

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 12, 2007. Those present for the session were Don Batchelder, Chair; Heidi Albritton, Vice-Chair; K. Keith Meinert, Member; Mary Deganhart, County Attorney; Connie I. Hunt, County Administrator; and Linda Munson-Haley, Clerk of the Board.

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

A. 9:00 Call to the Public:

The “Call to the Public” agenda item is a time when the public may bring forth items of interest or concern. No formal action may be taken on these items during this time due to the open meeting law provision; however, they may be placed on a future posted agenda if action is required.

Tri-State Request for Coal-Fired Plants

Sheelagh Williams was present on behalf of ROCC (Ridgway-Ouray Community Council). San Miguel Power had been asked by Tri-State to extend its contract to build more coal-fired plants in Kansas. Both San Miguel County and Gunnison County have passed resolutions asking San Miguel Power and Gunnison Power not to extend that contract at this time, suggesting that there be more exploration of wind power alternatives. She asked the Commissioners to consider putting this item on the agenda to urge San Miguel Power to recommend that Tri-State look at other alternatives before extending the contract. NPR (National Public Radio) interviewed ranchers in eastern Colorado and they are set to go with wind power generation. Commissioner Batchelder asked to put a resolution on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Clerk’s Office Thank You

Scott Williams wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the extra effort expended by the Clerk’s Office, who went out of the way to provide absentee ballots for him and Sheelagh prior to the last election, and to thank the County and Clerk’s Office for that extra effort.

Clarification of Courthouse Hours

Michelle Nauer, County Clerk and Recorder, addressed the Board for clarification of the proposed Courthouse open hours. Jeannine Casolari, Treasurer, and Susie Mayfield, County Assessor, were also present. Ms. Nauer revised a memo to put on the website to reflect the fact that the hours would pertain to the Clerk’s Office, the Treasurer’s Office, and the Assessor’s Office only. These offices would open their doors during the approved hours and close them before and after. This would not affect the front doors of the Courthouse. A discussion followed and it was agreed that these offices would solicit comments from the public until March 1 and the issue would be placed on the March 5, 2007 Commissioner agenda for further discussion and possible action.

B. 9:10 Commissioner/Administrative Reports:

Mary Deganhart, County Attorney, discussed the following:

- 1) **Update on Government Springs Road** She spoke again to Teresa Pfifer with the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and did additional research. She advised Ms. Pfifer that it was Ouray County’s desire to maintain the status quo on the travel portion of Government Springs Road and, as expeditiously as possible, to process the three portions in question under FLPMA (Federal Land Policy Management Act). Ms. Pfifer asked for a letter declining the right-of-way grant that was offered by the BLM and requesting that it be processed under FLPMA. At this point, Ms. Deganhart read a copy of a draft of a letter to the BLM. She asked for the Board’s guidance as to the terms of the agreement, either 30 years or perpetuity, noting that perpetuity might prolong the process. Commissioner Batchelder suggested that the letter indicate a willingness of the Board of County Commissioners to enter into a 30-year agreement with the caveat that the Board would like to amend the agreement as soon as possible to perpetuity. This would avoid delaying the process. Commissioner Meinert had a question regarding RS2477 designation and a discussion followed. *[See Board of County Commissioners Minutes for February 5, 2007, Agenda Item K, for further discussion of this item.]* Ms. Deganhart offered alternative processes. The County could ask the BLM for a disclaimer as to any interest it has in the road, or a nonbinding validity determination. The problem with these processes is that they could take several years. Commissioner Meinert advised that he was less concerned with this road and more concerned with the status of other roads. Ms. Deganhart stated that they would need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis to determine the status. If there is no historic documentation, the County may have to go back to the BLM to ask for a permit under FLPMA.

Linda Munson-Haley, Clerk of the Board, had nothing to discuss:

Connie Hunt, County Administrator, discussed the following:

- 1) **Impact Assistance Grant** She requested the Chair’s signature on a Colorado Division of Wildlife grant that is due February 16.

