

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2014**

The October 15, 2014 meeting was held in the Planning Commissioners’ boardroom in the Blackstock Government Center located at 221 N. Wisconsin Street, Gunnison, Colorado. Present were:

Paula Swenson, Chairperson
Phil Chamberland, Vice-Chairperson
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner
Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Others Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Swenson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2015 GUNNISON COUNTY BUDGET; PRESENTATION OF STAFF-PROPOSED BUDGET: Finance Director Linda Nienhueser, Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan and Deputy County Manager Marlene Crosby were present for discussion.

County Manager Birnie explained that the proposed budget does not reflect merit increases for employees, but that there is sufficient money in the contingency line to cover those increases. The proposed budget includes a 2% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for employees as well as a 6.2% increase in health insurance premiums.

County Manager Birnie explained that the County budgeted for \$600,000 in severance tax revenues in 2014, while the actual receipts were \$900,000. With this in mind, the County will likely budget to receive \$750,000 in 2015. Sums received in excess of that \$750,000 will likely go to the Road and Bridge Fund.

Finance Director Nienhueser stated that she projected flat sales tax for the remainder of this year, and she included a 2.5% increase in the 2015 budget.

Assistant Finance Director Cowan confirmed that the Somerset sewer customers will see a 105% increase in their bill to help cover some of the cost of bringing the system into compliance and keeping the tanks functional. Notices will go out to the associated property owners. The other sewer and water district fees are also projected to increase, though those increases will be nominal.

Finance Director Nienhueser provided computer disks containing the proposed budget documents. She noted that the 2015 expenditures are projected to exceed the revenues, though much of those expenditures are related to the courthouse and landfill projects, and those necessary monies have been saved over the course of time so that they can be spent in 2015.

The Gunnison Valley Health budgetary information did not arrive in time to be incorporate into the proposed budget, and Finance Director Nienhueser confirmed that she will have the figures ready for the Board in the near future.

Assistant Finance Director Cowan stated that landfill rates are projected to increase by 11.77% overall, and the cost basis will change from volume to weight. In addition to landfill operations, this increase will benefit the Sage Grouse Mitigation Fund.

ADJOURN: Moved by Commissioner Chamberland, seconded by Commissioner Houck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.

Paula Swenson, Chairperson

Phil Chamberland, Vice-Chairperson

Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Stella Dominguez, County Clerk