

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2007**

The August 14, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting was held in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Courthouse. Present were:

Hap Channell, Chairperson
Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson (arrived at 2:16 pm)
Jim Starr, Commissioner
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Others Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Channell called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

APPROVE ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF PERSONS QUALIFIED TO ACT AS ARBITRATORS OF PROPERTY VALUATION DISPUTES: Assistant County Attorney Tom Dill was present for discussion.

Assistant County Attorney Dill explained that Charles Peterson is the only arbitrator currently listed to act as an arbitrator of property valuation disputes for Gunnison County. He then presented the following information related to two additional arbitrators for board consideration:

1. Maggie Lloyd; Lloyd Appraisal Services; Gunnison, CO; (970) 641-2025; and
2. Michael Johnson; Appraisal Associates of the San Juans, LLC; Montrose, CO; (970) 249-1420

Assistant County Attorney Dill stated that he has contacted both arbitrators and that they are agreeable to inclusion on the list of arbitrators. He also explained that more than one arbitrator is necessary because of the potential for conflicts of interest. He also confirmed that Charles Peterson will remain on this list. **Moved** by Commissioner Starr, seconded by Chairperson Channell to approve additional arbitrators to the list of persons qualified to act as arbitrators of property valuations disputes by including the names of Maggie Lloyd of Lloyd Appraisal Services and Michael Johnson of Appraisal Associates of the San Juans, LLC. Motion carried.

Assistant County Attorney Dill stated that he will forward this completed list of three arbitrators to the individuals that have requested arbitration. He also stated that he currently had two such requests.

SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SMA) AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION REQUEST: Private citizen Loree Weisman and Physical Therapist Linda Rees were present for discussion. Commissioner Swenson arrived at the start of this agenda item.

Ms. Weisman explained that SMA is a genetic disease affecting 1 in 6,000 births worldwide and, of those 6,000 births, 50% will display signs of SMA and die before reaching their second birthday. Ms. Weisman stated that one in four people carry the gene for SMA and that there is a 50% chance that a child will be born with SMA if both biological parents are gene carriers. She also stated that 7.5 million people in the United States are carriers of this gene.

Per Ms. Weisman, the National Institute of Health has declared SMA as the #1 curable genetic disease. She also reported that families affected by SMA have declared August as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month to raise awareness about this disease. Ms. Weisman explained that her 5-year old daughter, Lyza, is living with the effects of SMA and is taking part in the current drug trials. She stated her optimism that a cure will be found soon. Additionally, she reported that, because of available research and treatments, children are now living into adulthood.

Chairperson Channell asked if the treatment was given only after identifying the disease and Ms. Weisman explained that it is. However, she added that, since the gene has been identified, physicians are now capable of pre-diagnosis in fetuses and that treatments can begin immediately after birth. She also stated that there is a very rare incidence of adult-onset SMA.

Ms. Rees stated that awareness is vital to maintain the high-level of hope in the SMA community. She also stated that the drug trials are expensive and that insurance companies generally don't cover the associated costs.

Commissioner Starr asked if children with SMA may someday walk since treatments have advanced and a cure may be found soon. Ms. Weisman stated that Lyza is now capable of walking with the assistance of a walker, which she was not previously capable of doing, and dreams of someday walking without any assistance, which is probable considering the advancement of the drug trials.

Moved by Commissioner Starr, seconded by Commissioner Swenson to adopt the proclamation declaring August 2007 as Gunnison County Spinal Muscular Atrophy Month. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Channell informed Ms. Weisman that the board was proud of this proclamation. Ms. Weisman thanked the board for their time and stated her hope that Gunnison County's action will lead other Colorado counties to do the same. A photo was taken for Ms. Weisman to include in her press release.

ADJOURN: Moved by Commissioner Starr, seconded by Commissioner Swenson to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Hap Channell, Chairperson

Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson

Jim Starr, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Stella Dominguez, County Clerk

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TEXT INCLUSION INTO MINUTES

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GUNNISON COUNTY
PROCLAMATION

Gunnison County Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Month - August, 2007

WHEREAS Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two and one in 40 Americans carry the gene that causes SMA and SMA is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those that survive with the disease; and

WHEREAS Spinal Muscular Atrophy crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, and can strike anyone of any age, race or gender; and

WHEREAS increased awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy will lead to increased knowledge and increased support for both disease research and the families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

WHEREAS Patient Groups have named August as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness and help promote research into this devastating disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that support should be given to all organizations that are working hard to find a treatment and/or a cure for SMA, including Families of SMA.

NOW THEREFORE, WE the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado by virtue of the authority vested in us by the State of Colorado do hereby proclaim.

August as
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Awareness Month

All citizens are urged to take interest in and give full support to the effort to raise awareness and find a cure for SMA.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Starr, seconded by Commissioner Swenson, and approved this 14th day of August, 2007 by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

Channell – yes; Swenson – yes; Starr – yes