

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for October 18, 2023

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:00 Travis Miller with RockSol Consulting Group, Inc. to discuss the bridge project on South Highway 109
- 10:00 Kevin Stansbury, Lincoln Community Hospital CEO, to provide an LCH report
- 10:30 Public Hearing to Review and Act Upon Lincoln County Ordinance NO. 1105, an Ordinance Amending and Replacing Ordinance NO. 712 for the Regulation of Traffic
- 11:00 Ty Stogsdill, Land Use Administrator, to discuss land use matters
- 11:30 Troy McCue, Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, to provide an update

-To be completed as time permits-

1. Approve the minutes from the October 6, 2023, meeting
2. Review September 2023 reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff, County Treasurer, and Public Trustee
3. Review September 2023 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 September 2023 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool
5. Review and Act upon an Employee Credit Card Request for Emily Baylie
6. Review and Act upon an Employee Credit Card Request for Kendra Eberle
7. Review the Lincoln County Landfill tire rates
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 October 18, 2023. Chairman Doug Stone, Commissioner Steve Burgess, County Administrator Jacob Piper, County Attorney Stan Kimble, Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel, and Limon Leader reporter Stephanie Zwick attended. Commissioner Wayne Ewing attended until 9:30 a.m.

Travis Miller with RockSol Consulting Group, Inc., District 1 road foreman Chris Monks, and John Mohan were there when Chairman Stone called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stone asked Mr. Mohan if he had something to discuss before the Board spoke to Mr. Miller. Mr. Mohan said he'd had numerous plumbing issues at the jail again. Something was plugging T1 and T2, and since there was no drain cleanout, he finally called a plumber when he couldn't get the snake to go down the main drain. It would likely be a pricey endeavor because the plumber had to return the following day.

The Public Health office had also called to tell him someone had caught their foot on the concrete at the annex and almost fell. Mr. Mohan got a \$3,200 quote from Mo's Construction, LLC, to cut and remove the 8' x 14' concrete pad and replace it. The county would have to supply the materials. Mr. Stone said there was a spot outside the west door of the Ellis Allen building at the fairgrounds that also needed fixing and asked Mr. Mohan to have Karlin and David look at it.

Mr. Burgess moved to approve the \$3,200 bid from Mo's Construction, LLC, to replace the cement pad at the annex. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Mohan left, and Mr. Miller presented initial documents for the south County Highway 109 bridge project. RockSol Consulting Group, Inc. had approximately thirty percent shovel-ready plans, and he and Mr. Piper had almost finished the application. Mr. Miller said they designed it with a two-lane asphalt bypass that crossed Rayleene Thompson's property, so they had worked to shrink it down to a one-lane detour with a stoplight at each end. Still, a section remained that would require a retaining wall to ensure the county didn't trespass on Mrs. Thompson's land. Mr. Miller had also contacted the CDOT Region IV hydraulic engineer, who found flow rates upstream. The county could spend the money to hire a hydraulic engineer to do a study or could design for a flow rate of five to ten years. Doing that would be cheaper than the engineer and would likely suffice.

Mr. Burgess asked how much it would save if the county built the detour, and Mr. Miller said it should justify as the grant's match requirement. He would be able to add those costs to the application. Looking at the documents, Mr. Stone noted it would cost \$38,000 to have someone remove the bridge railing, which county employees could do. Mr. Miller said that when they presented their case to the application panel, the commissioners could show how much the county had contributed toward the design.

Mr. Burgess wanted to know if they should submit the application now, knowing they wouldn't begin the project until late next year. Mr. Miller said they might as well file it since they were this far into the application process. He wasn't charging the county extra, and if the state awarded the funds, they could involve CDOT sooner to obtain right-of-way clearances and whatever else they needed. Mr. Miller noted he'd listed the project start date as next July. There is \$20 million available this year compared to the \$6 million they see on average, meaning a better chance of getting the money.

