Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on May 25, 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 - Absent
Marianne Dunne, Vice-Chair
Mike Yohn, Commissioner
Gigi Dennis, County Administrator
Jason Kelly, County Attorney
Belina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

Call the Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve May 25, 2016 Agenda
Motion approved with Allen absent

Approval of Minutes

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve May 11, 2016 Minutes
Motion approved with Allen absent

Approval of Bills/Obligations

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve Bills/Obligations
Motion approved with Allen absent

Public Comment

Senator Larry Crowder was present. It has been a very busy year. He has worked on 33 bills with a 65-75% completion rate. They are signing one Friday in Alamosa. Some issues could have been addressed better such as education. Schools here are small even though the student rate is low we have lost 5 years of funding. He is trying to figure out ways around this. We have the situation where we are limited in funds and he doesn’t want to increase taxes. He believes we should live within our means. No one believes people with a mental issue belongs in jail. Finding beds is an issue. The situation in Alamosa is they have no female beds. Jail overcrowding in Colorado is an issue. He is running for re-election. He represents 16 counties. Rural health care is important.

Michael Yohn appreciated him recognizing the jail population and the mental health aspect and having women confined on drugs mainly heroin. We see the state prison population going down and the county jail population going up.
Larry Crowder stated this problem is higher in rural Colorado than elsewhere. Communities are trying to work this out or even how to approach a solution? We need to address with what is practical, effective and for a long term solution. You are talking about many different entities coming together for this issue such as judicial and pharmaceutical. Here in the SLV, 6 females in jail delivered babies and 5 babies were born addicted. He would like to see the County nurses have the ability to administer methadone. Marijuana laws have created a lot of problems in the state. People elsewhere are coming in and wanting to buy cheap land without septic and water. It is creating a lot of blight issues. Counties have the ability through their process to address this.

Gigi Dennis stated the challenge with blight is the Counties have to clean it up and it is a cost on us. It is a circle of challenges. She would like him to consider the disparity between the pay for the DA vs the Public Defender. This falls on the County. The District Attorney wants to be able to pay his staff more because they make so much less than the Public Defender’s Office. This should be something the State should be handling.

Larry Crowder stated he knows it an issue. He was under the assumption the longevity was different but the study showed little difference between the two. He is looking at how we get these equalized. He was going to start a particular Bill with it but the Well County DA approached him to withdraw this bill to do more studies. There are people are working on this. It is important but the reality is how do we dispense the taxes so the people are represented too.

Commissioner Dunne appreciate him coming.

**Consent Agenda**

*Application for Federal Assistance-Airport Improvement Plan*
*Clerk & Recorder’s Report for April 2016*

*m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve Consent Agenda without Liquor License Renewal and DOLA Grant for further discussion*

Motion was approved with Allen absent

**DOLA Grant Agreement**

Jason Kelly stated the scope of the project limits the use of funds for the architect and engineering fees for the new Justice Center. When we requested funds from DOLA we split the amount we got from Riley Johnson in the planning process but we overlooked that number was for all three projects. With the way the DOLA Grant is written now it limits funds just for the Justice Center. His concerns is if we sign the DOLA Grant as it is now there is a possibility we could leave some money on the table. He doesn’t believe we would spend the $1.6 million in Architect and Engineering fees just for the Justice Center. We wouldn’t be able to use the funds for any of the other projects. He talked to Christy Culp that we would like to use the funds for the Courthouse remodel as well. This process could take 30 days but we would have to go back to the committee. We can’t enter into a contract with an Architect until we have a fully executed DOLA Grant. If we can’t amend it we could request at another grant cycle with DOLA and say we didn’t use that money for the other projects and ask for the money now. He would like to visit with DOLA to change the wording in the Grant.
Michael Yohn stated the Grant is $847,000 where is the $1.6 you referred to coming from.

Jason Kelly stated the $1.6 million is from Riley Johnson in the planning process for the total cost for engineering fees is estimated at $1.6 million. We were going to use the Underfunded Grant as match for DOLA Grant.

Michael Yohn asked what the difference is.

Jason Kelly stated we don’t know but for example if Architect fees are $1 million just for the Justice Center then this would mean $500,000 from Underfunded Grant and $500,000 from DOLA so this would leave $247,000 from DOLA that we can’t use because the DOLA Grant awarded was $847,000.

