

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for June 29, 2021

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:30 Kevin Stansbury, Lincoln Community Hospital CEO, to provide a LCH monthly report
- 10:00 Darlene Carpio, Regional Director for Congressman Ken Buck, to provide legislative updates
- 10:30 Jobeth Mills to discuss the Northeast Region Health Care Coalition
- 11:00 Andrew Lorensen to present the Department of Human Services monthly report

1. Approve the minutes from the June 21, 2021, meeting
2. Review and act upon a letter regarding pricing at the Lincoln County Landfill
3. Review and discuss the Lincoln County Employee Pension Plan 2020 GASB Report
4. Discuss a potential exit interview policy for the Lincoln County Personnel Manual
5. Review and discuss the County Technical Services, Inc. 2021 County Salary Survey
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 June 29, 2021. The following attended: Chairman Steve Burgess, Commissioners Doug Stone and Ed E. Schifferns, County Administrator Jacob Piper, County Attorney Stan Kimble, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel. Limon Leader/Eastern Colorado Plainsman editor Will Bublitz attended until 11:30 a.m.

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

John Mohan stopped in to update the Board on switching the courthouse water meter, stating that he'd spoken with Gary Ensign about it. They both agreed that changing the meter wouldn't alter the amount of water the courthouse used. Limon Plumbing never made it down to look at it, but Mr. Mohan said he didn't think it was necessary to spend the additional money to swap it all out. The commissioners felt what Mr. Mohan said made sense and agreed not to replace the three-inch water meter with a four-inch meter.

Mr. Burgess told the group that Roxie Devers would like to discuss installing water and sewer at the roundhouse, and Mr. Piper said he'd scheduled her for the next meeting. Mr. Mohan also let the group know that KC Electric put two poles in at the roundhouse before he left.

Mr. Burgess said he wanted to bring up an item of new business while he was thinking about it. The sheriff had found two vehicles at a John Elway dealership and asked if he could buy them since theirs still hadn't come in that they ordered last year, and he needed a couple now. Mr. Stone moved to allow the sheriff to purchase two 2021 Chevy Tahoes for approximately \$38,000 each. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Schifferns moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 21, 2021, as submitted. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Due to complaints about pricing at the landfill, Mr. Burgess had asked Mr. Piper to put together a short letter for staff to hand out in those instances, letting patrons know that the commissioners set the prices and employees would round loads up to the nearest quarter ton. Mr. Stone moved to approve the letter, and Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Piper said not much had changed regarding the Lincoln County Employee Pension Plan 2020 GASB Report. The funded portion increased from 53% to 57%. Even though the liability went up a little due to adding 18-to-25-year-olds to the plan, the unfunded liability was less than half the total liability. Assuming the commissioners made no changes, Mr. Piper felt the county was heading in the right direction.

Mr. Piper had asked on the administrators' List Serve how many counties conducted exit interviews when their employees quit or retired. Most that responded said they did so at the employee's request. Kit Carson County schedules exit interviews to review the eligibility of benefit coverage and continuation. They also complete forms, collect county property in the

employee's possession, such as IDs, keys, and credit cards, and provide an opportunity for the employee to discuss their job-related experiences. Mr. Piper commented that one of the responding counties only conducts exit interviews for employees under commissioner supervision; elected officials handle their own. Mr. Stone and Mr. Schiffers both felt they weren't necessary. Mr. Piper said he could add a sentence to the personnel policy, giving the option for an exit interview to employees who wanted to set one up with HR. The Board agreed with the suggestion.

At 9:30 a.m., Lincoln Community Hospital CEO Kevin Stansbury met with the Board to give his monthly report. While he introduced the summer intern, Marie le Beaumont, Darlene Carpio and Troy McCue arrived for the meeting. Mr. Stansbury went over the March and April financial reports, and although they experienced a loss of about \$80,000 in the former, revenues were back up in the latter. Mr. Burgess asked if they'd gotten their Accounts Receivables cleaned up yet, and Mr. Stansbury responded they were getting closer. While they are running at sixty days for gross AR, their goal is forty-five. They are also cleaning up old accounts and have collected around \$10,000; however, they've also written off quite a bit of debt if patients felt they didn't owe anything or had already paid their bill. Mr. Stansbury noted the goal is to send out the invoice within a week of service.

