartisan elections; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 2-2-506(1)(a) states the clerk and recorder of each county, subject to the approval of its board of county commissioners, shall redraw the general election precincts to ensure that no precinct contains more than one state representative, state senatorial, or congressional district; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder deems it necessary to consolidate election precincts to aid in the efficient discharge of her duties; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder finds that several election precincts currently exist in more than one commissioner district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County to dissolve all previously established voting precincts and declare that the election precincts shall be as described as follows:

- **4355637001 – “Precinct One”**: All that part of Lincoln County lying east of the range line between Range 54 West and Range 55 West of the 6th Principal Meridian (Active Registered Electors: 1,106).
- **4355637002 – “Precinct Two”**: Sections seven, eight, and nine and that part of sections sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen, all in Township Nine South, Range 56 West of the 6th Principal Meridian lying north of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Co. right of way (Active Registered Electors: 1,214).

- **4355637003 – “Precinct Three”:** All that part of Lincoln County lying west of the range line between Range 54 West and Range 55 West of the 6th Principal Meridian except that part in Precinct Two (Active Registered Electors: 910).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached map of Lincoln County (Exhibit A) (original maps to be maintained by the Clerk and Recorder), which sets forth the boundaries for the election precincts described herein, are adopted and incorporated herein by reference and same shall hereafter be used in conjunction with the precinct boundaries described above to identify all election precincts in Lincoln County. If there is a conflict between the written descriptions above and said maps, the said maps shall control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the boundaries of the established election precincts and the boundaries of the established county commissioner districts shall be linked together such that the descriptions of both sets of boundaries shall be updated in parallel unless the board of county commissioners, by resolution, decides to alter either boundary individually. This provision shall include district boundary changes made following a decennial census.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective January 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by further act of the Board of County Commissioners.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

Commissioner Jaques, Yes; Commissioner Safranek, Yes; Commissioner Ewing, Yes.

The Chairman declared the motion carried, and so ordered.

Board of County Commissioners
of Lincoln County

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

Mr. Piper asked Miss Lowery if she had a draft Memorandum of Understanding that he could use to create a similar document between the county and Mountain View Electric Association; they asked the county to let them get fuel at the county shops in an emergency. Mr. Ewing told Miss Lowery that the county couldn't sell MVEA the fuel and that the utility company would have to replace it. Mr. Safranek felt Mountain View should provide the MOU since the situation did not benefit the county. Miss Lowery said she would contact the MVEA attorney but noted she preferred contracts over MOUs.

The group discussed placing a moratorium on residential development permits until the county could update the zoning regulations regarding water requirements. Since they would need to follow the public notice and hearing process, Miss Lowery said she would prepare a resolution for the March 6 meeting.

Mr. Stogsdill had sent Miss Lowery the county's nuisance regulations; an area north of Limon is in question, although he hasn't received a formal written complaint about the property yet.

Mr. Jaques and Miss Lowery advocated sending a neighborly letter that included a copy of the nuisance ordinance to see if they could resolve the issue. She suggested sending the letter via certified mail.

Mr. Stogsdill provided information from the February 20 Land Use Board meeting, stating that while the members approved the three-tier development permit fee schedule, they merely discussed what fines to charge for not following the regs. Some felt \$100 per day per infraction wasn't unreasonable. Mr. Jaques didn't mind the three-tier schedule but disagreed with the fee suggestion; Mr. Ewing proposed giving the person thirty days to correct the issues and then charging \$100 a day if they didn't. Mr. Jaques found that idea more reasonable.

Mr. Jaques noted that the county hadn't been charging a user fee on transmission lines and said it could charge a one percent impact fee that wouldn't affect the landowner.

Mr. Piper recommended adopting a completely revised set of zoning regulations each time something changed, enabling them to use the same resolution format each time.

The group took a short lunch break, and when the meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m., Fairgrounds Manager John Palmer met with the Board to discuss replacing furnaces in the Ellis Allen building. He provided proposals from SS Heating & A/C, LLC, and Plains Heating and Air Conditioning.

Mr. Jaques moved to accept the \$31,461.43 proposal from SS Heating & A/C, LLC. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Piper said there was \$35,000 in the Capital Projects Fairgrounds Improvements line item but asked Mr. Palmer for the cost of the garage door. Mr. Palmer said it was a little less than \$6,000, but he could pay it from his Repairs line item if necessary. Mr. Piper said they could overrun the Fairgrounds Improvements line item in Capital Projects; the Not Specifically Identified category would cover the excess.

Before he left, Mr. Palmer said the Extension office wanted new rabbit and chicken cages, but he told them they would have to explain their request to the commissioners.

Mr. Piper had to leave early, so Mr. Ewing asked him to give his administrator's report. Jerry Eurich with Jerry's Custom Concrete will meet with the Board on March 6 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss replacing sections of the courthouse parking lot.

