

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session
Tuesday, September 2, 2008 with the following present:

Sam Pace, Chairman
Mike Spearman, Vice Chairman
Linda Joseph, Commissioner
Ben Gibbons, County Attorney
Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator
Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator
Melinda Myers, Secretary and Clerk to the Board

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pace at 9:00 A.M.

Joseph moved to convene as the Housing Board at 9:01 A.M. Spearman seconded. The vote was three Ayes.

Spearman moved to adjourn the Housing Board and return to regular meeting at 9:15 A.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was three Ayes.

Under Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

Spearman moved to approve the agenda. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Reading and approval of minutes:

Spearman moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2008 as amended. Joseph seconded motion. The vote was two Ayes with Pace abstaining.

Review of Mail:

1. **Gunnison Conservation District** sent their Summer Issue 2008 newsletter regarding information on their Third Annual Gunnison/Dolores Watershed Conservation Tour. (8/20/08)
2. **Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy** sent information for a class on January 5-11, 2009. (8/21/08)
3. **Adam State College** sent their Summer 2008 information book giving an update of Community Partnerships, Alumni Awards, & Counselor ED Online (8/21/08)
4. The King Family sent a card to the Board of County Commissioners and Staff thanking them for their kind donation during their loss. (8/26/08)

5. **Leigh Mills with Human Alchemy** sent a letter informing the Board of County Commissioners on how the Community Greenhouse and Green House Team is coming along with their project. Also if you are interested and would like to receive updates please email at alchemy9@hughes.net. (8/27/08)
6. **Susan Kirkpatrick with State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs** sent a letter informing BOCC that DOLA has completed its review of the Nursing Energy & Mineral Impact Grant Application, and has determined the community development Block Grant Funds to be a more appropriate source of funding. Kirkpatrick offered to enter into a grant contract in the amount of \$166,400 with the county matching \$22,000 for the purchase of the Humphrey House. The award is contingent upon completing the remaining CDBG application requirements, completing federal environmental review and clearance requirements (contact Eric Bergman 303-866-4552 to determine what type of Environmental review is necessary) and enter into a contract with the department for these funds by December 31, 2008. Application attachments are available online at www.dola.state.co.us/dgl/fa/cdbg/index.html#application. The Grant offer will lapse on December 31, 2008 if any of the above requirements are not met. Expenditures made prior to the contract being fully executed cannot be reimbursed by the state. For further instructions on how to proceed contact Deb Downs at 719-852-9429.(8/27/08)
7. **Kim Smoyer from ScSeed** sent an update to the BOCC on the ScSeed application to the USDA grant in which you pledged \$5000.00 match from the Spring Sales Tax Grant. Unfortunately, the ScSeed application was not funded through the USDA and wanted to inform you that your pledge is released from this commitment. If you have any questions feel free to contact Kim at 719-655-2775. (8/28/08)
8. **K-V Homeowners Association** sent a statement informing the BOCC the Land Assessment that was transferred from Saguache County to Saguache County Commissioners. (8/28/08) Administration will research this issue and report back.
9. **State of Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment** sent a letter subjected to Faith O'Reilly Saguache Camp, Lodge & Gunbarrel Steakhouse. They had enclosed copies of the pertinent information required for bringing the reactivation Saguache Camp, Lodge & Gunbarrel Steakhouse public water system into the compliance with the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations. (8/28/08)
10. **Andrew Archuleta** Field Manager/District Ranger with USDA Forest Service sent a letter wanting to make the BOCC aware of the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Comment for the North Saguache Cattle & Horse Analysis. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Van Amburg at 719-655-6114. (8/29/08)

Introduction of Guests: Doug Larsen – Crestone Eagle

Commissioners' Reports-Updates of Meetings:

Sam Pace reported:

- August 14 – Attended the Crestone/Baca Planning Commission meeting.
- August 15 - Attended the Baca Annexation committee meeting.