Mr. Ewing pointed out a cost of \$118,000 for traffic control management and asked what it entailed. Mr. Miller said someone would ensure the stoplights were working and everything was in order. He felt the quote was higher than necessary and said they'd used prices from previous jobs for comparison. The construction management fees would also likely be less than the quote.

After discussing aggregate and the county's in-kind contributions, Mr. Miller said he and Mr. Piper would finish the application and submit it electronically.

Before Mr. Monks left, Mr. Burgess asked him about the county vehicles to sell. Mr. Burgess thought listing them for sale in the paper would bring more than selling them via sealed bid. Mr. Monks asked if county employees could buy them if they planned to sell them outright anyway, and the commissioners saw no issue.

Mr. Monks and Mr. Miller left at 9:35.

Mr. Burgess had found an error in the October 6 meeting minutes, and Mr. Stone clarified it. Mr. Burgess moved to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2023, meeting as corrected. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried.

The Board reviewed the September 2023 Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Public Trustee reports and the September 2023 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 and the individual road districts.

Lincoln Health CEO Kevin Stansbury met with the Board at 10:00 a.m. to present a monthly report. McKenzi Stone accompanied him. Mr. Stansbury outlined areas of the hospital's quality reporting, comparing them with national benchmarks, and then updated the Board on the August financials. The hospital board discussed strategic goals at their October retreat. Mr. Stansbury said they recently learned that the Colorado Health Facilities Authority helps hospitals with funding opportunities, and they would check into it.

Mr. Burgess asked about the Medicare reimbursement rate, which Mr. Stansbury said was between 70 and 80 percent of their costs. Medicaid is around 75 percent. Unfortunately, Medicare Advantage is detrimental to rural hospitals because they can't count patients who use it, decreasing the reimbursement. Mrs. Stone asked why they couldn't include those patients,

and Mr. Stansbury said he'd asked that same question, but no one in D.C. could answer it; it's just the rule. He added that it would wipe out cost-based reimbursement for rural hospitals because they only get about forty-five percent of what they bill.

Mr. Stansbury asked Mrs. Stone to speak about philanthropy, and she said they established the Philanthropy Generations Committee in February and were pleased with how engaged community members were. They developed a community outreach group and a fundraising group. Candace Payne is on the committee and helped with their Enterprise Zone application. It must be approved locally before sending it to the state.

Mrs. Stone reminded the commissioners of the hospital's gala hosted at the fairgrounds in October 2019 to raise money for the surgical program. There were approximately 350 attendees, and they raised over \$20,000. June 2024 will mark the hospital's 65th anniversary, so they want to host another event. Where the 2019 gala focused on first responders, this time, they would like the theme to center around local educators. Mrs. Stone said they would like more people to attend, but the committee agreed the fairgrounds building wasn't big enough and requested access to the roundhouse. She asked if the commissioners would agree to the usage if they could ensure the facility was a safe and appropriate location. Mr. Burgess said they would have to use a generator for temporary electricity and rent Port-O-Pots. Mr. Stansbury noted that if the floor wasn't safe, they could put up a tent similar to what the county rents during the fair and use the roundhouse as a backdrop. Mrs. Stone said they hadn't yet broached the subject with Roundhouse Preservation, Inc. and didn't know their intentions for 2024 expansion. If RPI planned to do something with the roundhouse in June, when they would like to have the next gala, they would have to find another location.

Mr. Stone said he thought RPI was ready to start the next phase, which was the flooring. They had to install the in-floor heating system before pouring concrete.

Mr. Kimble asked if the county's insurance carrier covered volunteers, and Mrs. Stone said they were prepared to obtain whatever liability insurance coverage was necessary.

Mr. Piper said the fairgrounds show barn could be a backup if the roundhouse didn't work, and Mr. Stansbury promised they'd follow up with RPI. He finished his report by informing the group that their physician recruitment efforts might soon produce some results, and then he and Mrs. Stone left.

