

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 6, 2026**

The January 6, 2026 meeting was held in the Board of County Commissioners’ meeting room located at 200 E. Virginia Avenue, Gunnison, Colorado. Present, either in person or via Zoom, were:

Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson  
Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson  
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner  
Matthew Hoyt, County Attorney  
Matthew Birnie, County Manager  
Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk  
Others Present as Listed in Text

**GUNNISON COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY MEETING:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**PUBLIC HEARING; COLORADO LIQUOR RETAIL APPLICATION; BURTS LLC DBA THE CABIN; 207 ELCHO AVE, CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224:** Clerk and Recorder Kathy Simillion was present for discussion.

1. Open Public Hearing. Commissioner Puckett Daniels opened the Public Hearing at 9:00 am.
2. Public Notice Confirmation. Clerk Simillion confirmed that the Public Hearing had been properly public noticed.
3. Identify Ex Parte Communications. There were no ex parte communications identified.
4. Staff Presentation. Clerk Simillion stated that all legal requirements have been met and she has not received any correspondence regarding this application.
5. Applicant Presentation. The applicant had nothing additional to share.
6. Board Questions. There were no questions from the Board.
7. Public Comments. Commissioner Puckett Daniels opened the Public Hearing to comments at 9:03 am. There were no public comments.
8. Acknowledge Correspondence Received. No additional correspondence was identified.
9. Applicant Response. N/A
10. Close Public Hearing. Commissioner Puckett Daniels closed the Public Hearing at 9:04 am.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels adjourned the meeting of the Gunnison County Local Liquor Licensing Authority at 9:04 am.

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** There were no changes made to the agenda.

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) BOARD REORGANIZATION AND COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Designate BOCC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2026 – Commissioner Smith is happy to support Commissioner Puckett Daniels continuing the Chair position or stepping in herself. Commissioner Houck would like to not be in either position due to the importance of rotating members and his previous service as Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Puckett Daniels is happy to continue being the Chair. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to have Commissioner Laura Puckett Daniels continue for the next year as the Chairperson of the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, and Commissioner Liz Smith serve for the next year as Vice Chairperson for the Board of County Commissioners for Gunnison County. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Gunnison Valley Rural Transportation Authority Board (two voting members, one-year terms) – Commissioner Puckett Daniels and Commissioner Smith would like to continue serving on this board.
3. Region 10 Board (one voting member, one-year term) – Commissioner Houck would like to continue his term on Region 10.
4. Early Childhood Council (one voting member, one-year term) – Commissioner Smith would like to continue her role but is open to transition to Commissioner Puckett Daniels in the future due to her increasing interest.

5. Rural Welcoming Initiative Committee (one non-voting advisory member, one-year term) – Commissioner Smith would like to continue her role on this committee.
6. Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council (one voting member, two-year term) – Commissioner Smith would like to see staff be appointed in the council in the future, as a Commissioner is not required, but she is happy to continue for this year.
7. Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR) (one voting member, three-year term) – Commissioner Puckett Daniels would like to continue her role with STOR.
8. Club 20 (one voting member, one-year term) – Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Houck about the value of continuing participation from the County. Commissioner Houck replied that he thinks the County could go either way, but Gunnison County balances out conversations and brings a different perspective to the table. After some discussion, it was decided that the County will continue to participate this year.

Discussion ensued about other designations such as Colorado Counties, Inc. Steering Committees (CCI), Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT), and Water Quality & Quantity (QQ) and it was noted to decide on those at the next Regular meeting. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith that for the calendar year of 2026, the following appointments are made as representatives and in some of these voting capacity of the Board of County Commissioners: for the Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority Board, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Puckett Daniels; for the Region 10 Board, Commissioner Houck; for the Early Childhood Council, Commissioner Smith; for the Rural Welcoming Initiative Committee, Commissioner Smith; for the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council, Commissioner Smith; for the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee, Commissioner Puckett Daniels; and for Club 20, though not in a physical designation, we are authorizing Commissioner Houck to reapply to the board through their caucus process and be a voice for Gunnison County in its capacity as a commissioner. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as presented, the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as presented, and the December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as amended in the record. Motion carried unanimously.

