

**MEETING MINUTES
Dolores County
Board of County Commissioners**

August 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Dolores County Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on August 21, 2023. Present for the meeting were Commission Chair Steve Garchar, Vice Chair Linda Yellowman, Commissioner Floyd Cook, Attorney Dennis Golbricht, County Administrator Margret Daves, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Shayla Oliver

The meeting began with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

In Person David Sitton Aspen Wall Wood, Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis, Sheriff Don Wilson, EMS Director Keith Keesling, and GIS Director Amber Fisher

Via zoom – Public Health Director Tracey Beanland, Rico Town Manager Chauncy McCarthy, Jade Greenhalgh Emery Telecom,

Payroll for August 15, 2023

The following is a list of total payrolls by Department:

County Commissioners:	\$ 8,354.85	6 Employees		
County Clerk:	\$ 3,242.13	3 Employees		
County Treasurer:	\$ 3,966.65	3 Employees		
County Assessor:	\$ 3,572.37	3 Employees		1 Temp
GIS:	\$ 1,261.10	1 Employee		
County Maintenance:	\$ 1,414.40	1 Employee	1 Part Time	
County Sheriff:	\$ 15,204.32	10 Employees	2 Part Time	
County Coroner:	\$ 459.93	1 Employee		
EMA:	\$ 1,312.07	1 Employee		
Extension:	\$ 2,349.37	2 Employees		
DCTV:	\$ 315.14		3 Part Time	
Veterans Office:	\$ 499.46		1 Part Time	
Fair Board:	\$ 457.13			1 Temp
Senior Services:	\$ 10,295.09	2 Employees	12 Part Time	
Health & Nurse:	\$ 5,240.27	3 Employees		
Mandatory Weed:	\$ 3,135.96	2 Employees	1 Part Time	2 Temp
R&B Administration Other:	\$ 23,945.61	18 Employees	1 Part Time	
Social Services:	\$ 9,304.04	6 Employees	2 Part Time	
TOTAL:	\$94,329.89	63 Employees	20 Part Time	4 Temp

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Agenda

Attorney Golbricht requested an executive session be added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Garchar requested EOM Meeting discussion be added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Cook made a made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of an executive session, and discussion of the EOM Meeting.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes

Commissioner Cook made a motion approving the July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Expenditures

Commissioner Cook made a motion approving payment of the expenditures.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

San Miguel Jail Tour Report

Sheriff Don Wilson and the Dolores BOCC did a tour of the San Miguel County jail. Per Colorado State Statute this is a requirement for the jail used for Dolores County Inmates. The tour is to see the security, medical and meal facilities, as well as how they operate. Inmates are required to have at least six hours of outdoor recreation per week. The San Miguel jail is certified through the State of Colorado Correctional Facilities. The BOCC will also tour the Montezuma County Jail within the next month. Both facilities are an option for inmates of Dolores County.

Public Health Drive Through Change Order

The Public Health Drive Through has a change order regarding flooring material. When the building was quoted it was quoted for a concrete floor. The building grant allows for vinyl flooring. The price is \$4,800.00.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to accept the change order for \$4,800.00 for the Public Health Drive Through Flooring.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Farmers Telephone Letter of Support for the "Back Forty" Project

Farmers Telephone's "Back 40" project was identified to reach high-cost, last mile internet customers on the edge of their current exchange in Dolores County. With support from this grant, Farmers Telephone will be able to deliver fiber to the home with internet speeds exceeding 100/20 mbps to over 82 unserved and underserved homes in Dolores County. The ripple effects on those residents and our broader community will help bridge the digital divide in our county. This project will also help achieve the State of Colorado's

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broadband objectives, including enhancing educational, economic, and health care access and supporting digital inclusion.

Commissioner Cook made a motion approving the letter of support for Farmers Telephone.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Broadband Letter of Support

Shak Powers with Region 9 reached out asking for an electronic signature to a letter of support regarding the BEAD Project. They are requesting options other than the line of credit. Under the current requirements, participants must obtain a LOC issued by an FDIC bank with a Weiss rating of B- or better for 25% of the award amount. Banks providing LOCs require that they be collateralized by cash or cash equivalent. As a result, awardees will have to lock away vast sums of capital for the full duration of the build, likely several years. With the additional 25% match requirement, recipients will have a capital hurdle of more than 60% of their grant. They [estimate](#) a provider seeking a \$7.5 million grant for a \$10 million project will need at least \$4.6 million of their own capital up-front. Dolores County does support the NTIA's intention of ensuring providers are accountable for delivering on grants, far from safeguarding taxpayer dollars, the LOC requirement will prevent the internet service providers ("ISPs") best positioned to connect unserved and underserved Americans from participating. For the reasons below, alternatives to the LOC should be allowed.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approving the letter of support for the request of options other than LOC for the BEAD Project Grant.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Executive Session

Attorney Golbricht requested an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) to provide legal advice regarding ongoing litigation. It was his opinion that the matters constituted privileged attorney communications and therefore no minutes or recordings would be kept.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to go into executive session at 8:52AM

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

The executive session began at 8:52am and ended at 9:20am no decisions were made.

David Sitton Dolores/Norwood Road Discussion

David Sitton attended the meeting again to discuss opening the Dolores/Norwood Road during the winter months to his company Aspen Wall Wood for logging. This was a continued discussion regarding the pros and cons of having this road open. No decision was made the discussion was continued until a later date.

Public Hearing for Redistricting

The Dolores County BOCC opened the meeting to public hearing regarding the redistricting of Dolores County. The most recent census count of Dolores County has counted the Senior Center as a living facility.

