

**Proceedings of the Dolores County board of  
County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
August 17, 2015**

A regular meeting of the board of County Commissioners was held in their boardroom in Dove Creek, Colorado, August 17, 2015. Present for the meeting was Chairman of the Board, Julie Kibel, Commissioners Ernie Williams, & Doug Stowe. Also present for the meeting was Lorraine Hancock, Deputy Clerk to the Board, Dennis Golbricht, County Attorney, and Margret Daves, Manager of Special Projects.

**Guests**

Doug Funk, Dove Creek Press, Connie Clementson, BLM, Larry Worth, Consulting Firm, Nita Purkat, Dolores County Senior Services, Kathy Murphey and Sylvia Labruchevie, Consultant-DCSS, Amber Paxton, Dolores County Resident, Dee Leonard, Dolores County Resident, Craig Cox, Mom's Ranch, Toby Hamilton, Fish Creek Ranch, Jim Fisher, South of Mom's Ranch, Doug Aiken, Dolores County Resident, Dewayne Findley, Dolores Fire District, Kenin Lovett, Dolores County Resident, Tom and Peggy Johnson, Dolores County Resident, Gary Showmar, Dolores County Resident, Norbert Mede, Dunton Hot Springs, Don and Linda Faulkner, Blue Spruce Glen, Mark Rodgers, Dolores County Resident, Daniel Carpenter, Dolores County Resident, Jack and Vicki Ayers, Dolores County Road and Bridge, Tommie Ritchey, Dolores County Resident, Janie and K.R. Rosamund, Dolores County Resident, Gordon Steves, Robert Durant, Marc Malin, Dolores County Resident, Dave and Sharon Erb, Dolores County Resident, Tom Stilley.

**Pledge**

The meeting was started by everyone standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of. Commissioner Stowe seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted in favor.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Stowe made a motion to accept the Minutes from August 3, 4, and 5, 2015. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted in favor.

**Approval of Payroll & Bills**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the payroll and bills. Commissioner Stowe seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted in favor.

The following is a list of total payroll by Department:

County Commissioners:	\$5,573.23	6 Employees	
County Commissioner Other	230.87		1 Part Time
Transfer Station	498.78		1 Part Time
County Clerk:	2,491.46	3 Employees	
County Treasurer:	2,134.72	2 Employees	
County Assessor:	2,959.64	3 Employees	1 Part Time

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GIS:	1,065.31		2 Part Time
County Maintenance:	1,188.68	1 Employee	
Traffic Enforcement	1,172.31	1 Employee	
County Sheriff:	7,818.89	6 Employees	3 Part Time
County Coroner:	360.31	1 Employee	
EMA/EMS:	567.78		1 Part Time
Extension:	920.21	1 Employee	1 Part Time
DCTV:	461.75		1 Part Time
Veterans Office:	480.22		1 Part Time
Senior Services:	6,256.09	2 Employee	13 Part Time
Health & Nurse:	2,499.63	2 Employees	
Mandatory Weed:	1,249.61	2 Employees	2 Part Time
Admin Other:	18,848.95	19 Employees	2 Part Time
Social Services	<u>3,128.06</u>	3 Employees	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,906.50</b>		

**Meetings and Information**

Commissioner Stowe said Joann Thompson is the manager of the Dove Creek Cemetery District and she asked if it would be possible for them to de Bruce.

Dennis said if you are already short on funds you shouldn't need to de Bruce.

There was discussion on funding.

Commissioner Stowe said Bret Martin, Dolores County Resident asked him if the county was liable for headstones if they are damaged.

There was discussion on this.

Dennis said the Cemetery District is its own entity and if the person doing the work negligently does the damage they are responsible.

Commissioner Stowe said Melissa Matthews, Montezuma County Sanitarian was here last week and wondered if Dolores County wants to get in with their county on waste tire removal.

Commissioner Williams said it would be better for us to have a licensed site. Last time we looked into going in with Montezuma County it was going to be too expensive. Commissioner Williams will look into this.

Commissioner Williams said we should have the hard copy of the NCA back next week and after they go over the plan, it will become public knowledge.

