

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for November 26, 2024

- 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
- 11:30 Kevin Stansbury, Lincoln Community Hospital CEO, to provide an LCH report

-To be completed as time permits-

1. Approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024, meeting
2. Review the October 2024 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool
3. Review and act upon a credit limit change request for Ashley Erwin
4. Review and act upon a letter of support for the Limon Child Development Center
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 November 26, 2024. Vice Chairman Wayne Ewing, Commissioner Doug Stone, County Administrator Jacob Piper, County Attorney Stan Kimble, Clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel, and commissioner-elect Terry Jaques attended. Chairman Steve Burgess was absent and excused, and IT Director James Martin was there when the meeting started.

Mr. Ewing called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Kimble to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ewing said a short prayer.

Mr. Martin informed the Board that he would look for Black Friday or Cyber Monday deals on a meeting owl. Mr. Ewing asked if they were wireless; Mr. Martin said they weren't, but all they needed was power.

Mr. Ewing asked when they wanted to start having Zoom meetings, and Mr. Jaques wondered if it was so that Miss Lowery could join them. Mr. Kimble said that if it were for Miss Lowery's benefit, she preferred Microsoft Teams to Zoom. The commissioners decided they could wait until the last January meeting.

Mr. Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes for November 20, 2024. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the October 2024 Colorado Counties Casualty and Property and Workers' Compensation Pool reports.

Mr. Stone moved to increase the limit on County Treasurer Ashley Erwin's county credit card to \$5,000. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Stone also moved to increase IT Director James Martin's county credit card limit to \$2,500. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Stone moved to sign a letter supporting a Limon Child Development Center funding request, and Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Stone reported that CSU Extension Regional Director Dennis Kaan called on November 21 to say they'd hired an Extension Agent; Wayne Miller will start on December 9. Mr. Stone checked some roads on November 25; they are drying out but still soft in spots.

Mr. Ewing reported talking to Chris Monks on November 22. The District 1 crew hauled gravel and continued to fix roads damaged by the snowstorm. He and Mr. Monks discussed plowing during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend if necessary. Mr. Ewing checked county roads on November 25.

Mr. Kimble reported contacting the CDOT representative regarding the county's section of County Road T at State Road 71. Mr. Kimble recommended that the commissioners adopt a resolution ensuring that it appeared in the record as a maintained county road.

Human Services Director Andrew Lorensen arrived for his 9:30 appointment with the Board; Mr. Ewing recessed the Board of County Commissioner meeting and opened the Lincoln County Board of Human Services meeting. The commissioners reviewed the October financial statements and the November employee timesheets, Income Maintenance, Child Welfare, and Adult Protection Services reports. Mr. Lorensen noted that he hadn't had time to prepare a director's report but would brief them on his activities.

Mr. Lorensen wanted to inform the Board of the CCCAP issue that some counties termed a crisis. Federal mandates recently required increasing childcare provider rates to match the federal rate of \$96 daily. CCCAP helps families find low-income childcare assistance. Mr. Lorensen said Lincoln County traditionally underspent the CCCAP funds and wasn't worried at this time; he would try to help other counties if possible. He noted that the state understands the program is in trouble and is working to find a solution.

Mr. Ewing asked about the MOU with Cheyenne County; Mr. Lorensen said he told them he wouldn't renew it next year.

Mr. Lorensen reported that they hadn't spent any of the LEAP Outreach grant funds yet but had several ideas. The state found additional funding for the Family Voice grant and awarded another \$5,000, bringing their total to \$14,000. They must use the money for Child Welfare; Mr. Lorensen said they would buy fuel and Uber gift cards, bus passes, and other transportation-related items.

Lastly, Mr. Lorensen reported attending the 18th JSPC planning meeting on November 25, where they elected him to chair the new 23rd JSPC. The Human Trafficking Council elected him as the vice chair.

Mr. Lorensen left, and Mr. Ewing adjourned the Board of Human Services meeting and reconvened the Board of County Commissioner meeting.

Mr. Kimble continued his report, stating that the attorneys for Xcel Energy served Mr. Piper with the Rule 106 on November 25. Mr. Kimble contacted Miss Lowery; if the commissioners chose to fight it, the case wouldn't go to court until next spring, and she would be the one to handle it. Mr. Kimble provided a confidential communication email from Sarah Kellner with the Davis Graham law firm and asked the Board not to share the information.

Mr. Ewing felt the county needed to establish a precedent, and Mr. Stone agreed, stating that he didn't want to give in when the conditions were standard language in other resolutions. Mr. Kimble cautioned that it would take Miss Lowery several hours, reminding the commissioners she charges by the hour. He suggested sending the hearing recording to her and getting her

honest opinion as to whether the county had a chance at winning the case. The commissioners agreed, and Mrs. Lengel said she would send Miss Lowery the link for the recording.

Mr. Piper had a couple of budget items to report. First, he spoke with Public Health Director Kelly Meier about her proposed budget; she felt it was accurate, although she admitted she might have over-budgeted the current year. Mr. Piper said if the fund balance dropped as much as it appeared it would, the commissioners would have to consider increasing her mill levy in the future. He asked if the Board wanted to change anything, but Mr. Stone said to leave it and see how it went. Secondly, IT Director James Martin had asked to add an Education & Training line item of \$1,000. He had adjusted other line items to accommodate the decrease in the Remote Monitoring line item from \$16,000 to \$8,000. Mr. Martin didn't want to remove the remote monitoring from the laptops due to security reasons or the computers at the Genoa and Karval shops because of the distance, and the commissioners agreed. Mr. Piper also noted that the sheriff's cars would be cheaper than expected because they'd decided to keep the K-9 unit, which was more expensive.

Mr. Piper asked if the commissioners wanted him to order hams for the county employees again, and they agreed.

As for other business, Mr. Ewing said a water line broke between Bovina and Genoa, and they couldn't find the break in all the snow. The town had to get water from Colorado Springs, which was \$4,000 a load. They also used their truck to get water from Limon.

A resident had contacted Mr. Ewing about raising the speed limit on County Highway 109. Mr. Jaques said he'd had the same phone call. The group discussed it and ultimately agreed the county didn't have the authority to increase speed limits.

The Board approved the November payroll.

At 11:20 a.m., Lincoln Health CEO Kevin Stansbury met with the commissioners to give his monthly report. He presented the October financials and said he felt good about how they would end the year. Mr. Stansbury invited the commissioners to the 3:00 p.m. meeting on December 19, where they would present the budget to the hospital board. He asked Mr. Stone to attend the 5:00 p.m. meeting to thank him for his years as a commissioner. Mr. Stansbury provided more information on the 340 B program, wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and left.

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 2024.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

Wayne Ewing, Vice Chairman