Michael Yohn stated we have been awarded so we can start.

Jason Kelly stated we can’t start a contract with an architect without a fully executed contract with DOLA. He would like DOLA to modify language in the scope of the project. It is still the architect fees but we just want to include the courthouse. It is all three projects vs just one.

Commissioner Yohn stated we would have go before the board again which we would be looking at 30-60 days.

Jason Kelly stated if we had to wait for the whole grant cycle it wouldn’t be worth it. But she said only 30 days. We need to shortlist the architects and 3 weeks for interview so we have this time to change the scope. It would be good to table the grant to see if we can get this done in the 30 days.

Commissioner Dunne appreciated him noticing the omission the remodel of courthouse but could we include the jail.

Jason Kelly stated we are matching with the Underfunded Court Grant so we cannot include the jail with that.

Michael Yohn stated we don’t want to hold this up but also not lose the DOLA Grant.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to table DOLA Grant until next meeting June 15**

*Motion was approved with Allen absent*

**SLV Area Extension**

Amy Henschen 4H Agent was present.

Robotics Team went to the International Competition in Albuquerque last year. They partnered to bring that event to Colorado. They had their first one in Monte Vista. We had 67 youth participate. We had others schools and 4H participate. It was $5 to enter and they earned prizes. They went again to the International Competition in Albuquerque. The Alamosa County team took 1st place in a-MAZE-ing challenge, the Conejos County team took 1st in Joust Challenge, and the Rio Grande County team took 3rd.

We have 3 Community Clubs in the SLV Counties. Some other things Extension offers is livestock & meat quality assurance, Rocketry classes, leader trainings & development, Camps & Conferences, County Council, and Community Outreach. They just started Cloverbuds for youth ages 5-7.
Marvin Reynolds is doing some new opportunities such as the Rocky Mountain Ag Conference. They had 340 participants there. He also had a Legacy workshops. They had 70 participants. They had 2 pesticide trainings and farm safety training with 300 youth who participated. Master gardening training with 5 people graduating and will put 50 hours of volunteer time. Another thing is Range Management.

Mary Ellen is busy with food safety and training. She has partnered with the health inspector. She is able to provide this class is Spanish. She will also have a Food safety class for Cottage food providers.

CSU Extension applied for a grant with Colorado Attorney General for literacy educators. We hear we are going to get a position for the SLV and Chaffee County which will be housed out of their office. It is a 5 year grant which pays for a computer & their salary. It is coming in October. There is a lot of changes in the Fair including a weekend.

Commissioner Yohn stated the robotics team last year took 3rd place so how long has this program been in the San Luis Valley and the International Robotics it is their 15th year are they all 4H kids?

Amy Henschen stated this is our 3rd season. We started with 10 kids and now we have 30 kids. They have small groups in Saguache and Crestone that run with volunteers. They only had 3 kids so that is why they only had 10 kids. Each kit is expensive so she had to slowly grow the program. Monte Vista School bought a kit and Sanford School is looking at buying kits as well. Monte Vista does this during school hours. They took their senior team to Robots International. The event was very positive where there are teams all over the countries. They get ideas there. They have monthly challenges to get practice. RoboRAVE is open to anyone. Most are open to schools. There are other robotic contests in Colorado that are far from them or are expense to participate in. They pay the Registration fee and pay for their kit. They have lined up sponsorship so the cost is not that high for the participants. They don’t want to exclude kids that are not in 4H. Most of participants are not 4H kids.

Commissioner Dunne thanked her. She has done a lot since she came three years ago. There are a lot of kids that benefit from this. Are you going to modern day techniques for farming and using drones?

Amy Henschen stated CSU is looking at a drone component to tie into their robotics.

Commissioner Dunne stated they are preparing kids for the future.

Amy Henschen stated they show the kids how this technology can be applied. They are always looking for partnerships.

**Alamosa County Land Use**

Rachel Baird and Jinger Tilden were present.

**Mosca Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Project Update**

Rachel Baird stated they are moving forward with the funding package that was agreed on at the last meeting which is $634,500 from DOLA, $655,000 from USDA, and the $159,000 USDA loan. They submitted the Scope of Project to the State and once it is approved they contract Reynolds Engineering to finalize the engineering report.