The hospital had a clean 2020 audit, with reports available if the commissioners wanted to review them. Mr. Stansbury said he presented the updated five-year plan to the hospital board, which included the final expenditures of the Provider Relief Funds and an update on the Byers Clinic, which they will hopefully start work on in early 2022. The hospital has seen a slight increase in COVID-19 cases again in its employees. However, the vaccinated employees have had much milder symptoms than those who weren't vaccinated. Mr. Kimble wanted to know if people would need boosters, similar to the annual flu shots. Mr. Stansbury said he didn't believe it was likely, at least for a while. They have stopped their vaccination distribution and gave their remaining doses to Public Health.

Regarding the facility replacement, Mr. Stansbury asked the commissioners to sign the joint resolution relating to USDA financing. He planned to discuss property acquisition west of the school at the Hugo town board meeting. Mr. Stansbury noted that Senator Hickenlooper would meet with them the following day, and he hoped to go over the Provider Relief Funds and infrastructure with him. As for putting a clinic in Byers, they got approval to enter into a no-cost lease with the Byers school to use the Kelver library. They conducted several community surveys and received an extremely positive response.

The hospital is currently negotiating the sale of a half an acre of property west of the Limon Clinic for a new dental office. The bondholders had no issues with the sale, but Mr. Stansbury said he knew he would need approval from the county before finalizing anything.

Mr. Stansbury reminded the Board he'd written a letter to CDOT asking them to waive the price for the eight acres at the old Lady Bird Rest Area and give the property to the hospital for an

EMS staging area. CDOT agreed, and Mr. Stansbury said he'd keep the commissioners updated on any progress.

Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Stansbury to do all he could to get their billing processes up-to-date, especially for county employees enrolled in the new HSA plan. He felt it could create quite a hardship if employees didn't receive their bills before the end of the year.

At 10:00 a.m., Darlene Carpio, Regional Director for Congressman Ken Buck, met with the Board to provide legislative updates. She thanked the county for hosting Rural Philanthropy Days and congratulated the commissioners for how they handled the pandemic. Ms. Carpio attended the committee meeting where the congressman introduced his six antitrust bills, dealing with breaking up the big tech monopolies of Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, and Apple. The committee approved all six bills without amendments.

Ms. Carpio informed the group that Congressman Buck attended the Republican River roundtable, where they discussed dryland farming, closing off wells, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Mr. Stone then asked if Ms. Carpio had any information regarding President Biden's 30 by 30 plan, a federal push to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030. He added that the concern of local farmers and ranchers was whether they would get paid for putting land in the program or if the government would simply take it. They were most concerned with what might happen to state-leased lands. Congressman Buck joined Representative Boebert to introduce the 30 x 30 Termination Act, which would block the administration's executive actions and protect private land ownership. It would nullify Section 216 of the President's Executive Order containing the plan. Part of the Act was to prohibit the spending of federal funds that would help carry out the program. Ms. Carpio said it would be a good idea to keep an eye on it.

Mr. Kimble asked if redistricting would affect the congressman, and Ms. Carpio said that the preliminary maps would help him, but they were not final and would most likely be appealed. No one had other questions for Ms. Carpio, so Mr. McCue came up to provide a quick update on the wind farm tour and meeting with Senator Hickenlooper the following day. Afterward, he and Ms. Carpio left.

Mr. Piper said that Jobeth Mills canceled her meeting with the commissioners at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the Northeast Region Healthcare Coalition and running her benefits through Lincoln County as a pass-through. They had learned that Mrs. Mills would have to work for the county at least thirty hours a week to qualify.

The Board reviewed the County Technical Services, Inc. 2021 County Salary Survey, Mr. Piper commenting that Lincoln County was now included in the data.