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve the Chair’s signature on the Impact Assistance Grant for ratification at the next Commissioner meeting. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2) **Stock scales and trusses** The County ran a notice in the newspaper declaring stock scales and trusses, among other items, as surplus property in August 2006. No bids were submitted and the items are being stored at the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility in Ridgway. There are now two employees who want to purchase the scales and the trusses. The purchaser of the trusses would be required to sign a disclaimer that the trusses would not be used as such and would be taken apart and used for scrap material. The Board authorized Ms. Hunt to proceed with disposal of the two items and to place such authorization on a future agenda for ratification.
- 3) **Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department grant** Ann McCoy Harold with Senator Allard's office, notified the County that the Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department had received a Homeland Security Grant for \$34,200 for operations and safety equipment.
- 4) **Dave Wood Road** She had a telephone conference with Lynn Black of San Miguel County and Joe Kirby of Montrose County regarding Dave Wood Road input.
- 5) **Upcoming meetings** A Stantec presentation at the Tri-County meeting on February 22, 2007. Prior to that meeting, Montrose County and Ouray County staffs are meeting to discuss matters on various roads. There is a Dave Wood Road meeting on February 26. Because the meeting is to get input, it was agreed to keep presentations to a minimum but to have people there who could answer any questions posed by the public.
- 6) **Public Health building leaks** Ron Durham, Facilities Manager, located the source of leaks in the Public Health facility on the roof. Repairs will be required and Ms. Hunt offered that the County can either do the repairs, itself, or hire someone else to do it by bid.

Commissioner Meinert discussed the following:

- 1) **Tri-County meeting on OHVs** Because Ouray County was unable to attend the meeting last Monday, Commissioner Pete McKay of San Juan County updated Commissioner Meinert on the discussions. He reported on budgetary issues and noted that the funding for a backcountry ranger was being paid for by Hinsdale and San Juan Counties but repeated the invitation for Ouray County to participate financially. The Alpine Loop brochure is being updated to have available for the backcountry ranger. The final version will be sent to the BLM on April 1 to print. If Ouray County has any changes they should be submitted before then. The cost will be \$500 per county for printing costs. There was also discussion that the other counties had passed ordinances rather than resolutions regarding the insurance and driver's license requirements for OHVs (Off Highway Vehicles) because ordinances were more binding with a higher level of enforcement authority. Each county would be developing its own citation book for the backcountry ranger to use for each county. Commissioner Albritton in discussing the fact that San Juan County and Hinsdale County were the sole funding for the ranger position explained that both of the Counties' Road and Bridge budgets could go almost exclusively to these roads since these roads encompass the majority of the roads in those counties while Ouray County has many more local roads to maintain.
- 2) **El Pomar presentation** He attended a small part of the presentation by El Pomar on grant systems. Of note is the fact that El Pomar is making a special effort to place grants away from the Front Range. To this end, committees were organized in each region of the state. Tom Kenning is the representative for this region. Public Health and OPAG (the Ouray Performing Arts Guild) each received an award.

Commissioner Albritton discussed the following:

- 1) **Dave Wood Road request** John Peters asked to meet with her to discuss Dave Wood Road. She encouraged him to attend the public meeting on February 26.

Commissioner Batchelder discussed the following:

- 1) **February 26 Dave Wood Road meeting** The Commissioners need to meet before the meeting to develop questions. Ms. Hunt reminded him that she had scheduled a time earlier in the day to that end.

C. 9:40 General Business:

1. **Request for approval of warrants:**
2. **Request for approval of February 5, 2007 minutes:**

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve warrants and February 5, 2007 minutes as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Request for approval of State of Colorado Department of Public Health Master Contract:**

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve the State of Colorado Department of Public Health Master Contract as presented. Discussion. Commissioner Meinert had questions and observations regarding the length of the contract and terms. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Review and acceptance of Public Trustee Reports for December 2006 and January 2007:**