Extension Agent Emily Baylie had arrived at 10:20 a.m. The group took a short break, and then Mr. Stone opened the public hearing to review Ordinance No. 1105, replacing Ordinance No. 712 for regulating traffic. Sheriff Tom Nestor, Undersheriff Gordon Nall, and Captain Michael Yowell attended. Mr. Stone asked Mrs. Baylie if she had comments, but she was there to give the commissioners an update from her office, not for the hearing. No one else attended, so Mrs. Lengel didn't record the hearing.

Mr. Burgess moved to adopt Lincoln County Ordinance No. 1105, an ordinance amending and replacing Lincoln County Ordinance No. 712 for traffic regulation. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried.

STATE OF COLORADO }
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COUNTY OF LINCOLN }

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Lincoln County, State of Colorado, held at the Courthouse in Hugo on Wednesday, the 28th day of September A.D. 2023, there were present:

Douglas D. Stone	Commissioner, Chairman
Steve Burgess	Commissioner, Vice Chairman
Wayne Ewing	Commissioner
Jacob Piper	County Administrator
Corinne Lengel	County Clerk
Stan Kimble	County Attorney

When the following proceedings, among other, were had and done, to wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 1105

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 712
FOR THE REGULATION OF TRAFFIC:
REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT THEREWITH: AND PROVIDING PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 30-15-401(1) (h), C.R.S., the Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter the "Board") is authorized to adopt ordinances to control and regulate the movement and parking of motor vehicles on public property: and

WHEREAS, section 42-4-110(1), C.R.S., authorizes all local authorities, including counties, to adopt by reference all or any part of a model traffic code: and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Lincoln County Ordinance NO. 712 at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on Friday, the 30th day of January A.D. 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Lincoln County, Colorado, that the Board adopt the 2003 edition of the Model Traffic Code for Colorado as promulgated by the Colorado Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend Section 10, Surcharges, of Lincoln County Ordinance NO. 712 in order to collect additional surcharges to be allocated to the genetic testing and DNA Testing Fund, as well as administrative fees to be allocated to Lincoln County, Colorado, and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt this ordinance establishing traffic enforcement and establishing the current authorities and priorities thereof on which Lincoln County will rely, hereby superseding and revoking all prior ordinances and resolutions inconsistent or overlapping herewith.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Lincoln, as follows:

Section 1, Title.

This Ordinance shall be known and referred to as the "Lincoln County Traffic Control and Safety Ordinance," and may be cited and referenced as such.

Section 2, Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the general public welfare and safety by imposing and enforcing reasonable and necessary traffic restrictions in Lincoln County.

Section 3, Scope.

This Ordinance shall apply throughout the unincorporated areas of Lincoln County, including public, private, state and applicable federal lands. This Ordinance shall in no way limit application and enforcement of any statutes of the State of Colorado but shall be in addition thereto.

Section 4, Adoption of 2003 Model Traffic Code.

Pursuant to sections 42-4-110(1) and 30-15-401(1)(h), C.R.S., there is hereby adopted by reference Articles I and II, inclusive, of the 2003 edition of the "Model Traffic Code for Colorado," promulgated and published as such by the Colorado Department of Transportation, Safety and Traffic Engineering Branch, 4201 East Arkansas Avenue, EP 700, Denver, Colorado 80222. The subject matter of the Model Traffic Code relates primarily to comprehensive traffic control regulations. The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide a system of traffic regulations consistent with state law and generally conforming to similar regulations throughout the state and nation. Copies of the Model Traffic Code adopted herein are on file in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Lincoln County, and may be inspected during regular business hours.

Section 5, Deletions.

