

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
October 21, 2025**

The October 21, 2025 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:

Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson  
Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson  
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner  
Matthew Hoyt, County Attorney

Matthew Birnie, County Manager  
Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk  
Others Present as Listed in Text

**GUNNISON COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY MEETING:**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:** **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the consent agenda for the three alcohol beverage licenses as presented this morning. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Alcohol Beverage License #13-37843-0000; ND Enterprises LLC dba Crested Butte Country Club; 1/14/2026 to 1/14/2027
2. Alcohol Beverage License #03-14906; Almont FBF Holdings LLC dba Almont Resort; 9/29/2025 to 9/29/2026
3. Alcohol Beverage License #05-07972-0000; Gunnison Golf Club Inc dba Dos Rios Golf & Country Club; 12/31/2025 to 12/31/2026

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels adjourned the meeting of the Gunnison County Local Liquor Licensing Authority at 8:31 am.

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels 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 Houck to approve the minutes for October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> as amended per the discussion today. Motion carried unanimously.

1. October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. October 14, 2025 Special Meeting

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:** CM Birnie elected to pull consent agenda item number five for further discussion. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item number 5 which will be discussed separately. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Service Proposal Q-312246-1; Athena Health; Health and Human Services
2. Notice of Award; Grant No. L22AC00635-04; U.S. Department of Interior; Public Works; 9/23/2022 to 9/22/2027; \$30,000
3. Request for Applications 49960377; Elevating Prevention in Colorado (EPIC); Juvenile Services; 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2026; \$409,190.19
4. Intergovernmental Agreement for Fiscal year 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant; Town of Crested Butte; Public Works
5. **PULLED (see County Manager's Reports) - Memorandum of Understanding; Firehouse Replacement Project; City of Gunnison; 10/21/2025 to 10/20/2028**
6. Provider Agreement; RE1J School District; Juvenile Services; 9/8/2025 to 6/30/2026; \$69,000
7. Professional Services Agreement; Vector Airport Systems LLC; Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport; 12/1/2025 to 11/30/2028; 19% of fees collected
8. Resolution; Adopting Landing Fees for General Aviation Aircraft at the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport
9. Amendment to Grooming Permit for County Road 12; Gunnison County Sno Trackers Snowmobile Club Inc; Public Works; 10/21/2025 to 5/31/2026

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

1. PULLED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION: Memorandum of Understanding; Firehouse Replacement Project; City of Gunnison; 10/21/2025 to 10/20/2028 – CM Birnie relayed the election is on November 4<sup>th</sup> and if the City wins their ballot measure, the sales agreement would need to be signed as soon as possible. He believed he already had delegated authority to sign real estate purchase transactions but wanted it acknowledged on the record for the City's benefit. Commissioner Houck confirmed both ballot measures would have to pass for this contract to be

issued. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to reaffirm the authority of the County Manager to sign off and deal with all of the contracts and agreements for the fire station, if that is to pass on the ballot. CA Hoyt clarified that includes both the property conveyance, the lease, and any other transactional documents necessary with the transfer. Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Firehouse Replacement Project between the City of Gunnison and Gunnison County. The motion was amended to include and to authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Work Session 10/28 – CM Birnie relayed that himself, Chief Finance Officer Melissa LaMonica, and all of the Assistant County Managers besides Assistant County Manager for Health, Human and Safety Services Joni Reynolds will be attending the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) National Conference in Florida next week and he is hoping to get coverage for the work session.
3. Deputy CFO – CM Birnie noted they did interviews last week for the Deputy Chief Finance Officer position and are making an offer today.

#### **FUNDING REQUEST; GUNNISON VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (RTA); BRUSH CREEK ROUNDABOUT FUNDING:**

CM Birnie explained the Brush Creek Roundabout includes two bus stops and after going through the pricing with the engineers the expected cost of the bus stop elements reduced from \$700,000 to \$400,000 leaving the local match under \$100,000. He is requesting the RTA cover the local match. Commissioner Puckett Daniels confirmed the new bus stop locations will be more user friendly and safer than the existing ones. Commissioner Puckett Daniels then recommended having Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt attend the meeting to discuss the elements of the bus stops. Commissioner Houck then confirmed that the ask is a direct cost and does not include other items. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the funding request letter to the Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority concerning the Brush Creek Roundabout and authorize the signature of the full Board on the letter. Motion carried unanimously.

