

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, December 9, 2008 with the following present:

Sam Pace, Chairman  
Mike Spearman, Vice Chairman  
Linda Joseph, Commissioner  
Ben Gibbons, County Attorney  
Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator  
Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator  
Melinda Myers, Secretary and Clerk to the Board

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pace at 9:05 A.M.

Under Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

1. Add Board of Equalization for Carlos Martinez.
2. Add executive session for Social Services for legal issues.
3. Add executive session for Attorney for legal issues.

**Joseph moved to approve the agenda as amended. Pace seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Carlos Martinez** – Saguache Town resident:

**Joseph moved to adjourn and convene as the Board of Equalization at 9:10 A. M. Pace seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Pace moved to deny the request from Carlos Martinez to change his property status to agriculture. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Martinez requested agricultural designation on his property located the SW corner of San Juan and 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Saguache. Assessor Stephens reviewed the precedence and stated that there is no other land designated as Ag in the Town of Saguache, or any other town in the county. She said land is valued according to actual use.
- Martinez plans to take his issue to the State Board of Equalization.

**Joseph moved to reconvene to regular session at 9:34 A. M. Pace seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

Reading and approval of minutes:

**Joseph moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

Review of Mail:

1. **Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust** is having their annual Stuffed Stocking Gala & Auction to on December 6, 2008 6:30pm at Ruth Marie Center 575 Columbia Ave., Del Norte. (11/18/08)
2. **Saguache Courts** sent a letter of gratitude thanking the BOCC and Admin for the improvements of the courts. (11/18/08)
3. **Crestone Performances** would like to send their thanks for the Grant they received for their Youth & Community Programs. (11/21/08)
4. **The Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior** sent a letter stating that there will be additional PILT funds received within the next few weeks from the Department of Interior. (11/24/08)
5. **Biomass Finance & Investment Summit** sent their January 2009 Newsletter. (11/24/08)
6. **USDA Forest Service** sent a letter to make us aware of the availability of a decision & finding of No Significant Impact for the final Environmental Assessment for the North Saguache Cattle & Horse Analysis Area. (11/24/08)
7. **The Town of Crestone** has sent a letter requesting donations for the Crestone Community Building for renovations due to the deterioration over the years. (11/24/08)
8. **Mountain Valley School** sent a letter the Colorado Department of Education recommended notifying the Board of County Commissioners that the school district may not be able to provide early certification of the mill levies. (11/25/08)
9. **Hospice Del Valle, Inc** sent their November 2008 newsletter. (11/26/08)
10. **Bruce Blodgett** sent a letter concerning the Baca Wildlife Refuge not requiring a full EIS in line with the NEPA process. (12/1/08)
11. **Crestone Youth Plaza** sent a letter wanting to thank the Board of County Commissioners for the grant received and their support of their youth programs. (12/1/08)
12. **Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District** sent the Meeting Agenda for Wednesday Dec. 10, 2008 at 234 N Main St Suite 3B, Gunnison at 6:30pm. (12/2/08)
13. **The First Southwest Bank**, Saguache and Center branches sent a Christmas card inviting the Board of County Commissioners to an Open House on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Saguache and December 17<sup>th</sup> in Center. (12/03/08)
14. **Thomas Malecek**, District Ranger sent a letter requesting public comments on the English Valley Pronghorn Antelope Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction through Prescribed Fire. The proposal is analyzing the potential for utilizing prescribed fire in the English Valley area north of Del Norte, Colorado, to improve pronghorn antelope habitat while also reducing fuels. Written comments must be submitted to Tom Malecek, Divide Ranger District, 13308 West Highway 160, Del Norte, CO 81132 or via email to: [comments-rocky-](mailto:comments-rocky-)

[mountain-rio-grande-divide@fs.fed.us](mailto:mountain-rio-grande-divide@fs.fed.us). Questions or more specific information on the proposal, please contact Dale Gomez at 719-657-6024. (12/03/08)

15. **The Family of Anselmo Trujillo** sent a thank you card for the donation to the Center Fire/Ambulance in his name. (12/04/08)
16. **Dean Glorso from Glorso Mapping Services, LLC** sent a letter stating that they are in deep recession and would like Saguache County to streamline the bureaucratic paperwork for small land surveyor businesses can participate. (12/4/08)

**Spearman moved to donate \$100.00 to the Colorado Cattlemen's Agriculture Land Trust. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