- August 27 – Attended the Alcohol Prevention meeting in Center. Staff just returned from national conference and came back with lots of new ideas.
- August 29 – 30 - Attended the Crestone Energy Fair. Mike Wisdom presented overview on massive energy development in the Valley and all possible ramifications. Viewed Chambers Biogas display and presentation.

Mike Spearman reported:

- August 20 - Attended the targeted industry study meeting. Evaluation of assets in the Valley for possible industry – tourism is high on the list. Next step is to do the study county by county, which will cost Saguache County to have the evaluation done.
- August 27 – Attended the County budget meeting and thinks things are coming along.
- August 28 – Attended the USDA Emergency Disaster meeting on the storm damage in the Valley. One out come was establishing communications between county and federal agencies.
- Still working on the La Garita Fire District planning – mostly setting the district boundaries.
- Dealt with some issues on illegal dumping in the county and have hopefully resolved them.

Linda Joseph reported:

- August 19 - Met with representatives of Friends of the Library to discuss a donation to assist with the Library shortfall, and strategize for ramping up fundraising efforts through year end.
- August 20 - Attended the Baca Mountain Tract Environmental Assessment meeting. Joseph received a copy of the EA and maps for the County, which had discrepancies on access and location of parking lot. There is a new archeologist and transportation engineer on staff at the Park and both need to be brought up to speed.
- August 28 - Attended the SC Planning Commission meeting to discuss the issues on multi-residential and Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations and clarifying definitions, policies and procedures through the regulations and/or Master Planning.
- August 29-31 - Attended portions of the Crestone Energy Fair, including Nick Chambers's presentation of the biogas project, which was funded in part by a SC Sales Tax grant. He has several molds available of larger operations and working on developing smaller homestead versions.

Lynn Zimmer and Wendi Maez - CO-Administrators:

Joseph moved to accept the bid from SLV Quality Concrete for \$10,836.45 to replace the sidewalk on the East side of the Courthouse. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Presented for the Board's review three bids for the concrete work.
- After talking with the gentleman from Steffens Plumbing who is working up a bid and plan for possible solar heating for the courthouse we may be able to get a grant from the State of Colorado to pay for the majority of the project. The bid came in at \$124,850. We have to wait for the plans and bid then we can apply for the grant.
- Presented a bid to erect an awning over the handicapped sidewalk for \$25,835 from SLV Concrete. Board felt that it was too much money for a problem that only occurs once or twice a year. Discussed purchasing a pump so that those occurrences can be handled more effectively.
- Clerk Myers reported on the passive cooling vent for the Clerk's office. Price of this system will be researched and reported to the Board.
- Last budget meeting with Department Heads was held on Wednesday, August 27. Commissioner Spearman attended the meeting at noon to answer questions. Budget meetings have gone very well this year.

Joseph moved to enter into Executive Session at 10:15 A. M. for legal purposes under CRS 24-6-402 (4)(b). Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Spearman moved to return to regular session at 10:22 A. M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Pace moved to transfer \$20,000 from the General Fund to the Nursing fund. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Co-administrator Zimmer reported that she anticipates a short fall in the Nursing Services fund for the expenses due in August.

Pace moved to send a letter of support for the Willow Fly Cather Federal Grant. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- A letter was forwarded to the Board from Bill Mangle concerning the Willow Fly Catcher Federal Grant support. A support letter for project needs to be sent on Tuesday.

Spearman moved to write a letter of support to for the Weed Master Training Program through the San Luis Valley Area Extension Office. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Dr George Beck Professor of Weed Science has contacted the Area Extension office about the possibility of having the San Luis Valley be part of a Weed Master Training program. This will be a pilot program in the first year with additions to or changes in the proposed curriculum. As you can see from the curriculum this will provide a great deal of usable knowledge to participants. Dr Beck is requesting at least a letter of support from the counties and the Extension Office involved in this project. There is not a financial commitment from the counties.