Commissioner Kibel said she talked to the Durango Herald about the Wilderness Area that Congresswomen DeGetts is working on. She said she will write another letter saying that Dolores County is not interested in her pushing a Wilderness Area in our county. She said the BLM Sage Grouse Amendment Plan is still going.

Margret Daves, Special Project Manager attended the small community's workshop last week. She said it was geared toward small towns, not counties. She said they discussed the importance of having an emergency management plan in place for our county and she will discuss the emergency management plan with Todd Parisi, EMA/EMA. They also discussed First Net and broadband at the workshop.

Commissioner Williams said he heard that DOLA will help put up towers but the county isn't supposed to be selling internet.

Margret said she had a phone call from AT&T asking how they would install a tower. After she told

*Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, August 17, 2015* them the process, she found out that they want to install the tower in town so they were referred to the Town of Dove Creek. If they are approved by the town we might have better AT&T service. She also said TMobile will be installing more towers in our area that were approved by the Planning Commission.

Dennis said we have not heard back from the State about the decision the BOE made on the ag tax.

### **Senior Services Consulting Workshop**

The commissioners held a workshop for the Senior Services Planning Grant Consultants.

Nita Purkat, Senior Services Director her main goal is to make sure transportation will still be functioning and growing in the upcoming years for Senior Services.

Commissioner Williams asked if the planning that is happening now can be integrated with the new RBSC.

Larry Worth, from the consulting firm said the plan they are working on will have the potential to expand the operations here in Dove Creek.

Nita said they are also in cahoots with Ken Charles from DOLA.

There was discussion on transportation.

Commissioner Kibel said Nita writes numerous grants to keep the Senior Center going and this will be a big impact on upcoming grants. She feels that we need to join forces with other entities but she hopes that this program stays local.

Commissioner Stowe asked if we could do the plan in two stages. He said we started the RBSC several years ago and the plan fell through and he wants to make sure that something can be accomplished even if the new building project isn't finished.

Larry said the time line for the plan to be completed will be at the latest the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015. He said that this is our county and our plan, not a plan from Denver. Implementation of this plan will be a local responsibility.

Commissioner Stowe discussed DOLA funds.

Commissioner Kibel said that the Commissioner's met with Walker Stapleton, State Treasurer last week and one of his main concerns is that Medicaid may take a huge hit next year.

Nita said that Medicaid is a huge part of their transportation.

There was discussion on this.

Larry said they look forward to working with our county.

The Commissioners thanked them for coming in.

### **Subdivision Exemption**

Amber Paxton, Dolores County Resident was here to request preliminary approval for a subdivision exemption. She said they are looking at splitting their property in Bugle Basin 3 ways. There are three owners and they are not selling it they just want to split it up. She presented a draft map of the split.

Dennis asked if they have an HOA in Bugle Basin and Amber said there is an HOA.

Commissioner Williams said there may be a stipulation with the HOA that the property cannot be split; he let her know that she will need a letter from the HOA permitting the split.

Dennis read over the covenants for Bugle Basin and it reads that no lots can be subdivided.

The commissioners denied the subdivision exemption for this reason.

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**Subdivision Exemption**

The County received a subdivision exemption application from Mickey Neely who wants to split off 208 acres; the house and the buildings will be on a 21 acre parcel which they will keep.

The Commissioners gave preliminary approval at a previous meeting and the survey has been completed. They presented the Mylar and Dennis prepared the resolution.

Dennis said that from a legal perspective, everything is on track.

Margret said we did receive a septic application that we asked for during a previous meeting.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve Resolution # 08-15-02 the Subdivision Exemption for Mickey Neely.

Commissioner Stowe seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted yes.

**West Dolores Fire District**

Janie Rosamond, West Fork of the Dolores River Resident along with many other West Dolores River residents were here to discuss the fire district.

Commissioner Kibel let them know that we would like to hear what they are thinking in regards to the fire district.

Margret said we sent out letters discussing the fire district on the West Dolores to all of the residents of the West Dolores River.

Commissioner Williams said there is currently no fire protection on the West Fork of the Dolores River. As we started to look at this we looked at options for a fire district. The Dolores Fire District's first responsibility is to their district where their tax payers reside.

