AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: 2017-18 Plowing Program Update

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

See attached memo and maps

Fiscal Impact: Action could result in a significant cost savings

Submitted by: Marlene D. Crosby **Submitter's Email Address:** mcrosby@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 4/20/2017

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 30 minutes

Agenda Date: 4/25/2017

Revised April 2015

GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
195 BASIN PARK DRIVE
GUNNISON, CO 81230

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioner
Matthew Birnie, County Manager

FROM: Marlene D. Crosby (Marlene)

DATE: April 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Winter Snow Plowing Concerns

Over the past snow plow season we have had some situations arise that have brought about a closer look at some plowing areas that perhaps need to have procedures updated concerning County plowing as well as inconsistencies in the services provided to incorporated municipalities. We compiled some cost information for the previous 4 plowing seasons for some of the areas.

The first area I would like to discuss is CR #75 (Parlin to Ranch House). The section of road is from the intersection with H #50 to the main house area at Green Mesa Ranch. It is only a total of .62 of a mile, but is time consuming in the ranch house area due to vehicles, ranch equipment, and working around the plowing that is done by the private property owner.

County Road 75	.62	2013-2014	$ 789.72
		2014-2015	$ 1,133.16
		2015-2016	$ 1,311.65
		2016-2017	$ 2,053.31

It is our recommendation that we reduce the plow route so that we are not plowing into the ranch/subdivision headquarters. At .5 of a mile there is an intersection of Meadow Road and CR #75 which with minor improvements could be an adequate turn-around. That would provide access to all property owners who use the road, but we would not be in conflict with the ranch operation.

When the self-help-build portion of Rock Creek Homes were constructed their HOA had not yet been finalized. We were directed to plow the road until such time as they could get organized.

Plowing was going to be one of their HOA responsibilities. We are currently still plowing. We cannot add the road to our HUTF because it is within the City of Gunnison. It is time consuming because of parked cars, the ditch on the north end, etc.

Rock Creek Subdivision		2013-2014	$ 817.49
		2014-2015	$ 819.38
		2015-2016	$ 927.01
		2016-2017	$ 3,523.71

I recommend that the HOA assume the responsibility for plowing. If we no longer plow the Habitat duplex would also have to find someone to plow their drive. We quit plowing the Habitat parking area because there were so many vehicles in the way, so we just plow enough for us to turn around.

A problem that is going to have to be addressed in the near future is the issue of private property owners plowing snow into the County road in areas where there is no room for snow storage. Meridan Lake Subdivision cost a great deal of time and money this year. There is confusion because the cul-de-sacs that were constructed by the developer are not always located where they are shown on the plats. I am going to have some of the private property corners at intersections and the cul-de-sacs located and pinned by a surveyor this summer which will help resolve some of the questions about location of the ROW.

In heavy snow years there has always been a snow storage issue in cul-de-sacs, but there was a limited number of driveways, so the operators could pile snow in locations where people did not need access to their lots. As more homes and driveways have been built there are now 4-5 driveways in some subdivisions coming into a cul-de-sac, so there is no room for us to push the snow from the road/cul-de-sac. We can find a way to manage "our" snow, but the homeowners often landscape their lot so they plow their snow into the cul-de-sac! In some cases they do not have an alternative because their driveway is too steep to plow uphill, but in most cases it is a matter of convenience. As a result, we spend hours of labor and equipment time pushing back banks to get ready for the next storm.

Area	Mileage	Year	County Cost
Meridian Lake		2013-2014	$18,545.77
		2014-2015	$13,150.99
		2015-2016	$12,439.78
		2016-2017	22,906.36
Meridian Lake Park		2013-2014	$18,444.14
		2014-2015	$12,948.19
		2015-2016	$11,793.70
		2016-2017	$25,434.63

After we have the cul-de-sacs physically located on the ground it will be our recommendation that the Board direct staff to work with homeowners in areas where snow storage is limited to eliminate residents from plowing snow from their property into the ROW.

This year there were some issues in Pitkin that caused a careful review of the roads being plowed within the incorporated Town boundaries and the cost of the service that we are providing compared to the service we provide in other incorporated municipalities.

In the City of Gunnison, we do not provide any service. This year we did provide motor grader help one afternoon when they were having equipment issues.

In the Town of Crested Butte the only service that we provide is plowing the main road through the 4-way stop if needed as we are on our way to plow the Gothic Road.

In the Town of Mt. Crested Butte we are providing less service than we have in the past as they have purchased some of their own equipment. However, we plow the Gothic Road through the town and the majority of their residential streets. They pay for the services that we provide under a snow removal contract that includes administrative fees and a portion of the cost of the employee who works nights during the winter season.

In the Town of Marble we plow CR #3 through the Town which is a distance of 1.1miles of paved road and the gravel portion of Main Street from our shop to the Charter School which is .2 of a mile. In the past we did plow additional mileage and the Town paid for fuel. It was a low cost solution for them because our shop is right in the heart of town and there was little mobilization time or cost. In recent years they have hired a private company to do the plowing in the Town. It has been a stretch on their budget since they have little revenue, but they realized that they could not count on our employee whose priority was CR #3.