Break

Wendi Maez - Land Use Administrator:

Spearman moved to approve the Subdivision Exemption request from Frederick L. II and Fredrick C. Paulson on their property at NW1/4SW1/4 25-41-7. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Frederick L. II and Fredrick C. Paulson - Subdivision Exemption request - NW1/4SW1/4 25-41-7. This request is to subdivide a 6.9 acre tract from 158 acres (sprinkler corner) for a residence. The residence has been on the corner for 5 years and the applicant wants to separate the residence from the farm tract. The Saguache County Planning Commission approved this request with a unanimous vote during their regular meeting on August 28, 2008.
- Dave Chubirka from the Crestone/Baca Planning Commission has resigned his position on the Planning Commission as of August 22, 2008. Maez would like to wait until March to advertise due to the cost of advertising.
- During the yearly review of the approved Conditional Use issued to Kent and Eyahnna Magner we found that they had sold the property. This permit was for an additional residence. In their approval resolution one of the conditions placed on the approval is the Conditional Use permit is non-transferable and does not go with any land transfers. The Board approved transferring the conditional use with the property to the new owners.
- Presented some handouts on RS2477 rights of ways issues.
- Sign the approved variance resolution for John and Cathy Baxter.

Pace moved to send a letter to support BLM PEIS on Geothermal Energy Development Alternative B. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- BLM PEIS on Geothermal Energy Development Geothermal comments are due by September 11th. Comments from Kathryn Van Note were forwarded to the Board. Kathryn Van Note will be out of town from the 3rd to the 5th of September. Board read over the information and agreed to support Alternative B. The full PEIS can be found on the BLM website:
http://blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/geothermal/geothermal_nationwide.html
- Comments on the BLM parcels slated for land trade. Pace objected to the parcels near Crestone and received a request from the holder of the grazing rights on the parcel by Valley View. Joseph will draft a letter to object to these and parcels in the vicinity of Crestone, where there is potential for a trail, being included in the land trade, but have no problem with the other parcels in Saguache County; and the Board is in support of the land trade for water itself.

Ben Gibbons – Attorney report:
No report

Melinda Myers - Clerk and Recorder:

- Election -
 1. The Primary went well, all things considered. We had mostly new election judges and lots of new procedures. Everyone did their best and want to come back and work the general election. This will be good, as we can fine tune the process with the folks who just went through the primary.
 2. We have identified several things we can do better for the general election:
 - a. Put more judges in Crestone and Center, (hopefully student judges).
 - b. More comprehensive judge training.
 - c. Put both ballot scanners into operation to count votes on election night.
 - d. Make a push to get voters to sign up for a mail-in ballot or early vote.
 3. Clerk Myers met with Secretary of State Mike Coffman on August 27. Secretary Coffman is encouraging counties to get voters to vote by mail-in ballot due to the fact that there are 19 ballot initiatives and referendums on the Colorado Ballot. Saguache County prints ballot in both English and Spanish, which could mean 3-to 4 page ballot. Expecting voters to quickly vote their ballots at a polling place is unrealistic. Coffman would like to be able to announce the early voting and mail- in ballot returns for the State soon after the polls close. Colorado will be a swing state and the eyes of the nation will be on us that night.

4. The Clerk and staff thanked the Board for scheduling the closure of the Clerk's office for regular business on election days – it really helped to have all staff available to work on election issues.

Spearman moved to approve the renewal for the Liquor License for the Desert Sage Restaurant. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Liquor License renewal request for Desert Sage Restaurant

Tour of the fire damage at the Blue Water Hacienda housing units.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:00 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:06 P.M.

Randal Arredondo – Supervisor Road & Bridge and Land fill:

- Received an email from Mr. Parker who would like to develop the airport facilities at Leach Airport in Center. He would like to meet with the Commissioners about leasing the airstrip. Spearman commented that the County would need to own the property before any proposal could go forward. There may be grants available to purchase the property, apparently the family that owns the airport wants to sell. Spearman will follow-up with owners to determine their interest in selling.
- David Cimmero from the NOAA contacted Arredondo about installing a weather monitoring station at the Leach Airport, in Center.
- Arredondo wants to enter into an IGA with the Town of Crestone to haul fill for their water system project.

