Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on January 27, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

Members Present: Darius Allen, Chair
Marianne Dunne, Vice-Chair
Mike Yohn, Commissioner
Gigi Dennis, County Administrator
Jason Kelly, County Attorney
Brittney DeHerrera, Chief Financial Officer
Belina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

Call the Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Addition of Value West Agreement under Assessor Report, MOU Law Enforcement Operations with Great Sand Dunes, Resolution 2015G13 Great Divide Solar, Permit to Conduct 1041, Decommissioning Agreement, and Community Development to be put under the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Dunne requested making a decision on Jump Start Program under the Board/Staff Updates.

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve January 27, 2016 Agenda with amendments
Motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve minutes of January 12, 2016
Motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Bills/Obligations

Check numbers 117271-117449 & 30008-30038

m/s Dunne/Yohn motion to approve Bills/Obligations
Motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Audit Engagement Letter-Wall, Smith, & Bateman
Letter of Partnership-SLV Ecosystem Council
Resolution 2016-G-3 County Treasurer Deposit & Investment of Public Funds for 2016
Commissioner Yohn would like to pull the MOU with Great Sand Dunes for further discussion.

*m/s Dunne/Yohn motion to approve Consent Agenda with exception of MOU with Great Sand Dunes*

*Motion was approved unanimously.*

**MOU Law Enforcement Operations & Deputation - Great Sand Dunes**

Jason Kelly stated it is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff’s Office and the Great Sand Dunes. It is coordination in event of emergency services on park land. The Park Ranger would call for assistance with services of the Sheriff’s Office. They have the ability to deputize each other. They do have financial limitations.

Commissioner Dunne asked if we had this before.

Jason Kelly stated no.

Commissioner Yohn asked if it addressed any costs. Isn’t this under the Sheriff’s jurisdiction any way. There is no costs associated now. The costs are indicated by the department that provides the service. They have an obligation to provide the service.

*m/s Dunne/Yohn motion to approve MOU Law Enforcement Operations & Deputation - Great Sand Dunes*

*Motion was approved unanimously.*

**SLV Boys & Girls Club**

Chris Lopez and Mike Hudson were present

Chris Lopez spoke. He took over October 6th. He is an Alamosa native. The Boys & Girls are in their 24th year. Next year they will celebrate 25 years. This is year their strategy is Re-engage membership and the community as a whole. They serve 106 kids average daily. This is an increase from 93 from 2014. The school buses drop kids off at 3:30PM. They feed them an afternoon snack. This is reimbursed by USDA for healthy snacks. They offer physical activity, support in computer technology for Internet safety & how to navigate, homework, arts & education, and two new programs. The first program is to help the children become literate to become good writers so they are developing a literacy program. They want kids from the Boys & Girls Club to be the best writers. It engages kids and help retention and growth. The other program to develop is a Multimedia Production Studio where they will nurture kids’ interest in music, voice, video creation, and 21st Century technology. This is something kids are excited about and want to be part of. They are a strong after school enrichment program. When school is not
in session they are open such as early release they open early. They serve kids across Alamosa and throughout the Valley. The biggest population from Alamosa. They pick up kids at Star from Conejos County. There was concern about the organization at times and the number of nonprofits in the Valley and how they are supported. The Boys & Girls Club is not a charity. They are offering an extension offering how we can help you. We work in partnership. It is important for the kids to give back to the community such as community projects and volunteerism. They make Alamosa and the SLV the best place we can by Mentor and tutor children. He has met with the County Administrator.

Commissioner Yohn asked of 106 children what percentage is Alamosa.

Chris Lopez stated about 85%. He is interested in how many live in the unincorporated Alamosa County. They have close to 25 kids every day from Conejos. Some come in from Monte Vista.

Commissioner Yohn asked how much transportation you provide.

Chris Lopez asked when club members have other activities such as basketball practice or other school events they pick them up from the school or events. They find with the youth members they don’t always have same opportunities for rides to attend events.

Commissioner Yohn asked do you return the students to Star.

Chris Lopez stated no parents work or live here and pick them up.

Commissioner Yohn asked if they don’t take away from the Conejos program.

Chris Lopez stated they had a program in Capulin where they are talking about restarting. They also are talking about a recreation center in Conejos. If they get this program going they are happy to assist with resources.