Mr. Stone reported attending the Eastern Slope annual meeting and dinner on June 22. On June 23, he and Rick Ashcraft checked roads and noted how the weeds seem to be growing out of control. Mr. Stone said he knew Patrick Leonard was still spraying, but he had no idea how he would ever keep up with them. Mr. Stone checked roads south of Karval on June 24 and signed some papers for a Colorado East Community Action Agency grant on June 25. District 3 started chip-sealing five-and-a-half miles of road on June 28, but their loader broke down. They enlisted help from District 1, and CAT came out and fixed theirs for them this morning. Mr. Burgess commented that the District 2 loader was up north of Arriba, or they could have helped too. He suggested making sure there were two on hand when a district planned a project such as Mr. Stone's.

County Treasurer Jim Covington stopped in at 10:35 a.m. asking about a tax credit and reimbursement for WASAU Supply Company, of which he was unaware. The company requested 70% of their 2020 real property tax payment back—a total of \$6,903.26. Mr. Covington didn't know what budget the commissioners wanted to take the reimbursement from since he could only refund the county and hospital portions from the General fund and not from the school, town, or any other special districts. Mr. Piper wanted to know if he couldn't just reduce the taxes by seventy percent, but Mr. Covington told him the computer program didn't allow him to do that. Mr. Piper said he would probably have to discuss it with the county auditor. Mr. Burgess explained that when WASAU was looking at building in Lincoln County, Troy McCue came to the commissioners and asked for an incentive to entice them into the county. He recalled a possible five-year tax credit, but no one could remember the specifics of the conversation, so he asked Mrs. Lengel to search the minutes for it. Mr. Piper thought it was sometime early in 2018. Mr. Covington requested that the commissioners notify him in the future if they negotiated property tax payments.

After Mr. Covington left, Mr. Schiffers reported that he'd checked roads on June 22 before attending the Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association annual meeting. He had a juror summons for June 23 and called Chris Monks about getting heavy rain in Hugo on June 24. On June 26, Mr. Schiffers spoke with a resident whose concern was that no one had mowed the Arriba Cemetery. Mr. Schiffers met with Jan Schiffers, the secretary of the cemetery board, and they agreed to try and recruit members to the board since she was the only one left. Mr. Schiffers also found someone that might take care of the maintenance for the time being.

Mr. Burgess attended the CCI conference in Vail June 7-9 and picked up parts at John Deere and Mack on his way home. Centennial Mental Health held a Zoom meeting on June 10, in which he participated. He stopped by the Rural Philanthropy Days event in Hugo that afternoon and the barbeque in Limon that evening. Bruce Walters had planned to do some paving the following week, and Districts 1 and 3 agreed to help with trucks. Mr. Burgess received a phone call from CDPHE regarding the replacement of Jobeth Mills. He told her to contact Mr. Piper for the information on the June 21 meeting with Kelly Linnebur. Mr. Burgess attended the Eastern TPR meeting in Limon on June 14. Later, he and the other commissioners met with Bart O'Dwyer about the leaking roof in the alcove off the Clerk's office. He called into the June 21 commissioner meeting and attended an Economic Development phone conference on June 23,

where he learned that Mountain View Electric is working on broadband. Mr. Burgess answered several phone calls; one from the sheriff about the vehicles, one from Emergency Manager Ken Stroud letting him know the building was in for the Genoa repeater, and a request for a dump truck at the Genoa Cemetery for a funeral. He took a complaint about mowing, Allen Chubbuck called him about the landfill prices, and a resident contacted him about heavy rain on County Roads 48 and 3U. Bart O'Dwyer had a contractor look at the courthouse roof. Mr. Burgess reported that the road crew worked on washouts on June 28. Fredy Lundy called to let him know they'd released the Higgins Pit, and Bruce Walters got an estimate of \$6,700 to fix the Ford 550 truck. It needed a special filter that Ford should have replaced when they installed new turbos. Lastly, Mr. Burgess said Roxie Devers called him about putting water and sewer in the roundhouse and the possibility of funding.

