Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on August 10, 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  
Michael Yohn, Vice-Chair  
Helen Sigmond, Commissioner  
Gigi Dennis, County Administrator  
Jason Kelly, County Attorney  
Belina Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

Call the Meeting to Order

The Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Helen Sigmond.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

m/s Yohn/Sigmond motion to approve August 10, 2016 Agenda  
  Motion was approved unanimously

Approval of Minutes

m/s Yohn/Allen motion to approve Minutes of July 27, 2016 and BOE Minutes  
  Motion was approved with Sigmond abstaining as not being present at that meeting

Bills/Obligations

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

Public Comment

Samantha, Bryce, and Julie Wisener were present. They are with the Alamosa 4H Robotics Team. They presented their robot that they will be competing at the SLV Fair today. They also won 1st place in a National Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico earlier this year.

Gigi Dennis read a Thank You letter from Pattie Vittoria with the Great Sand Dunes Oasis Campground. This letter was in appreciation to Tim DeHerrera with the Alamosa County Road & Bridge Department for assisting in a flood they had at their campground.
Consent Agenda

AIP-020 Project  
Resolution 2016G7  
County Treasurer’s Report for July 2016  
County Clerk & Recorder’s Report for June 2016  
SLV Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project Contract  
After Hours Information Gathering Services-State of Colorado DHS  
MOU Powers County-Hotline County Connection Center

Commissioner Yohn requested to pull Resolution 2016G7 and also the MOU Prowers County.

Commissioner Signon had concerns of her being Council for the SLV Behavioral Health Council so may recuse herself from the SLV Title IV-E Contract that is through them.

Jason Kelly recommended to pull that contract as well.

m/s Yohn/Signon motion to approve Consent Agenda without those requested to be pulled  
Motion was approved unanimously

Resolution 2016G7  
Commissioner Yohn questioned if Commissioner Signon had a list of the Boards she would be on.

Commissioner Signon stated yes she was given a list.

m/s Yohn/Signon motion to approve Resolution 2016G7  
Motion was approved unanimously.

MOU Prowers County

Commissioner Yohn stated this MOU shows at no cost right now but should this change and comes into play it should be looked at again. The State is paying for this now but it may change. Also surely we have a local hotline.

Jason Kelly stated yes we do have a local hotline number. This is new but Prowers County has decided they can monitor this hotline after hours. They would submit reimbursement to State. They estimated number of calls Alamosa has had so they gave this amount of hours at no cost to County.

Commissioner Signon agreed if something changed it should be looked at.

Jason Kelly stated he would follow up with Catherine Salazar to see how this is working. We can cancel and go a different option if this is costing us too much money.

Commissioner Allen stated he has toured the State Hotline Center where the calls come into. It is amazing how many calls come through. Prowers County Commissioner Wendy Andrade sits on the Child Welfare Allocation Committee and the IV-E Committee. She feels they can take this on. He is okay with this.
m/s Yohn/Sigmond motion to approve MOU Prowers County
Motion was approved unanimously

**SLV Title IV-E Demonstration Project Contract**

m/s Yohn/Allen motion to approve SLV Title IV-E Demonstration Project Contract
Motion was approved with Sigmond abstained since she is on that council

**Alamosa Senior Center**

Lynette Cotton was present. She is requesting assistance for their operating expenses. They are thankful for anything they can do. They have current programs such as Casino road trips, Bingo, Pool Tournaments, Pot Luck Dinners, and transportation service. Some new activities they would like to see implemented are trips to Hooper pool, drive to see the Aspen colors turn with a lunch in Lake City, monthly birthday parties, holiday dances, museum/cultural trips and “The Price is Right” game nights.

We have several fundraising activities such as Early Iron Breakfast, T-shirt sales, our annual Christmas Bazaar, Pancake Breakfasts, and Ice Cream Sundaes/Floats.

**Alamosa County Blight Officer**

Jinger Tilden, John Stump, and Kristina Crowder were present.

SLV Ecosystem Council is hosting a Clean-Up Day. They applied for a USDA Rural Utilities Solid Waste Grant which was received to target areas of Alamosa County where there illegal dumping takes place. They are doing this near Craft drive and Alamosa Elementary School. The City of Alamosa is providing roll off dumpster and transportation to the land. They are requesting a third backhoe and an employee to operate it. The County Road & Bridge Department is willing to provide anything you approve today. The Clean Up is Saturday, August 13th from 8am -2pm.

Commissioner Sigmond asked what kind of blight is out there.

Kristina Crowder stated furniture, mattresses, glass, old cans, clothes, and concrete. WSB Recycling went and picked up all the electronics. They said they collected 700 lbs. at no charge. It is about 75 acres.

Commissioner Yohn asked if this area is in the City or County.

