

**Dolores County
Board of County Commissioners**

September 30, 2021

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on September 30, 2021. Present for the meeting were Commission Chair Floyd Cook, Vice Chair Julie Kibel, Commissioner Steve Garchar, Attorney Dennis Golbricht, County Administrator Margret Daves and Deputy Clerk to the Board Jody Gardner.

The meeting began with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis, CSU Extension Agent Gus Westerman, Sheriff Don Wilson, Assessor Berna Ernst, HR and Payroll Director Lenore Johnson, Emergency Manager Keith Keesling, Mapping and Addressing Coordinator Amber Fisher, Community Voice Representatives Ronda Lancaster, and Senior Services Director Julie Bingham

Agenda

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes

Presented for approval were the regular meeting minutes from the September 20, 2021.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Expenditures

Commissioner Kibel made a motion approving payment of the expenditures.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Department Head Meeting

Treasurer: Janie Stiasny was not present.

Nurse: Mary Randolph was not present

Assessor: Berna Ernst said her office is operating short staffed due to COVID-19 and quarantine orders. they are waiting on valuations. There was discussion regarding reappraisal years and ag appraisals.

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Coroner: Aaron Hankins was not present.

Social Services: Malynda Evans was not present.

DCTV Manager: Kendra Cook was not present.

Extension and Weed: Secretary Oma Fleming was not present.

Sheriff: Don Wilson said a couple of the deputies are out sick this week. A new deputy has been hired. Fred Buffington will join the team after completing training at the academy.

The Sheriff's office has been busy working with Search and Rescue throughout the month.

Clerk and Recorder: Lana Hancock was not present as she is the only member of her staff able to work due to COVID-19 exposures and quarantines. Appointments are being requested by the public for services to assist with timeliness.

The budget is being worked on.

Road and Bridge: Supervisor Steve Davis said the crew is taking advantage of the moisture and busy blading roads.

A test mile of gravel from the Stanley pit will be applied. The Bartley Pit will be seeded on Monday, completing reclamation.

Maintenance: Steven Stiasny was not present.

Extension: Gus Westerman the 2021 4-H Achievement night was held on Sunday, September 26th, 2021 at the fairgrounds. The 2021 4-H year is officially closed now. Registration for the 2022 4-H year will open on October 6, 2021.

The CSU Annual U-Pick was held on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Minimal advertising was done due to the limited fruit available. The orchard was picked clean in about an hour.

Compilation of the data collected for the Community Needs Assessment is being completed.

Mr. Westerman is working on the Rural Roadmaps Recovery project with the Town of Rico and Montezuma County.

HR and Payroll Director: Lenore Johnson has completed 3rd quarter expenditures.

Insurance provider plans are being reviewed. Ms. Johnson is not ready to present their plan to the BOCC as of now.

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Addressing and Mapping: Amber Fisher and Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis are working on an CDOT bridge grant application that is due the end of October. Annual State review of local bridges assigned a bridge in Disappointment with a #4 fair or poor status condition. Estimates for repair are being pursued. The grant will fund 80% of the cost, with 20% contributed by the County.

New addresses and signs are continually being requested.

EMS: Keith Keesling made a request that the BOCC reach out to the Forest Service regarding a land purchase near the Kilpacker trailhead. With the increasing need for communication services in the high-country during Search and Rescue missions the existing driveway and buildings could provide an opportune location for a radio tower. Ms. Kibel said the County would request that during the comment period prior to the land purchase.

Six Search and Rescue team members recently attended a Rapid Response Training in Breckenridge, Colorado. Monthly skills trainings will be held. Search and Rescue is now able to assist the coroner with responses in the back country. In the last sixteen days, seven search and rescue missions have been conducted, along with two body removals.

New radios are finally being acquired through a grant that was received two years ago.

The Care and Share food pantry continues to meet the demand and provide food as well as offer deliveries to community members.

The office of Emergency Management has a First Net account available to county staff for assistance with emergencies at a significantly reduced rate. First Net is adding fourteen new local towers within the next few months.

Senior Services: Julie Bingham has had facility issues with the roof and door handles. The handicap push plates were relocated offering easier usage for the seniors. The kitchen stove pilot was adjusted and has been staying lit. A repairman has been contacted for the ice maker.

A new janitor has been hired and is doing a great job. A homemaker position is still open. The dispatcher has returned to work full time.

The implementation of the dispatcher software will soon be completed. All the drivers were given recently purchased phones that will be used with the new software.

The vehicle shelter project has moved into the second phase. All the vehicles have been moved back inside the barn.

The number of service rides are down compared to 2019 records. Meal delivery numbers are up from 2019 and are comparable to those of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the 26th annual CASTA conference held in Grand Junction, Dolores County's senior transportation services were recognized as the number one provider in the state.

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Administrator Daves: shared that the Health Fair scheduled for October 2, has been canceled due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases.

Preliminary budgets are due from department heads by the end of next week. A draft will be shared with the Commissioners by October 15th.

The Planning Commission held the Vaquero Ventures Dollar General public hearing this week. The project was passed on to the BOCC with recommendations.

Commissioner Cook: said CCI legislative meetings will begin soon.

Commissioner Cook visited with a Club 20 contact regarding Congressional redistricting. A letter of support to change the latest version was requested of Attorney Golbricht.

Commissioner Kibel: said the NCA legislative proposal roll out has been going well with presentations to the BLM, Forest Service, Montezuma County, Montezuma Valley Irrigation, Congresswoman Boebert's office and Senator Hickenoper's office. A presentation of the NCA draft will be shared to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on October 5th in Towaoc.

Commissioner Kibel recently completed a CCI housing survey. Commissioner Kibel discussed the need for the implementation of a county wide strategic plan to begin addressing the need for housing in Dolores County. The purchase of property for a project was discussed as an immediate need.

Commissioner Kibel requested that department heads comment as soon as possible on the Bureau of Land Management's Tap 2 inventories for roads and trails used throughout the county. Language in the NCA draft will be added to include necessary access trails and roads.

Commissioner Garchar: discussed the need for improved communications in the high country that came to light during the recent hunting accident.

Attorney Golbricht: said he will draft a staff memo this month of the JUWI solar project highlighting key points for the BOCC's consideration.

COVID-19 Practices and Possible Action

With the expiration of the optional COVID-19 employer funded quarantine at the end of today, the BOCC informed department heads that any future quarantines would be at the expense of the employees own PTO hours. Social distancing and mask wearing were recommended to help employees stay safe.

New Business

Vaquero Ventures Recommendation from Planning Commission: The Dolores County Commission held a Public Hearing on September 28th, 2021, for an application from Vaquero Ventures to build a Dollar General on 1.34 acres of land, located at 60634 Hwy. 491, Dove Creek.

The Planning Commission voted 2 to 1 to approve the proposed development and send it on to the County Commissioners for review with the recommendation to pay special attention to the recommendations from CDOT and improve upon those recommendations if needed.

A Public Hearing date will be set upon receipt of the CDOT traffic plan recommendations.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Commissioner Cook adjourned the meeting.


Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

 
Chair to the Board of County Commissioners