

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for August 18, 2021

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:00 Darcy Janssen with Northeast Colorado Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response, to discuss a regional EPR update
- 9:30 Amanda Dunn, Grant Writer Administrator with Viaero Wireless, to discuss a Truckton/Rush broadband project
- 10:30 Gillian Laycock to discuss the Rural Economic Development Initiative grant
- 11:00 Laurraine Rodgers, Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer, to provide an update

1. Approve the minutes from the August 6, 2021, meeting
2. Review the July 2021 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
3. Review the July 2021 reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff and County Treasurer
4. Review the July 2021 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and the County Worker's Compensation Pool
5. Review and act upon an employee credit card request for Dami Bandy
6. Review and act upon an employee credit card request for Heather McKay
7. County Commissioner reports
8. County Attorney's report
9. County Administrator's report
10. Old Business
11. New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on August 18, 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. Lincoln Community Hospital CEO Kevin Stansbury and Erica Greenberg, with the Centennial Area Health Education Center, were also there when the meeting started.

Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Health Director Kelly Linnebur and Jobeth Mills arrived shortly after 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Stansbury informed the Board that Nora's Ark, LLC, needed to obtain a utility easement from Mountain View Electric Association for the property it's purchasing from the county for the dental office. The document named the hospital, but Mr. Stansbury felt it should be Lincoln County instead. He asked if the commissioners would sign the corrected agreement as long as Mountain View determined the existing utility line was in an accessible location.

The buyer was anxious to move forward with the project, and Mr. Stansbury preferred not to wait for a signature until the next commissioner meeting on August 30. Mr. Stone moved to allow Mr. Burgess to sign the Grant of Right-of-Way for a utility easement between Lincoln County and Mountain View Electric Association for a portion of property located in Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 56, as soon as MVEA corrected the document. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Greenburg presented Mrs. Mills with the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing for her work the previous year during the pandemic. The Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing program was developed in 2001 to celebrate and elevate nursing.

Afterward, Miss Linnebur updated the commissioners on the current number of COVID-19 cases in the county. Mr. Schifferns asked about booster shots, and Miss Linnebur responded that CDPHE recommended them only for immunocompromised individuals at this time. She added that boosters would eventually become as common as the annual flu shots, and then the group left.

Mr. Stone moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 6, 2021, as submitted. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the July 2021 Statements of Revenues and Expenditures for the General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, and Road & Bridge funds, as well as from the individual road districts.

At 9:30 a.m., Amanda Dunn, grant writer administrator with Viaero Wireless, met with the Board to discuss a Truckton/Rush broadband project. Clint, with Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association, also attended the discussion. Ms. Dunn requested a letter of support of one gigabyte of fiber to 144 rural addresses in southeast El Paso and Lincoln counties. She added

that they'd checked with the FCC and Colorado Broadband OIT mapping to locate the underserved customers in the area. They received letters of support from the El Paso County Commissioners, Senator Sonnenberg, Senator Hisey, and two residents, including Paul Wayne Johnson, who owns PJ's General Store in Rush. Ms. Dunn went on to say that they were asking for two million dollars in grant funding for a three-million-dollar project. Viaero will provide two percent of the matching funds, approximately \$800,000, if approved. Construction will begin immediately and will take about two years.

Mr. Schifferns moved to sign a Certification of Unserved Area for Truckton/Rush Project submitted by NE Colorado Cellular, Inc., dba Viaero Wireless. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the July 2021 reports from the Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer and the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property and Workers' Compensation Pools.

Mr. Stone moved to approve a county credit card with a \$1,500 limit for Public Health employee Dami Bandy. Mr. Schifferns seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Schifferns moved to approve a county credit card with a \$2,000 limit for the Victims Assistant, Heather McKay. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Stone reported going to Denver with Rick Ashcraft on August 9. They looked at truck snowplows, but a new one was \$32,000, so they decided to check into other options. On August 10, Mr. Stone went to the Karval shop. District 3 had an alternator go out on a tractor, so they ordered one. Mr. Stone attended the county fair off and on between August 11 and 14; he heard no complaints and thought it went well. He and Mr. Ashcraft called CAT and ordered their new road grader on August 17.

Mr. Schifferns reported going by the fairgrounds after the August 6 meeting. He spoke with John Palmer, who would like to expand the fair and add other attractions. He also talked to Mr. Palmer numerous times during the week of the fair. Mr. Schifferns and the other commissioners rode in the parade on August 14. The District 1 road crew was busy mowing and grading on August 16.

Mr. Burgess reported that the District 2 crew patched north of Arriba on August 9. He went to the fairgrounds that evening. On August 10, Mr. Burgess went to Genoa and discussed invoices with Bruce Walters. He then contacted the finance director and asked her to send different reports to the road foremen so they have a better idea of their expenses. Mr. Burgess spoke with Mr. Walters on August 11, after which he went to the fairgrounds and spoke with John Palmer. They agreed that the county should rent the tent annually. On August 11, Mr. Burgess went by the landfill and later noticed some junk gathering on County Road 109 south of Genoa. He also checked on the 550 Ford truck, which he picked up on the Thirteenth and took to Genoa. Mr. Burgess went back to the fair on August 13 and 14. On August 16, Mr. Burgess went to Genoa and met with Mr. Walters, and they toured roads on the Seventeenth. He also

attended a Prairie Development Corporation Zoom meeting. Earlier this morning, Mr. Burgess attended the Economic Development meeting at Mountain View Electric.

