

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2011**

The October 14, 2011 meeting was held in the Commissioners’ boardroom in the Courthouse located at 200 E. Virginia, Gunnison, Colorado. Present were:

Hap Channell, Chairperson - ABSENT
Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson
Phil Chamberland, Commissioner

Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Others Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Swenson called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

2012 GUNNISON COUNTY STAFF-PROPOSED BUDGET: Finance Director Linda Nienhueser and Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan were present for discussion.

County Manager Birnie explained that the County took a fresh look at the budget for 2012 to focus on fiscal sustainability, which did not necessarily follow the historical patterns. Property values are projected to decline through 2015, and the proposed budget is based on a small property tax decrease of approximately \$800,000.

Within the proposed budget, personnel costs will be down approximately \$11,000, even with a 2% Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) for employees. He noted that approximately 30% of County employees aren’t eligible for merit increases, so the 2% COLA will help make up for the approximate 7% in inflation since the County last approved a COLA for employees.

Many departments provided reduced budgets and most departments were not approved for baseline increases. County Manager Birnie stated his belief that the proposed budget is responsible while maintaining current service and staff levels.

Finance Director Nienhueser explained that, if the proposed budget is approved, the County will be appropriating less than its legal authority by taking 5.5% plus the new construction.

Commissioner Chamberland thanked the Finance staff considering a decrease in property tax revenues as he believes that this sends a message to the citizens that the County is carefully watching the citizens’ money. He believes that this also demonstrates the high quality of the people working for the organization.

SET ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING DATE; 2012 GUNNISON COUNTY BUDGET: The Board agreed to set the public hearing for 7:30 pm on 12/6/2011. **Moved** by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Chamberland to set the public hearing date and time. Motion carried. Adoption of the budget is scheduled to occur at 1:00 pm on 12/15/2011.

ADJOURN: **Moved** by Commissioner Chamberland, seconded by Commissioner Swenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

(Absent from meeting – no signature)
Hap Channell, Chairperson

Paula Swenson, Vice-Chairperson

Phil Chamberland, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

Stella Dominguez, County Clerk