

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 3, 2024**

The September 3, 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

**GUNNISON COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Houck called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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

1. Alcohol Beverage License #26-54026-0000; Black Mesa Lodge LLC dba Black Mesa Lodge; 9/6/2024 to 9/6/2025

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Houck adjourned the meeting of the Gunnison County Local Liquor Licensing Authority at 8:30 am.

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING:**

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

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

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to approve the meeting minutes with the corrections that were made on record. Motion carried unanimously.

1. August 20, 2024 Regular Meeting

**SCHEDULING:** The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

1. Draft 2025 Gunnison County Holiday Schedule
  - **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the 2025 holiday schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
2. 2025 Final Budget Approval Scheduling Discussion
  - CM Birnie introduced Chief Financial Officer Perry Solheim's memo. After discussion, it was decided that the public hearing will tentatively be on December 10<sup>th</sup> and a special meeting adopting the budget on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

1. Contract Amendment #1; Contract No. 2025\*0120; Health and Human Services; 7/1/2024 to 6/20/2025; \$0 – Updating contract documents for FY25
2. Acknowledgement of County Manager's Signature; Bid; ARS Companies; County Road 48 Milling; Public Works; \$71,441.50
3. Amendment #1; Professional Services Agreement; MGT of America Consulting, LLC; FY 2023 Cost Allocation Plan; 2/9/2024 to 10/31/2024; \$5,900
4. Intergovernmental Agreement; County of Chaffee; Emergency Lending and Borrowing of Equipment; Public Works
5. Grant Application; West Central Public Health Partnership; Health and Human Services; 8/1/2024 to 9/30/2024; \$9,998
6. Impaired Driving Grant; Amendment #1; Contract No 24-HTS-ZL-00208; 10/1/2023 to 9/30/2025; \$257,891.08
7. Subscription Agreement; Lexis Nexis; County Attorney's Office; 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025; \$4,464
8. Grant Application; WCPHP Behavioral Health Landscape Analysis and Public Health Capacity Assessment; Health and Human Services; 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2025; \$50,000
9. Contract Amendment; Quote Q-1492375; Samsara Inc; Public Works; 8/5/2024 to 8/15/2024; \$3,565.84
10. Provider Agreement; RE1J School District; Juvenile Services; 9/3/2024 to 6/30/2025; \$50,000

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

1. Delegation of signing authority to County Manager for paving contract with United Companies - CM Birnie stated Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt is waiting on this proposal and contract from United Companies and is asking for approval for him to sign when received after which it will come back to the Board. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by

Commissioner Smith to delegate signing authority to the County Manager for paving contracts with United Companies that are currently in the public works work plan. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Whetstone – CM Birnie relayed they are working on the final push in the land use process.
3. Sawtooth Phase 2 – CM Birnie commented there were some challenges after the boxes were set with the wet weather such as having to replace some drywall, but nothing major.
4. Pesnell Parcel – CM Birnie noted he is working on a lease with a neighbor for this parcel.
5. Grant Agreement; Valley Housing Fund; Whetstone Community Housing Development; Community and Economic Development; \$100,000 - CM Birnie stated this is from Assistant County Manager for Community and Economic Development Cathie Pagano and it is for Whetstone. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to delegate Matthew in his already delegated authority to accept the \$100,000 grant from the Valley Housing Fund for the Whetstone project. Motion carried unanimously.

**COLORADO COUNTIES, INC. STEERING COMMITTEES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DESIGNATED VOTER**

Commissioner Houck reminded the Board this is for a delegated voter. Commissioner Houck asked Commissioner Smith if she would like to continue her delegated voter role and Commissioner Smith agreed. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to designate Commissioner Liz Smith to the CCI Steering Committee Legislative Committee as or designated voter for Gunnison County and Commissioner Jonathan Houck as the alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

**SALES AND LOCAL MARKETING TAX**

Commissioner Houck noted this is here because it was late and they wanted it publicly accessible. It was briefly discussed.

**CONDOMINIUM PLAT; LUC-24-00002; ST. ANDREWS LLC** Planner Rachael Blondy was present for discussion.

Planner Blondy noted this is for a condominium plat. She stated all the other units on St. Andrews Circle are additional condo townhomes so it is comparable to surrounding area. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to approve LUC-24-00002 and authorize the Chair’s signature on the plat. Motion carried unanimously.