1. December 15, 2025 Special Meeting
2. December 19, 2025 Special Meeting
3. December 30, 2025 Special Meeting

**SCHEDULING:** The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

1. 2026 Board of County Commissioners Meeting Agenda Posting Locations – **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith that for the calendar year 2026, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners meeting agenda posting locations will be online at the [gunnisoncounty.org](http://gunnisoncounty.org) website, and the physical location will be the bulletin board immediately outside the entrance to the Board of County Commissioners meeting room. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Airline Operating Agreement and Lease of Airport Facilities; American Airlines; Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport; 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2030
2. Acknowledgment of Appointment; Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Regular Kathy Griffin; Alternate Miranda Middleton
3. Acknowledgment of Appointment; Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee; High Country Citizens' Alliance; Regular Sue Navy; Alternate Jon Hare
4. Acknowledgment of Appointment; Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee; National Park Service; Regular Brinnen Carter; Alternate Jessica Frey
5. Grant Application; 2026 Human Milk Feeding Supportive Funding Program; Health and Human Services; \$1,738
6. Airport Services Agreement; Jackalope Services LLC dba Bethany J Montlary; Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport; 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026; \$80,000
7. State of Colorado Contract Modification; 2026\*2711; Health and Human Services; 1/1/2025 to 6/30/2026; \$210,000
8. Grant Application; Colorado Opioid Abatement Council; Health and Human Services; \$748,993.33
9. Statement of Work; Colorado Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program; Health and Human Services; \$11,794.50
10. Trade Contractor Agreement; GeoStabilization International, LLC; Public Works; 12/16/2025 to 6/15/2026; \$267,000
11. Intergovernmental Agreement for Use of Gunnison County Fairgrounds and Multi-purpose Building for Emergencies; Gunnison Valley Health
12. Emergency Transportation Services Intergovernmental Agreement; Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority
13. Amendment #1; Professional Services Agreement; JEO Consulting Group, Inc.; \$6,100
14. Professional Services Agreement; Mother Sage, LLC; Health and Human Services; 1/6/2026 to 6/30/2026; \$5,000

15. Statement of Work; FAAA 202600006273; Health and Human Services; 12/11/2025 to 9/30/2026; \$40,000
16. Acknowledgment of County Manager’s Signature; Indemnification Agreement; Pitchfork Association; Facilities; 1/1/2025 to 6/1/2026
17. Letter of Support; Representative Jeff Hurd; Wildlife Road Crossings Program Reauthorization Act

**COLORADO COUNTIES, INC. (CCI) 2026 STEERING COMMITTEE DESIGNATION OF PROXY:**

Commissioner Puckett Daniels noted they have historically designated Assistant County Manager for Health, Human and Safety Services Joni Reynolds for the proxy and confirmed she is willing to continue the designation. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to appoint Assistant County Manager for Health, Human (and Safety) Services Joni Reynolds, as our proxy vote for Health and Human Services-related issues at CCI, and authorize the Chair’s signature on the form. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPLAT; LUC-25-00010; SUNHOUSE TOWNHOMES:** Planner I Caroline Danielson and Attorney Kendall Burgemeister were present for discussion.

Planner Danielson and Attorney Burgemeister did not have anything additional from the memo to note for the conversation. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve LUC-25-00010 for Sunhouse Townhomes replat and authorize the Chair’s signature on the plat. Motion carried unanimously.