17. **Colorado Cattlemen's Agriculture Land Trust** would like you to consider supporting CCALT with a donation to help protect the lands & ranches. (12/4/08)
18. **Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District** has enclosed a copy of the certificate of the Election Results with District contact data for our records. (12/5/08)
19. **Adam State College** sent the Fall 2008 newsletter for Alumni & Friends. (12/5/08)
20. **State of Colorado** sent the Notice of Agenda & Meeting concerning Air Quality Control Commission on Dec. 11-13 & 19, 2008 at 9am in Denver, Co. (12/5/08)
21. **Timothy Vrudny - Water Control Division** from Colorado Department of Public Health sent a letter on the Sanitary Survey of a Community Water System in the Town of Saguache and Saguache County. If you have any questions call 719-545-4650 or email [tim.vrudny@state.co.us](mailto:tim.vrudny@state.co.us). (12/5/08)
22. **Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District** Tentative Agenda for their meeting to be held on December 11, 2008 at 1:30pm. Meeting to be held at 339 East Hwy 50 in Salida, Co. (12/8/08)

**Introduction of Guests:** Matie Belle Lakish – Crestone Eagle; Dr. Charlie Warren – Moffat School District; George Welch – Center School District; John Murray; Russell Schreiber; Vinny Terres; David Nicholas & Michael Firsow - HIU; Tamar Ellentuck; May Engquist & Ceal Smith – WPC; Christine Canaly - SLVEC; Andrew Archuleta – FS/BLM; and Bob Dalrymple – USFS.

**Charlie Warren** – Superintendent of Moffat School District:

- Read a letter from the 5 Superintendents of Saguache County School Districts. The letter outlined a request to discuss the Secure Rural School funds coming to the County.

**Commissioners' Reports-Updates of Meetings:**

**Sam Pace** reported:

- Nov 19 - Attended Prevention Partners meeting in Saguache
- Nov 20 - Attended South Central Co Seniors meeting in Alamosa.
- Dec 1,2,3 – Attended the CCI Conference in Colo. Springs

- Dec 8 – Attended SLV Commissioners meeting.
- Worked with administration on an ad for an energy rater and application for “Insulate Colorado” partnership.
- Received call from Beth Carlson about faded lines on the roads in Crestone area.

**Mike Spearman** reported:

- Nov 19 - Attended a work session with the Rio Grande Board of County Commissioner on oil and gas regulations.
- Nov 24 – Attended a DRG and All Hazard meeting. Alamosa has put in their share towards the feasibility study for Valley Power Authority and renewable energy.
- Dec 8 - Attended the Transit Authority meeting and the structure of the SLV Board is still being finalized. Next Transit meeting is January 8, 2009. Saguache County has not received any services yet.
- Dec 1,2,&3 – Attended the CCI conference in Colo. Springs
- Dec 8 – Attended SLV Commissioners meeting. The budget for the District Attorney was reviewed.

**Linda Joseph** reported:

- November 18 - Attended VGAMA (Villa Grove Area Merchants Assoc.) potluck. VGAMA joined the roster of organizations supporting the Vista Grande project. Note: the project has now more than met the required match.
- December 1, 2, 3 - Attended the 101st Colorado Commissioners Winter Conference, in CO Springs, along with the other Commissioners, and Road & Bridge, Social Services and Administrators, for their concurrent meetings. The Women's breakfast presentation and discussion was on the topic of mentoring. Mentoring activities are happening in some counties for incoming commissioners and also with Public Health and Nursing Directors.
- Attended, along with Jeannie Norris, DSS the session on the implementation of the new Public Health reconfigurations. Choices are meant to be in place in July 2009. Norris is favorable on the model combining DSS and Public Health. Handouts provided summarizing the options. The time line is to have implemented our choice by July 2009.
- December 5 - Spoke with Donna Newsom, regarding the Public Health districting. Newsom sees the many benefits, and has also heard of some pitfalls in areas already using that model. Norris and Newsom are looking into this further and will report in January.

- December 6 & 8 - Have been in contact with Marge Hoglin, the new President of Friends of the Library, Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator and Penny Bruce, Library Administrator in an effort to clarify procedures for tracking earmarked donations/grants, and cash flows for Library. We will have a follow-up meeting.
- December 8 - Attended the SLV County Commissioners' meeting and meeting with the District Attorney Elect Mahonee, in Alamosa.

Break

**Lynn Zimmer and Wendi Maez - CO-Administrators:**

**Joseph moved to transfer \$5,000 from General Fund to Library Fund. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Transfer of funds from General Funds to Library.
- Report from Tom Blunt, Veteran's officer was signed.