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to accept the Public Trustee Reports for December 2006 and January 2007 as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Request for adoption of Resolution 2007-004 concerning the Disbursement of Federal and Motor Vehicle Funds Monies:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to adopt Resolution 2007-004 concerning the Disbursement of Federal and Motor Vehicle Funds Monies as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of request by the Yankee Boy Conservation Association (YBCA) to authorize the appointment of a commissioner liaison to the YBCA, and to consider that this commissioner sit on the Board of Directors:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to appoint Keith Meinert to represent the Board of County Commissioners as liaison to the YBCA and as a non-voting member of the YBCA Board of Directors. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Request for approval and Chair's signature on letter authorizing the District Attorney to continue retaining and accounting for fees collected during the 2007 year as agreed upon in previous years:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve and authorize the Chair's signature on a letter authorizing the District Attorney to continue retaining and accounting for fees collected during the 2007 year as agreed upon in previous years. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Review and approval of response letter to the Gallaghers:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve a response letter from Greg Moberg to the Gallaghers as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Further discussion of the Log Hill mailboxes issue and consideration of adoption of Resolution 2007-005:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to adopt Resolution 2007-005 permitting the placement of cluster mailboxes in the Fairway Pines and Loghill Village areas of Ouray County as presented. Discussion.

John Boughner, Director of the Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District (Fire District), noted that there had been two newspaper articles regarding this issue and in neither case had the Fire District been apprised of the real plans, as one of the sites is Fire District property. Since then, Ms. Williams informed the Fire District that the Mailbox Committee was no longer considering Fire District property, but County right-of-way. He asked if she would be using the right-of-way in front of the acre the Fire District gave her and she replied, "No," explaining that even though the mailboxes would be sited in the County right-of-way, they would not be in front of the acre that the Fire District gave them. Mr. Boughner noted that the 100-foot drive-in/drive-out area, would impact potential fire [station] sites by essentially blocking what might be an egress road for a fire truck. This could cut down on the land the Fire District might consider for a future fire house site. It is the Fire District's standpoint that the mailboxes be put in front of the acre the Fire District gave the Committee where there is a 205-foot road frontage and a 100-foot apron would not present a problem. He reiterated that the Fire District had not been kept informed.

Commissioner Batchelder explained that the resolution sets forth the approval of utilizing county road right-of-way for the mailboxes subject to a formal agreement between the homeowners and the County. At that point, the standards for the location would be finalized. He asked that the Fire District be kept informed of when that would happen.

Sheelagh Williams provided a map of the current proposal for everyone's review.

Ms. Deganhart discussed that she had reviewed other counties' policies and found that in Summit County notice is given to close, adjacent property owners. She wondered if this would be something that Ouray County would want to do as there will be significant traffic impact with 100 mailboxes at each of the four sites.

Ms. Williams explained that all of the sites backed up to publicly-owned special districts.

Ms. Deganhart discussed that tree removal would be another issue.

Ms. Williams explained that there would be 400+ mailboxes at total buildout; only about 200+ are required now.

Ms. Deganhart discussed the options of approving fewer sites now or using the one-acre site.

The Board agreed to have further discussion on February 26.

Ms. Deganhart felt that the Road Committee may want to look at addressing mailboxes in the County Road specs and Commissioner Meinert added that the County may need to address mailboxes in the Land Use Code.

Jim Kennedy added that the four sites were strategically placed to even out the traffic flow.

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

10. ~~Request for adoption of Resolution #2007-006 approving the Cornerstone Weed Management Plan:~~

10:05 Commissioner Batchelder recessed briefly and reconvened at 10:10:

D. 10:10 Department Heads / Elected Officials Meeting:

Sherry Peck, Human Resources Representative, discussed the following:

- 1) Busy getting caught up with 2006 and implementing 2007
- 2) Getting ready for interviews for a paramedic position
- 3) The Assessor's Office hired a new employee, Marie Pacheco

Ron Durham, Facilities Manager, discussed the following:

- 1) Busy getting the Land Use addition set up for the ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow
- 2) Snow removal and maintenance of facilities

Ron Mabry, Weed Manager, discussed the following:

- 1) The Forest Service grant that the Board approved last week was delivered to Denver and there could be a decision as soon as next week.
- 2) Has a new truck.
- 3) Meeting next week with CDOT on the annual operating plan and the following day with the energy companies to discuss weed control.
- 4) Still working on the Cornerstone plan.
- 5) Getting ready for a BLM presentation.

Michelle Nauer, County Clerk and Recorder, discussed the following:

- 1) Enjoying quiet time and doing cleanup.
- 2) New employee, Vicki Lane, is working out well.
- 3) Thinking of doing a mail ballot for the next election.