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS:**

1. 7th Judicial Community Corrections Board (Fill one Regular vacancy for a two-year term)
  - Applicant:
    1. Susan Coykendall
2. Board of Adjustment (Fill two Regular vacancies and two Alternate vacancies for one-year terms)
  - Applicants:
    1. Andrew Brookhart
    2. John O’Neal
    3. Andy Tocke
3. Gunnison Cemetery District Board (Fill one Regular vacancy for a six-year term)
  - Applicant:
    1. Marlene Crosby
4. Environmental Health Board (Fill one Regular vacancy for a three-year term, and fill two Alternate vacancies for one-year terms)
  - Applicants:
    1. Shea Earley
    2. Kari Roberts
5. Extension Advisory Committee (Fill two Regular vacancies for three-year terms)
  - Applicants:
    1. Shelly Sabrowski
    2. Rhonda Wenum
6. Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee
  - Public At-Large (Fill one Regular vacancy and one Alternate vacancy for two-year terms)
    - Applicant:
      1. Peter Caloger
  - Recreation At-Large (Fill one Regular vacancy and one Alternate vacancy for two-year terms)
    - Applicant:
      1. Tim Kugler
  - Research & Education At-Large (Fill one Regular vacancy and one Alternate vacancy for two-year terms)
    - Applicants:
      1. Sarah Elzay
      2. Pat Magee
7. Gunnison Watershed Weed Commission (Fill three Regular vacancies for three-year terms)
  - Applicants:
    1. Tom Eager
    2. James Johnson
    3. Lorraine Rup
8. Library Board of Trustees (Fill two Regular vacancies for five-year terms)
  - Applicants:
    1. David Baumgarten
    2. Pamela Montgomery
9. Region 10 Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Committee (Fill one Regular vacancy and one Alternate vacancy for one-year terms)

- Applicants:
  1. Colleen Hannon
  2. Martin Schmidt
- 10. Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council (Fill one Health Care Representative vacancies for a two-year term)
  - Applicant:
    1. Kyle Tibbett
- 11. Tenderfoot Child & Family Development Center Board of Directors (Fill one County Employee Representative vacancy for a three-year term)
  - Applicant:
    1. Emily Mirza
- 12. Western Regional EMS Council (Fill one Regular vacancy for a four-year term)
  - Applicants:
    1. Robert Weisbaum

**Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to appoint Susan Coykendall to the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Community Corrections Board for a full Regular vacancy to your term, to the Board of Adjustment Andrew Brookhart and Andy Tocke to Regular vacancies and John O’Neal to the Alternate vacancy, for Gunnison Cemetery District Board, Marlene Crosby for a Regular vacancy, for Environmental Health Board Kari Roberts as an Alternate and Shea Earley as a Regular vacancy, for Extension Advisory Committee Shelly Sabrowski and Rhonda Wenum, two regular vacancies, for Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee Peter Caloger for the Regular vacancy for Public At-Large, Tim Kugler for the Regular vacancy for Recreation At-Large, Sarah Elzay as the Regular Vacancy and Pat Magee as the Alternate for Research and Education At-Large, for Gunnison Watershed Weed Commission, three Regular vacancies filled by Tom Eager, James Johnson, and Lorraine Rup, for Library Board of Trustees David Baumgarten to a Regular vacancy and Pamela Montgomery to a Regular vacancy, for Region 10 Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Committee Martin Schmidt as the Regular vacancy and Colleen Hannon as the Alternate vacancy, for Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council Kyle Tibbett as a two-year term voting member, for Tenderfoot Child and Family Development Center Board of Directors Emily Mirza for the County Employee Representative vacancy, for Western Regional EMS Council Robert Weisbaum for a Regular vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

**BREAK:** The Board elected to not have a break to stay on time with the meeting.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO KEBLER SNOWMOBILE PARKING POLICY REQUEST:** Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt was present for discussion.

Commissioner Puckett Daniels relayed the background information regarding the Kebler parking pass. She then explained there was a request for snowmobile parking privileges from a resident who lives on the Paonia side of Kebler Pass and is outside the eligibility region designated. ACM Schmidt also commented that Crested Butte Avalanche Center has also requested a snowmobile pass. CA Hoyt asked about the effect on potential forest permits, and ACM Schmidt confirmed it has no effect. The Board is comfortable offering this to the Crested Butte Avalanche Center for public health and safety but is concerned about the precedent that is set if other residents are permitted parking. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to provide an amendment to the Kebler Snowmobile Parking Policy to allow the issuance of a single permit to the Crested Butte Avalanche Center for their official duties in avalanche forecasting and going out and doing conditions on the ground. Commissioner Puckett Daniels amended to include one snowmobile permit. Motion carried unanimously.

**REQUESTS FOR WAIVER OF GUNNISON COUNTY STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION; ACCESS PERMIT APPLICATION AND LUC-25-00011; PARCEL #3257-273-00-027 (CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 16, 2025):** Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt and Planning Director Hillary Seminick were present for discussion.

