

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2023**

The December 5, 2023 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
Liz Smith, Vice-Chairperson
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner
Matthew Hoyt, County Attorney

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

GUNNISON COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY:

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Alcohol Beverage License #03-20000, Red White & Booze, LLC, dba Red Mountain Liquors, 81 Gillaspey, Crested Butte, CO 81224; 10/22/2023 – 10/22/2024. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Daniels to approve the Alcohol Beverage License as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: Chairperson Houck adjourned the meeting of the Gunnison County Local Liquor Licensing Authority at 4:16 pm.

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING:

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm.

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

SCHEDULING: The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

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

1. Eligible Governmental Entity Agreement between the Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority and Gunnison County
2. Letter of Support; Western Colorado University's Funding Request to the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)
3. Department of Local Affairs Administrative Planning Grant; Support Phase II of 3-Mile Plan Project; \$25,000; Letter of Support; Resolution Approving the Grant Application for an Administrative Planning Grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
4. Colorado Health Foundation General, Grants Terms, Conditions, and Understandings Grant Agreement; Gunnison Hinsdale Early Childhood Council - Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiver Program; 12/1/2023 – 11/30/2025; \$50,000
5. Order Form; Flock Group, Inc.; Hardware and Software for Vehicle License Plate Reading Camera System; 12-Month Term; \$15,750
6. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Notice of Approval for Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) No. 23-07-C-00-GUC at Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport (GUC) and Use of PFC Revenue at GUC; Charges Expiration Date 7/01/2028; \$931,049
7. Customer Services Agreement; Triad Resource Group, LLC; 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024; \$11,267

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS: County Manager Matthew Birnie and Assistant County Manager for Community and Economic Development Cathie Pagano were present for discussion.

1. Sawtooth Project Update. CM Birnie informed the Board that people have been moved into the first few units and that the project is progressing well. Design work for Phase II has been done, and he likes the way it is going. Phase II will look more like an apartment building, which will include geothermal heating. The County is within budget contingencies. Commissioner Smith asked about other public multi-family projects using geothermal in Colorado, and neither CM Birnie nor ACM Pagano were aware of any. He noted his hope that our success will prompt other entities to pursue geothermal for their own housing projects.
2. Whetstone Project Update. CM Birnie informed the Board that the team has been working toward a 2/9/2024 submission to the Planning Commission, and that he is pleased with the progress. Commissioner Houck asked for clarification of the process since the Board is both the applicant and the review body. ACM Pagano confirmed that the public hearings will be held jointly and that the hearings will likely take place in the April/May 2024 timeframe. CM Birnie noted that the project is under an incredibly tight timeframe because of the requirements associated with the \$10M grant, but that he would try to accommodate Gunnison and Crested Butte spring break calendars. ACM

Pagano stated that she may ask the Planning Commission to hold special meetings in order to meet the required timelines, which CA Hoyt confirmed is required by the Gunnison County Land Use Resolution in this type of instance.

ONE VALLEY RESILIENCY ROADMAP (OVR) ENDORSEMENT: ACM Pagano and others from her department were present for discussion.

ACM Pagano stated that the City of Gunnison and Mt. Crested Butte are also evaluating endorsement. She provided a summary of the project as outlined in the meeting materials. The Board didn't have any questions, and they expressed their support of the OVR. Commissioner Houck noted that there was some initial skepticism at the start of the One Valley Prosperity Project, but that it ended up being very successful, and that the OVR builds upon the OVPP's success. Lastly, ACM Pagano stated that the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has some grant funding available for communications work, and she intends to submit an application.

1. Resolution; Endorsing the Goals of the One Valley Resiliency Roadmap. Moved by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Daniels to approve Resolution #2023-25, a Resolution Endorsing the Goals of the One Valley Resiliency Roadmap. Motion carried unanimously.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT: There weren't any persons available for discussion.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS: This discussion began earlier than scheduled due to a gap in the meeting.

Commissioner Smith:

1. Food Pantry Update. Commissioner Smith stated that she went to the Pantry's annual meeting earlier in the day at 5Bs restaurant. The presentation during that meeting illustrated the meaningful impact that the Pantry has had on the community. She also relayed the Pantry's expressed appreciation for the County's support, including the recent employee food drive.
2. Crystal River Steering Committee. Commissioner Smith informed the Board that the Committee met the day before and that the December meeting would be held the following week. The November meeting was productive, and the December meeting should result in a better sense of consensus. The group may pursue an IGA with local governments. Good progress is being made, and the facilitation efforts will wrap up in January.
3. Celebration of the Day of the Migrant. Commissioner Smith informed the group that she attended this event last Saturday, and she spoke on behalf of the County. It was hosted by the City of Gunnison and held at the fairgrounds. She relayed to the Board that people are appreciative that the County is working with Federal partners to improve immigration policies.
4. Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council Update. Commissioner Smith informed the Board that the Council is beginning the grant-evaluation process. Applications have been submitted, and she is excited to see what kinds of submissions have been collected. The State-level opioid working group is also making good progress. The Council is at the point where a formal request for resources will be submitted to the State. The work being done within Colorado appears to be intriguing others at the national level.
5. Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) Winter Conference. Commissioner Smith told the Board that the conference went very well and that there were great panel discussions. She was impressed with the data related to attainable and affordable housing, particularly with respect to public perceptions. At the same time, issues expressed during the previous session have yet to be addressed, and that has caused some frustration.