Jinger Tilden stated they are working on a formal service agreement with Weaver’s Septic. They added American Heritage which will be charged as an inactive tap.
They have had a couple of repairs on pump #4. They had some issues with pumping this month.

Commissioner Yohn stated the collections have been improved.

Commissioner Dunne asked if they have communicated with the Mosca citizens.

Rachel Baird stated we didn’t want to until they had everything finalized. They didn’t want to disappoint anyone or scare them. When they send the bills in June they will send out a notice. They will plan a public meeting in July. We need to formalize with an agreement with DOLA, have a timeline with Reynolds and have things solidified for a meeting. They do want the citizens to know where the project is going.

Gigi Dennis asked if the delinquent accounts are being charged late charges.

Jinger Tilden stated yes. $10 is accessed. They have taken off a few late charges because they have never been late or due to mailings. 6 are delinquent every month which 3 are to the same person.

Gigi Dennis asked if they are vacant or are they occupied.

Jinger Tilden answered most are occupied.

Gigi Dennis stated we are just taking care of the tap in their street.

Jinger Tilden stated we are not repairing their line to the alley ways just the alley way lines.

Rachel Baird stated we are not replacing any of the pipes just replacing to where it is going.

Commissioner Dunne asked if the property for the new waste treatment has to be exchanged.

Jason Kelly stated they will have to transfer it over. The County needs to own it.

Commissioner Dunne asked if they are working on this.

Rachel Baird stated they can’t do anything until they are finalized with DOLA.

*SLVCOG Mini Grant*

Rachel Baird stated Andrew Atencio got three bids. They picked the highest line item in each one. The Budget came out with a 1 to 1 match. We put in $8750 and COG puts in $8750. It is a DOLA Grant but the funds are dispensed to COG who dispenses the money to the entities. They are requesting the Board to approve Andrew Atencio to manage the Grant funds. Money was put aside for landscaping for the Annex so those funds we will use for this.

Commissioner Yohn stated this makes our money go twice as far.

Commissioner Dunne stated this will make our entrance look nicer.

Commissioner Yohn asked if she helped Andrew design the landscaping.

Rachel Baird stated yes. Designs were distributed. The storm water needs to be managed according to flood plain regulations because we are a critical building because we are a government building. Having vegetation is important to help with the standing water. Gravel helps with the filtraion also so it isn’t all about aesthetics.
Commissioner Yohn stated we are going to have more retention ponds as we build out so is controlling the standing water for mosquitos being addressed.

Rachel Baird stated she doesn’t know if Andrew does anything to treat standing water but this will help.

Commissioner Dunne stated the Zica virus she asked Public Health and they don’t think it can come here because it can’t live in our altitude.

Jason Kelly stated the way the grant is written Andrew is the direct supervision of this project.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion for Andrew Atencio to administer grant and to approve the SLV COG Grant Motion was approved with Allen absent**

Commissioner Dunnes stated in the minutes last month it said the building code changes would be presented here.

Rachel Baird stated this will be presented in June because the timing was close because they needed more reviewing of the publication.

Commissioner Yohn requested an update on blight.

Jinger Tilden stated code enforcement is up in swing. Due to Marijuana legalization they have had a huge influx of people coming in. It started last fall of seeing a lot of people coming in living in campers. Temporary camper’s need a temporary RV permit. They must have a septic installed. They permit is good for 180 days in one calendar year so if they apply in November they have 30 days before the new year where they would have to apply for another permit. They issued quite a few. We are working with the Sheriff’s office to assist them by going out with them. It is not safe to go by themselves to address these situations. The sign off of Hwy 160 where there is a shed and a camper they needed to remove the camper and they did comply. The camper is back and there is no port-o-potty. She will go out there to notify them they need a temporary permit. They did have a port-o-potty but it is not there now. There is nothing they can do with the sign because it is under 200 ft. We didn’t have a permit in place last year but now we do so we can let them know.

Commissioner Yohn requested we address Bonneville blight usually late in the summer if we could be proactive and issue notices of alleyways earlier.