ACM Schmidt confirmed that all public comment received are included in the packet. CA Hoyt reiterated the Road and Bridge Standards’ six factors that the applicant must establish on clear and convincing evidence and then gave the definition of clear and convincing evidence.

Commissioner Puckett Daniels appreciated the extra time to think about this request and noted she is conflicted on this waiver as she wonders about the adverse effects on health and safety. Commissioner Smith noted that her interpretation of the conversation, public hearing and applicant’s materials were that it did not provide clear and convincing evidence in support of the waiver. Commissioner Houck stated that there is existing access to the parcel that can be developed further and expressed concerns around changing traffic patterns and the impact residents adjacent and neighbors. CA Hoyt recommended giving staff instructions to prepare a decision document. There was further discussion regarding individual reasonings for approval versus denial. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to direct staff to prepare a document that based on our discussion, denies the waiver for more than one access and in doing so renders moot the second question around the waiver for angle of approach. Commissioner Houck mentioned that he is open to further discussion if there are other things that should be included in the memo that he did not include in the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no persons present for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Puckett Daniels:**

- 1. Wildlife Vehicle Collision Subcommittee – National Park Service (NPS) Integrated Resource Manager Brinnen Carter, who has been an ally for prevention work, invited everyone out to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National park to visit other elected officials and to have a better understanding of the recovery of the park since the fire. Commissioner Houck added that an important note to tether to the conversation is that one of the four elements of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act was to secure a county boundary designation.

**Commissioner Smith:**

- 1. Crystal River Wild and Scenic Subcommittee – Commissioner Smith attended the hybrid meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> and discussion regarding the need to address concerns and whether the subcommittee should continue occurred.
- 2. Child Welfare – Commissioner Smith, ACM Reynolds, and CA Hoyt had a meeting to discuss whether potentially more Health and Human Services staff should attend meetings in order to have more voice within the meetings.

**Commissioner Houck:**

- 1. Center for Public Lands Director Briget Eastep – Commissioner Houck met with Director Eastep to discuss the inventory of projects and what is still occurring. Adaptive Management approaches in relation to the flexibility to provide treatments without compromising the science and regulatory processes were also discussed.
- 2. Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) Group – Commissioner Houck conferred with Paralegal Errol Davis to ensure Gunnison County Representation within the UFO Group.
- 3. Wolf Reintroduction – Commissioner Houck relayed there was a letter issued from the Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service compelling the State to reply to them with specific questions regarding management.
- 4. Trail closures – Commissioner Houck reminded the community of the trail closures that went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> which included trails north of the Contour Trail and the trails on Signal Peak.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION, PURSUANT TO C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(B) CONFERENCE WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY OR ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR GUNNISON COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING LEGAL ADVICE ON A DELINQUENT LANDFILL ACCOUNT AND C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(E)(I), FOR DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO THE MATTER THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS:**

**Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) conference with the County Attorney for Gunnison County for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a delinquent landfill account and C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)(i), for determining positions relative to the matter that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators. Participating in executive session will be the full Board of County Commissioners, County Attorney Matthew Hoyt, County Manager Matthew Birnie, Assistant County Manager for Public Works Martin Schmidt and Assistant County Attorney Sammy Obaid. Motion carried unanimously.

The board went into executive session at 11:37 am. *Executive sessions of the Board of County Commissioners are conducted as per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4). This specific session was conducted as per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b)(e)(i).*

Attorney Statement Regarding Executive Session

Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4), I attest that I am the Gunnison County Attorney, that I represent the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, that I attended all of the above referenced executive session, that all of the executive session was confined to the topic authorized for discussion pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) and that, because in my opinion all of the discussion during the executive session constituted a privileged attorney-client communication, no record of the executive session was required to be kept and no such record was kept.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Hoyt  
Gunnison County Attorney

Chairperson Statement Regarding Executive Session

Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4), I attest that I am the Chairperson of the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners, that I attended all of the above referenced executive session, and that all of that executive session was confined to the topic authorized for discussion pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson  
Gunnison County Board of Commissioners

**Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to come out of executive session. The participants were consistent with those read into the record in the motion. No decisions were made, and any direction will be given on record. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board came out of executive session at 11:54 am. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Houck to direct the County Attorney's Office to take all appropriate steps to address the delinquent landfill account. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Simillion, County Clerk