Commissioner Puckett Daniels:

1. Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority (GVRHA) Update. Commissioner Daniels informed the Board that GVRHA Executive Director Andy Kadlec has resigned, and that the GVRHA is currently going through a hiring process to find a suitable replacement. Chief Financial Officer Perry Solheim will serve on the hiring committee, and GMP will assist with recruiting for the position. Discussions about designating an interim director and the transition timeline will be discussed by GVRHA on Friday.
2. Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee Update. Commissioner Daniels informed the Board that last week's STOR meeting included robust conversations. She anticipates that STOR will request funding next year, in one form or another, from either the Board or the Local Marketing District (LMD). Commissioner Houck indicated that CA Hoyt may need to advise the Board on what it and/or the LMD can legally provide funding for in response to the anticipated request(s). Commissioner Daniels noted that the Committee needs to assess possible signage/communication needs, recreational infrastructure, and stewardship/enforcement positions; and the Tourism and Prosperity Partnership (TAPP) is also considering applying for funds for these types of needs. Commissioner Houck noted that Forest Service (FS) enforcement officers have been out with injuries and not replaced in the past couple of years, which is a situation that needs to be addressed. CA Hoyt stated that the FS has actually gone forward with deemphasizing law enforcement in plan management. Commissioner Daniels opined that local short-term solutions may need to be sought in the FS is not going to meet its obligations, though CM Birnie cautioned that short-term solutions may

extend into the Federal government relying on those funds for the long-term. Conversations will continue at the STOR level.

Commissioner Houck:

1. Absent from Remainder of Meeting. Commissioner Houck left the meeting at 5:20 pm in order to attend an important Bureau of Land Management (BLM) meeting in another location. CM Birnie indicated that he did not anticipate a great deal of public comment during the budget public hearing scheduled for later on the agenda. Commissioner Houck confirmed that he would listen to the meeting recording, if needed. Commissioner Smith assumed the role of Acting Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

Commissioner Puckett Daniels (continued):

3. POST Board Meeting. Commissioner Daniels stated that she attended a recent meeting as a representative of local government, whereas she has previously attended as a private citizen. She noted that a massive revamp of law-enforcement education is happening, and she has been offering advice as she has a Master’s degree in Education. She will be serving on an alignment committee.
4. Rural Transportation Authority Subcommittee. Commissioner Daniels stated that the Subcommittee is working on selection of a firm for strategic planning efforts, with the hope of an eventual plan being completed by October 2024.

BREAK: The meeting recessed from 5:23 until 5:30 pm for a short break and then again from 5:30 to 5:45 pm in order to hold the below public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING; PROPOSED 2024 GUNNISON COUNTY BUDGET:

1. Open Public Hearing. Vice-chairperson Smith opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 pm.
2. Public Notice Confirmation. Clerk to the Board Katherine Haase confirmed that the Public Hearing had been properly public noticed.
3. Identify Ex Parte Communications. There were no ex parte communications identified.
4. Staff Presentation. CFO Solheim stated that slight changes had been made to the budget document since the last iteration placed before the Board, but that no changes were substantive.
 - a. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for Employees. CFO Solheim stated that a 5.5% COLA was built into the budget, as was an average of 2.6% for step increases.
 - b. Health Insurance Premiums. CFO Solheim confirmed that the premiums would remain the same as in 2023.
 - c. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). CFO Solheim noted that messaging will be considered in order to avoid the misconception that projects contained within the CIP document are actively being sought and planned.
 - d. Property Tax. CFO Solheim explained that he made the decision to create the budget documents with the best approximation of what property taxes will be in 2024. He stated that his is comfortable with that approach since the budget can be amended in the future, if needed.
 - e. Housing Authority Fund. CFO Solheim stated that there will be both capital expenses and operational expenses included in the HA’s 2024 budget, due to the completion of County-managed housing units.
 - f. Sales Tax. CFO Solheim confirmed that a possible 8.5% increase has been included in the budget.
 - g. Property Tax. CFO Solheim stated that property tax will be levied at a roughly 5.5% increase.
 - h. Severance Tax and Coal Lease Taxes. CFO Solheim stated that he expects these to remain the same in 2024.
 - i. Workman’s Compensation Pool and Property Liability Pool Costs. CFO Solheim stated that these will both increase due to inflation.
 - j. Overall Account Balances. CFO Solheim indicated that the budget represents a \$1.3M reduction in overall County funds, which is appropriate to ensure that we don’t have fund balances larger than needed.
 - k. Utility Rates. CFO Solheim informed the Board that water and sewer rates will increase by 4% in 2024, and that the landfill rates will broadly increase by 4%. Increasing the rates will help to ensure that the County will not have to make any dramatic increases for future equipment maintenance or replacement.
5. Applicant Presentation. N/A
6. Board Questions. There were no questions posed by the Board. Commissioner Daniels stated her appreciation for the work sessions and information supplied by staff, as the thorough information

