

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
December 11, 2007**

The December 11, 2007 Board of Commissioners Public Hearing was held in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Courthouse. Present were:

Hap Channell, Chairperson
Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson
Jim Starr, Commissioner
Matthew Birnie, County Manager

Linda Nienhueser, Finance Director
Ben Cowan, Assistant Finance Director
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Others Present as Listed in Text

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED 2008 COUNTY BUDGET**

Chairperson Channell opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 pm. Finance Director Nienhueser confirmed proper public notice.

Finance Director Nienhueser thanked Assistant Finance Director Cowan for his work in preparing all related financial documents. She also provided the 2008 Proposed Budget Summary for discussion.

Finance Director Nienhueser stated that the appropriations column reflected a total of approximately \$4,000,000 higher than originally shown due to a difference in projections within the 2008 Gunnison Valley Hospital Summary Budget, as received earlier that day. She also indicated that the detailed 2008 GVH budget would be provided after the county budget is adopted on December 14, 2007.

The board expressed concern related to adopting the county budget on December 14, 2007 prior to being presented with the hospital budget for 2008. County Manager Birnie confirmed that the board has the operational authority to dictate annual budget submission deadlines for the hospital and, while the board adopts the hospital's budget, it cannot be dictated by the county. Finance Director Nienhueser stated that the county must statutorily adopt the annual budget no later than December 15, 2007 and agreed to request that the hospital submit detailed budgetary information prior to the adoption of the county budget. Additionally, the board recognized a fiduciary responsibility to ensure comprehension of the GVH annual budget prior to adoption of the annual county budget; thus they discussed the possibility of inviting the GVH board to present future budgetary information no later than the beginning of December for each calendar year once the new fiscal year has begun.

Finance Director Nienhueser also confirmed that the final assessed property values, as received from the Gunnison County Assessor's Office, were slightly lower than projected in October, but that the amount was insignificant.

The board requested that Finance Director Nienhueser verify at least \$15,000 is dedicated to the impact study for county roads and is separate from the funds allocated for consultant fees relative to the transportation study on Hwy 135 that is being funded by all local jurisdictions. County Manager Birnie stated that this need may be funded by the Professional Services line item. Assistant Finance Director Cowan felt confident that this need was addressed and agreed to later verify where the allocation was placed within the budget.

Chairperson Channell opened discussion to public comment. Mr. Patrick Erley expressed his appreciation for the ski-bus system operating between Gunnison and Crested Butte.

Chairperson Channell closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 pm.

Finance Director Nienhueser will prepare all appropriate resolutions for adoption on December 14, 2007.

Hap Channell, Chairperson

Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson

Jim Starr, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Stella Dominguez, County Clerk