Dennis said they discussed an inclusion into the Dolores Fire District and they looked at the tax roll and surprisingly the numbers that would be generated by the property values was pretty small and wouldn't warrant the inclusion into the district. Legislature passed HB1017 and the purpose matches the situation on the West Fork, which allows for an establishment of a volunteer fire department and the treatment as a governmental entity which allows for grant opportunities. Under the new legislation you would create a fire department and have a facility. If you didn't have the people to staff, you could enter into an MOU with a neighboring department to help. He said there was discussion on the use of land for a shop to house equipment. He discussed the issues with home insurance.

Dewayne Findley, Dolores Fire Protection District said at the last meeting they found some surplus equipment that they could donate to the West Dolores. He asked about the differences between a volunteer fire department vs a fire district.

Dennis said the legislation isn't for a district, it's for a department. You would be looking for ongoing funding from grants or memberships. He spoke with the State Division of Fire Protection and Control and they said this area would be perfect for this legislation. He said right now the funding is not available but they are interested in helping to get something running. He said that it seems like there is quite a bit of funding available through grants.

Dewayne said the Dolores Fire District never said that they won't respond to a fire on the West Fork. He said you just need something on site with trained volunteers to respond to an incident.

Dennis discussed ongoing expenses. He said it takes a core group to make sure something like this gets started.

Dewayne said they researched if they could cross county lines and he asked if they could charge a different mill levy to residents in this area.

Dennis said you can have multi county special districts.

Janie Rosamond, West Dolores Resident asked how many times the Dolores Fire Protection District have been up there to fight fire.

Commissioner Williams said right now if the Dolores Fire District goes to fight fire up there, they are

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taking their services away from their district.

Commissioner Kibel said it's hard to get insurance on your house and it's hard to sell the home without a fire district. She doesn't want to base it on how many trips have been made in the past.

Commissioner Williams said the county has done this under a volunteer thing. This isn't bringing funds into the county; it will probably cost the county. If you get a volunteer fire going, it would be up to you.

Doug Akin, Dolores State Bank said in order for banks to provide financing, they must have insurance on the place and that is an issue right now.

Tom Stillian, Blue Spruce Glen asked where the potential land to house the equipment might be.

Commissioner Williams said the potential land is by the Road and Bridge property near Blue Spruce Glen.

Jack Ayers, Dolores County Road and Bridge said there would be some things we would need to do to get sewer up at the property on Blue Spruce Glen and the access would be from the Blue Spruce Glen road.

Commissioner Williams said it would not be as large as the Dolores Fire District but it would be a start.

Tommy Johnson, Dolores County Resident asked where they should start.

Dennis explained fire districts and said a lot of these Special Districts start as a volunteer fire departments. The new legislation recognizes that there are a lot of rural areas that aren't served by a fire district or department. If you start a volunteer department we will treat you like a government entity which opens doors to government funding. There is also the Colorado Fire Protection State Group who will assist you with training and forming the entity. The statute also said there will be funding but he was recently informed that there is no funding at this time. He said the group that could help is the Colorado Division of Fire Protection and Control.

Peggy Johnson, West Dolores Resident asked if there is a benefit of being incorporated into the Dolores Fire District over having a volunteer department.

Janie said she talked to the state and there is no regulation, it's up to the insurance companies. She said there are some owners that have coverage but she isn't sure if when she sells her house if the new owner will be able to get coverage.

Dewayne said the fire rating is based on an ISO. Your insurance rating is based on the evaluation that the fire department receives. The ISO drives insurance rates. The Dolores Fire Protection District Board can incorporate them within the district, they will just need to come to a meeting so the board can discuss this. He thinks they may be able to come up with some options with a substation. He said that they might want to check with the Rico Volunteer Fire Department also.

Janie asked how long it takes to get certified and if there is an age limit to be a fire fighter.

Dewayne said you are just trying to have someone on site. First you have to get the site, then the equipment, then comes the training.

There was discussion on pulling water from the river.

