

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2020**

The November 17, 2020 meeting was held in the Board of County Commissioners' meeting room located at 200 E. Virginia Avenue, Gunnison, Colorado. Present, either in person or via Zoom, were:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson
Roland Mason, Vice-Chairperson
Liz Smith, Commissioner

Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk
Others Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 8:41 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes made to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

1. October 15, 2020 Regular Meeting. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the minutes of 10/15/2020. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Memorandum of Understanding; Prowers County; Manage and Administer Calls to Hotline; 1/1/21 through 12/31/21
2. Airline Operating Agreement and Lease of Airport Facilities; American Airlines
3. Alcohol Beverage License #26-54026-0000; Black Mesa Lodge, LLC, dba Black Message Lodge; 9/6/2020 through 9/6/2021
4. Contractor Agreement; The Trailhead Institute; 10/2/2020 through 12/20/2020; \$20,000
5. Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Memorandum of Agreement with Gunnison County; 11/1/2020
6. Grant Application; National Association of County and City Health Officials; \$449,814
7. Grant Agreement; Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
8. Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado, the Board of Trustees of Gunnison Valley Hospital, and the Regional Transportation Authority Regarding Senior Transportation

SCHEDULING: The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

1. December 1, 2020 Work Session. The Board agreed to schedule a budget work session for this morning.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. Workforce Housing Update. County Manager Birnie informed the Board that one of the County-owned units in the Estonian building at Stallion Park is being pulled off the market for the new Deputy County Attorney's use.

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT AND PROJECT UPDATES: Deputy County Manager Marlene Crosby was present for discussion.

1. Somerset Snow Removal. DCM Crosby informed the Board that some residents in Somerset are having plowing-related issues involving 9th and 10th Streets. She provided a couple of options for Board consideration, and she requested that adoption of Option #1. CM Birnie noted that all plowing is discretionary. Commissioner Mason stated that he has been in the discussed area and agrees that a solution is warranted. **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Option #1 for the plowing between 9th and 10th Streets in Somerset, with the condition that the water valve is put underground and, if the water valve has not been put underground, then we approve Option #2 as the alternative. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Somerset Waterworks District Request. Oxbow Mine representative Mike Ludlow participated in the conversation. DCM Crosby explained that the District cannot provide service outside of its boundaries without Board approval. She also stated that the Oxbow mine needs water in order to perform, as mandated by the State, so she asked for a motion to authorize the District to serve a property outside the District boundaries, specifically the Oxbow mine. Mr. Ludlow indicated that the mine has been working with the District for years, and that the mine needs water service to the offices. County Attorney David Baumgarten noted that he has asked for the statutory citation that would allow the Board to make this authorization, but he had not yet received the information from the District's legal counsel. Commissioner Houck expressed concern about not knowing what the Board's authority is in this matter. The Board supports this issue and the Oxbow mine, but this will be scheduled on a future agenda to ensure that the Board stays within its authority.
3. Kebler Trailhead Permit Guidelines. DCM Crosby informed the Board that the County began issuing permits last week, and that the process seems to be going smoothly. She has ordered additional signage.

4. Landfill Update. DCM Crosby stated that she normally recommends closing on Saturdays at this time of year, but she would like to remain open on Saturdays until at least mid-December.
5. Plowing in Pitkin. DCM Crosby informed the Board that the County reduced the amount of plowing provided, because Pitkin an incorporated municipality. She also stated that Pitkin normally pays a portion of the related costs. A resident contractor had been plowing, but that person is not available this winter, so Pitkin has asked the County to plow 6-8 sections, which would require 1-1.5 hours of work with each plow. She noted that she would like to determine the hourly rate for our plowing, and she requested permission to begin performing those calculations and draft an agreement. Operations Manager Sparky Casebolt was present for discussion and said that the County would use the motor grader for this work. In the past, the County has plowed at four inches of accumulation, but part of this tradeoff has been the agreement that the County wouldn't plow until six inches of accumulation. The Board expressed general support of this planning. Pitkin Mayor Eddy Balch participated in the discussion, and he expressed his appreciation for the Board's consideration and the staff time involved in this modification.

RESOLUTION; REPEALING STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS; PORTION OF GUNNISON COUNTY WITHIN THE SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT OF THE WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST: Emergency Manager Scott Morrill was present for discussion. **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution #2020-37 Appealing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Motion carried unanimously.

EASEMENT AGREEMENT; CEMENT CREEK CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION: Mr. Mike O'Loughlin was present as legal counsel for the applicant. County Attorney David Baumgarten explained that this issue has historically involved a license agreement, and that this Easement Agreement will be more permanent. Mr. O'Loughlin stated that there was a pond adjacent to a path that traversed the property and into the right of way. He stated that this easement would solidify property access and enable care of the lands, without limiting any residential access. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Mason to authorize the Board Chairperson's signature on the Easement Agreement, as presented today. Motion carried unanimously.

UNSCHEDULED CITIZENS: There were no Unscheduled Citizens present for discussion.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

Commissioner Mason:

1. Rural Transportation Authority. Commissioner Mason informed the Board that the RTA met near the beginning of November. Contracts are ready for execution with United Airlines and American Airlines, but capacity and load factors are a concern. The Authority is purchasing a second service vehicle for seniors, which will be a minivan-style vehicle to transport people from the valley to places like the hospital in Grand Junction. The second vehicle will be useful since COVID restrictions allow it to only carry one passenger at a time.
2. Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority. The last meeting was rescheduled to this afternoon, so he will update the Board during the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Smith:

1. Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Smith informed the Board that the Chamber is reevaluating the organizations purpose and goals, but not decisions have been made yet.

Commissioner Houck:

1. Statewide versus Local COVID-19 Response. Commissioner Houck informed the Board that Governor Jared Polis' office is scheduled to hold a press conference later in the day, and that discussions related to local controls versus statewide controls are being had around the state.
2. Gunnison Basin Annual Roundtable. Commissioner Houck stated that this meeting took place on 11/16, during which the group discussed forest and water issues to see if there are opportunities in the valley.
3. Colorado Counties, Inc. Conference. Commissioner Houck confirmed that the annual conference, normally scheduled for the first week in December, will take place virtually. He asked his fellow commissioners to be on the lookout for the conference schedule.
4. Gunnison Public Lands Initiative. Commissioner Houck stated that he was scheduled to meet with Senator Bennet's staff that afternoon.

ADJOURN: **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 am.

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

Roland Mason, Vice-Chairperson

Liz Smith, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Kathy Simillion, County Clerk

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TEXT INCLUSION INTO MINUTES

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-37**

A RESOLUTION REPEALING STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison, Colorado previously has adopted Ordinance No. 8 a., An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Process to Periodically Ban Open Fires Within the Unincorporated Areas of Gunnison County, Colorado, (“Ordinance No. 8 a.”); and has adopted Ordinance No. 14, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 8 Establishing A Permanent Process To Periodically Ban Open Fires Within the Unincorporated Areas Of Gunnison County, Colorado, (“Ordinance No. 14”); and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado, as a result of decreased danger of wildfires, passed Resolution No. 2020-____, implementing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in that portion Gunnison County within the Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several snow storms, cooler temperatures, shorter days and increased humidity, staff advise the Board that it would be safe to repeal the Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved that as of **12:01 am Wed November 18**, Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, will be repealed for that part of Gunnison County within the Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest, until further notice.

This Resolution has immediate effect upon its passage by the Board of Commissioners without further action necessary.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and adopted this 17th day of November, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

Houck – yes; Mason – yes; Smith – yes.