**LOT CLUSTER; LUC-24-00033; LACY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.** Planner Rachael Blondy was present for discussion.

Planner Blondy stated the applicant owns the three lots and are using as one lot and they want to cluster the lot in order to build on the areas instead of having to abide by the setbacks that currently exist. She also relayed it was comparable to the area. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve LUC-24-00033 a lot cluster for Lacy Construction Company. Motion carried unanimously.

**LIBRARY DISTRICT REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION TO REFER BALLOT ISSUE FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 COORDINATED GENERAL ELECTION TO INCREASE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES** Gunnison County Library Executive Director Drew Brookhart and Library Board President Sally Hays were present for discussion.

Drew is hoping to ask the community for 1.1 mill increase which is \$0.59 a month for every \$100,000 of actual residential values. These funds will help increase library services as well as a new library in Crested Butte South. He stated there is a \$1,000,000 grant from the State of Colorado for the new library’s design and engineering costs as well as the project being constructed on land the library will own. Commissioner Houck reiterated that under state law the library must come through them to have this placed on the ballot. It does not provide endorsement for or against but allows the community to vote on the matter. ED Brookhart stated that half of the new money will go to the service of Certificates of Participation (CoPs) on construction and half to expanding operations. The Board agrees it is important to allow the citizens of Gunnison County make an informed decision on the ballot. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith that the Board of County Commissioners cause the proposition submitted by the Library District Board of Trustees to be submitted to a vote of the registered electors residing within the Library’s legal service area as required by Section 24-90-112, Colorado Revised Statutes through the office of the County Clerk & Recorder and in the manner required by the Intergovernmental Agreement between Gunnison County Clerk & Recorder and Gunnison County Library District regarding the conduct and administration of the November 5th, 2024 General Election. Motion carried unanimously.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no persons present for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Smith:**

1. Special Session – Commissioner Smith testified on behalf of Counties & Commissioners Acting Together in regard to ballot initiative 50 and 108. She was able to elaborate on how it would affect the County, small universities such as Western Colorado University, as well as child welfare beyond the current allocation from the General Assembly. It is her understanding that they have come to an agreement to keep those off the ballot for 6 years.
2. Counties & Commissioners Acting Together Lobbyist – Commissioner Smith relayed there was a Q&A with last two finalists last Friday and the Executive Board will be making the decision.
3. Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council – Commissioner Smith noted they are hiring a coordinator to help with organization.

**Commissioner Puckett Daniels:**

1. Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region (GVTPR) – Commissioner Puckett Daniels and Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt went to Montrose for the kick off of their 5 year plan and 25 year plan. She noted she spoke to City of Gunnison and the Representative from Delta County but needs to follow up with the Town of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte.
2. Colorado Counties, Inc. Western District – Commissioner Puckett Daniels would like the Board to be aware that La Plata County is proposing legislation that would increase the lodging tax maximum and would like the Board to look at seeing if the Local Marketing District can be pulled into that and increase from 4% to 6%. Commissioner Houck relayed if they raise one, they should match the other.
3. Irwin Community Association – Commissioner Puckett Daniels is pulling together a meeting with Sheriff Murdie and Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt to discuss the Kebler Trailhead parking next week.

**Commissioner Houck:**

1. Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act (GORP)/Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) – Commissioner Houck noted that Senator Bennet is close to introduction of the GORP Act, hopefully mid to late September. Commissioner Houck is currently working on seeking final letters of support and attended the UGRWCD meeting last night to make that request and they will be providing a letter of support.
2. Drought Resistancy Taskforce – Commissioner Houck attended a meeting with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.
3. Region 10 – Commissioner Houck relayed they are all participating in the meetings remotely due to the bridge issue.
4. Colorado Counties, Inc. Western District – Commissioner Houck attended remotely.
5. Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association (CVEPA) – Commissioner Houck was asked on behalf of the Board to speak in Marble at the CVEPA Annual Meeting. He spoke to them about the importance of their participation in the White River National Forest Plan Revision.

Land Exchange – Commissioner Houck relayed that since 1977, the community has adamantly opposed the development of the mine on Mt. Emmons. Commissioner Houck commended the work that has been done for this over the last several years. CA Hoyt noted we still need a Congressional Act for a permanent legislative solution. There will be a community celebration on October 4th.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Houck adjourned the meeting at 9:29 am.

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Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

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Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson

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Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

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Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

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Kathy Simillion, County Clerk