Economic Development Director Troy McCue arrived at 10:00 a.m. for the 10:30 discussion. Gillian Laycock and Nile Smith arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Since the commissioners wanted to wait until 10:30 for Ms. Laycock to discuss the Rural Economic Development Initiative grant, in case someone else wanted to hear the discussion, Mr. Burgess asked Mr. McCue to give his monthly report.

The only community that didn't adopt a resolution to participate in the Main Street: Open for Business Grant Program was Arriba. The grant only allocates six million for storefront and energy efficiency upgrades, but Mr. McCue seemed to think more might become available. Kaiser Premier completed their assessment to become a user in the Foreign Trade Zone, showing some impressive savings. Denver Cutlery and Wausau Supply are staying busy, and Mr. McCue said EDC continues to work on housing development. They are also looking at a possible relocation of the FSA/NRCS offices.

Dave Smith arrived at 10:25 a.m. as Mr. McCue finished his report.

Gillian Laycock wanted the group to know that The Garage project received complete funding of \$271,000 from the REDI grant program, and she thanked the commissioners for allowing the county to be a pass-through for the funds. They are working with the El Pomar Foundation to obtain the \$50,000 required funding match, and even though they have a year to come up with the money, they'd like to get the project started as soon as possible. They must spend the DOLA money by June of 2023. The commissioners congratulated Ms. Laycock on receiving the grant award.

Mr. Burgess asked if she knew anything about the CDOT sidewalk installation project in Limon, which would go from Ben's Family Pharmacy to Arby's. Ms. Laycock said they'd had it surveyed already, even though the grant funds wouldn't come until next year.

Veterans' Service Officer Laurie Rodgers met with the Board at 10:45 a.m. She said she'd gotten numerous phone calls since the article about her came out in the newspaper, and she gave out a lot of information and bottled water at the fair. She was excited to be so busy and proud of her accomplishments thus far.

After Ms. Rodgers left, Mr. Burgess brought up the bridge on County Road 33 again, stating that it appeared the county didn't have governmental immunity. Mr. Kimble said it seemed that the bridge would be considered a facility, not a road. Mr. Stone recommended taking out the bridge and replacing it with culverts, and Mr. Burgess said he assumed that was what he would do. Mr. Kimble added that it might be beneficial if the county had a bridge program, where the commissioners set aside money to fix them as funds allowed. After further discussion, he said

it sounded like the county had a pattern for dealing with the worst structures first, which should take care of the legal aspect.

Mr. Burgess called for the attorney's report, and Mr. Kimble said he would contact the attorneys involved with the landowner dispute to let them know the commissioners would hold a public hearing on September 8 regarding the amendment to the Road Policy.

Mr. Piper asked if the commissioners wanted to pursue the Enterprise Rental system for county vehicles, but they all agreed not to at this time.

Since the roundhouse project hadn't received the funding Roxie Devers had applied for, Mr. Piper asked if they might be able to use some of the American Rescue Plan funds for the water and sewer lines. He added that he still hadn't seen any further guidance on how to use the money. Mr. Burgess commented he'd like to use the funds for courthouse drainage, and Mr. Piper said Greg Etl told him the parking lot drainage should be a viable expense.

Mr. Piper reported that only five local businesses had applied for the small business loans so far, and Mr. Schiffers said he thought they should continue to accept applications for another month.

The Board reviewed Kelly Linnebur's timesheet from July. Then, Mr. Piper said he'd received a report from Weed Coordinator Patrick Leonard regarding a complaint of noxious weeds on a landowner's property. Mr. Burgess said the initial letter often cleared up the problem, but they would keep it in mind.

Mr. Burgess asked the other commissioners if they wanted to add another free landfill day this year, but everyone felt the county was quite generous by allowing people to dump for free one day a year.

The group discussed the issue with the beer garden at the fair, and Mrs. Lengel said CPAM never amended the Special Event Permit to change the location. Since she submits the permits to the state liquor enforcement division, Mrs. Lengel felt someone should have filed an amended map prior to moving the sale location. Mr. Piper contacted the sheriff, who was at the gun range and unable to come to the meeting. Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Piper to include the discussion on the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Burgess had talked to Carlos Leonard about building steps for the roundhouse railcar, but he hadn't heard back from him yet. He also hadn't seen where John Mohan had ordered the overflow parking signs they'd discussed at the last meeting, and Mr. Piper said he'd check with him.

Mrs. Lengel again asked about the alcove area and whether or not she should apply for a \$20,000 Election Security Grant offered by the Colorado Secretary of State's office. If the commissioners were completely against turning the area outside of her office into an election

center, Mrs. Lengel said she wouldn't bother with the paperwork or including the proposal in her 2022 budget. The commissioners agreed that Mrs. Lengel should apply for the grant and that she could contact Superior Builders for an estimate of the project. Mr. Burgess said he'd prefer to do it in phases, possibly the roof, column relocation, and glass enclosure first.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Burgess adjourned the meeting at noon. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on August 30, 2021.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Steve Burgess, Chairman