

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2020**

The December 8, 2020 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
Roland Mason, Vice-Chairperson
Liz Smith, Commissioner

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 4:31 pm.

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

MINUTES APPROVAL: Moved by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the 10/20/2020 regular meeting, the 11/10/2020 BOCC special meeting and CBOE special meeting, and the 11/24/2020 special meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

1. 10/20/2020 Regular Meeting
2. 11/10/2020 BOCC Special Meeting & CBOE Special Meeting
3. 11/24/2020 Special BOCC Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA: Moved by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Acknowledgment of County Manager Electronic Signature; Intergovernmental Contract Amendment #1; Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood; Contract Number 21 IHIA 159833
2. Consulting Agreement; David Baumgarten; Temporary Professional Consulting Services; 1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021; \$5,000
3. Alcohol Beverage License; Red Mountain Liquors, Inc., dba Red Mountain Liquors; License #15-15264-0000; 12/20/2020 thru 12/20/2021
4. Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado, Mountain Express, and the Regional Transportation Authority Regarding Senior Transportation; \$52,000; 1/1/21 thru 12/31/21
5. Public Service Grant Agreement; City of Gunnison; 11/22/2020 thru 12/31/2020; \$15,000
6. Agreement between Montrose County, Gunnison County, and Advantage Treatment Centers (Montrose); Jail Based Behavioral Services Program
7. CDHS Certification of Compliance – Year 2021; County Personnel and Merit System

SCHEDULING: The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

1. 2021 BOCC Meeting Schedule. The Board informally approved the proposed schedule. It will be scheduled for formal adoption during the 1/12/2021 meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. 2021 Gunnison County Budget. CM Birnie informed the Board that the Interim Finance Director Juan Guerra was on site and getting up to speed. He planned to attend the budget public hearing at 5:30 pm.
2. Shady Island Update. CM Birnie informed the Board that the County was able to reduce its contracted scope by quite a bit, because our Public Works Department is able to perform some of the necessary work.
3. Library Update. CM Birnie informed the Board that geothermal was planned for installation later in the week. Commissioner Mason asked about engineering related to the boiler, and CM Birnie confirmed that all issues had been resolved.
4. Airport Terminal Update. CM Birnie informed the Board that the design was close to finalization.
5. Capital Projects. CM Birnie reported that the County is currently managing more capital projects than it ever has at one time, and that those projects are successfully moving forward due to proper planning prior to and since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Houck expressed his appreciation for staff efforts and the continuation of excellent service delivery during the pandemic.

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT AND PROJECT UPDATES: Deputy County Manager Marlene Crosby was present for discussion.

1. Landfill Hours. DCM Crosby informed the Board that 12/12/2020 would be the final regular Saturday that the landfill would be open. After that date, the landfill will only be open on the first Saturday of each month for the remainder of the winter season.
2. Office Hours. DCM Crosby informed the Board that her office hours have changed to 7:00 am to 3:30 pm with flexible crew schedules.
3. Kebler Trailhead.

- a. Permit Totals. DCM Crosby informed the Board that the first permit was issued on 11/9, and that a total of 54 permits had been issued so far. She had originally planned to limit the permits to 50. On 12/2/2020, she advised staff to stop issuing two permits per residence. The Board agreed with her approach.
 - b. Snowmobile Parking. DCM Crosby informed the Board that the owner of Kebler Korners requested permission to park a snowmobile for 3-4 days at a time. The Board asked DCM Crosby to work with the property owner on some type of special provisional permit.
4. Quarry Update. County Attorney David Baumgarten requested direction on an issue that has been dormant for many years related to a public trail that allows public passage from the Marble-end of the quarry through public and private property, to the Forest Service boundary and across Forest Service land, to the drainage above Mt. Crested Butte. A lawsuit determined that portions of the trail were across private property, which the public did not have the right to cross. One of the trail's amenities was located on the Forest Service end where the public was able to reach a popular destination. In the last number of years, the quarry bought the private pieces of the trail, and it has done work that has obliterated the public trail. The quarry has suggested that they would be willing to grant, to the County, an easement that would allow the public to view a different portal entry. CA Baumgarten expressed apprehension about accepting an easement until the Board, County Manager Birnie and Deputy County Manager Marlene Crosby could observe the easement in person. He also expressed concern about public safety and a trail that is in the midst of an active quarry. The quarry would like to draft and complete the easement before the end of the year, though CA Baumgarten suggested that the Board put the decision off until the next site trip to Marble. The current long-time manager is retiring at the end of the year, and Deputy County Manager Marlene Crosby noted that there is a risk that the new manager will not be supportive of the quarry's request. DCM Crosby agreed to determine whether or not the quarry has any visuals that may assist the Board in deciding. This issue may be added to the 12/15/2020 work session agenda for further discussion.