Jeannine Casolari, Treasurer, discussed the following:

- 1) Busy time. Money is pouring in. Busy with released deeds.
- 2) Will be attending a Public Trustee and Treasurer conference in Castle Rock this week.
- 3) Is researching investment policies to bring to the Board.
- 4) A new temporary employee will be starting soon.

Chris Miller, Road Superintendent, discussed the following:

- 1) Crews have been busy plowing snow and catching up on drainage issues.

Greg Moberg, Land Use Administrator, discussed the following:

- 1) The total numbers for buildings for 2006 were 150 permits, 67 new residences and 3 guest homes. The average evaluation was approximately \$473,000 per home with an average of 3,400 square feet. For comparison, in 2005 there were 67 new residences with two accessory dwelling units, the average evaluation was \$345,000, and average size was approximately 3,000 square feet.
- 2) Worked with the Assessor's Office who provided wonderful information on the County as a whole.
- 3) Several regular PUD applications have been coming in.
- 4) Completed the staff review of Fairway Pines and the Divide Ranch.
- 5) The Planning Commission completed its workshop on Section 15 and would present it at the Planning Commission public hearing next month.
- 6) Close to getting all of the Planning Commission minutes through 2003 on the website.

Sheriff Mattivi discussed the following:

- 1) There were two warrant arrests resulting from a traffic stop.
- 2) The Investigator has been busy with two theft cases and a harassment stalking case that ended in arrest.
- 3) Sent one deputy to a taser instructor school in anticipation of the department getting tasers in the future.
- 4) The Investigator is also investigating a false imprisonment case on Log Hill.
- 5) Two deputies have been assigned to a special task force this month on a trial basis.

- 6) Other departmental actions included three DUIs for the month, one unattended death, one suicidal person, trespassing, assaults, violation of a protection order, and seven agency assists.

Allan Gerstle, Director of Social Services, discussed the following:

- 1) Busy with adult protection cases.
- 2) January and February were busy months for the programs.
- 3) The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program has been a big help to Social Services, helping seniors with meals and transportation.

Susie Mayfield, County Assessor, discussed the following:

- 1) Closed the office for two days last week for training in Glenwood Springs. There were only seven calls on the voice mail when she returned, which she attributed to public access to records on the website.
- 2) The office has been fielding calls on tax bills and valuations.
- 3) The web page on the Internet has been helping to cut down on in-office traffic.
- 4) Hired Marie Pacheco, who had been working as a temp, full time. She is doing title research and parcel numbering.

Michael Elden, I.T. Manager, discussed the following:

- 1) Corrected speed issues with the Internet and from the Land Use to the Courthouse.
- 2) Working on procedures for the I.T. department.
- 3) Installed new systems for many of the offices.
- 4) Still having a few issues with the domain upgrade.
- 5) Network and Internet issues from December are still affecting the spyware blocker.
- 6) Departmental calendars in Outlook are now visible only to individuals in each department.
- 7) Addressed issues with firewall settings on desktops.
- 8) There were no problems getting the Land Use network up and running with completion of the new addition.
- 9) Will post County hours on the website.

Cheryl Roberts, Public Health Director, discussed the following:

- 1) Has been working with Allan Gerstle and the Telluride Foundation on a tri-county initiative to determine gaps in services.
- 2) The Tobacco Coalition is doing well. It is working on "Kick Butts Day," a national day targeted to middle and high school students, and adults; and setting up smoking cessation classes for the high school.
- 3) El Pomar recognized Ouray Public Health with a \$5,000 award that will be used for screening and dental hygiene in the schools.
- 4) Will be bringing language for the pandemic flu plan to the Commissioners to discuss the financial aspect.

Kim Mitchell, EMTI and Deputy Chief, discussed the following:

- 1) Kim Mitchell submitted a report compiled by Norm Rooker. Highlights of that report included call volume (as of February 10, 2007, EMS had responded to 43 calls for the year, which is up 90% from 2006); training (Kim Mitchell is in her fifth week of paramedic studies; Norm Rooker is attending a Hazardous Materials Technician program and an EMS Response and Treatment program at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama from February 11-24; Stephen Lance is taking an online Anatomy & Physiology course in preparation for paramedic training in 2008, will be attending an American Heart Association Stroke Treatment & Transportation working group meeting in Denver, and will be running a one-day CPR Basic Life Support provider course on February 24 for OC EMS and the Ouray Mountain Rescue Team; volunteer EMT Colette Miller passed the National Registry of EMTs exams); and EMS is in the process of hiring a part-time ALS provider to begin work the first part of April.

