

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2008**

The October 15, 2008 Board of Commissioners meeting was held in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Courthouse. Present were:

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

Ruth Dukeman, Clerk to the Board
Others Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Channell called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Commissioner Jim Starr was not present for this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

RESOLUTION; SUPPORTING BALLOT MEASURE 5A REAUTHORIZING THE GUNNISON VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY: After review and introduction of the resolution it was Moved by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Channell to accept Resolution Number 43; Supporting Ballot Measure 5A Reauthorizing the Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

2009 GUNNISON COUNTY BUDGET; STAFF PROPOSED PRESENTATION: Finance Director Linda Nienhueser and Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan were present for discussion.

Finance Director Nienhueser's presentation encompassed the following:

1. General fund. Review of the consolidated staff proposed budget summary commenced. Acknowledging the current global economic climate Finance Director Nienhueser advised that the sales tax revenue reflects a projected 2% decline for the remainder of 2008. A projected 5% decrease was estimated for the 2009 tax revenue. She further commented that there are indicators for a potential increase for development in new oil and gas production that may allow for a slight boost in property tax figures.

Mountain States Employment Council reported results from a recent survey showing that salaries across the state of Colorado demonstrate a 3.6% market increase adjustment, with 4.2% reported for resort areas and a 4.1% increase adjustment for the western slope. A 2.5% increase was proposed for the County budget. A 5% increase was included in the 2008 budget. County Manager Birnie reminded the Board that merit increases are also available for applicable situations.

Health insurance may incur a 6.8% premium increase from the 2008 budget. Finance Director Nienhueser advised that there have been no rate increases in insurance premiums for five years. Discussion about how the current deductible is lower than the area average, and how this may be an area that could be adjusted resulted. Chairperson Channell inquired about the indication for property tax collection issues. County offices have reported more properties going to tax sale than previous years.

County Manager Birnie explained how the Detention Center fund allocation was increased as a result of increased payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILT) funding. Public Works will also have a net benefit. Chairperson Channell requested further explanation of the PILT funding, County Manager Birnie mentioned recent correspondence that may provide additional explanation as to the formula for calculation.

2. Public Works. It was noted that the Public Works department submitted an inclusive list of potential projects ideal for completion in 2009. It was noted that all projects may not be included in the existing plan, and how adjustments could be made. The Road and Bridge Fund showed improvement later in the 2008 budget year recovering from the unanticipated challenges faced during the 2007 -2008 winter season. It was further noted that the entire Kebler Pass project was budgeted for the 2009 fiscal year, even though it may take several years to complete.
3. Human Services Fund. This fund was lower than normal. It was anticipated that the purchase of a new van would be eligible for grant funding and was not.
4. Conservation Trust. Portions of these funds were allocated to future projects for the fairgrounds and trails. The requested temporary/mobile dance floor for Fred R. Field Western Heritage Center Multi-Purpose Building was included in hopes of enhancing the rental appeal for community events. The proposed restroom facility for the fairgrounds was included, but noted that staff is working toward grant funding assistance to complete the project and it may not be ready for the 2009 budget cycle. Cattlemans Days liquor sales and increased security may be

proposed for future events. Contractual vendors may be considered, and the revenue collected may be considerable. Commissioner Channell requests actions to be taken by staff to move forward on the needed improvements for the fairgrounds and the sales of concessions.

