

**Proceedings of the Dolores County Board of
County Commissioners**

November 30, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held in the Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on November 30, 2020. Present for the meeting were Commissioner Julie Kibel, Commissioner Steve Garchar, Commissioner Floyd Cook, Attorney Dennis Golbricht, County Administrator Margret Daves and Deputy Clerk to the Board Jody Gardner.

The meeting began with everyone standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Community Voice Ronda Lancaster, Senior Services Director Julie Bingham, Extension Secretary Oma Fleming, CSU Extension Agent Gus Westerman, Social Services Director Malynda Evans, HR and Finance Specialist Lenore Johnson, Mapping and Addressing Specialist Amber Fisher, Road and Bridge Secretary Linda Rehmert, Assessor Berna Ernst, Clerk and Recorder Lana Hancock, Emergency Manager Keith Keesling, Deputy Treasurer Machelles , Sheriff Don Wilson, Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis, Social Services Staff Janet Crawford, Angie Buffington, Nita Purkat and Rita Fowler, Rico Town Manager Kari Distefano, Community Voice Representative Kendra Cook, Health Nurse Mary Randolph, Assessor Berna Ernst, Farmers Telephone Representatives Terry Hinds and Rodney Lipe, DCTV Representative Dan Fernandez, Rico Resident Allyn Svoboda, Rico Center Representative Cristal Hibbard and Dr. Sarah Kelly-Spearing

Agenda

Commissioner Cook made a motion to accept the agenda with a postponement to the budget workshop. Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion. Both Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

Department Head Meeting

Assessor: Berna Ernst said certification was completed on November 16. Tax roll is pending awaiting returned certifications.

Treasurer: Janie Stiasny was not present.

Nurse: Mary Randolph gave an update on the status of COVID cases in the County and answered a few questions. Ms. Randolph recommended that the County allow employees to work from home.

Human Resources: Lenore Johnson new insurance begins 12/1/2020. It is an open network so should be received everywhere.

Sheriff: Don Wilson's office has the new E-Force software up and running.

Search and Rescue received approximately \$17,000.00 in grant funds for projects.

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Clerk and Recorder: Lana Hancock has certified the election canvas. Staff is playing catch up on projects that were pushed back due to the election.

EMS: Keith Keesling said the EMPG grant, 3rd quarter, was finalized with proceeds expected in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Two new 800 channels were granted by the state for EOC purposes.

Mr. Keesling was selected to be a state certified Search and Rescue Coordinator. There will be five weeks of training via Zoom.

PPE products are easy to obtain and available for the ongoing COVID situation.

Senior Services: Julie Bingham has closed the Senior Center to the public, however, meals and rides will continue.

With the ongoing pandemic Ms. Bingham will be giving stockings with fruits and nuts and other goodies out to the Seniors.

Extension: Gus Westerman said the 2021 4-H open enrollment has begun. Dolores County has chosen to make the livestock program more real market oriented by holding its own livestock judging show and having the projects participate in a direct sale method through individual buyers or the sale barn. If a member so chooses to participate in the Montezuma County Fair and Livestock sale they will have to join a 4-H club in Montezuma County due to new rules within 4-H.

DCDC has had three requests for Economic Development loans.

Extension and Weed: Secretary Oma Fleming said the weed district has shut down completely with the hard freeze.

Junior Rodeo awards were distributed in a drive-through style.

Social Services: Malynda Evans has closed her office due to multiple employees having been exposed to COVID. Please access the drop box and use the online website. Staff will check the drop box frequently.

Construction on the new facility is progressing well.

Requests for services has increased. LEAP assistance is available for heating.

Road and Bridge: Steve Davis installed the north and south gates on the Dolores/Norwood road.

The crew is mowing weeds in the bar ditches to aid with snow plowing later in the season.

Crews are lightly blading roads so as to not cause damage.

New grader purchase orders have been signed. Payment amounts did not change.

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Addressing and Mapping: Amber Fisher received new GPS equipment. The Groundhog RV Park septic system has been located.

Maintenance: Steven Stiasny was not present.

Attorney Golbricht: mentioned that the Planning Commission is having a workshop and meeting, later that evening, to clean up language in the Land Use Code and discuss a possible camping facility near Rico.

County Administrator Daves: discussed staff being aware of working a full 35-hour work week and being honest on reporting their hours and using PTO to complete needed hours. COVID hours are only to be used for quarantine mandated by the Health Nurse and positive cases.

Budget needs to be finalized and posted by December 15.

Commissioner Garchar: has attended FLAP meetings. Montezuma County applied for FLAP funds for Montezuma County Roads 16 and 38, which continue into Dolores County. Dolores County will attempt to piggy back on Montezuma County's fund request.

The CWCB meetings are concerning as Demand Management practices are being discussed. Irrigators/farmers may be offered compensation in exchange for their water allocations to benefit water levels at Lake Powell.

Native Fish Monitoring team reports endangered species levels are low at test sites and invasive species numbers are up at test sites.

Housing Solutions has rental and energy assistance available for COVID hardships.

Commissioner Kibel: mentioned that the Strategic Planning committee had crossed several completed projects off their list. On-going project discussions are slated with Region 9's Heather Otter.

NCA meetings are moving forward with potential legislation changes forthcoming.

Commissioner Cook: said interior doors are being installed at the Social Services building.

Commissioner Cook will participate in the CCI Winter Conference beginning today.

Farmers Telephone Service Discussion

Farmers Telephone Representatives Terry Hinds and Rodney Lipe were present to discuss County services. The County had sent a service termination letter to CenturyTel on the understanding that Farmers Telephone would be able to provide services prior to November 28. Due to a problem with porting lines, it was unclear whether Farmers would be able to provide the seamless transition without interruption. After discussions, Mr. Hinds confirmed that services are available. The BOCC discussed pricing. Mr. Hinds will forward an updated quote for services for clarification. The BOCC previously voted to make the transition to Farmers and the County Administrator was directed to proceed.

CSU Statewide Needs Assessment Power Point Presentation

CSU Extension Agent Gus Westerman shared results from a statewide slide show perceptions survey pinpointing how extension services meet local needs.

Rico Center and Rico Clinic Discussion

Rico Center President Cristal Hibbard and Dr. Sarah Kelly-Spearing were present to discuss the allocation of funds donated by the BOCC to assist the implementation of a Health Clinic in Rico. Care and Share was an option that could serve as a non-profit for financial aid funds to pass through. There was discussion of forming a non-profit organization. Piggy backing through existing non-profits was also discussed and will be investigated as a possible avenue.

New Business

Empire Electric Easement Discussion: Attorney Golbricht discussed the recent donation offer received from EEA and their request for an easement on the West Fork Fire property. Empire Electric Engineering Manager Clint Rapier is scheduled to attend the December 7, 2020 meeting. Details will be discussed at that time.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Kibel closed the meeting.