

SAGUACHE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION MEETING
Monday, December 4, 2017

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Tim Lovato, at 10:00 A.M., with the following members present:

Tim Lovato, Commissioner, Board Chair
Ken Anderson, Commissioner
Jason Anderson, Commissioner
Lyn Lambert, County Co-Administrator
Wendi Maez, County Co-Administrator
Rhiannon Curry for Carla Gomez, Clerk to the Board

GUESTS:

Elvie Samora	Bill Case
Randal Arredondo	Lisa Cyriacks
Connie Trujillo	

The special session meeting was called to order and each guest present was able to speak openly regarding 2018 proposed budget items the individual wanted to address.

First guest to speak was Elvie Samora who is the Assistant Road Supervisor for the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department. Mr. Samora explained to Commissioners his concern with the budget was regarding Medicare reimbursements, and the fact that only the actual Medicare costs are reimbursed vs. the full \$475 contribution other employees receive toward County insurance benefits. Samora pointed out to Commissioners that both the 2017 and 2018 budget line items reflected the same amounts even though more Road and Bridge employees would be taking advantage of Medicare benefits in 2018.

Samora went on to express to Commissioners, that by not giving Medicare participants the full \$475 per month they are in essence reducing their wages, because the full benefit package is not being received. Samora also explained that with the increase of Medicare participants the claims filed against the County benefits would reduce, as these employees are not participating in County insurance. Samora asked Commissioners to reconsider fully funding the \$475 contribution toward Medicare participants as well, as it was already allotted for within the budget in 2018, and in essence would cost the same. Commissioner Chair Lovato commented he understood where Mr. Samora was coming from, and Commissioner Ken Anderson commented they needed some more time to further review it.

Commissioner Chair Lovato asks Road and Bridge Supervisor Arredondo if he has any comments. Arredondo informs the BOCC he is only attending to answer any questions that may arise on behalf of his department.

Mr. Bill Case attended and addressed Commissioners with questions regarding items for various departments. Mr. Case asked the BOCC about where the money came from to pay for the Courthouse security. Commissioners respond it is grant funds from the State. Mr. Case again questions Commissioners about the line item that only says excise tax under the Land Use budget and the fact it does not specifically state marijuana excise tax. Commissioner Ken Anderson questions as to if Mr. Case voted for the excise tax and if when he voted, he read the initiative. Mr. Case confirms this. Commissioner Ken Anderson expresses he does not feel a need for further clarification when the excise tax collected is the only one, and was clearly defined on the ballot measure. Mr. Case explains it may sound silly but as a taxpayer, he would like clear definition of where those funds are coming from. Commissioner Jason Anderson agrees to clarify and add the word marijuana to that line item on the budget.

Mr. Case questions the "Professional Services" line item for multiple Departments. Mr. Case wants to know why it is so much more for those Departments, when that line item on the Sheriff's budget is so minimal. Commissioners explain each Department requires something different. It happens to be so high for the Landfill, because Engineers are required to be paid when a cell expansion or a new cell is designed, and the State charges \$125 per hour to review documents. There Sheriff's Department does not have exorbitant charges like this to cover, thus their line item being smaller. Commissioners also explain the Coroner line item being more because our County is so expansive that often other Counties will help with autopsies when a body is near another County. We have to pay for those types of services, and they fall under that category. Co-Administrator Lambert explains, she is not sure exactly what services for the Sheriff fall into that category, but can find out and get back to him.

Mr. Case comments he was just curious and tells Lambert she does not need to provide him that info. Commissioner Jason Anderson disagrees and explains the County absolutely needs to get him that information. Commissioner Jason Anderson goes on to say that, he appreciates Mr. Case taking the time to come to the meeting and ask questions, and comments Mr. Case is the second citizen to do so.

