

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Dolores County**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**February 5, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Dolores County Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on February 5, 2024. Present for the meeting were Commission Chair Steve Garchar, Vice Chair Linda Yellowman, 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 – EMS Manager Keith Keesling, DC Extension Director Gus Westerman, Social Services Director Malynda Evans, Region 9 Representative Shak Powers, Collin Mack and DeEtta Johnson

Zoom – Shaun Sanders

**Payroll for January 30, 2024**

The following is a list of total payrolls by Department:

|                           |                    |                     |                     |               |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| County Commissioners:     | \$ 8,187.06        | 6 Employees         |                     |               |
| County Clerk:             | \$ 3,081.28        | 3 Employees         |                     |               |
| County Treasurer:         | \$ 2,492.29        | 2 Employees         |                     |               |
| County Assessor:          | \$ 4,412.68        | 4 Employees         |                     |               |
| GIS:                      | \$ 1,261.10        | 1 Employee          |                     |               |
| County Maintenance:       | \$ 1,432.39        | 1 Employee          | 1 Part Time         |               |
| County Sheriff:           | \$ 14,632.17       | 10 Employees        | 1 Part Time         |               |
| County Coroner:           | \$ 459.93          | 1 Employee          |                     |               |
| EMA:                      | \$ 1,312.07        | 1 Employee          |                     |               |
| Extension:                | \$ 1,402.27        | 2 Employees         | 1 Part Time         |               |
| DCTV:                     | \$ 562.59          |                     | 3 Part Time         |               |
| Veterans Office:          | \$ 499.46          |                     | 1 Part Time         |               |
| Fair Board:               | \$ 69.26           |                     |                     | 1 Temp        |
| Senior Services:          | \$ 9,302.28        | 2 Employees         | 13 Part Time        |               |
| Health & Nurse:           | \$ 5,245.65        | 3 Employees         |                     |               |
| Mandatory Weed:           | \$ 2,103.86        | 2 Employees         |                     |               |
| R&B Administration Other: | \$ 24,859.47       | 18 Employees        |                     |               |
| Social Services:          | \$ 11,201.46       | 6 Employees         | 3 Part Time         |               |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>             | <b>\$92,517.27</b> | <b>64 Employees</b> | <b>22 Part Time</b> | <b>1 Temp</b> |

## **Agenda**

Commissioner Yellowman made a made a motion to accept the agenda.  
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.  
Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman approved the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

## **Expenditures**

Commissioner Yellowman made a made a motion to accept the Expenditures.  
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.  
Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman approved the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

## **Minutes**

The December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the January 11, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes were presented for approval.

Commissioner Yellowman made a made a motion to approve the above-mentioned minutes with the correction of the location of meetings.  
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.  
Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman approved the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

## **Colorado Broadband BEAD Funding Presentation/Shak Powers**

Shak Powers with Region 9 presented to the BOCC information regarding a grant for technical assistance from the Colorado Broadband Office. The CBO has paired Region 9 with NEO Connect who will work to help Dolores County internet service providers (Farmer's and Emery) to pursue BEAD funding to continue their work building fiber to the premise for the underserved and unserved areas of Dolores County. The Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) recently opened up the registration process for acquiring the FCC Fabric Data. The fabric data is what the state will use to determine the eligibility of addresses for BEAD funding. The process begins with registration, which NEO Connect will do on behalf of Dolores County, followed in January by the Challenge Process. The Challenge Process is designed to ensure accuracy of the eligible location data and is a fairly straight forward process. The state has allotted 45 days for challenges to be submitted. The evaluation, rebuttal and determination phases of the process will follow and at the conclusion of these phases, the NTIA will publish the final fabric data sometime in May of 2024. At that point, the CBO will open the state's BEAD Grant application. Region 9 is requesting the BOCC's permission for NEO Connect to register Dolores County for the Challenge Process with the FCC and subsequently, the CBO. Once the registration is completed, the CBO will issue login credentials for NEO to access the fabric data. The CBO opened the portal on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. NEO Connect will work on behalf of Dolores County to evaluate the fabric data and begin the preparations for potential BEAD Grant funding applications as well as any eligibility challenges. Mr. Powers is asking the BOCC to grant NEO the authority to register Dolores County for the Advance-BEAD Challenge Portal.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to grant NEO the authority to register Dolores County for the Advance-BEAD Challenge Portal.  
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

### **DeEtta Johnson Subdivision Exemption Preliminary Approval**

DeEtta Johnson presented to the BOCC a Subdivision Exemption request to split off 22.35 acres from her 102-acre parcel on County Road R and 16.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to grant preliminary approval for the Subdivision Exemption request by DeEtta Johnson to split 22.35 acres from her existing 102-acre parcel.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman approved the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

### **Social Services Update/Malynda Evans**

Social Services Director Malynda Evans presented for approval the Record of Proceedings for February 5, 2024 as well as the financial documents through December 2023.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion approving the above-mentioned documents.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

Commissioners Garchar and Yellowman voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

### **CTSI 5YR Loss Analysis CTSI Insurance Update and Loss Analysis**

Marilyn Wagner with CTSI attended the meeting via Zoom to give the County's five-year loss analysis report.