**Spearman moved to allow Susan Vogel, Dental Hygienist two months rent free at the Saguache Clinic to build up her business. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Zimmer has spoken with Susan Vogel, Dental Hygienist @ Saguache Clinic would like to discuss rent and business.
- Board reviewed the proposed calendars for Holidays and BOCC meetings dates for 2009 and also voucher due dates, payroll change dates and payroll due dates.

**Pace moved to approve the bid received from, J. Smith Plumbing and Heating to remove the asphalt and replace the sewer line for the Courthouse in the amount of \$2911, and to accept the bid received from Steffens Quality Plumbing and Heating to relocate one of the heaters in the Treasurer's office in the amount of \$1265, and install a split system ductless air conditioning system in the Clerk's office in the amount of \$5125. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- There is approximately \$30,000 left in the DOLA Courthouse Restoration Grant. Maez has requested an extension to complete the work on the last projects under the grant, and Deb Downs has agreed. Maez is having Downs check to see if the rewiring of the cables in the Courthouse qualify under the grant.
- Pete Garcia has received a bid from J. Smith Plumbing and Heating to remove the asphalt and replace the sewer line for the courthouse. The bid amount is \$2911. The sewer line for the courthouse has plugged several times in the last few months.

- A bid has been received from Steffens Quality Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$1265 to relocate one of the heaters in the Treasurer's office.
- A bid has been received from Steffens Quality Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$5125 to install a split system ductless air conditioning system in the Clerk's office.
- William Saunders protest on tax assessments has gone to the State Board of Equalization. At this time we will need to wait for the State's response. We have notified Mr. Saunders (in a phone message) that the Assessor's office has hired another appraiser to get more property on the tax rolls.
- Applications have been received for the Energy Rater scholarships.
- A date for the 2009 Sales Tax Grants needs to be set. This will be done in January.
- Commissioner Joseph presented a draft support letter for the nomination by Vince and Mary Palermo for Donna Newsom, Public Health Director, for the SLV Nightingale award, which was signed and submitted.

**Wendi Maez - Land Use Administrator:**

- Vinnie Terres and Russell Schriber renewed complaints about Humanity In Unity activities. HIU representatives were also present to state their views. The Board has set the date for a work session on January 7, 2009 at 1:00 to review the issue and research the facts.
- Received a request from James E. Wells asking if the County would take ownership of the lot his parents owned in Cool Valley Estates. Mr. Wells has been trying for several years to sell the property and is unable to do so. Board declined.
- The Bee's that have been required to install a sewage disposal system may be moving from the property until spring.

**Joseph moved to enter into Executive Session at 11:22 A. M. for Land Use legal issues and for Attorney consultation purposes under CRS 24-6-402 (4)(b). Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Spearman moved to return to regular session at 11:57 A. M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- The CBPC will be discussing a request for proposals concerning the Sub Area Master Plan. They would like to discuss what and where they want the MP for that area to go before contracting with someone. The discussion will be held during their December meeting. Maez will give an update during the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The Town of Crestone requested \$2000 to protest the BLM Leases near the town. The Board declined.
- Representatives from citizen groups inquired about the status of the permit for Lexam. Lexam has acknowledged the need for contact with local emergency personnel and creation of a coordinated emergency plan, and has not indicated

their timeline. The imminent findings of the court case on the US Fish & Wildlife NEPA process will set the course for surface and other agreements.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:13 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:12 P.M.

**Randal Arredondo** – Supervisor Road & Bridge and Land fill report:

- New salary schedule for R&B employees was presented to the Board, which reflects 4% increase. Does not include an increase for Superintendent Arredondo, which he would like the Board to approve for him.
- One employee will have a County pickup for the 4 months of winter to be able to monitor the roads in the Moffat area for snow removal. Board approved the action.
- Attorney Gibbons is still working on a policy for snow plowing on private property in emergency situation. Arredondo will need to have that soon, because folks will start asking.
- Reviewed the fuel expenses for the year and locking in costs for next year.
- Arredondo requests that changes in Title I school allocations not change the current R&B budget to be approved Dec. 16.

**Jeannie Norris** - Social Services Director:

**Spearman moved to convene as the Saguache County Department of Social Services Board at 1:45 P.M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Joseph moved to enter into Executive Session at 1:46 P. M. and for legal purposes under CRS 24-6-402 (4)(b). Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Spearman moved to return to regular session at 1: 57 P. M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- There were five active TANF cases during the month of October, with three cases pending, and two closed. There continued to be nine active child-only cases. Food stamp cases fell from 394 during the month of September, to 377 in October. We anticipate a rise during the winter if unemployment levels increase. There were 26 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases, and 110 old-age-pension cases.