Spearman moved to enter into Executive Session at 1:20 P. M. for personnel purposes under CRS 24-6-402(4)(f)(i). Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Joseph moved to return to regular session at 1:33 P. M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Joseph moved to adjourn the regular meeting and convene as the Saguache County Department of Social Services Board at 1:33 P.M. Spearman seconded. The vote was two Ayes.

Jeannie Norris - Social Services Director:

- The month of July showed six active TANF cases, with three applications pending. There continued to be nine child-only cases, and forty-five med-only and parent plus cases. Food stamp cases continued its seasonal climb with 392 cases compared to 338 in May and 375 in June. There were 80 old-age-pension cases and 26 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases.
- The Cheers Training Center served three active TANF clients, and four adult basic education clients. The Center continues to make regular deposits of earned revenue.
- The Child Protection Unit once again had ten referrals, nine of which have been accepted for investigation. The total children in open cases climbed in July by eight cases to a total of 160. Adult protection referrals continue to climb steadily, and require a good deal of caseworker time without being a funded division. We have hired a new caseworker, Meryl Cooper, who will join our team on September 10. Meryl is a fully trained caseworker, already has her security clearance, and will be able to assume a caseload almost immediately.
- The IV-D Unit caseload increased by two cases in July, bringing the total to 445. Collections showed an increase after a decline in earlier months. Monthly collections were \$49,547 which represents a 47 percent increase over the 2007 level of \$33,691.32. Year to date figures show a five percent increase, for collections of \$302,976.08. Intercepts of economic stimulus checks for past due support account for much of these collections.
- “The Loop”, operating as the Alamosa Bus Company, is not running a daily route to Saguache to transport our TANF clients to the Cheers facility until they get another driver. We have therefore, resumed our monthly support of \$1000 toward the interim transit authority effort to continue to provide service to Northern Saguache County. If the service is not going to run in September, then the monthly payment will not be made. The Interim Transit Authority Board, we continue to monitor this effort closely, and hope to expand services.
- DSS and Head Start are cooperating in an effort to provide day care for children in the communities of Center and Saguache. We have assisted Head Start in becoming a licensed day care provider, and they currently can take children 3 to 6 years of age. They are pursuing expansion of those services to two year old

children. Daycare is desperately needed in both communities, and indeed the entire county.

- Norris was privileged to represent Saguache Social Services at the national convention of the Enforcement of Underage Drinking Law Convention as a member of the Saguache County Partners for Prevention team. We are very excited about the resources that we brought back to our county, and will be implementing our “newfound” knowledge in the very near future. Some 2000 delegates were in attendance, and we found them most generous in sharing their research and programs with us free of charge. Pace suggested that the Sheriff’s office can step in and come down hard on adults how buy alcohol for minors. Norris has plans to implement a local program she learned about at the conference to have local ordinances against purchasing alcohol for minors and making the names of the parties involved public – creating the message that Saguache County has zero tolerance for under age drinking.
- State has determined that a permit for the removal of the asbestos is not needed and Mr. Valdez will proceed with the project.

Joseph moved to adjourn the Saguache County Department of Social Services Board and return to regular meeting at 1:56 P.M. Spearman seconded. The vote was two Ayes.

Break

Kimberly Bryant – OEM Quarterly update:

- Emergency Response Plan for oil and gas operations was reviewed and Bryant will make some more revisions and bring the document back to a future meetings.
- Tour of the San Luis Valley Hazmat truck with Patrick Sullivan from the SLV Hazmat Team.

Bill Paying

Joseph moved to adjourn at 3:47 P.M. Spearman seconded. The vote was three Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved September 9, 2008

Chairman of the Board

Attest

Commissioner

Commissioner