Dolores County's Casualty and Property claims from 2019 through December 31, 2023 was a total of 14 claims with an average cost per claim of \$8188.00.

Dolores County's Workers Compensation claims from 2019 through December 31, 2023 was a total of 19 claims with an average cost per claim of \$29,613.00.

Ms. Wagner gave some safety tips and recommendations. CTSI does offer safety workshops and training and would be willing to come in person or via zoom.

### **Ambulance Licensing Regulations**

The DC Ambulance District attended the BOCC meeting to discuss the new Ambulance licensing regulations effective July 1, 2024. Under current law, ambulance services are regulated at the local level. On and after July 1, 2024, the act requires an ambulance service to obtain a state license from the department of public health and environment. On or before January 1, 2024, the state board of health is required to adopt rules regarding minimum standards for ambulance services, including equipment, staffing, medical oversight, and general and vehicle liability insurance standards and, if the board deems it necessary, rules imposing application and licensing fees. On and after July 1, 2024, a county or city and county is authorized to grant an ambulance service authorization to operate within the counties or city and county's jurisdiction and to enter into service agreements, memoranda of understanding, and other contracts with ambulance services operating in the county's or city and county's jurisdiction. The

ambulance district would like to be the main servicing agency for Dolores County within its District. There was further discussion regarding funding and grant allocations for the DC Ambulance District.

### **Phone and Internet Service**

The BOCC met with Keith Keesling/Dolores County IT Director to discuss the County's phone and internet service, and the option to change from Farmers Telephone, and or add Emery as a secondary provider. The BOCC would like to keep Farmers Telephone while the fiber gets installed, and the changeover process takes place with Emery. This project is not subject to the Counties procurement policy because the options are limited.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to authorize Emery to connect the fiber to the County Buildings and start internet service as a backup. With permission granted to Keith to decide at a later date if Emery should be the main provider, so long as the monthly fee does not exceed \$450.00 per month.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

There was also discussion regarding new phone systems for all County Offices. The new 3CX phone systems would be purchased from NetForce as well as full-time online support. The first year of service is included in the purchase of the system. Starting year two a service contract would need to be purchased with an annual fee of \$750.00 - \$1200 per year. Netforce is not a dial tone provider, it is a phone system only.

Commissioner Garchar made a motion to approve the purchase of the 3CX phone systems for the County as long as the cost does not exceed \$15,000.00, and since they are a sole source provider of hardware and services locally it is exempted from the procurement policy.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Garchar and Yellowman voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Cook was not in attendance.

### **Public Comment**

Tom Jaeger addressed the BOCC via Zoom regarding the middle North gate on the Dolores/Norwood Road. Mr. Jaegar commented on the lack of access to drive around the locked gate to retrieve his mail during the seasonal closure. During the January 16, 2024 Regular BOCC Meeting, a resolution was passed regarding seasonal closures. **Dolores/Norwood Road Closure Resolution# 01-24-09:** A Resolution temporarily closing County Road 31 - Dolores/Norwood Road to wheeled-vehicles due to actual or likely snow-packed conditions and or to prevent damage or destruction due to deterioration, rain, snow or other climatic conditions. The closure shall be posted by signage at the Cottonwood Gate, Disappointment Shop, and at the San Miguel/Dolores County Line. Based upon input from the County Road Superintendent and Emergency Manager, the BOCC finds that the Dolores-Norwood Road is or is likely snow-packed, creating conditions warranting over-snow use only, or is in danger of damage or destruction due to mixed snow and high moisture on the road. The closure will remain in effect until the seasonal snowpack is melted and the road is no longer a danger for unsafe travel or in danger of damage due to high moisture.

**CRS § 42-4-106(3)(d) provides that the County may close wheeled-vehicle travel on a county highway due to actual or likely snow-packed conditions for a continuous seasonal period, allowing for over-snow use only; and**

**CRS § 42-4-106(1) provides that the County may close vehicular travel on a County highway in order to prevent damage or destruction due to deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions.**

The sign that is placed on the gates shows a four-wheeler atv as an acceptable form of transportation. Commissioner Garchar tabled the discussion until the February 20, 2024 BOCC meeting so that all interested parties could be involved.

Commissioner Garchar adjourned the meeting.

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Commissioners Chair to the Board of County

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Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

Approved 3-18-2024