Jinger Tilden stated we can do this.

Commissioner Dunne stated the regulations with septic came from the State so it is not another thing the County did to burden the people. We are just complying with this regulation by the State.

Gigi Dennis asked from Catherine Salazar with the Human Services side if they are seeing an increase in your programs because of these squatters.

Catherine Salazar we ran into a couple. People are migrating into Counties where they have recreational marijuana. The neighborhood counties are seeing more influx such as in Costilla and Conejos County because of this. From January to current TANF has gone up 14%. Alamosa is the hub to the Valley so this doesn’t keep people from going to Conejos or Costilla County to buy. She can’t say if the increase is due to this. If mandates change to sell recreational marijuana here our caseload could increase.
Department of Human Services

Catherine Salazar was present. Due to timing of the meeting financials were not ready for this meeting. The Ongoing Workload Summary report was presented. It showed 294 cases for adult financial, 135 cases for Colorado works, 2130 cases for food stamps/food assistance, and 4229 cases for medical assistance. This report shows cases which include a family with children so we are well over 7000 clients. The Monthly Food Assistance Issuance Report was provided. It showed $540,891 in food assistance for the month of April. For year to date is shows $2,144,575 of food stamps issued. The Child Support Collection Report was provided. It showed a 2% increase in collections. The Recovery Collection Comparison report was provided. It showed a 42.5% increase. It is a challenge to pay outstanding debt. Tax intercept is big for them.

Commissioner Dunne stated she talked to an individual last month for child support when the father is in jail. Is there no way to collect from them?

Catherine Salazar stated yes the child still needs to eat, needs diapers, and needs the child support.

Commissioner Dunne asked if child support is just for parents.

Catherine Salazar stated if you are a grandparent they can pay a $20 fee to get child support established or paternity if needed.

The current TANF allocation was at $1,059,675. The County’s responsibility which his called Maintenance of Effort is assessed a fee of $122,521.32. They take out $10,210 every month for this fee. Currently our TANF expenditure is under $940,414.56 leaving $119,260.44. Because we are a County Tax Base Relief County we are eligible for mitigation money. We have a TANF reserve and we can only keep 40% in reserve. Right now we are going to hit our cap. We can only keep $13,427. We can sell the $110,000 to a County that is overspent or we can let it sit there and it gets reverted back to the State and they bail out everyone. She would like to sell this. Custer County would like to buy $30,000 and Denver County would buy $80,000. We can make $16,258 from selling these reserves. She would like approval of this. Last year we sold $80,000. We have the opportunity to make money off of this. We can let it sit and it goes back to State to divert to these counties. This brings back our MOE the County pays.

Commissioner Yohn stated it is a process we did last year. It brings back what the County pays in.

Commissioner Dunne stated TANF helps get people employed. Is this money we could have worked with the Workforce.

Catherine Salazar stated we have an existing contract with La Gente to help getting them workforce ready. They do budgeting. We are underspent. If our caseload continues to grow we could be closer to our allocation next year. We also have a contract with Trinidad State Jr College for GED’s. TSJC hired someone just for us. This could be a two year process. They only have 1 person right now who has taken classes to get their GED. The goal is to get work ready. They can’t get work ready without a GED. It is a challenge and it is free.

Commissioner Dunne stated Commissioner Yohn was at a Workforce meeting yesterday and they need traits for carpenters and drywalls. Does TANF pay tuition?
Catherine Salazar stated they have to be TANF eligible.

Gigi Dennis stated how many do you get work ready but don’t pass drug test.

Catherine Salazar stated we have experienced this with just hiring within our department or the County. We have babies drug exposed.

Commissioner Dunne stated she wants to make sure this money can’t be used for our County before we send to other counties.

Commissioner Yohn stated he was at the Workforce meeting yesterday and there is a real concern of the Workforce for skilled labor and training them locally. There is money available for training locally.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to transfer/sell $110,000 to retain $16,258 to the County**
  
  Motion was approved with Allen absent

**Clerk & Recorder**

Melanie Woodward was present. The attachments were a list of their current license holder locations where there was a license suspension from another location called Teddy’s. He received 2 violations. All this paperwork goes to the State for review. He doesn’t have any violations here.