- The CHEERS training center reported three TANF clients during October, and six adult basic education students.
- LEAP season is in full swing, and the initial payroll has been released. Attached is a letter, signature omitted, which we received regarding Jan Garduno.
- The IV-D Unit has hired Pam Jones as the new legal technician. We will be contracting with Suzanne Dennis, IV-D Administrator from Chaffee County who will be retiring at the end of the year to provide training for our IV-D Unit. Suzanne brings a wealth of expertise, and will be able to shorten the time that it normally takes to train a new technician.
- Reba Mathias attended a training seminar for county auditors of human services departments. This training was sponsored by the audit division at the State office, and Reba was able to bring back a great deal of information which will be useful to us, in addition to reference materials explaining the background behind functions.
- The day care center at Saguache Head Start is scheduled to open in January, and will have the capacity to serve seven children initially. Our goal is to expand hours beyond four p.m. before summer. We also plan to be open during summer months.
- Much of the discussion at CCI involved the Medicaid program, and the initiative to provide more coverage to children. Little will change for DSS at this time. Upgrades to the CBMS system through a new contractor promise to simplify some of the screens that technicians have to navigate. Presumptive eligibility covers children immediately.
- We will have another commodity distribution before the holidays on December 18 and 19. This effort, combined with Christmas Sharing, should insure that every family has enough food for Christmas.
- Norris has volunteered to serve on an investigative committee for a pilot program for software for processing applications.

**Spearman moved to adjourn the Saguache County Department of Social Services Board and return to regular meeting at 2:07 P.M. Pace seconded. The vote was two Ayes.**

**Andrew Archuleta and Bob Darymple** – U. S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management:

- Timber sale in Canero has been finalized in the areas where the big storm blew down trees this summer.
- San Isabel Creek drainage is slated for fuel reduction to help with fire safety and elk habitat enhancement. Both commercial green pinion and personal firewood.

- Jan 24 9-4 - Tabletop exercise is scheduled for wildfire county crews.
- SLV Public Lands Leadership meeting in January will review the formation of Valley Resource Advisory Councils, (RACs). Saguache is slated to get 60% of the funding. 10% of the Secure Rural School Act funds go to Title II, which would be administered by the Valley RAC.
- Mountain Track scoping process has continued, though at a slower pace than anticipated. When the draft document is finished, it will be shared with the BOCC as a cooperating agency. There are some significant historical and prehistoric sites near the Liberty/Duncan areas.
- Colorado Roadless Initiative was being pushed to complete before the end of the Bush administration, but has been pushed back till after the Obama administration.
- Village at Wolf Creek proposal is on hold as the organization redefines their plans.
- Will be formalizing agreements with local Sheriff Departments on rescue and enforcement issues on public lands.
- Solar installations on public lands are given as rights of way permit, as it only involves use of the surface. The process is quite different than Oil and Gas leases.
- Arredondo requested that the BLM look into transferring land to the County adjacent to the Saguache Community Airport. This had been worked on several years ago, but never completed.

Break

**Melinda Myers** - Clerk & Recorder:

**Joseph moved to approve the Mountain Valley Liquor License renewal. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Mt. Valley Liquor License Renewal

**Budget** review:

- Discussion on the percentage of the Secure Rural Schools funds to be set aside for the school districts.
- Sheriff's Department will need to get a new generator and new boiler, which can come out of the current budget – if the fuel gets locked in at current prices.
- Most departments are coming in at budget for 2008.
- Expenditures with the additional PILT and SRS funds will be designed to save money into the future to relieve budgets down the road.
- Fuel rate was locked in with Jones Oil.

**Joseph moved to approve a \$5,000 donation to the Saguache County Museum for 2008. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Additional 5,000 has been added to the Board Donation 2009 line item for the Saguache County Museum.

Energy Rater application review:

**Pace moved to award Jason Anderson the Scholarship for Energy Auditor Training to be funded in partnership with the GEO and if the GEO will partner with the County for a second scholarship from the GOE, that one would go to Luke Christy. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- The Board received the applications for energy audit scholarships and reviewed them. Bids received after the published deadline cannot be accepted. There were several applications and more than one qualified applicant. The Board approved Jason Anderson to receive the existing scholarship. Pace will follow-up with the GEO to see if they would match the County in a second scholarship. If so, this would go to Luke Christy.

Senator Ken Salazar stimulus package request for projects was completed and is due to CCI by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Pace moved to approve \$500.00 bonus for full time employees, pro-rated by month of employment and pro-rated for part-time employees for 2008. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

Bill Paying

**Spearman moved to adjourn at 5:30 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was three Ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved December 16, 2008

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Chairman of the Board

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Attest

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Commissioner

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Commissioner