and analysis helped her to fully understand the budget. Commissioner Smith also expressed her appreciation.

- 7. Public Comments. No public comments were provided.
- 8. Acknowledge Correspondence Received. No correspondence was identified.
- 9. Applicant Response. N/A
- 10. Close Public Hearing. Vice-chairperson Smith thanked CFO Solheim for all of his work on the budget. She then closed the Public Hearing at 5:45 pm and immediately reconvened the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

ADJOURN: Vice-chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:46 pm.

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

Liz Smith, Vice-Chairperson

Laura Puckett Daniels, 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. 2023-25**

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE GOALS OF THE ONE VALLEY RESILIENCY ROADMAP

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial disruption, requiring Colorado communities to partner across jurisdictional boundaries in order to effectively respond to change and elevate community assets to solve shared problems; and

WHEREAS, the "Colorado COVID-19 Regional Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps Program" (henceforth "Roadmaps Program") has been funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and administered by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Colorado Resiliency Office in partnership with the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), and Community Builders; and

WHEREAS, the Roadmaps Program provided 16 Regional Community Teams in rural Colorado with the opportunity to work together through a two- year planning and implementation process to support diversifying and strengthening their economies while also building regional resiliency. Gunnison County was one of the 16 rural regions to receive Resiliency Roadmap grant funding from the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA); and

WHEREAS, building on the foundations of the One Valley Prosperity Project (OVPP) completed in 2016, the One Valley Resiliency Roadmap (OVR) builds on the momentum and approach of the OVPP, which brought the Gunnison Valley together to create a strategic roadmap to collaboratively address shared regional challenges; and

WHEREAS, OVR brought together the communities of the Gunnison Valley to address the shared regional

challenges that no one jurisdiction can address on their own. These include: housing affordability; land use, transportation and infrastructure planning; elevating civic capacity; taking action on climate change; advancing equity and inclusion; and maintaining and strengthening our sense of community as the valley continues to change; and

WHEREAS, OVRP provides shared goals to help regional partners work together to address the shared regional challenges. The jurisdictions of Gunnison County, City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, and the Town of Mt. Crested Butte, as well as many other Gunnison Valley organizations, participated in the formation of the plan between early 2022 and autumn of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the OVRP engaged over 60 stakeholders and subject matter experts over a 12-month period to provide direction, develop goals and suggested strategies, priorities, and guide the work; and

WHEREAS, it is intended that the elected leaders of each of the four participating jurisdictions will consider acknowledging the recommendations contained in the plan and will, at the discretion of each jurisdiction, utilize it to guide future decisions in planning processes, policy development, and implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado that the Board recognizes the collaborative multi- jurisdictional effort of the OVRP, addressing the connectedness of our communities and future to work together in a coordinated way that advances strategies to realize our shared intentions. endorses the collaborative vision and goals of the OVRP and will, at its discretion, utilize the document as a guide to inform the County-specific implementation strategies and future decisions in strategic planning processes and policy development.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Daniels and adopted on this 5th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

Daniels – yes; Houck – yes; Smith – yes.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GUNNISON COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 26**

A Resolution Approving the Grant Application for an Administrative Planning Grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)

WHEREAS, the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners authorizes application for the DOLA grant for the development of the Three-mile plan and associated code amendments. If the grant is awarded, Gunnison County supports the completion of the project.

WHEREAS, Gunnison County requests \$25,000 from DOLA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners authorizes submittal of the application and has appropriated matching funds for a grant with DOLA.
2. If the grant is awarded, the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the fulfillment of the project.
3. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any Grant awarded.
4. If the grant is awarded, the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the designated Official to sign the grant agreement with DOLA.

THIS RESOLUTION AND THE APPROVAL GRANTED HEREBY shall not be effective unless and until a copy is recorded in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Gunnison County.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Daniels and adopted on this 5th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

Daniels – yes; Houck – yes; Smith – yes.