**VOUCHERS AND TRANSFERS APPROVAL:** Chief Finance Officer Melissa LaMonica presented the voucher approval report dated September 16, 2025 and the cash transfer authorization dated September 2025 for discussion and approval. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the voucher report in the amount of \$7,279,694.51. Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the cash transfer in the amount of \$9,902,929.31. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT:** County Treasurer Teresa Brown presented the September 2025 Treasurer's report and investment report as well as a quarterly interest report dated July to September 2025 for discussion and acceptance. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented this morning and to authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. John Mlakar – Mr. Mlakar explained he has spoken to the Sheriff and Commissioner Puckett Daniels about accessing properties owned by the County with a UTV or ATV and explained the Sheriff began enforcing restrictions the last few days. Commissioner Puckett Daniels clarified she would be open to discussion about special areas, but she is not sure if she is in favor of them. She then explained they will not have a discussion due to not being on the agenda, but they will talk with each other and decide if there is interest in the Board pursuing this in the future.

#### **COMMISSIONER ITEMS:**

##### **Commissioner Smith:**

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits – Commissioner Smith stated they are having a lot of touch points in the community regarding the SNAP Benefits being on hold for the month of November. She explained the Food Pantry in Gunnison will be trying to expand hours and days the food pantry is open which increases the potential need for volunteers and having potential pop-up pantries. She then requested that Gunnison County to be the convener of the stakeholders and to do some messaging that the State is asking the local communities to do. CM Birnie explained they have been meeting regarding the situation, but there have been no definitive solutions yet. Commissioner Puckett Daniels asked if they could use some of the Board's remaining discretionary funds for the food pantry. Commissioner Houck noted leveraging the County's discretionary funds to incentivize other resources and recommend discussing this at the next Mayors and Managers Meeting.
2. Childcare – Commissioner Smith has had a couple meetings with Gunnison Valley Health (GVH) Director of Marketing & Communications Erica Rasmussen regarding the search for a new childcare provider for their facility. She also connected with former Routt County Commissioner Beth Melton who connected her to the nonprofit Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC) which has the capability to help employers establish childcare for employers.

3. Crystal River Steering Committee – Commissioner Smith had a meeting with Southern Rockies Restoration Director Hattie Johnson who is also one of the four co-chairs for the Crystal River Steering Committee. She stated they received \$100,000 from the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board for work and research to put a protection on peaking in-stream flows and to explore the Wild and Scenic opportunity. Lastly, she relayed that she and Director of Government Relations Zane Kessler have completed the draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). CA Hoyt noted the IGA is germane due to current litigation.
4. Early Childhood Council (ECC) – Commissioner Smith attended a meeting to discuss OmniSalud and the freeze on the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

**Commissioner Houck:**

1. River Mapping – Commissioner Houck and Assistant County Manager for Community and Economic Development Cathie Pagano attended this meeting in person last week and there will be continued work over the next year.
2. State Park Concept – Commissioner Houck is doing a tour with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Dan Gibbs's team, leadership from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Regional folks regarding the State Park Concept.
3. Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association – Commissioner Houck encouraged Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Director Jeff Davis to meet with the Stockgrowers at their request and they were able to have a four hour work session yesterday.
4. Montrose County Ordinance – Commissioner Houck relayed the ordinance that Montrose County passed regarding species that are not native to the area, are not allowed in Montrose County and stated it was supported by two of the three commissioners. Additionally, the Montrose County Attorney expressed hesitancy in the ordinance on its legality. He then reported the Board has gotten emails inquiring why Gunnison County isn't doing the same thing, to which he highlighted the challenging legal underpinnings and how many non-native species that are on public land such as cows or horses.
5. Choice Pass Jordan Johnson – Commissioner Houck met with Jordan Johnson from Choice Pass to discuss the history of Choice Pass Program.
6. Public Lands Managers – Commissioner Houck continues to have discussions with the public lands managers.
7. Senator Hickenlooper – Senator Hickenlooper invited Commissioner Houck to participate in a Public Lands Town Hall tomorrow and asked for confirmation from the rest of the Board if they were content with him taking the lead on it.
8. Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) – Commissioner Houck explained if this bill passed, it will increase the categorical exclusions from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres where forestry actions would occur without any deeper environmental reviews as needed.