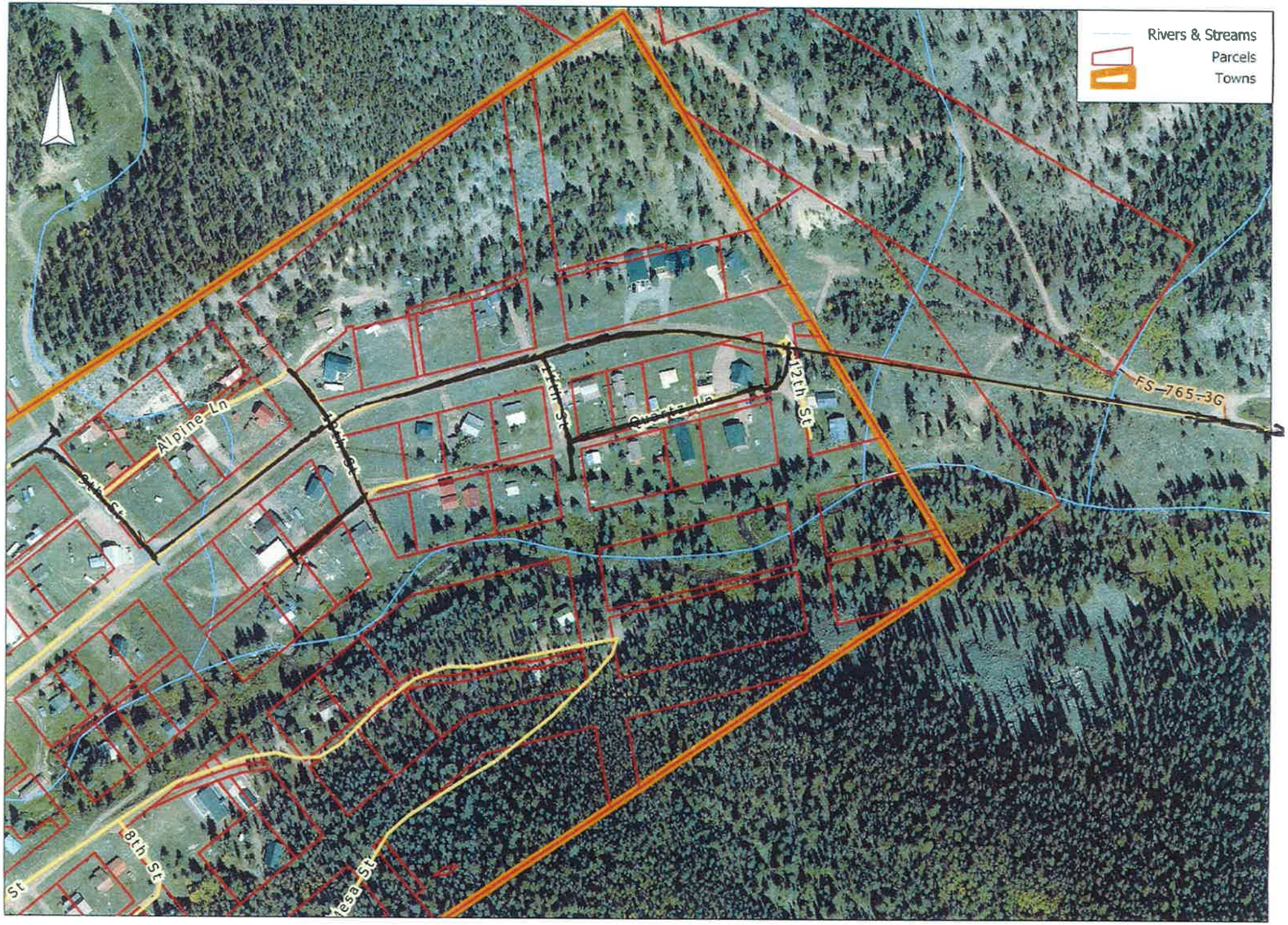
In the Town of Pitkin the mileage that is plowed has changed over time. We were plowing almost all of the streets, including those that had residents who only came for the holidays. We worked with the previous Street Commissioner to eliminate some of those routes, but through the years the service has grown again. We currently plow through Town either with a motor grader and/or the plow truck with a sander. We park a loader at the Pitkin Fish Hatchery where it can be plugged in to plow all of the side streets that we plow. I have attached a map showing the streets that we plow. We currently plow approximately 2.96 miles in the Town of Pitkin. The Town has assumed responsibility for some summer maintenance including chloride that is applied within the Town, but they do not reimburse the County for any winter maintenance.

Pitkin	2.56	2013-2014	$ 21,353.50
		2014-2015	$ 9,537.54
		2015-2016	$ 13,766.51
		2016-2017	$ 30,706.74

It is our recommendation that we continue to plow Main Street through Town to the trailhead on the Forest Service which is approximately .3 of a mile beyond the Town boundary. We would also plow State Street from the Silver Plume back to the intersection of Second Street and Main, which is just over .6 of a mile. A map showing the proposed route is also included. The Town would be responsible for the remainder of the plow routes, which would be equitable with the service we provide in Marble.

In addition to reducing our costs significantly this change would allow us to keep our loader at the Doyleville shop in the winter to load the sanders. Currently we load sand with a backhoe. When we did our fleet usage analysis as part of our department's strategic plan it was determined that we should be able to reduce the number of backhoes. We could not do that because of winter use. We can schedule the use in the summer to share equipment. If our loader were available to load the sand trucks, we would be able to use a backhoe on trade toward a purchase of equipment that is budgeted for this year.

Quartz Creek - Pitkin Plow Route 2017 (2 pages)


Rivers & Streams
Parcels
Towns
Alpine Ln
Quartz Ln
12th St
FS-765-3G
8th St
St

Proposed Pitkin Route

Scale = 1:6000

Monday, April 17, 2017