

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2024**

The January 2, 2024 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 (REMOTE)
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner
Matthew Hoyt, County Attorney

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 8:30 am.

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

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) BOARD REORGANIZATION AND COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS: **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to designate myself (Jonathan Houck) as Chair and Liz Smith as Vice-Chair for the year 2024, Liz and Laura to the RTA as voting members for the BOCC, Jonathan to Region 10, Liz to Early Childhood Council and Club 20 has a separate process, Sick Bank Leave is Laura, Chamber of Commerce Ex-officio is Liz with me (Jonathan Houck) backing Liz up as necessary, and then the Rural Welcoming Initiative Committee is Liz, and Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council is Liz as well. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Designate BOCC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2024
2. Gunnison Valley Rural Transportation Authority Board (two voting members, one-year terms)
3. Region 10 Board (one voting member, one-year term)
4. Early Childhood Council (one voting member, one-year term)
5. Club 20 (one voting member, one-year term)
6. Gunnison County Sick Leave Bank Board (one voting member, one-year term)
7. Gunnison Chamber of Commerce (one ex-officio member, one-year term)
8. Rural Welcoming Initiative Committee (one non-voting advisory member, one-year term)
9. Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council (one voting member, two-year term)

SCHEDULING: The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

1. 2024 Board of County Commissioners Meeting Agenda Posting Locations. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to designate the official posting site for Gunnison County notices is the County website at gunnisoncounty.org. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: **Moved** by Commissioner Daniels to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

1. 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), Local Emergency Management Support (LEMS) Application; Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management; \$263,140.60
2. Acknowledgement of County Manager Signature; Contractor Agreement; Bethany Montlary; Janitorial Services in Gunnison County Blackstock Building; 7/1/2023 thru 6/30/2025; \$49,085 Annually
3. Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation Grant Acceptance Letter; Grant #7719; \$15,000
4. Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation Grant Acceptance Letter; Grant #7753; \$64,000
5. Resolution Rescinding the Continuation of the Lowline Fire Local Disaster Emergency in Gunnison County
6. Contractor Agreement; SG Interests I, Ltd.; Snow Plowing on County Road 265; 1/1/2024 thru 7/1/2024; \$5,000
7. Memorandum of Understanding by and between Gunnison County and National Forest Foundation for Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator Position Affiliated with the Great Outdoors Colorado Stewardship Impact Grant Program of Work; Shared Stewardship Coordinator Position; \$120,000
8. Colorado Retirement Association Retirement Plan and Trust Agreement Participation Agreement; Gunnison County Participating Employer 401(a) Plan Discretionary Employer Matching Contributions Policy
9. Memorandum of Understanding; State of Colorado Department of Early Childhood; Child Care Assistance Program; 1/1/2023 thru 6/30/2025
10. Memorandum of Understanding; State of Colorado Department of Human Services; Colorado Works Program; 7/1/2022 thru 6/30/2025

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS:

1. Gunnison Valley Health Board of Trustees; Fill Two Vacancies for Five-Year Terms
 - Applicants: Donald Haver and Marla Covey. **Moved** by Commissioner Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to reappoint both Donald Haver and Marla Covey to the Gunnison Valley Health Board of Trustees. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Colorado River Water Conservation District Board; Fill One Vacancy for a Three-Year Term
 - Applicants: Sonja Chavez and Brooke Zanetell. **Moved** by Commissioner Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to designate Sonja Chavez to the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board representing Gunnison County for a three-year term. Motion carried unanimously.

BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT; ALMONT FIRE HOUSE LLC, ADOBE HOUSE LLC, BIGHORN LLC; LUC-23-00051: Planner I Sean Pope was present for discussion, and he explained that the applicants went through another boundary line adjustment in 2023. The current request is due to the sale of Parcels 1A and 2A, with the current owner keeping Parcel 3A and no changes to Parcel 1. Planner I Pope physically pointed out the boundary changes on the plat that was included in the meeting packet. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Boundary Line Adjustment LUC-23-00051 for Almont Fire House, LLC, Adobe House, LLC and Bighorn, LLC, and to authorize the Chair’s signature on the plat. Motion carried unanimously.