The 2003 edition of the Model Traffic Code is adopted as if set out at length save and except the following articles and / sections which are declared to be inapplicable to Lincoln County and are therefore expressly deleted:

- (a) Section 107
- (b) Section 108
- (c) Section 114
- (d) Section 203
- (e) Section 227 (3) (b)
- (f) Section 233
- (g) Section 235
- (h) Section 507
- (i) Section 508
- (j) Section 509
- (k) Section 510
- (l) Section 611
- (m) Section 1101(8)
- (n) Section 1412
- (o) Section 1413
- (p) Section 1705
- (q) Section 1706
- (r) Section 1707(1)
- (s) Section 1707(2)
- (t) Section 1707(3)(b) delete reference to municipal attorney
- (u) Section 1707(4)(a) and (b)
- (v) Section 1707(6)
- (w) Section 1715(2) delete "forfeiture of bail," "Bail was forfeited" and "or forfeited"
- (x) Section 1715(3) delete "or whether bail was forfeited" and "or forfeiture"
- (y) Section 1901
- (z) Section 1902
- (aa) Section 1904

Section 6, Violation.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this Ordinance.

Section 7, Penalty Assessment Procedure and Penalty Schedule.

- (a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance commits a traffic infraction, pursuant to section 30-15-402(1), C.R.S. The penalty assessment procedure provided in section 16-2-201, C.R.S. shall be followed by the arresting officer for any such violation of this Ordinance.

- (b) Lincoln County hereby elects to have the provisions of section 42-2-127(5.5)(b), C.R.S., apply to violations of this Ordinance. If a violator receives a penalty assessment notice for a violation of this Ordinance, and such person pays the fine and surcharge for the violation on or before the date the payment is due, the points assessed for the violation are reduced as follows:
- (1) for a violation having an assessment of three or more points, the points are reduced by two points;
 - (2) for a violation having an assessment of two points, the points are reduced by one point.
- (c) For its schedule of fines and penalties, Lincoln County incorporates by this reference the schedule of fines and penalties set forth in section 42-4-1701, C.R.S. (as that section may be amended), as those fines and penalties correspond to the sections of the Model Traffic Code adopted by this Ordinance, for all cases wherein the alleged violator acknowledges guilt or liability, is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction, or has judgment entered against him/her. If the penalty assessment procedure is not used, and the alleged offender is found guilty, court costs may be assessed in addition to the fine and penalties set forth in section 42-4-1701, C.R.S., and surcharges.
- (d) In the case of multiple traffic offenses involving aggressive driving, the applicable penalty or penalty assessment shall be doubled for each traffic offense. For purposes of this subsection, "aggressive driving" means committing any two or more of the following violations in a single act or series of acts in close proximity to another motor vehicle:
- (1) exceeding the speed limits (1101);
 - (2) Following too closely (1008);
 - (3) failure to obey official traffic control devices (603);
 - (4) passing on shoulder of road (1004(2));
 - (5) failure to give an adequate signal (903);
 - (6) failure to yield right-of-way (701, 702, 703); and
 - (7) unsafe lane change (903).
- (e) The remedies provided in this ordinance shall be cumulative and in addition to any other federal, state or local remedy, criminal or civil, which may be available. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to preclude prosecution under any other applicable statute, ordinance, rule, order or regulation.

Section 8, Enforcement and Prosecution.

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Lincoln County Sheriff. All prosecutions for all infractions under this ordinance shall be by the County Attorney according to the Colorado County Court.

Section 9, Disposition of Fines and Forfeitures.

Unless otherwise provided by law, all fines and penalties, and the surcharge thereon, for the violation of this Ordinance shall be paid into the treasury of Lincoln County, the General Fund.

Section 10, Surcharges.

In addition to the fines and penalties prescribed in this Ordinance, any person convicted of a violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to the statutory surcharges of ten dollars (\$10.00) for the Victims and Witness Assistance and Law Enforcement Fund, twelve dollars (\$12.00) for the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund, two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) for the genetic testing and DNA Testing Fund, in accordance with 24-33.5-416.5, C.R.S., and twenty dollars and fifty cents (\$20.50) for the administrative fees associated to the processing and management of this Ordinance. These surcharges shall be paid to the clerk of the court by each person convicted of violating this Ordinance. The clerk shall transmit the moneys to the respective funds in accordance with section 30-15-402(2), C.R.S.

Section 11, Severability.