Commissioner Williams said we are looking for a group to get together. The volunteers will be taking off from their jobs and we are looking for a group that can help themselves. We are willing as a county to help with the legal stuff but it will take you guys as a group to move ahead.

Bob Durant, Dolores County Resident asked about Ground Hog's fire situation.

Jerry Martin, Dolores County Sheriff said Ground Hog doesn't have a fire district. You will never get an ideal situation but you need to look at the basics that you can get by with. He said you need to get a building and equipment. He feels that if you can partner with the neighboring departments they might be able to help with training. The community will have to be responsible to manage this. He feels that there will be help to acquire the equipment.

Norbert Mede, Dunton Hot Springs said they have a lot to lose in a fire. He said they might have some land that they could use to store the equipment. He said they have a younger workforce that they can

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maybe use.

Johnny asked what liability group would have to assume.

Dewayne said the Good Samaritan law goes a long way.

Johnny asked about communication.

Norbert said he has a repeater that can go from Fish Creek to high meadow.

Dennis said they would want a Fire Warden at the Division of Fire Protection Meeting, which at this time would be Jerry Martin, Dolores County Sheriff.

Dewayne said they could use the Dolores Fire Protection Office for the meeting.

Kenin Lovit, West Dolores Resident asked about Dolores County staying involved in the grant process.

Commissioner Williams said if you become a Special District you are your own entity and if you become a volunteer fire department you are still your own group.

Kenin asked if they would apply for their own DOLA grants and the commissioners confirmed.

Commissioner Kibel said yes you are a part of Dolores County but your best bet would be to get the volunteer department set up. She discussed donated vehicles and said it might be good to start thinking about a Special District which would be a ballot issue.

Dennis said Dunton Hot Springs might be the way to go.

There was discussion on this.

Craig Cox, discussed communication. He said he has a vision that they let Dolores County take a mill levy for everyone on the West Dolores. If they could get that done with an amount that would satisfy the Dolores Fire District, it would be a start. He would rather that happen vs them doing something on their own.

There was discussion on the Dolores Fire Protection District responding to a fire.

Dennis suggested scheduling the meeting with the State.

There was discussion on training.

Mark Rogers asked about help from the U.S. Forest Service.

Jerry said they usually have trucks looking for lightning fires but they would only be a backup.

A meeting with the Colorado Division of Fire Protection and Control and the West Dolores Residents will be scheduled.

**Social Services**

Josiah Forkner, Social Services Director was here to present the Social Services Minutes from July.

Commissioner Stowe made a motion to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted yes.

Commissioner Stowe made a motion to accept the Social Services Financials from July.

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted yes.

Josiah said the Core Program looks like it has been over spent but it will re adjust.

He presented the C Stat Award for Dolores County. He said we are in the top three counties in the state.

He said he met with the Pinion Project and STUD. We asked that they submit a budget which we are still waiting on. He discussed our current budget and said we have only spent 33% of our regular admin funds and he would like to pay for Jenny's salary through the administration account.

Dennis asked why our cash account is growing every year and Josiah said it's because the remainder of the administration account goes back into the Social Services General Fund each year if it's not spent.

Josiah said in the last five years the Social Services fund has been under spent. Since we have decided to help STUD, can we pay Jenny out of this line item. This money would replace the AmeriCorps funds.

Commissioner Kibel asked if this would be for one year only.

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Josiah said he feels like it should be a multiyear salary.

Dennis said from 2014 to 2015 we jumped \$200,000. He asked what we pay for out of the cash fund.

Josiah said we spend out of our general but 80% gets reimbursed back to us every year. He said that he feels we would be ahead by \$70,000 this year.

There was discussion on the budget.

Dennis asked why a county would have \$1 million in reserves.

Josiah said incase the state doesn't fund the programs.

There was discussion on reserves.

Dennis asked if the commissioners wanted to pull that money for a project.

Josiah said it's in the general fund and he feels that the commissioners can pull the funds.

Dennis confirmed that that Josiah would be ok to put some of those funds into the RBSC Project and

Josiah said that would be ok with him.

There was discussion on this.

Josiah will bring LuAnn and Kelly out to the next meeting to talk further about the budget.