Susan Long, Fairgrounds Manager, discussed the following:

- 1) The Cattlemen's Ball was a great event that ran smoothly with the crowd at maximum capacity.
- 2) There is a wedding reception on Saturday night and an OPAG vocal concert on Sunday afternoon.
- 3) Weddings are scheduled from June 1 through September 29 on all but two weekends in August.
- 4) The Fair dates have been set: August 30, 31 and September 1.
- 5) Rodeo set up races for the weekend before the 4th of July: June 30 and July 1.
- 6) Fair Board met to discuss acquiring new members.
- 7) On April 12, there will be a joint effort by the Voyager Youth Program, Juvenile Diversion, law enforcement, both fire departments, and emergency response services called "Prevention – a Crash Course." This is scheduled for 8th through 12th grade students to coincide with prom and graduation. There will be a mock accident on the fairgrounds, classes in the Ouray County 4-H Event Center for students, and classes in the evening for parents. She had a request to use the facilities free of charge to benefit the community. Commissioner Batchelder asked the assembled staff if they recommended free use of the facilities and the response was affirmative. [See Agenda Item C-13.]

Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board, had nothing to discuss:

Mary Deganhart, County Attorney, had nothing to discuss:

Connie Hunt, County Administrator, had nothing to discuss:

Commissioner Meinert had nothing to discuss:

Commissioner Albritton had nothing to discuss:

Commissioner Batchelder had nothing to discuss:

10:45 Commissioner Batchelder called for a brief recess and reconvened at 10:52:

E. 10:52 The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services concerning the following items:

- 1. Reports – review and approval of the following:**
 - a. Earned Revenue and Expenditures, December 2006:
 - b. Check Register for the month of January 2007:
 - c. Expenditures through Electronic Benefit Transfers, January 2007:
 - d. County Allocation / MOE Report, December 2006
 - e. Balance Sheet, January 2007:
 - f. Caseload Report, January 2007:

Allan Gerstle, Director of Social Services, requested approval of the reports listed above.

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve the reports as presented by Mr. Gerstle *[as listed above]*. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gerstle discussed the Caseload Report Averages. He noted that the office has been seeing a significant amount of adult protection cases. There were recently two court actions: one dependency and neglect action that was imposed on them by Judge Friedrich of which Social Services will be asking for dismissal, and one dependency case on undocumented residents who have fled the jurisdiction. The Court denied the request by Social Services to close the case.

2. Request for approval and Chair’s signature on the following items:

- a. 2007 Contract for Legal Services – County Attorney Office:**
- b. 2007 Contract for backup Legal Services – The Tisdell Law Firm, P.C.:**

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve the 2007 Contract for Legal Services with the County Attorney’s Office and the 2007 Contract for Backup Legal Services with the Tisdell Law Firm as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion:

Mr. Gerstle asked the Commissioners to approve a bonus for Charles Pennal who has received the highest level of professional status with the State. Mr. Pennal incurred personal expenses with testing, travel and time. To a question posed by Commissioner Batchelder, Mr. Gerstle advised that this expense would fit into his budget. By consensus, the Board approved the request.

Mr. Gerstle alerted the Commissioners to proposed State legislation in the form of an adult protection bill that would mandate reporting for the agencies. This would be similar to the mandated child protection policy that is already in place. Because this would be an unfunded mandate and because of the fiscal impacts, the legislation was postponed indefinitely.