**SCHEDULE CHANGE:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels elected to recess the Board of County Commissioners meeting in order to hold the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting due to being behind schedule.

**BREAK:** The meeting recessed from 9:27 until 9:56 am in order to call to order as the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services (see separate minutes).

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS (cont'd):**

**Commissioner Puckett Daniels:**

1. Mountain Town 2030 Conference – Commissioner Puckett Daniels attended the conference and referenced two sessions she attended that stood out: coal mine methane capture and how San Miguel County is paying ranchers for ecosystem services.
2. Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) Meeting – Commissioner Puckett Daniels attended the CAST Meeting and discussed emergency management, implementing short-term rental regulations and using AI tools.
3. Housing Colorado Conference – Commissioner Puckett Daniels attended the conference and discussed the Whetstone Project. She also attended a session regarding housing messaging and housing policy messaging.
4. Veteran Services Officer Steve Otero – Commissioner Puckett Daniels met with VSO Otero to discuss veteran services.
5. Wildlife Vehicle Collision Mitigation Subcommittee – Commissioner Puckett Daniels convened the first subcommittee meeting from Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR). They developed some actionable next steps and shared if they get the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Regional Partnership Grant, they can hire a coordinator to help move the initiative forward.
6. Metropolitan Recreation District (MetRec) – Commissioner Puckett Daniels is scheduled to meet with MetRec regarding their contributions to the Stewardship Fund.
7. Water Quality & Quantity (QQ) Meeting – Commissioner Puckett Daniels is planning to attend the meeting virtually next week.

- 8. Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Subcommittee – Commissioner Puckett Daniels is meeting this week to finalizing the final curriculum documents that they have been working on for six years.
- 9. Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR) Committee – Commissioner Puckett Daniels mentioned she will be missing this meeting and asked if anyone would like to sit in and relayed what was on the agenda.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels adjourned the meeting at 10:03 am.

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Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson

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Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson

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Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

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Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

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Kathy Simillion, County Clerk

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TEXT INCLUSION INTO MINUTES**

*Note: For all the details of each resolution including any exhibits, please refer to [gunnisoncounty.org](http://gunnisoncounty.org)*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-28**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING LANDING FEES FOR GENERAL AVIATION AIRCRAFT AT THE GUNNISON-CRESTED BUTTE REGIONAL AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County ("Board") owns and operates the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport ("Airport"), providing airfield services to the General Aviation operators and movements; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to implement landing fees for General Aviation movements; and

WHEREAS, the Board is taking this action to better fund the operation of the Airport, and to make the Airport as self-sustaining as possible in a non-discriminatory manner.

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

- 1. A landing fee of \$5.00 (five dollars) per one thousand (1,000) pounds of maximum allowable gross landing weight on all arrivals is hereby imposed on, and shall be paid to the Airport by all General Aviation operated aircraft landing at the Airport including all Part 91, Part 135 and Part 141 operators, with the following exemptions;
  - Government-Owned (Federal, State of Colorado) and Military Aircraft registered as owned by the government according to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") Registry will be exempt from payment of landing fees.
  - General Aviation aircraft below 9,000lbs maximum allowable gross landing weight will be exempt from payment of landing fees.

- Aircraft based at the Airport (aircraft whose owners or operators have entered into a long term parking, tie down or hangar agreement of more than 183 days per year) will be exempt from payment of landing fees.
  - All Non-profit MEDI-VAC or ANGEL flights will be exempt from payment of landing fees.
  - A landing fee will not be assessed in the event an aircraft lands at the Airport due to a declared emergency.
  - No landing fee will be assessed in the event an aircraft departs from the Airport for another destination and, without making a stop at another airport, is forced to return to and land at the Airport because of weather, mechanical, or other similar emergency or precautionary reasons. A full landing fee will be charged for ferry flights landing at the Airport, and for unscheduled landings of aircraft originating from another airport and diverted to the Airport due to weather or mechanical.
2. The landing fee becomes effective on December 1st, 2025, at 12:00 midnight. and shall remain in effect until amended or adjusted by resolution by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

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