The janitor gave her two weeks' notice but agreed to be available through March to help train her replacement; the ad will appear in next week's paper.

The landfill engineers will train the landfill staff on March 25 or 26. Mr. Piper said the commissioners could hold a workshop with them in the afternoon and asked for a date preference; they chose March 26 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Piper had also talked to Mark McMullen about fixing the crushed pipe; the commissioners could discuss it with him at the workshop.

Mr. Piper received a letter from the retirement plan investors that he shared with the Board; he read them a summary of a legal notice from Cetera. The gentlemen want to meet the new commissioners and will do so at 10:00 a.m. on March 6.

The Board reviewed an \$8,601.22 proposal from SS Heating & A/C LLC to replace the Public Health furnace. Mr. Safranek questioned why it was 96% efficiency when the Ellis Allen building proposal was for 80% efficiency. Mr. Piper asked John Mohan to come in and discuss it.

Mr. Mohan said Mr. Stogsdill had told him the furnace motor and squirrel cage made a terrible noise, so he'd asked Mr. Smith for a quote on a new furnace. Mr. Jaques said they might be able to replace the motor instead of the entire furnace and asked Mr. Mohan to contact Jason Smith and have him look at it. Mr. Ewing also asked him to find out how long it would take if they had to replace it, and Mr. Safranek questioned the differences between the two proposals in the efficiency rating. Mr. Mohan wasn't sure but said he would ask Mr. Smith when he talked to him.

Mr. Mohan said the new vault doors were in; they would find time to install them.

Mr. Jaques asked about the water fountains; Mr. Mohan said he'd removed the old one at the sheriff's office and still needed the electrical work.

Mr. Piper had completed the RFP for the jury assembly room ADA-accessible restrooms; the commissioners would approve it on March 6, Mr. Piper would submit it to the newspaper, and they would have a walkthrough for contractors on March 28. They could open bids on April 7.

Mr. Mohan left, and Mr. Piper asked if the commissioners wanted to contribute \$2,000 to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Cheyenne and Kit Carson counties had, but he hadn't heard back from Elbert County.

Mr. Jaques asked if the department heads discussed the courthouse generator; Mr. Piper had missed the meeting due to a family illness. Mrs. Lengel said the group had questioned why the commissioners wanted to know about specific departments rather than buying a generator for

the whole building. Mr. Ewing said it was the cost; Mrs. Lengel said the department heads' consensus was to cover the entire complex due to the old generator's age and the unlikelihood that replacing it would get cheaper. Mr. Stroud had said the generator and electrician would cost \$163,180; Sheriff Nestor said it needed to be natural gas. The department heads discussed the lack of available grant funding, but the sheriff had offered to ask the State Court Administrator for a contribution.

Mr. Piper said the commissioners hadn't budgeted anything in 2025 to replace the generator. Mr. Jaques noted that if it weren't in the budget, they would have to wait and see if the county received any use tax from the solar projects.

Mr. Piper left, and Administrative Assistant Casey Love took his place.

Returning to East Central COG Executive Director & PDC Administrator Candace Payne's request for \$2,000, Mr. Jaques said if there was value to all communities in contributing the money, he would agree but wanted more information. Mr. Ewing called Candace Payne and left a message. He commented that he'd also received an email from SBDC wanting \$5,000.

Ms. Payne's email noted that ECCOG and PDC have been working with the consultant, AR360, on a regional housing needs assessment started in 2024. It is slightly ahead of schedule, and if all goes as planned, it should be completed by spring 2025. Local businesses and lenders across the region have participated in the advisory committee calls with AR360. The state of Colorado sponsored this work as part of ECCOG's CEDS strategies to address housing challenges, but that was not enough to finish the project. They have received support from local banks, CHFA, Lincoln County EDC, and Prairie Development Corporation at various levels. Ms. Payne said PDC's board challenged her to obtain the final \$8,000, which was the reason for her email; they need help filling their Phase II funding gap.

Candace Payne called back and explained that the contribution would cover the final residual costs to complete the housing needs study and the final report's release in March. She noted that they'd done a regional study in the past but found it had several errors. Their next steps would be a regional housing needs summit and hiring a regional housing coordinator to move projects, provide training, hire people, and seek housing development grants. The report included income level, housing needs levels, population, housing types such as rentals, single-family housing, assisted living, senior housing, and how many are necessary through 2050. Ms. Payne said the \$2,000 contribution would help ECCOG reach its final commitment. The commissioners thanked Ms. Payne for the information and disconnected the call.

Mr. Jaques moved to contribute \$2,000 to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Mr. Safranek commented it was helpful information for those doing spec homes and seconded the motion. Mr. Jaques and Mr. Safranek voted in favor of the contribution; Mr. Ewing voted against it.

