

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2024**

The April 23, 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
Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner
Matt Hoyt, County Attorney
Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk
Others Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Houck called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

A RESOLUTION AND DECLARATION CONTINUING THE HIGHWAY 50 CLOSURE LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN GUNNISON COUNTY Emergency Manager Scott Morrill and Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt were present for discussion.

Commissioner Houck noted the County Manager can declare an emergency through delegated authority from the Board and through statute and local means. This resolution is for the Board to consider and take action upon. The Board commended all the hard work put into this situation. Commissioner Houck stated this resolution is in place until the Board rescinds it. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to approve Resolution 2024-18 A Resolution and Declaration Continuing the Highway 50 Closure Local Disaster Emergency in Gunnison County. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Houck encouraged folks to come to the Town Hall informational meeting tonight which can be accessed from Zoom and the information for that can be found on the County website and the County social media channels which includes the Emergency Management, 911 Dispatch, Gunnison County. EM Morrill relayed that there would be a broadcast of the meeting taking place at the library for those that do not have access to a computer or the internet.

VOUCHERS AND TRANSFERS APPROVAL: Chief Financial Officer Perry Solheim presented the voucher approval report dated March 19, 2024 and the cash transfer authorization dated March 2024 for discussion and approval. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$4,730,955.04. Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the cash transfer in the amount of \$5,102,905.42. Motion carried unanimously.

CFO Solheim explained the sales tax and local marketing tax has slowed down in January and February, but there is still growth year over year. He also relayed that he is setting up a meeting with Marble to work on getting better communication of their Local Marketing District taxation and will update the Board if anything occurs.

Commissioner Smith asked to get an update from the Tourism and Prosperity Partnership (TAPP) Board due to the bridge closure to go over strategies around their marketing and messaging for the summer. Commissioner Houck and CM Birnie agreed. Commissioner Houck commented that as the bridge inspection continues and once the Board hears from the engineers with CDOT Federal Highways, there will be more information for that conversation.

TREASURER’S MONTHLY REPORT: The March 2024 Treasurer’s report, an investment report dated March 31, 2024, and the quarterly interest report dated January to March 2024 were available for discussion and acceptance in County Treasurer Debbie Dunbar’s absence. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded Commissioner Houck to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize the Chair’s signature. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Houck adjourned the meeting at 8:41 am.

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson

Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Holly Perry, 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. 2024-18

A RESOLUTION AND DECLARATION CONTINUING THE HIGHWAY 50 CLOSURE LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN GUNNISON COUNTY

WHEREAS, at approximately 3:37 p.m. local time on April 18, 2024, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) closed a bridge located between Mile Post 138 and 141 on United States Highway 50 in Gunnison County;

WHEREAS, CDOT closed the bridge at the urging of the Federal Highway Administration and state bridge engineering experts due to the findings of an ongoing safety inspection, which identified anomalies in the bridge that could pose a risk to public safety;

WHEREAS, this closed portion of Highway 50 serves as a critical transportation artery between communities in Gunnison County and cities and towns both east and west of the County;

WHEREAS, CDOT has declared that the foregoing closure may continue for an indefinite period of time;

WHEREAS, closure of this portion of Highway 50 is likely to have a major impact on the lives and well being of Gunnison County residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County has previously adopted Resolutions, including Resolution Nos. 2006-19 and 2007-09, imposing temporary and seasonal closures on County Roads, including roads in the vicinity of the Highway 50 closure;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority vested in him by Gunnison County Resolution No. 2022-32 and other applicable law, the County Manager, as part of his 2024 Local Disaster Emergency Declaration, and subject to ratification by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, temporarily suspended the above-referenced Resolutions for the limited and temporary purpose of emergency alternate routes for motor vehicles to bypass the Highway 50 closure;

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, has promulgated Resolution No. 2022-32, as amended and supplemented, setting forth procedures and protocols for addressing local disaster emergencies and related County actions, funding and functions; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 18, 2024, 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, the Board of County Commissioners has confirmed the continued existence of such emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that there remains an emergency present which necessitates continuation of the use of emergency powers granted by C.R.S. § 24-33.5- 709 and other applicable law, as well as those authorities and obligations set forth in Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison County, Colorado, Resolution No. 2022-32;

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

1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby adopts the findings of the County Manager contained within the 2024 Local Disaster Emergency Declaration referenced above.
2. It is hereby declared that there continues to be a local disaster emergency in Gunnison County due to the closure of Highway 50 and its related effects.
3. This local disaster emergency declaration shall continue until amended, extended, or rescinded by the Board by duly enacted subsequent Resolution.
4. The temporary suspension of all resolutions imposing seasonal closures on county roads deemed necessary for emergency alternative access, including but not limited to Resolution Nos. 2006-19 and 2007-09 imposed by the 2024 Local Disaster Emergency Declaration is hereby continued, affirmed and ratified nunc pro tunc as if fully set forth herein. County staff are instructed to take all reasonable and appropriate steps to mitigate any harm that may arise as a result of the temporary suspension of these Resolutions, including but not limited to threatened and endangered species habitat and brooding or rearing sites. Further, such temporary suspension shall be limited to only those roads deemed necessary to open as a response to the Highway 50 closure emergency.
5. To the extent any provision of this Resolution is deemed unenforceable or ineffective by any Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Resolution shall continue in full force and effect.
6. This Resolution and local disaster emergency declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Gunnison, State of Colorado.
7. This Resolution shall be promptly recorded with the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder and filed with the Emergency Management Office within the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Colorado Department of Public Safety.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, and adopted this 23rd day of April 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

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