At 11:00 a.m., Andrew Lorensen met with the Board to give the monthly Department of Human Services report. He provided the income maintenance, child welfare, and director's reports, and the May financials and employee timesheets. He then asked to give Amy Seymour a two-step raise to cover the completion and supervision of S.A.F.E. studies, something she and Pat Phillips both did. Now that Mrs. Phillips was gone, Mr. Lorensen said that Mrs. Seymour was the only one who can do them. If he hired a third party, each occurrence would cost between \$1,000 and \$1,400. Mr. Lorensen clarified that although he'd promoted Melissa Gossett to a supervisor position, he hadn't actually filled his caseworker administrator position because neither of the candidates had adequate experience yet.

Mr. Burgess told Mr. Lorensen they usually discussed promotions during the budget period. Mr. Lorensen said his request to increase Mrs. Seymour's salary by \$110 per month resulted in \$660 for the remainder of the year, while he would be saving approximately \$6,000 overall with the other adjustments in staff that he'd made.

Mr. Stone moved to give Amy Seymour a two-step pay increase; \$110 per month, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Schiffers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Piper explained it would reset Mrs. Seymour's anniversary date and suggested Mr. Lorensen check to ensure she wasn't due a step raise in the next few months. She wouldn't receive another increase for three years on the new step, so she might want to wait until later to receive the two-step increase.

Mr. Lorensen left, and Mr. Kimble said he'd had a chance to review the resolution that Mr. Stansbury asked him to look over. He'd discussed it previously with the hospital attorney, who claimed they needed it for their lenders. The document basically separated the county's liability from the hospital, and Mr. Kimble said as long as the county maintained the title to the property in question and continued to supply the four tax mills, it would always have a bit of control over the organization.

Mr. Stone moved to approve the joint resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln Community Hospital and the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, acknowledging

the legal name and organizational status of Lincoln Community Hospital. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Bublitz asked what the purpose of the resolution was, and Mr. Kimble explained that it's merely stating that the county acknowledges that the hospital has its own board, and that the county isn't obligated in any way other than as the landowner and as the appointer of those board members.

Mr. Bublitz left, and Mr. Kimble gave the attorney's report. He finished by suggesting that cleaning up the Road Policy on how the county treats section lines might be the best option at this point, which would require a public hearing. He'd drafted something for the policy and said he'd have a couple of other county attorneys review it before bringing it to the commissioners if they permitted him to proceed. The Board agreed.

Mr. Piper reported that County Treasurer Jim Covington had recently attended a conference where they discussed the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act that passed in Colorado. One of the requirements was for employers to give COVID-19 sick time to their employees, and Mr. Covington asked for clarification. Mr. Piper said when he read it, he assumed the county was exempt because it already gives sick time to employees, but he wasn't sure. Mr. Kimble said he'd look into it.

Mr. Piper also discovered that he had to request the American Rescue Plan funds, which he did. Mrs. Lengel asked if he'd found out what the money could be used for, as she'd heard that infrastructure qualified. Mr. Piper said it mentioned broadband, wastewater, and water treatment plants, and Mrs. Lengel said she'd wondered if the county's drainage project and parking lot would qualify. The Board thought it might if they could tie it to COVID. Mr. Piper commented that there was still about \$100,000 left in the CARES Act money that the county would have to use up by the end of the year and suggested another round of small business grants.

Mr. Piper reported that the open enrollment was coming up again for CHP and wanted to know if he should schedule the representatives to come out and explain the HSA option to employees again or set up something virtual. The Board agreed he could do a webinar.

Lastly, Mr. Piper said there was a wedding scheduled for July 17 and ECCOG was going to provide an employee and the bus for transportation of wedding guests from Limon to Hugo. They had asked if a county employee would be interested in driving as well. There were no additional qualifications necessary, and a CDL wasn't required. The commissioners said they would ask their road crewmen.

Mrs. Lengel asked about the county picnic, which will be on July 23 at the fairgrounds. The department heads will decide on the time at their next meeting.

The commissioners approved the June 2021 payroll, and then with no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Burgess adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on July 7, 2021.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Steve Burgess, Chairman