HUNTER RIDGE PRELIMINARY PLAN EXTENSION REQUEST: Community & Economic Development Department Director Cathie Pagano, applicant Jamie Watt, and Michael Dawson, legal counsel for the applicant, were present for discussion.

CEDD Director Pagano reminded the Board that it approved the sketch plan in January, after which the applicants had a year to submit a preliminary plan application. The applicant is authorized to request an extension at least 30 days in advance of the one-year term, and a request for extension has been received. The Board does not have to make a decision on that request for extension within any designated timeline, and an extension may be granted for up to 12 months. CEDD Director Pagano suggested that the Board wait to make any decisions until the Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitization District addresses this matter during its 12/16/2020 meeting. Mt. Crested Butte also requested that the Board delay making a decision. Mr. Dawson stated that the extension to submit the preliminary plan was needed, and that all pending issues would be addressed in the preliminary plan. Mr. Watt stated that he hoped to have this completed months ago, but that COVID-19 and meeting schedules have created timing issues. This request will be rescheduled to the 12/22/2020 agenda in order to allow the District time to make their decision about whether or not it can provide service to Hunter Ridge.

UNSCHEDULED CITIZENS: There were no Unscheduled Citizens present for discussion.

BREAK: The meeting recessed from 5:32 until 6:05 pm in order to hold the below public hearing.

2021 DRAFT GUNNISON COUNTY BUDGET: Interim Finance Director Juan Guerra, Accountant Kelly Weak and consultant Marv Weidner were present for discussion.

1. Open Public Hearing. Chairperson Houck opened the Public Hearing at 5:32 pm, and he outlined the flow that the public hearing would follow, using much of the standard Public Hearing process.
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. N/A

Staff Presentation. CM Birnie stated that the Board received the draft budget in the packet that was distributed last week, which was updated again earlier in the day. CM Birnie expressed appreciation to Accountant Weak for stepping into the budget role in the absence of a Finance Director, and he introduced Interim Finance Director Juan Guerra to the Board.

CM Birnie provided a general summary of changes to the document since it was first presented to the Board. He also explained that the Public Health Fund was in a deficit, so general funds were transferred to bring it out of a deficit.

CM Birnie noted that the Board had previously requested a rationale for the 4% increase in health insurance premiums. He explained that, since the County is self-insured, it is vital to keep sufficient levels in our fund because one large claim can make a negative impact to the fund. In 2020, the

County has seen some serious disease covered, as well as many joint-replacement surgeries. He also stated that our broker was not able to obtain quotes from anyone except our current insurance provider, and that quote represented a \$1M increase in exposure to the County. The consultant suggested that the County increase premiums by 8-10%, and CM Birnie felt that the planned 4% increase would likely not be sufficient in maintaining a 25% ending balance.

- 4. Applicant Presentation. N/A
- 5. Board Questions. N/A
- 6. Public Comments. Chairperson Houck opened the Public Hearing to comments at 5:48 pm, and he asked that each person limit comments to five minutes.

Dave Taylor thanked CM Birnie for the update on health insurance premiums. He asked how bad the year has been, and CM Birnie replied by saying that it was bad enough to prompt a 30% increase in the reinsurance quote. He also stated that the County expects an \$800k increase in claims before the end of the year.

Dave Taylor expressed a desire for Local Marketing District funds to be used to help struggling businesses in our community. He noted that he has seen tourism money spent to help start-up businesses.

Dave Taylor stated that, over the past three years, the County has had a difference of an average of \$6-7M when comparing budgets to actual expenditures. He is concerned about the level of conservatism because fund balances continue to grow. He feels that, through conservative budgeting and the actual results, the County accumulates large balances.

Dave Taylor stated that he did an in-depth analysis on the County's accounting of fund balance percentages, and he does not agree with the calculations. He feels the County has more than adequate resources to do things that the Board may not think believe to be doable. He offered to meet with the commissioners and/or staff in person to discuss.

CM Birnie stated that the general fund fluctuates throughout the year, and it's not on an upward trend. Some individual funds grow as we save money to meet the obligations of specific projects.

Dave Taylor stated that the Road and Bridge fund's lowest balance for many years has been approximately \$2M, even when completing projects.

- 7. Acknowledge Correspondence Received. No additional correspondence was identified.
- 8. Applicant Response. N/A
- 9. Close Public Hearing. CM Birnie confirmed that the current draft would be modified slightly, based on direction from the Board, and it was scheduled for adoption on 12/15/2020. The budget book with performance information will then be created by the end of January to show alignment between dollars and performance. Budget amendments will occur throughout the year as unforeseen revenues arrive. Chairperson Houck closed the Public Hearing at 6:05 pm and immediately reconvened the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

ADJOURN: Moved by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adjourn the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

Roland Mason, Vice-Chairperson

Liz Smith, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Kathy Simillion, County Clerk