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GIS Director Amber Fisher has sent multiple letters to the Census Bureau as well as the State of Colorado in regard to the incorrect classification. The Census Bureau is staying with their current count, which requires Dolores County to redistrict. Mrs. Fisher presented to the BOCC three redistricting maps. Map A (attached) was chosen as the best option.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to move districting lines using Map A.
Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

USFS Update/Tom Rice

USFS acting District Manager Tom Rice attended the meeting to update the BOCC regarding happenings with the USFS:

- There are a few small fires being monitored in the area. He did state the fire ban is still in effect.
- Timber operations are still very active in the Glade area.
- The USFS has still not hired a district manager. He hopes within the week they will start interviews, and someone will be hired within a month. His role as acting District Manager is in place until Mid-October.

The BOCC discussed with Mr. Rice the log haul request from Aspen Wall Wood for the winter over the Dolores/Norwood Road. Mr. Rice had concerns the paved Forest Service Road could not handle a full-time winter haul, he was going to look into it and get back with the BOCC. As for the USFS portion of that road that Dolores County holds the FURTA Agreement, they have no comments regarding the haul.

Rockwell Subdivision Exemption Preliminary Approval

Amber Blackmore presented to the BOCC a Subdivision Exemption request for Jason Rockwell. Mr. Rockwell will split off 15 acres of his 160-acre parcel on County Road 6. It will be a rectangular shaped parcel with access from CR 6 or K.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant preliminary approval for the Subdivision Exemption request by Jason Rockwell to split 15 acres off of a 160-acre parcel.
Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

West Dolores Cemetery District

Linda Rehmert and Steve Davis, West Dolores Cemetery District Board Members attended the meeting to discuss their budget. For the last few years, the county has assisted in finance and administration for the West Dolores Cemetery District, and the District would provide the cemetery services oversight, control operations etc. Dolores County and the Town of Dove Creek split the cost 50/50. The BOCC wanted to know the financial status of the Cemetery District, and if they felt like they could financially self-sustain. There have been many plots sold, funds made from opening and closing graves as well as the funds they receive from the

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mill levy they have a good fund balance. It was decided the BOCC would discuss with the Town of Dove Creek the funding and propose all three entities pay a third, and work towards a mill levy increase.

Malynda Evans/ Juvenile Services Board Approval

Malynda Evans Dolores County Social Services Director presented to the BOCC the Juvenile Services Committee for approval. This is a committee that is designated each year to review any juveniles that are on probation or pre-probation services. They review the financials, and any legislation instated or reinstated each year. They also have a separate meeting to review any cases from a community base that needs addressed.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Juvenile Services Committee requested by Social Services Director Malynda Evans.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Director Evans also presented to the BOCC the opportunity to have an intern come from the Denver University Four Corners Social Work Program. They have someone interested in working with the Child Welfare Department. It is a stipend position. The intern is required to sign a contract with the State of Colorado that they agree to work for a Social Services Department for two years after receiving their master's degree. Last year this person worked with LaPlata County, but they would like a more rural area to work. These interns have certain areas they work in, and Malynda feels she could use this person. This would be a part-time position.

Commissioner Cook made the motion to enter into an agreement with DU for the internship.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Emery Telecom

Emery Telecom discussed with the BOCC the height requirements for Dolores County for their above ground lines. Law requires a minimum height of 15.5'. Emery wanted to know if Dolores County had set a standard. There are only a few crossings below 17'. Emery did request taller poles in certain areas, but if the cost is higher than the price to bore. The BOCC wants to see 17' to be safe, but they are ok with 16.6 in the few spots.

Haley Leonard/Axis Health Letter of Support for their Enterprise Zone Contribution Project

Haley Leonard with Axis Health asked the BOCC for a letter of support for the Axis Health System's (Axis) Enterprise Zone Contribution Project designation application for its Durango Integrated Healthcare Campus. Axis provides essential healthcare services to Dolores County and the region, demonstrating a strong commitment to delivering quality healthcare services to underserved populations in rural areas. The new Durango campus serves as the hub for many of the services that Dolores County community members can

access as a part of their care. Axis recently expanded its services to include pharmacy and walk-in crisis care at Dove Creek Integrated Healthcare in Dolores County. Their ability to provide healthcare to people,

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regardless of their ability to pay, has improved the health of many community members. The Enterprise Zone Contribution Designation will enable Axis to access additional funds and resources to further its mission in the region. We are confident that these resources will be used to reach even more people in need.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to sign the letter of Support for the Axis Health Enterprise Zone Contribution Project.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Audit

Chris Majors with Majors and Haley PC presented the 2022 Audit. He stated that over all the County financials are good, and there had been no overspending.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to accept the 2022 Audit.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

New Business

Attorney Golbricht brought to the BOCC attention that there is a Bankruptcy filed on property that has a past due tax bill to Dolores County for approximately \$79,000.00. The Bankruptcy is in Texas. The Treasurer has made a claim as a secured creditor. San Miguel County has the same taxpayer that has a past due tax bill as well. Attorney Golbricht sought approval from the BOCC to share the cost of a Bankruptcy attorney with San Miguel County, to monitor the action. The BOCC agreed to share that cost, preferring to limit our contribution to 25%, since the outstanding taxes owed to the counties equates to an approximate 25/75 ratio.

Commissioner Garchar adjourned the meeting.

Chair to the Board of County Commissioners

Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

Approved September 18, 2023