THOMPSON DIVIDE WITHDRAWAL; GUNNISON COUNTY’S COMMENTS ON THE DECEMBER 2023 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: CA Hoyt noted that Gunnison County is a designated cooperating agency, and that the comment deadline is January 8th. Gunnison County is generally supportive of the alternatives selected and agrees with the finding of no significant impact, though the Board feels that additional socio-economic analysis is warranted. The draft letter was discussed. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Thompson Divide comment letter from Gunnison County and authorize the signature of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY COUNTY ATTORNEY MATT HOYT REGARDING COLORADO OPEN MEETING LAWS, EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS IN QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND ETHICS: CA Hoyt read through the presentation materials that were provided in the meeting portfolio, and he noted that his office is available to answer questions at any time.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present for discussion.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

Commissioner Puckett Daniels:

- 1. Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority Executive Director Position. Commissioner Puckett Daniels stated that the job posting and marketing should be released this week. The hiring committee hopes to interview in early March. There has been no placement of an interim director yet, but that is still being considered.

Commissioner Smith:

- 1. CSU Extension Western Region Director Position. Commissioner Smith reminded the Board that Eric McPhail has been promoted, which created this vacancy. She is on the hiring committee, and interviews will take place later this week. She feels that the application pool is very good.

Commissioner Houck:

- 1. Gunnison Sage-grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA). Commissioner Houck stated that he and Wildlife Consultant Jim Cochran will meet again later this week to discuss. He also reminded everyone that the Board delegated authority to him to comment on the RMPA.
- 2. Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport. Commissioner Houck expressed his thanks for the airport staff for the work they do, especially during busy holiday travel schedules.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Houck adjourned the meeting at 9:31 am.

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, STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1

**A RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE CONTINUATION OF THE LOWLINE FIRE LOCAL DISASTER
EMERGENCY IN GUNNISON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, at approximately 8 a.m. local time on July 26, 2023, a wildland fire, designated as the Lowline Fire, was reported on the north aspect of a ridge between Squirrel and Mill Creeks in Gunnison County;

WHEREAS, the Lowline Fire burned north northwest of the City of Gunnison, Colorado, and southwest of Town of Crested Butte, Colorado on United States Forest Service and private lands;

WHEREAS, multiple structures were threatened, and areas of Gunnison County were under mandatory evacuation orders or pre-evacuation notices;

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1) "A local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed in excess seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision";

WHEREAS, "The effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans." C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2); and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison County, Colorado, pursuant to the foregoing authorities and other applicable law, promulgated Resolution No. 2022-32, setting forth procedures and protocols for addressing local disaster emergencies and related County actions, funding and functions; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2023, pursuant to the authority provided by law and delegated by the Board of County Commissioners, the Gunnison County Manager declared a local disaster, and his declaration has been properly executed and recorded with the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners confirmed the continued existence of such emergency and continued the local disaster emergency declaration via Resolution 2023-17; and

WHEREAS, as of November 1, 2023, all evacuation, pre-evacuation, and road closures due to the Lowline Fire were rescinded; and

WHEREAS, as of December 13, 2023, the Lowline Fire was determined to be 100% contained due to continued precipitation in the fire are, diminishing all active fire behavior; and

WHEREAS, firefighters have finished strengthening and securing all containment lines around the Lowline Fire and all resources and equipment have been released from the incident;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado THAT:

1. It is hereby declared that there is no longer a disaster emergency due to the Lowline Fire;
2. Resolution 2023-17; which continued the disaster emergency declaration for the Lowline Fire, is hereby rescinded.
3. This Resolution shall be promptly recorded with the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder and filed with the Gunnison County Office of Emergency Management.

Introduced by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith and adopted this 2nd day of January, 2024.

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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