

GUNNISON COUNTY PERSONNEL BOARD
MINUTES
May 15, 2006

The May 15, 2006 Personnel Board meeting was held in the Commissioner's Meeting Room in the Gunnison County Courthouse. Voting Board members present were:

Kelly Balch, Employee Representative
Rich Corbett, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Ben Cowan, Employee Representative and Chairperson
Stella Dominguez, Clerk & Recorder
Becky Greenwood, Employee Representative and Vice-Chairperson
Vicki Hildreth, in attendance for Judy Smith, Assessor
Melody Marks, Treasurer
Rick Murdie, Sheriff
Frank Vader, Coroner

Also present were:

Marlene Crosby, Assistant County Manager
Debbie Moore, Personnel Director
Connie Carter-Smith
Becky Miles
Karin Stewart
Margaret Wacker

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Cowan called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

COUNTY TOBACCO POLICY: Karin Stewart and Margaret Wacker were present to discuss the applicability of the new Clean Air Colorado law that takes effect July 1. They stated that the law is not in conflict with, but will reinforce the County policy. The new law includes a 15-foot no-smoking radius around any main entrances to a public building. The County policy is more stringent by including a 15-foot perimeter around the building. Sheriff Murdie asked who the enforcement agency is supposed to be and pointed out that the State frequently extends laws that do not include any enforcement ability or funding. Ms. Wacker said the State is hopefully working on a toolkit for law enforcement to help with those issues and believed it would largely be self-enforcing.

Discussion continued regarding the lack of signage that was originally requested with the policy. The lack of signage doesn't allow the public to be informed of the policy. The current "No Smoking" signs are assumed to include only the interior of buildings. This, coupled with the fact that receptacles are located directly adjacent to the entrances, entices the visiting public to be frequent offenders of the policy.

Jim Morris, PW Employee Representative joined the meeting at 1:45 pm.

A letter was presented from an employee that stated the current policy is inadequate. The employee is an asthmatic that frequently is troubled by smoke being blown through the window.

Other input was requested from the audience. Becky Miles reported that she believes County employees are not the problem. The employees are aware of the policy and try to be very considerate of others and

mindful of the perimeter restriction. She also mentioned that smokers have been very amicable towards the increased restrictions over the years and pointed to the fact that she used to smoke in the office, then outside and finally more than 15 feet from the building.

Stella Dominguez stated that she has tried to ask some members of the visiting public to move away from the front of Blackstock and they would not move because there were no signs. Representative Balch said the problem might stem from the fact that the front of Blackstock looks as though it were an outdoor lounge with the receptacles and benches placed near the entrances under the sheltered covering. Vice-Chairperson Greenwood suggested moving the receptacles out from the entrance to the sidewalk that travels north-south. Many pointed out that people would then throw spent cigarettes in the garden near the door and the receptacles would be more subject to vandalism and wind blown debris. Sheriff Murdie said he would like to see signage and allow people to police themselves. This would also allow employees to respectfully point out the signs when people are out of compliance.

The idea of creating a designated smoking area was revisited. The issue was dropped at the previous meeting because it generates a “smoker’s corner” that is viewed negatively by the public and creates an image that County employees are lazy. Sheriff Murdie said that people rarely smoke at the same times, so this wouldn’t happen. Representative Balch asked the smokers present what they would suggest as a smoking area. They said they would use anything provided it was nice and not located extremely far from the buildings. Sheriff Murdie suggested a designated area on the southeast corner of jail.

Moved by Vice-Chairperson Greenwood to post “No Smoking Within 15 Feet of the Building” signs on the Courthouse, Blackstock and O’Leary buildings, create a designated smoking area for employees at the southeast corner of the jail at the Courthouse, and review purchasing better receptacles that are not subject to vandalism, wind-blown debris or melting. Motion carried unanimously.

Karin Stewart stated that the Public Health office would see if there are any grants available to help defray the purchase of quality receptacles.

COUNTY NEWSLETTER: Representative Balch pointed out that the second quarter employee newsletter will be issued toward the end of June and that departments are encouraged to submit information to be published.

ADJOURN: Chairperson Cowan adjourned the meeting at 2.15 pm.