Commissioner Yohn stated two years ago there was some reconstruction where our Road & Bridge Department was going to assist. Is there something they could do to assist?

Chris Lopez stated this was for the east side of the building between the park and their facility. They had environmental contamination underground so if they wanted to expand they needed to clean this up. A company out of Longmont is helping in-kind doing remediation. They are doing the final check and once that gets clear they will get a clean bill.

Mike Hudson stated they were once going to put up a fence but that didn’t go through where they had asked for assistance from the Road & Bridge Department.

Commissioner Dunne stated people don’t read and write great so a literacy program is needed. That is good that you can transfer your skill of journalism for the Center. The kids are all into media today. The Greenhouse are you still doing that?

Chris Lopez stated the solar dome is two years old. This is the first time this winter they planted. It was an experiment what they could grow in the fall and winter of Alamosa and the SLV. They seen great success with lettuce, spinach, and carrots. They learned a lesson with chili peppers and tomatoes as they froze a few weeks ago. Last week they harvested the lettuce and served lettuce wraps to the students. He has bringing in farmers he knows so they could see greenhouse so they could see what can be grown.
Commissioner Dunne asked if they have a problem with staff.

Chris Lopez stated they have two full time members. Eight part-time hourly workers that are ASU interns for degree requirements, physical education, or teachers. They are looking for ratio of staff to students. They get by and make sure they have good eyes on children. He thinks of it like this if they didn’t have this club where would these 106 kids go and what would they be doing. They providing a safe environment for them.

Commissioner Dunne stated they should have a broad community support after 25 years.

Commissioner Allen asked who is on their board.

Chris Lopez stated Bob Vanlwarden, Rosalie Martinez, Judi McNeilsmith, Rob Oringdulph, Ron Chapman, Dave Mize, Jason Kelly, and Mike Hudson. They are-adding four new board members.

Commissioner Allen stated it always a struggle with financials. Do you have maintenance upkeep there?

Chris Lopez stated one board member has donated paint and they will put their own sweat into it. They cover routine maintenance themselves. The board members help with outside maintenance. They do need to improve capital needs which is scheduled as they move into 2017. They are building on their endowment campaign to maintain sustainability.

Darius Allen stated a lot of times we could do in-kind things to assist.

Gigi Dennis complimented him on the positive spin he has put on the Boys & Girls Club. It is all upbeat on not wanting handouts.

Chris Lopez stated he is aware of the County’s development of drones. Kids need to understand Unmanned Aircrafts. He has used them for aerial photography. You are being a forefront leader that is vision and progression.

Commissioner Dunne stated the north side of the County we have huge solar facilities. They do tours maybe they could do this for the older kids.

**Alamosa County Assessor**

*Petition for Abatement-Alamosa County Events & Facilities Local Marketing District*

She has a petition for abatement. It should have been exempt property. They did get exemption from the State but the codes were not changed in computer system so it generated a tax notice so we have to abate it. It above $10,000 so it has to come before the Board.

Commissioner Yohn questioned being over $10,000 to use this form.

Sandra Hostetter stated she has the ability to sign for under $10,000 under Section III so this falls under Section IV.

Jason Kelly stated we are not using Section III but using Section IV.

Commissioner Dunne stated she was surprised this hasn’t been done before.

Sandra Hostetter stated yes this is the first year.
m/s Dunne/Yohn motion to approve Abatement for Alamosa County Events & Facilities Local Marketing District
  Motion was approve unanimously.

Value West Agreement

There are no changes to the Agreement since the previous agreement. It is for Commercial Appraisals.

Jason Kelly stated if she could note on the schedule you can withdraw at any point so at some point you need to indicate if you withdraw. It is no different from last year.

Sandra Hostetter stated she has no notion of withdrawing.

Commissioner Yohn asked if this has helped the workload and to what extent.

Sandra Hostetter stated it has helped. Alamosa is growing with more commercial. They are seeing a lot more commercial tax reps come in. They don’t have the expertise in their office to defend those values. Value West has certified tax reps. The large companies are appealing.

Commissioner Yohn stated we used to have someone dedicated to this so now we don’t have that position.

Sandra Hostetter stated Alamosa has changed so much since we did it prior in Alamosa. Value West is great. They are in demand so we are fortunate to have them.