11:15 The Board of Social Services reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners:

C. 11:15 General Business, continued:

11. Request for appointments to Region 10 Boards and Committees:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to appoint Don Batchelder to the Region 10 Board of Directors, Keith Meinert as representative to the Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Committee (GVTPRC), Heidi Albritton as alternate to the GVTPRC, and Tom Kenning to the Business Loan Committee. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Request for approval and Chair’s signature on an ESRI Maintenance Agreement:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve and authorize the Chair’s signature on the ESRI Maintenance Agreement as presented. Discussion. Commissioner

Batchelder clarified that this was for the GIS for support and software updates. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

13. Consideration of a request by the Voyager Youth Program to waive the cost for utilizing the Ouray County 4-H Event Center for an all day event regarding substance abuse:

Commissioner Albritton discerned that the request was for the Fairgrounds *and* the Ouray County 4-H Event Center. She acknowledged that it would be good to support the endeavor.

Commissioner Batchelder let it be known for the record that, so as not to set a precedent, the advantages of waiving the fee were that the program is countywide, for the children, serves a currently unmet educational need, and serves a purpose that has been identified as a gap. Furthermore, the Commissioners received strong recommendations from the Public Health Department, the Department of Social Services and the Sheriff's Office.

To a question by Commissioner Meinert, Commissioner Batchelder explained the policy.

A discussion followed regarding liability issues.

Connie Hunt suggested that rather than waiving the fee, this would be the County's contribution to the program.

It was the consensus of the Board that this would be a County contribution based on previous discussion, and to the question of liability, Connie Hunt will ensure that this is considered a school function and the schools are following their own procedures as far as parental permission and transportation.

14. Request for approval and Chair's signature on a letter of support for a Town of Ridgway grant application for Ridgway Regional Athletic Park improvements:

M/S/P—Motion was made by Commissioner Albritton and seconded by Commissioner Meinert to approve and authorize the Chair's signature on a letter of support for the Town of Ridgway's grant application for improvements to the Ridgway Regional Athletic Park as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Commissioner Albritton discussed a communication from Randal Fischer regarding County Governance & Request for Investigation of Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District. In the communication, Mr. Fischer stated that the Board of County Commissioners was responsible for reviewing annual reports from special districts.

Ms. Deganhart noted that the State Statutes say that the Board "*may require...*" Her understanding of special districts and the law is that the Boards of County Commissioners *may require* special districts to submit annual financial information to them for review. She is not aware of any specific statutory authority for a Board of County Commissioners to have any oversight of a special district. There is the ability, if the special district is not operating within its service plan, for the Commissioners to address the issue with the special district.

Commissioner Albritton asked that the Commissioners respond to the letter. She added that she would not like to see the Board become more involved in micro-managing special districts.

Commissioner Meinert asked about the pros and cons of this Board inserting some oversight over special districts.

Commissioner Batchelder cautioned that the Commissioners do not want to go there. Colorado has a long history of local control. As soon as the Board of County Commissioners takes the position that it knows more than those elected officials responsible for the operation, then it is getting very far away from local control and would have a hard time taking that position on the one hand, and taking a position with the State on the other hand that the State needs to allow local control. It was clarified that the boards of special districts are elected; members are placed on a ballot and voted on. A discussion followed regarding special districts. Connie Hunt clarified further that the only special districts that the Board of County Commissioners has control over are LIDs (Local Improvement Districts) because the Board of County Commissioners is the board of the LID.

Commissioner Albritton felt that the response should include the fact that the Commissioners have taken the position to coordinate with the Fire District, the Architectural Review Board, etc. in an effort to bring the groups together to come to some consensus.

The Commissioners directed Ms. Deganhart to review Mr. Fischer's letter and draft a response to answer some of the main points and to encourage him to participate in other ways than through the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Albritton suggested that he be encouraged to run for a position on the Fire District board. Commissioner Meinert suggested that the letter be structured such that it is made clear to the public what the County's role and responsibilities are and that the County is assisting in the facilitation of bringing all of the groups together to reach a consensus. Commissioner Batchelder added that, specific to the item suggesting that the Commissioners may request an annual budget from the District, the Fire District is a political subdivision and that its financial information is public knowledge. He sees no reason to duplicate that effort.

The Commissioners directed Ms. Deganhart to keep the letter general enough as an educational piece for possible publication in the newspaper.

11:50 Commissioner Batchelder adjourned the regular session:

OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OURAY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

Don Batchelder, Chair

Heidi M. Albritton, Vice Chair

Michelle Nauer, County Clerk and Recorder
By: Linda Munson-Haley, Clerk of the Board

K. Keith Meinert, Member