5. Sales Tax Fund. The Purchase of Assessor's office software upgrade has been budgeted for 2009. DOLA grant funds are currently requested. A Planning department upgrade will be determined pending the results of the Assessor's software project funding.
6. Land Preservation Fund. Project funding was anticipated. Discussion of the cost of an existing obligation commenced. Commissioner Swenson asked if there would be a sunset on the availability of funds, additional research will need to be performed to answer the question.
7. Library Fund. County Manager Birnie provided details about the request to provide administrative services to include access to consultation from finance personnel, the personnel department and benefits for library employees through the transition period. Future contracts will reflect that library employees are independent from County policies. There may be a potential for a recommendation to consider outsourcing administrative services to a library management service company to provide for those needs in the future. The current proposed budget reflects county facilities maintenance crew performing needed services through the transition period. Attorney services were not included.
8. Mosquito Control District. An increase in the size of the district and users of the service was noted. With no increase for cost there is a 10% reduction to fees assessed to users.
9. Sage-grouse Trust Fund. Finance Director Nienhueser explained a lack of conservation project completion in 2008 allowed for funds to roll forward to the 2009 budget.
10. Risk Management Fund. Assistant Finance Director Cowan identified a recent increase in the number of claims. An increase in this fund was recommended to allow the fund to be adequate.
11. Gunnison County Housing Authority. The proposed budget addresses the anticipated needs of the department. Additional discussion may be needed when a Housing Executive Director is hired.
12. Gunnison River Valley Local Marketing District. This organization has returned all the start up funds borrowed from the general fund. Current projections anticipate a 10% decrease for revenue. Contractual obligations with this entity were briefly discussed to include the services the County was able to provide.
13. Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority. The proposal reflected a 20% decrease forecasted for revenue. Local fuel agreements are in place in hopes of stabilizing the budget. Heated storage of the busses is proposed in hopes of reducing wear on the vehicles and allowing the busses to have a warmer cabin temperature for passengers in the winter months.
14. Airport Construction Fund. Site preparation and design development for proposed airport improvements were highlighted to include improved roofing and lighting.
15. Capital Expenditures Funds. Completion of the UMTRA water line project is anticipated for 2009. Several line items may be pushed forward to future years. Homeland security funds showed a reduction. Road and bridge shop infrastructure was included for the proposed Industrial Park. The complexity of the three part water project was highlighted: A water extension to the Dos Rios area residents, a water extension to the planned public works site, and an additional water extension to the proposed industrial park facility.
16. Airport Operations. Declining balances may be an area of concern. Discussion about revenue from High Altitude testing concluded that there may be a potential for an increase to future balances.
17. Sewer District fund. The proposal demonstrated a potential to hold rates steady in the sewer districts and for water services. Public Works budgeted for the North Valley project. Assistant Finance Director Cowan explained how the proposed cost may be significantly higher than a current project. Discussion then lead to the topic of additional grant funding requests to help cover the increased cost. The Board expressed concern with the potential cost increase to those residences served; staff will evaluate all potential solutions.
18. Water district. There was no rate increase proposed. Available fund balances were used to purchase meters versus increasing current rates. An Antelope Hills water supply situation was introduced by Chairperson Channell. He explained that this topic has complex issues. Commissioner Swenson noted that the preliminary engineering may already be complete for the project and that health and safety concerns exist. Finance Director Nienhueser mentioned that

she believes there would be capacity available at the current County water plant to accommodate the additional users in the future.

- 19. Solid Waste Fund. There was no proposed rate increase required for the landfill this year. Versus moving forward on previously proposed rate structure based on the weight of solid waste and the purchase scales to weigh matter, volume may be a better measurement. An onsite baler may be considered to help increase capacity and maintain cost.
- 20. Public Hospital Fund. The current proposal shows this fund working with a negative projected cash flow. Discussion as to the level of detail reported from this area and the timeframe for submission needs to allow for adequate review before adoption by the Board.
- 21. Gunnison Senior Housing. The Mountain View budget summary includes a 10% contribution to the Housing Authority Executive Director Salary. It was noted that this specific line item may need to be further evaluated when the position is filled.
- 22. Internal Service Funds I – County Shop. Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan was able to provide insight into the benefits of modernizing the county fleet. He further explained an example of a 1985 vehicle compared to a 2007 with the data showing the newer vehicle being 98% more efficient. Discussion as to the potential fleet improvements commenced.
- 23. Internal Service Fund II – Technology Fund. A new document management system was considered. Compliments were passed along to the department head for adequate management of funds.
- 24. Internal Service Fund III – Insurance/Unemployment. Detailed discussion earlier in the meeting referencing insurance allowed this fund to be summarized as stated.

Appreciation was expressed by the Board to Finance Director Linda Nienhueser and Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan for all their efforts.

ADJOURN: Moved by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Channell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.

Hap Channell, Chairperson

Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson

Absent

Jim Starr, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Ruth Dukeman, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Stella Dominguez, County Clerk

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TEXT INCLUSION INTO MINUTES

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 08-43

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BALLOT MEASURE 5A REAUTHORIZING THE GUNNISON VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is a joint enterprise between the Town of Crested Butte, The Town of Mt. Crested Butte, The City of Gunnison, and Gunnison County; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in January 2003, the RTA has effectively assured air travel to the Gunnison Valley; and

WHEREAS, the RTA has greatly enhanced free bus service between Gunnison and Mt. Crested Butte; and

WHEREAS, since November of 2007, the RTA busses have carried over 70,000 passengers, thus significantly reducing carbon emissions and private vehicle use; and

WHEREAS, 2008 ballot measure 5A will reauthorize RTA funding at current levels with no new tax increase;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado shall and hereby does acknowledge and support the value and effectiveness of the RTA and encourages all registered voters in the Gunnison Valley to support the RTA by voting YES on ballot measure 5A in the November 2008 election.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Channell, and adopted this 15TH day of October, 2008.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO**

**By: _____
Hap Channell, Chairperson**

**By: Absent - no vote
Jim Starr, Commissioner**

**By: _____
Paula Swenson, Commissioner**

Attest:

Deputy County Clerk