Commissioner Yohn stated when we first approved this license there were violations so he wanted to make sure they were the same violations. He wanted to know if they were the same violations or new ones.

Melanie stated he also submitted a name change to Rodeway/Country Kitchen.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve Liquor License Renewal with name change**
  
  Motion was approved with Allen absent

**Rio Grande Land Trust**

Rio de la Vista was present. This is for the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust. She is requesting a letter of support for a funding application to the Colorado Parks & Wildlife. They work with a number of landowners for Conservation easements prominently along the Rio Grande River. This wouldn’t close until 2017 because it is a long process.

Commissioner Yohn asked about the location of the Hale River Ranch and the size of acreage.

Rio de la Vista stated just under 700 acres and it is between the Gilmore Ranch and the Higel Ranch.

Commissioner Dunne asked how she feels about rafting on the Rio Grande. People talk about this to encourage economic development.

Rio de la Vista stated it is great when the river flows.

**m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve a letter of support for Rio Grande Initiative for Hale River Ranch South**
  
  Motion was approved with Allen absent
Sage Contractors

Larry Schreiner was present. All of our committee members responded in a timely manner. Anderson-Halls total is 18790, SHE’s total is 18670, and Riley Johnson’s total is 19410. He would recommend these top three firms for interview on June 20th. He would like for the firms to get them fee proposals. They also need to talk about the method of construction Design Build or GM/GC.

Jason Kelly stated the shortlist interview is June 20th and they make a decision after that. They can’t start any work until finalized with DOLA. He will talk to Larry about the problem with DOLA. They need to be careful of selecting the firm and entering into a contract.

Commissioner Dunne asked if he is happy with these three firms.

Larry Schreiner stated any of these six would have done a good job. It is a good selection. He would like to notify them that they are on the shortlist.

Commissioner Yohn stated we had a committee that rated the submittals and these were the top three.

Commissioner Dunne stated there were 16 people on the committee being the Sheriff, Courts, County, & members of the community.

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to accept the Shortlist as Riley Johnson, SEH, and Anderson-Hall
Motion was approved with Allen absent.

Method of Construction

Commissioner Yohn stated Larry presented this to them. The County wants the method of construction that we get the most for the dollar which means more work for Larry. They would like to be able to include local contractors into this project. This is very important for them to contribute to the project if not all of it.

Commissioner Dunne stated both methods can include local contractors.

Larry Schreiner stated you can include to bid as general contractors. They will set some goals to set in the bid packages. They can make them list their sub-contractors so they know they are local.

Commissioner Dunne stated they want to make sure the local contractors are fair.

Larry Schreiner stated both methods have disadvantages and advantages. He is a firm believer that the Design Build Built will get us our best bang for the buck and this is what he would recommend.

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to have a design of Build Built Method

Jason Kelly asked if they are doing a separate project or one large project.

Larry Schreiner recommended doing as separate projects.
m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to amend motion  
Motion was approved with Allen absent

m/s Yohn/Dunne motion to approve the Design Build Built Method for the three separate projects  
Motion was approved with Allen absent

Jason Kelly advised Larry Schreiner when he contacts the architects of selection to notify them they cannot contact the Commissioners until after a selection is made. Interviews will be June 20th. The letter of intent we need to have the DOLA contract resolved before we do this.

Board/Staff Updates

Airport clean up

Gigi Dennis stated the Airport staff is working on cleaning up the old shack that belonged to Joe Boos. The cost could potentially be $7000. This wasn’t budgeted for but they have to do something. The Commissioners approved to proceed.

FAA-Air Service

Jason Kelly stated we got the order of tentatively terminating our Essential Air Service (EAS) here based on the subsidy cap exceeded $200,000. Responses can be made to Gigi Dennis or Francis Song. We are going to drafting a response and an objection to this order. We are getting some information from Great Lakes. Don’t be surprised if they issue a final order terminating the EAS. We can petition for a waiver. There hasn’t been any airport that has lost their EAS in regards to the $200,000 cap since 2003. We are working on this. Deadline to respond is June 9th.

Adjourn

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

ATTEST:

Belina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

Absent

Darius Allen, Chairman

Marianne Dunne, Vice-Chair

Mike Yohn, County Commissioner