Lisa Cyriacks attended and questioned Commissioners on a big picture outlook of the coming year regarding Commissioners decisions, rather than specific items on the budget. Cyriacks asks that the Commissioners consider adding more than just minutes to the website as well, such as monthly financials. Cyriacks also questions the Commissioners long-term goals or strategic approaches to topics such as marijuana and law enforcement as we are a poor County. Commissioner Chair Lovato explains the Commissioners have been in contact with a Company regarding a new jail and getting a bond issue on the ballot for funds to help with that. Commissioner Jason Anderson explains it is a company, which can bring affordable jail systems to rural areas, with an easily duplicated model, with price reductions for replication in the same region.

Cyriacks questions Commissioners regarding assessments in the County and expresses her concern as these assessments directly affect things like libraries. Commissioner Jason Anderson shares an

interesting proposal Commissioners attended regarding drones that map the county and present 3D images that give you the square footage of properties. Cyriacks asks about the cost of this system. Commissioner Chair Lovato shares it is \$50-70 thousand dollars, and Treasurer Trujillo states it is not a one-time fee. Commissioner Jason Anderson comments that boots on the ground will never be as efficient as eyes in the sky. Commissioner Tim Lovato expresses his feelings that this system could have multiple uses, such as assisting law enforcement with accurate data of a property before they go on a call as well. Treasurer Trujillo comments that Las Animas County paid \$100 thousand for this system, and by the following year, they were broke, forced to lay off employees, and reduce to a three-day workweek.

Cyriacks questions Commissioners about excise tax, and how it is adding up. Commissioner Chair Lovato expresses most of the growers have not started producing. Co-Administrator Maez clarifies there is production but no sales, and excise tax is not incurred until the sale of the product happens. Cyriacks asks about marijuana changes on a state level and if the Commissioners will change regulations to mirror the state, as there continues to be complaints in the BACA regarding personal marijuana grows in a residential area. Commissioner Jason Anderson expresses he seems to be the marijuana expert of the Board. Commissioner Jason Anderson explains the State brought down residential levels to what the County already allowed. What changed would be the medical grows where the county allows the amount given by their doctor, and the State is now capping at 24. Commissioner Jason Anderson reminds Cyriacks that State regulations only apply when a County does not currently have any. Co-Administrator Maez comments that there will be more work on the current regulations for clarification purposes. Maez confirms the highest medical grow she has registered currently is for 75 plants. Maez also confirms that the Code Enforcement Officer has reviewed and visited with all registered grows in the County.

Cyriacks asks Commissioners if they ever review financials with the budget to make sure all is on track throughout the year. Commissioners confirm they do in fact do this, and Cyriacks comments it is never on the agenda's or the minutes that it is being completed. Lambert explains the financials are given to the Commissioners once a month for review, and then they address her should they have questions or need explanations. The financials are attached with additional documentation and kept at the courthouse. Anyone could go to the Clerk and Records office and ask for copies of the notes or additional documentation, however only the minutes are published on the website. Cyriacks requests the additional documentation is uploaded as well as many people would like to see that too. Commissioner Jason Anderson informs Cyriacks that in working with the web developer for the County, they are hoping to have fillable forms on the website that can be submitted online in 2018, and expresses this is one way the County is moving forward.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KEN ANDERSON TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE 2018 BUDGET, SEEING NO FURTHER RESPONSES AT 11:07A.M.**

SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JASON ANDERSON

VOTES IN FAVOR: 3

VOTES AGAINST: 0

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

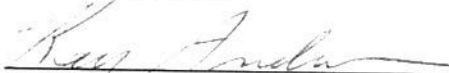

RHIANNON CURRY FOR
CARLA GOMEZ, CLERK & RECORDER

DATE MINUTES APPROVED: December 19, 2017






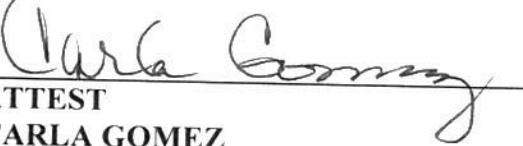
TIM LOVATO, COMMISSIONER,
BOARD CHAIR



KEN ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER



JASON ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER



ATTEST
CARLA GOMEZ
CLERK & RECORDER