If any section, subsection, clause, sentence or phrase of this Ordinance are for any reason adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect, impair or invalidate any other provisions of this Ordinance which can be given effect without such invalid provision. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each part or parts thereof, irrespective of the fact that anyone part or parts be declared invalid.

Section 12, Repeal.

Existing or parts of ordinances covering the same matters as embraced in this Ordinance are hereby repealed and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, except that this repeal shall not affect or prevent the prosecution or punishment of any person for any act done or committed in violation of any ordinance hereby repealed prior to the taking effect of this Ordinance.

Section 13, Interpretation.

This ordinance shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to conform with the State's uniform system for the regulation of vehicles and traffic. Article and section headings of the Ordinance and adopted Model Traffic Code shall not be deemed to govern, limit, modify or in any manner affect the scope, meaning or extent of the provisions of any article or section thereof.

Section 14, Effective date.

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as this Ordinance is amended, temporarily suspended or repealed.

Section 15, Emergency.

The Board hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation and protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Lincoln County, Colorado. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption on second and final reading.

Section 16, Certification.

The Lincoln County Clerk shall certify to the passage of this Ordinance and shall have on file copies of the Ordinance and the adopted Model Traffic Code available for inspection by the public during normal working hours.

INTRODUCED, READ AND APPROVED ON FIRST READING on the 28th day of September 2023.

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN, COLORADO**

BY: _____
DOUGLAS D. STONE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

BY: _____
**CORINNE LENGEL
LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER**

READ AND ADOPTED ON SECOND READING AND THE PUBLIC HEARING on the 18th day of October 2023 and ordered published in full.

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN, COLORADO**

BY: _____
DOUGLAS D. STONE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

BY: _____
**CORINNE LENGEL
LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER**

Before the law enforcement officers left, Sheriff Nestor said the 911 Authority Board approved the VIPER and CAD systems the previous day.

Mrs. Baylie informed the Board that she'd hired Kendra Eberle to fill Amelia Sharp's position, and she would start on October 23. While she was there, Mr. Burgess moved to approve a county credit card with a \$3,000 limit for Emily Baylie and one with a \$1,000 limit for Kendra Eberle. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Stone also told Mrs. Baylie that her department could use the white van parked at the annex, and she said they use it quite frequently.

After Mrs. Baylie left, the Board reviewed the September 2023 Colorado Counties Casualty and Property and Workers' Compensation reports. They looked over the proposed tire rates and agreed to make them effective on December 1. Mr. Burgess called the landfill and spoke with Brenda Howe to let her know what they'd decided. She said she would update their price sheet and have IT director James Martin put it on the website.

Mr. Burgess reported going to Genoa on October 10. The road crew worked on equipment and continued mowing. He attended the FEMA meeting in Hugo on October 11. They discussed funding for county areas damaged by this summer's weather. Mr. Burgess went to the landfill and told them the scraper would arrive on October 12. He returned to the landfill on the Twelfth, where it had rained, so they decided to start the scraper work the following week. Mr. Burgess stopped in Genoa and discussed the new mower. He received a complaint from a landowner on October 13 that whoever owned the cattle on the old weather station site wasn't taking care of them. When Mr. Burgess checked on it, he didn't see the cattle but spoke with Dave Johnson from Global Propane, who assured him he fed the cows hay. Mr. Johnson adamantly stated they wanted to be good neighbors and provide business to Lincoln County. Mr. Burgess went to the landfill on October 16. The scraper broke down, rescheduling the work for Tuesday. He talked to Bruce Walters about needed equipment repairs: a John Deere motor grader and a dozer. Mr. Burgess contacted John Deere in Flagler; they thought they could fix the grader. Mr. Burgess called Power Motive on October 17; they told him they'd send someone to look at the dozer when they could. The road crew hauled dirt to the yard, mowed, and graded roads. He returned to the landfill again, where the scraper moved dirt to the stockpile. He also attended the Lamplighters in Limon. Mr. Burgess attended the economic development meeting at Mountain View Electric on October 18. Mountain View planned to increase rates by six percent next year. As for the fiber optic project, 5,800 miles of fiber would be in place when they completed the project in five-to-six years. Mike Vaughn asked Mr. Burgess if the county would donate some county-owned property to the Hugo Fire Department to build a new firehouse.