Josiah said that Health Care Policy and Financing recently approved a grant to the county for \$5,800.

Commissioner Williams said if we can put any funds toward the RBSC would be great.

Dennis asked if he could bring Chris Veech out also to the next meeting. He said there were some transition issues when Dennis Story switched with Josiah. They decided to utilize Josiah as an administrator and there is now a child protection agent (Kris Veech) for the case worker here in Dove Creek. He said this frees up Josiah to do administrative tasks for the county.

Josiah said this new plan makes perfect sense.

Dennis asked for Josiah to keep an eye out for Senior Services grants or funding.

There was discussion on next year's budget.

Dennis said that he has worked with Kris Veech in the past and she is very good at her job.

There was discussion on doing the whole RBSC project at the same time.

Margret said that we should think of hiring a grant writer and there was discussion on this.

**Dolores River Restoration Partnership MOU**

Commissioner Williams said that we were asked to sign an MOU for the Dolores River Restoration Project which is the organization working to reduce tamaracks along the river banks.

Dennis looked over the MOU and asked to see the entire plan so this will be tabled until the next meeting.

**CCI Legislative Committee Appointment**

Commissioner Stowe made a motion to appoint Commissioner Williams as the CCI Legislative member.

Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted yes.

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**BLM/Forest Service**

***BLM Fire Management Plan***

Connie Clementson, BLM was here for an update.

There was discussion on the cancelled RAC meeting.

Connie asked for an update on the Dolores River NCA and the Sattley Gravel Pit.

Commissioner Kibel said we haven't heard anything more since the last meeting about the gravel pit.

She said Mr. Sattley doesn't want a contract longer than 5 years and that will not work for the county.

Connie said there are some changes on the Tri State Project. They have delayed the Tri State EA release as well as the public meeting here in Dove Creek.

There was discussion on the Tri State Project.

Commissioner Kibel said one benefit will be that all of the counties have done conservation efforts with the sage grouse and this might be a good effort for San Miguel County to move the transmission lines.

Commissioner Kibel asked about the impact from the Silverton Mine release into the Animas River.

Connie said downstream from the mine is BLM land and it didn't go out of the river bank. They will walk the river corridor to check the impact. She said historically that land and the water ways have always had heavy metal content. She said because of the amount of iron the color was startling. She said these types of flushes have happened a few times over the years and it didn't really startle Silverton until the downstream communities saw the change.

There was discussion on this.

Commissioner Williams said he went camping at Bradfield's and they were refinishing the pick nick tables. He asked if he could donate boards since they are doing this during the busiest time of the year.

Connie will look into costs for the new boards on the pick nick tables.

Dennis said the Box Elder pick nick tables are very nice as well as the fire pits.

Connie said they did deposit more funds for the weed crews in the coming years. She said the cooperating agencies should get the draft Sage Grouse EIS today and we will have 30 days to look at that. She said they are out for comment on the Lease Sale Determination of NEPA Adequacy with properties in Dolores County. They did defer the parcels that are associated with Lone Cone State Park.

There was discussion on FS Road 534.

The commissioners thanked Connie for coming in.

**Health Nurse Emergency Funding**

Mary Randolph, Health Nurse asked how she would request funding in the event of a PH emergency.

She said if we have an emergency and we had no more funding what is the protocol that we would use to obtain the funding.

Commissioner Kibel said that is what we have our contingency fund for and any other resources that we could find.

Commissioner Williams said we would also go through the state for funding.

**Public Health and Environment Contract**

The Commissioners had a contract from Public Health to sign.

Commissioner Stowe made a motion to sign the contract.

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted yes.

**Forest Road 535**

Commissioner Kibel said Forest Road 535 has sloughed off and will take about a month's worth of time to fix. The county is waiting for the Forest Service to decide if the county can work on this road.

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**FS Road 534**

No new updates.

**Procurement Policy**

No new updates.

**SB15-288**

Tabled until the next meeting in September 2015.

**Adjourned**

Commissioner Williams made the motion to Adjourn.

Commissioner Stowe seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted in favor.

The meeting ended at 2:57pm.

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Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

Attest:

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Deputy Clerk to the  
Board of County Commissioners