Mr. Ewing received an email from East Colorado Small Business Development Corporation Executive Director Lisa Hudson asking the county to support SBDC in 2025 with a \$5,000 contribution. The commissioners discussed economic development funding small businesses; Mr. Safranek commented that most of the organization's efforts seem to be up north; Lincoln, Kiowa, and Kit Carson counties don't see much action. He noted that PDC had offered support through meeting facilities, hosted lunches, and in other areas if SBDC would offer training here. Mr. Ewing agreed, stating he'd like them to give more to our communities and reach out to more businesses. Mr. Safranek conceded that SBDC does good work with small business counseling and said that if Ms. Hudson called, they should ask her to demonstrate what SBDC has done explicitly for Lincoln County.

Mr. Safranek reported being in close contact with Judd Kravig while District 3 replaced the culvert between Ardith James and Curt Dutro, where they discovered the large sinkhole. Limon has a trench box they can use, but Mr. Safranek said they would put the culvert together topside and lower it into the hole but would at least have the trench box if needed. Road graders are out in District 3, and crew members are busy with oil crack patching. They took their lowboy to Colorado Springs to drop off a truck and pick up the grader blades for all three districts.

Mr. Jaques reported that on February 19, he attended the Economic Development meeting at MVEA; they received information on planned projects with no new updates. He had a lunch meeting with Bruce Walters; they discussed the three District 2 FEMA projects and proposed construction schedule. They also discussed replacing the deteriorating culverts at Walks Camp and the need for an engineering plan for the Arickaree River Hwy 63 bridge due to low weight restrictions.

On February 20, Mr. Jaques and Mr. Ewing went to Denver and reviewed proposed legislative bills at CCI. Mr. Jaques attended the Land Use Board meeting in Hugo, where they met with the County Attorney and discussed reviewing existing regulations and rates. Due to adverse weather in Denver, he and Mr. Ewing reviewed proposed legislative bills at the courthouse on February 21.

On February 24, Steve Sitton called Mr. Jaques requesting an update on the Bovina Cemetery survey and when the county would have an easement agreement ready for signature. Mr. Jaques said he would have an update this week.

On February 26, Mr. Jaques and Joe Kiely discussed the county's participation in Ports-to-Plains. The county fee is ten cents per resident, \$528 (paid for on 11/19/2024), and meeting travel costs. Options exist to attend some meetings virtually. Mr. Kiely believed that while Colorado's progress has slowed, future opportunities continue because of changes in the political landscape.

Mr. Ewing asked for the size of the culverts at Walks Camp, stating they might have some that would work.

Dave Smith had chosen not to fill the vacancy on the Tourism Board after all, so the commissioners readdressed the subject. Mr. Jaques said he would stop and ask Stella Florek.

Mr. Safranek mentioned receiving a complaint about trash between County Roads 2R and 2S on County Road 27 and informed Bruce Walters.

Mr. Ewing reported meeting with Chris Monks and members of the District 1 crew at the county shop after the February 18 commissioner meeting. He and Mr. Monks discussed FEMA monies and how to attribute projects that would satisfy FEMA investigators. After discussing the Genoa town board meeting agenda with the mayor, Mr. Ewing attended the FFA auction at the Genoa-Hugo School. On February 19, Mr. Ewing and Mr. Monks discussed the sheriff's radios. They decided a complete upgrade would be best; two radios and a cell phone in vehicles could be dangerous. Mr. Jaques and Mr. Ewing attended the CCI Steering Committee meeting in person on February 20; SB25-003 was notably the most anticipated and noteworthy bill in question. CCI voted to oppose it. Human Services Director Andrew Lorensen provided CHSDA recommendations to Mr. Ewing for the February 21 DHS meetings. Mr. Ewing received the Lofdahl and Ravenkamp pit inspection reports. He also attended the Land Use Board meeting, where they discussed permit fees and regulation changes.

Due to inclement weather on February 21, Mr. Ewing and Mr. Jaques attended the CCI Steering Committee meetings via Zoom in the commissioners' meeting room. Mr. Lorensen joined them for the Human Services portion.

Mr. Ewing learned of more employee problems, which he and Chris Monks discussed on February 24.

On February 25, Mr. Ewing checked roads and discussed them with Mr. Monks. They also discussed the I-70 bridge projects that CDOT will review on March 6, Big Sandy Bridge updates, radios, and purchasing grader blades biennially, saving the county approximately \$9,000. On February 26, Mr. Ewing and Mr. Monks discussed the asphalt mix applied in the soft spots on both sides of the Williams Bridge at Mr. Ewing's suggestion. Mr. Monks also informed him that the radios weren't working; Emergency Manager Ken Stroud told him the repeater was down. Lastly, Mr. Ewing noted they took gravel to a landowner.

The Board approved the February payroll, and Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 2025.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

Wayne E. Ewing, Chairman