Commissioner Allen stated they have been an asset to us. He spoke with other counties and they said anytime there is a challenge Value West has been there to answer the challenge. They have more experience in working with other Counties.

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve Value West Agreement
  Motion was approved unanimously.

Alamosa County Land Use Department

Rachel Baird & Jinger Tilden were present. They did present to the Committee for the Energy Mineral Impact Fund. They were one of the few presenters that had a power point. It was a nice opportunity to see other wastewater projects. It was apparent the need of the Mosca project is at a different level than the other wastewater projects. They found out on December 14th they awarded the full amount of $634,500 that they applied for. A copy of the Award letter was provided. They are waiting on the USDA funding. The USDA funding they had an unofficial commitment from their organization. They haven’t received their allocation for the year yet. They were asked while they are waiting for funding it they want to compete for National funding. It is called Farm Bill Section 5025 Strategic Economic and Community Development Program. Our project has great need-if we were able to apply they would be able to help more programs to Colorado. They said if they were awarded the local USDA Grant it would deplete the entire award money available for other areas so they thought competing at a National level would have a larger pool of money. Either way we will be funded. This is a perfect fit for this National program. They worked with Hew Hallock and Mike Gibson at DRG for their strategy document. They wanted them to tie into one Economic Goal and they were able to tie into three. They made arguments for that such as being Gateway to the Great Sand Dunes, closest to amenities, mentioned the Alligator
Farm, the UFO tower and the Solar Farms. They wrote the arguments and sent off to DC on January 13th. They are still waiting to hear back. It looks positive. They are hoping to break ground November 2016.

Commissioner Allen asked Gigi when she was with the State if this was some of the programs she dealt with.

Gigi Dennis stated this is a new program. She contacted Patti Snyder who she hired there for more information. She was excited that this project fell under this grant.

Commissioner Dunne asked when is going to be another community meeting.

Rachel Baird stated there is not one in the horizon right now. Everyone knows about the DOLAA funding and are waiting for the USDA funding response.

Commissioner Dunne stated a member from their community doesn’t know what is going on. The word of mouth isn’t getting out there.

Rachel-communication is better than ever has been

Gigi Dennis stated we could have a groundbreaking ceremony.

Jinger Tilden gave an update on billing for Mosca. As of January 25th we still have some accounts that have not paid or are past due. In September they did notify about the $10 late fee for past dues or if they haven’t made their monthly payments. They gave them a few months until they applied this. In December they assessed this charge. They haven’t had any complaints of the late fee. They had three service calls for November and December. Once got cold things were not working well which is expected. We have had several calls now in January where things have frozen. Unfortunately the next report the costs have gone up having done repairs. They explained to the sewer company to just “band-aid” the problem not just replace things. Anything over $100 has to go through her for approval. She was blindsided by some bills from Lifts #4 and #10. In the past Lift #9 was the biggest problem but not this year.

Commissioner Allen stated when it gets cold people leave water running which adds up quick for the system to keep up with so many doing this at once.

Gigi Dennis asked if there is a program through DHS that could assist such as LEAP or help those who cannot make payments.

Jinger Tilden stated she will research this. She looked into a contract with this company. It was just agreed upon verbally prior. Having something in writing would be beneficial.

Commissioner Dunne stated the broadband issue was brought up at the SLV Commissioners meeting. Is this something your Department covers?

Rachel Baird stated it isn’t something they permit.

Mike Yohn stated we did permit a tower at the school. On the Aging Summary this isn’t a complete inventory.

Jinger Tilden stated it is just for accounts that owe or have a credit.
Mike Yohn stated for their information they would like to see all accounts. A lot of times you get to know your bad accounts and not the good ones. Which tank needed a pump?

Jinger Tilden stated it did get a pump.

Mike Yohn stated if it does need one it should get one.

Jinger Tilden stated they have the option of furnishing an old pump rather than just replace. The lack of wanting to do this makes her frustrated. There is no need for this. Something did need to be done.

Mike Yohn stated he thought there were extra pumps somewhere that could be used.

Marianne Dunne stated Alamosa Fire Protection is on this list are they not paying.

Jinger Tilden stated they paid for the whole year so it shows a credit.

Mike Yohn stated he seen Del Norte got a grant.

Rachel Baird stated they went through the same process we did. It is great that the Valley is getting funding.