Land Use Administrator Ty Stogsdill arrived for his 11:00 a.m. appointment and submitted Tim Brown's resignation from the Land Use Board. Mr. Stogsdill said Robert Safranek would like to replace Mr. Brown. However, before deciding to fill Mr. Brown's position, the commissioners might want to determine if they wanted to reduce the board size from nine members to seven.

Mr. Stogsdill said two members never attend meetings or contact him. Mr. Kimble noted that CRS dictated no less than three but not more than nine members on a land board.

The Land Use Board discussed using Zoom to avoid traveling to Hugo when meetings last no longer than five or ten minutes but felt it wasn't a good practice when their rules require development permit applicants to attend meetings in person. Members had discussed changing the rules to bypass the Land Use Board and allow the commissioners to approve permits of that nature. Mr. Stogsdill didn't know if state statute prohibited it. Mr. Burgess suggested having call-in meetings.

Mr. Stogsdill said the Land Use Board wanted Mountain View to make their lines twenty-four feet high, but Mr. Burgess said the commissioners had no say in the matter if they weren't in the county right-of-way. He thought the company agreed to twenty-one feet, and Mr. Stone said they'd been nineteen feet for years, which seemed fine. Mountain View wanted to talk to the landowners because they had a legal team working with the USDA and were trying to abide by federal regulations. He also felt the two landowners voicing the concerns should talk to Mountain View's subcontractor. Mr. Stone noted that linemen were worried that the poles wouldn't hold the heavy fiber. Mr. Stogsdill said MVEA should bore the fiber lines belowground and thought they probably would do so if landowners asked. He added that ES Tech pulled the permits for their fiber lines down County Highway 109 to the landfill and around Genoa and north. Mr. Burgess told him he'd heard there would be 5,800 miles of fiber in the MVEA service area when they finished.

Mr. Stogsdill asked Mr. Kimble if the commissioners would need to adopt a resolution to reduce the Land Use Board membership, and Mr. Kimble said they would. He said it might be better to adopt a policy or create a consent agenda in those instances and offered to contact the Yuma County attorney for further information.

Mr. Stogsdill told the commissioners that the Land Use Board also wanted to return to the county commissioners holding public hearings for subdivision exemptions, skipping its involvement.

Mr. Kimble asked if the Board wanted to reduce the Land Use Board's members, and Mr. Stone said he didn't want to go below seven. He and Mr. Burgess felt that if someone expressed interest, they should appoint them since it was difficult to find people to serve. After discussing several possibilities but reaching no decision, the commissioners met with Economic Development Director Troy McCue, who arrived at 11:25 a.m.

Mr. McCue reported on affordable housing efforts, a VISTA member grant application, strategic planning, and highlights from the county's municipalities. He also gave his thoughts on business competition before leaving at 11:55 a.m.

Mr. Ewing had left his written report with Mr. Stone. On October 9, Chris Monks informed Mr. Ewing about the oil work, patching, and paving done on County Road 3E, east of the golf course.

Mowing was progressing slowly in District 1 with such tall weeds. Mr. Ewing arrived late to the October 10 Weed Board meeting but learned they'd discussed who should pay for spraying some of the roads in District 2, herbicide costs, and application timing. Patrick Leonard would explain. They set their next meeting for March 13, 2024. Mr. Monks told Mr. Ewing they'd put up the signs on the Bovina road. Mr. Ewing and Mr. Burgess discussed buying the town of Limon's mower but decided it wouldn't work with the landfill's tractor. On October 17, Mr. Ewing spoke with Chris Monks about mowing and their new blade operator. The road crew started mowing along County Highway 109 between Hugo and Genoa and near Boyero. Mr. Monks told him he'd worked on the FEMA paperwork, and Mr. Ewing asked his opinion on the town of Limon's tractor. They also discussed road oil and what the Middle East crisis might do to oil and fuel prices. Mr. Ewing attended the Genoa town board meeting on October 17, where they discussed the Genoa Tower annexation agreement and that the town had control of the proceedings while the Friends of the Tower carried the expense. They had the town hall furnace repaired and installed a CO2 detector, and the new maintenance person accepted his duties well and was particularly helpful to the water department. While the 4-H goats were no longer an ordinance violation, a resident got some miniature horses that violated the hoofed-animal ordinance. The next Genoa town board meeting is November 14.

