

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session on October 18, 2004. Those present for the session were Tom Hollenbeck, Chairman; Don Batchelder, Vice-Chairman; Bill Ferguson, Member; Connie I. Hunt, County Administrator, and Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

- **Note – This meeting was recorded for reference purposes.**

9:30 Chairman Hollenbeck called this session to order:

A. 9:30 Fairgrounds Items:

1. Review of Fairground Utilities:

Shelli Banks, Fairgrounds Manager, was present to discuss the utility costs associated with each of the facilities located at the Ouray County fairgrounds (Exhibit A-1).

Commissioner Batchelder had several questions. He asked about eliminating the roll-off container and, after some discussion, Ms. Banks offered to check on the cost of a 4-yd. or 6-yd. container. He then discussed the electric usage of the 4-H Event Center and Arena Facilities, specifically focusing on the summer months. Ms. Banks explained that the drastic difference in usage between 2003 and 2004 resulted from a rate reclassification and suggested that if the appropriate fixtures and lighting could be found the meter could be changed from commercial to residential resulting in a substantial cost reduction. Commissioner Batchelder suggested placing a lock on the lights in the interim and budgeting for the new lights this fall. Ms. Banks informed the Commissioner that this had been included in the grandstand grant application. Another area of concern for Commissioner Batchelder was the portable toilets in the summer.

The discussion turned to income from the 4-H Event Center and the Fairgrounds (Exhibit A-2) and Ms. Banks stressed that revenue is not covering expenses because less than half of the events are non-revenue generating. Commissioner Batchelder had several more questions regarding staffing for events.

The Commissioners stressed that government should not compete with private business in response to Ms. Banks's proposal to have the County sponsor events at the 4-H Event Center to raise money. Commissioner Batchelder asked if she was talking about substantially decreasing the non-revenue producers or eliminating them altogether. Ms. Banks replied that she was proposing decreasing the number of non-revenue producing events and increasing the number of outside groups to subsidize the local groups.

Future revenue projections were discussed and the means of attaining those projections.

2. Fairgrounds Master Plan Discussion:

Connie Hunt, County Administrator, summarized the history of the Ouray County Fairgrounds Master Plan timeline and process prepared by Ms. Banks (Exhibit A-3). Resolution 2000-054, which was adopted by the Board, approved the master plan and the business plan.

Commissioner Ferguson emphasized the portion of the operating philosophy agreed to by the Board in August 2003 to bring in additional revenue that could help to sustain other non-mandated yet essential programs to the citizens of Ouray County. He stated that he is not opposed to the County subsidizing a portion of these programs to a certain degree. The objective is to support community organizations, not compete against them.

Commissioner Batchelder remarked that he had no problem with subsidizing to the degree the County had historically given but, absent that, the Fairgrounds and 4-H Event Center need to be self-supporting. He also agreed to have a dance as a test case to gauge community reaction with the qualifiers that the dance must not conflict with events at the Sherbino or the Elks Club. He added that perception by the community of competition would be devastating to the future of the building. Commissioners Hollenbeck and Ferguson agreed.

Commissioner Batchelder recommended that the Board set a policy that the building is to be self-sufficient and self-supporting, and that rather than eliminating or charging local users more, additional revenue should be brought in from other non-local groups. If this is not possible, the County should look at shutting the building down.

Because of some confusion with the definition of local group with regard to the fee schedule, Commissioner Batchelder defined local group to mean that the *group only* needs to be from Ouray County, not the *people* who attend the function put on by the group.

A public hearing will be set for public comment on the Master Plan and the Master Plan will be adopted by resolution.

3. Review of Fairground Events (Revenue and Expense):
(See discussion above.)
4. Discussion and possible decision concerning direction for Energy Impact Grant:

This discussion was tabled to a later date.

Commissioner Batchelder disclosed that the Board had prepared a special report on the 4-H Event Center detailing its history and problems; that the Commissioners individually agreed to fund the distribution of the report personally throughout the county; that, to date, no County money had been spent on the preparation of the report except for County Attorney review; and because it constitutes a quasi-public action, he asked for a motion to sign and distribute the report.

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Hollenbeck to sign and distribute the report. Motion carried.

11:25 Chairman Hollenbeck took a recess and reconvened at 11:45:

B. 11:45 General Business

1. Request for appointment of Jack Petruccelli to the Ridgway Area Joint Planning Board as a regular member:
2. Request for approval of warrants:
3. Request for approval of October 11, 2004 Minutes:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Batchelder and seconded by Commissioner Ferguson to approve the appointment of Jack Petruccelli to the Ridgway Area Joint Planning Board as a regular member, and to approve warrants and October 11, 2004 Minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Willits, Mayor of Ridgway, addressed the Board to apprise them of recent developments regarding growth and possible annexation of County land by the Town. He expressed his pleasure with the current IGA. Commissioner Batchelder said that the IGA would need to be amended for annexation to occur.

Mayor Willits conveyed his satisfaction that the contract for the Canyon Creek Brownfields Assessment was awarded to American Geological Services, Inc. He advised the Board that he had spoken with AGS recently and because they expressed concern over one provision of the contract, he referred them to Pat Crossley, County Attorney, for a possible amendment to the contract.

Connie Hunt, County Administrator, requested the Chair's signature on a letter to the U.S. Forest Service expressing Board approval of the Ouray County Nordic Council's Forest Service permit application to groom the Ironton Nordic Track.

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Batchelder to approve the Chair's signature on the letter. Motion passed unanimously.

12:10 Chairman Hollenbeck recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:00:

C. 1:00 The Board of County Commissioners convened into a work session with the County Administrator, Staff and Members of the Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee for further discussion on the proposed 2005 Ouray County Budget:

**Numbered exhibits are maintained separately in the County Administrator's office.*

BOARD OF OURAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Michelle Nauer, County Clerk and Recorder

Tom Hollenbeck, Chairman

Don Batchelder, Vice Chairman

By: _____
Linda Munson-Haley,
Deputy Clerk of the Board

William Ferguson, Member