Rachel Baird gave a quick HUFT report that only less than mile was added. They updated everything last year so from now on they can just do improvements.

Mike Yohn asked if Ziegler Road has been abandoned or the Mestas Road.

Rachael Baird stated she did take care of it last year they had to claim it. Next year they will let it go so she told Tim not to take care of it anymore.

Commissioner Allen stated we need to pass a resolution to abandon roads and notify the property owners there.

Rachel Baird stated she could find no record of documentation that there are County Roads.

Commissioner Dunne stated in the last couple of years they found roads to get money for those.

Jinger Tilden stated they sent out septic installers/cleaners permit renewals. They all have paid. Also they did this for Mobile Home Parks/Campgrounds but only 5 of those have paid.

**Alamosa County Department of Human Services**

Catherine Salazar was present. Statement of Expenditures and Revenues were provided.

The Ongoing Workload Summary Report was provided. It showed 294 cases for Adult Financial, 123 cases for Colorado Works, 2099 cases for Food Stamps/Food Assistance, and 4190 cases for Medical Assistance.

The Monthly Food Assistance Issuance Report was provided. It showed $525,220 of Food Assistance was issued for December and $6,414,953 YTD was issued.

Recovery Collection Comparison, Child Support Comparison Report, and the C-STAT Dashboard were provided.
An Alamosa County Fact Sheet from Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing was presented. It showed 42.8% of Alamosa County population is enrolled in Medicaid. Total Expenditures for clients in Alamosa County was $32,714,976 for 2014-15. Also in Alamosa County are 253 CHP+ Clients.

**Board/Staff Updates**

The Local Marketing District requested to re-appoint Danielle Van Veghten to their Board.

Commissioner Allen suggested when terms are available for boards that we advertise and take resumes to see why they want to serve. This gives an opportunity for someone else to apply or opportunity to bring in someone new.

Commissioner Dunne stated we need to diversify these boards.

Jason Kelly stated we need to find out when these are up before their term is up.

Commissioner Allen stated we need to do this because a perception might be out there.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to advertise board vacancies/reappointments**

- Motion was approved unanimously.

Jason Kelly stated he needs authorization for the RFP for Project Manager for the Judicial Center to be submitted.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion for Jason Kelly to send out RFP for Project Manager for the Judicial Center**

- Motion was approved unanimously.

Jason Kelly stated Passenger Facility charges with the Airport we have been charging $3 and we are allowed to charge up to $4.50 per passenger. Jviation said they could have done this since 2000. There is a process to go through. They sent letters out to the carriers that we are increasing it. We need a public comment meeting on February 26th at 10am. The change will be effective June 1st by the time we meet the time restraints. He needs permission for this.

**m/s Dunne/Yohn motion to approve increase of Passenger Facility Charges to $4.50 per passenger.**

- Motion was approved unanimously.

**Jump Start**

She spoke with some business owners. After a long discussion they were in favor if not competing with their business.

Gigi Dennis stated the law was drawn up for Mesa County. They are actively pursuing for a company from Australia. It would be interesting if Alamosa is able to attract something like that to bring in.

Commissioner Dunne stated maybe something unique for unmanned aircraft component.
Commissioner Yohn stated he is for Economic Development but NACO states how he feels “imposes efforts by an industry seeking to create its own special immunity from state and local taxation” and “NACO also supports the efforts that preserve and enable state and local government to exercise its tax ability”. As this letter states right now he cannot support this. They are telling you who is coming and what you are going to do for them. He would like to see some outcomes but he compares to the Film Industry where tax incentives are given such as where New Mexico out beats us. They practically pay for them to come there. What about the roads and emergency services they would use as other citizens have to pay. They would have no risk.

Commissioner Allen stated he was disappointed in the presentation Monday. He would support just because of their partnership with Adams State.

Commissioner Dunne stated they would have risk to come here to build their own infrastructure. She doesn’t image them having a lot of employees.

Commissioner Allen asked if we could restate the resolution.

Jason Kelly stated once someone is in the program you cannot get out for the four year period.

Commissioner Allen stated at this point he would oppose it but he would like to have a conversation with someone at Adams State.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Belina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

Darius Allen, Chairman

Marianne Dunne, Vice-Chair

Mike Yohn, County Commissioner