Mr. Stone reported checking roads east of Karval on October 10—District 3 crew members were busy mowing. He attended the October 11 FEMA meeting in Hugo. They got their tractor back on October 12 and brought the CAT truck to Hugo to fix the fiberglass. Mr. Stone checked roads south of Karval on October 17. Judd Kravig called this morning to tell him another employee quit, so they were down to six crew members. Mr. Burgess offered to send help from District 2 if they needed it.

Mr. Kimble asked permission to file the Waite case in District Court instead of county court because Judge Fisher might not have dealt with zoning issues. Mr. Kimble cautioned it would be more expensive and time-consuming but felt District Court was the better choice. The commissioners had no problems with it, and Mr. Kimble had nothing else to report.

Mr. Piper reported that AFLAC representatives usually visit employees in October or November but told him they would do it virtually this year. They scheduled Zoom meetings for October 26 and 27. Mr. Piper said that since Road & Bridge employees don't work on Fridays, he could let them choose times on Thursday before giving the sign-up sheet to other employees. Otherwise, they could contact the AFLAC reps themselves if the commissioners preferred.

Mr. Burgess repeated that Mike Vaughn had asked about the county donating land for a new Hugo firehouse, but Mr. Stone said they should wait for Mr. Ewing's input.

Mr. Stone called for other business, and Mr. Burgess said the landfill's Rhino mower was worn out, and they couldn't get the blades off. District 2 planned to trade mowers and could get \$6,000 for the Batwing, or they could give it to the landfill instead.

Mr. Burgess said they still needed to decide on sale prices for the county vehicles and whether they wanted to include the DHS car. Mr. Stone asked if he'd let Andrew Lorensen know they wanted to sell it, and Mr. Burgess said he had. They also decided to wait for Mr. Ewing's input on that subject.

James Martin had given Mrs. Lengel prices for audio equipment for the election room and commissioners' office but said Mr. Ewing had asked about it at the last meeting, so she would wait and mention it at the next one.

Mrs. Lengel said Mr. Martin was updating the county website for ADA accessibility and wanted to know how long the commissioners wanted to keep the audits, budgets, and minutes available. Audits went back to 2009, budgets to 2018, and minutes to 2017. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to display five years.

Mr. Burgess wanted to discuss his concerns regarding the elected officials' salaries. He stated that the county was to the point where employees were making more or close to making more than some elected officials. Nine counties passed a bill this year changing their category or subcategory, and he wanted to know if Lincoln County should try to do the same next year. He spoke with Eric Bergman at CCI, who said the commissioners would need a bill sponsor. Mr. Burgess said he wouldn't run again next year, so it didn't matter to him. However, he would be happy to start the process. Mrs. Lengel said it would be best to see if other counties considered it and wanted to join forces if so. Mr. Burgess felt the best way to handle it would be for legislation to adjust the salaries every two years instead of every four, which would solve the problem. Mr. Stone said he was also very concerned about wages and keeping or hiring new employees.

Mrs. Lengel left the meeting at 12:30 p.m., but Mr. Piper later told her the Board decided to call Eric Bergman after she left. Mr. Bergman suggested they contact Senator Rod Pelton to sponsor the bill. Mr. Stone had wanted to meet with the rest of the elected officials to get their opinions, which they agreed to schedule for the October 30 meeting.

Mr. Stone adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on October 30, 2023.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Doug Stone, Chairman