Kristina Crowder stated along the City border.

Commissioner Allen stated Tim DeHerrera said the only concern was to have an employee to operate the backhoe.

Commissioner Sigmond asked if they get comp time. She supports this request.

Commissioner Yohn stated he supported this clean up as well.
m/s Sigmond/Yohn motion to approve request from SLV Ecosystem Council for their request of a
backhoe and backhoe operator for Saturday, August 13th from 8am-2pm.
Motion was approved unanimously.

Jinger Tilden stated they spoke with the landowners to do this clean up. It will be their responsibility in
the future.

John Stump commented on the forth coming planning of the State Department of Health & Environment
is doing related to Solid Waste Management. The new Director is coming down to look at the landfill
sites. They are getting serious with this and may have a higher profile for this. We will be applying for
a grant to do a regional plan for recycling and waste diversion. We need to get on the agenda with
Council of Governments (COG) and DRG to present this and request support for the grant. It would have
a better chance with a regional backing. We want to do more with recycling. Many parts of the Valley
already do their own thing for collection but we would have to combine for this plan.

Commissioner Allen stated Ramona Weber is the Chair of the COG board.

Alamosa County Land Use Department

Rachel Baird was present.

Jack and Stacie Wrobel are applying for a plat vacation of two lots of Unit II of the Zapata Subdivision.
The applicants submitted most of the application documents including an ownership and encumbrance
(O&E) report in December of 2015. The applicants have since moved to Japan and never submitted a
land survey plat. She sent them a letter to the applicants to tell them their application would be
withdrawn if they did not submit a plat within 90 days. Being in Japan their O & E has expired and is a
requirement in the Land Use Development Code. She spoke with the County Attorney and he
recommended this to be brought before the BOCC to waive the requirement.

Jason Kelly stated the reason being is because it is a change from what the Development Code says. The
Board has the authority to change versus the Land Use Administrator. He thought this was more
appropriate that you make this decision.

Commissioner Allen stated they used to have everyone from this Zapata subdivision come before the
Board but through the years we have done so many because the lots there were not big enough for a
septic system so we made this rule to go through the Land Use Administrator.

Commissioner Sigmond asked what the purpose of the O&E report is.

Jason Kelly stated it is a process of our Land Use Code.

m/s Sigmond/Yohn motion to approve to waive in this specific situation as a one-time waiver
Motion was approved unanimously.

Federal Highway Administration

She is requesting signature on the Federal Lands Agreement. In May 2016 they applied for these
Federal Access Funds from the Federal Highway Administration. It helps communities whether it be
bridges or roads gain access to public lands and improve that infrastructure. We applied in partnership
with the Great Sand Dunes, BLM, Forest Service, Administration, and the Road & Bridge Department. We applied $3.4 million to resurface a 3in overlay on Lane 6 North. This is the only paved road between the Great Sand Dunes and State Hwy 150 and Hwy 17. It is an important road. It was paved in the 1950’s by CDOT and it wasn’t done properly. Our Road & Bridge Department has spent most of its summer months on this road. It is an economic road, it is how we get people to the Sand Dunes and Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byways. We have to maintain it. The total match is 17.21% of $589,000 in July 26th we were informed we made the short list. This is for scoping only to evaluate the project and economics. We have to commit $10,000 for the scoping portion of this project to allow engineers to evaluate the project to submit for higher approval. We are asking to move forward with this.

 Commissioner Sigmond asked if there is money in the budget for this.

 Rachel Baird stated they had meeting with the Brittnay DeHerrera Chief Financial Officer and Gigi Dennis Administrator to discuss this. We will have to look into supplemental funding for this project. Fortunately we can match Federal money with State money.

 Commissioner Sigmond stated so being on the short list isn’t a guarantee we will get it.

 George Wilkinson stated there are 3 projects on the shortlist. If it doesn’t go this time it puts us in the cycle for next time. We had State representatives on our side. It looks promising. We are fortunate to get on the short list with our first application.

 Commissioner Allen stated we can do this over a period of 3 years. Our asphalt budget is over $300,000 a year.

 Gigi Dennis asked if part of the $589,000 we can use in-kind with gravel and labor.

 Rachel Baird stated it is a cash match being with Federal Highway Grant. We can use in-kind for over match.

 Gigi Dennis stated as far as budgeting it doesn’t come into until 2018.

 Commissioner Yohn stated we have been looking at this for years. It took all of our asphalt money for this road. We need to budget now for this. We were trying to look for help to rebuild it. This is a good project. Once they scope it and see how valuable it is and how much damage there is he feels confident we will get it. We should work our budget towards this. We are looking at $10,000 to get this going. We are only competing against three.

 Commissioner Allen stated the Great Sand Dunes has 400,000 visitors. It was originally paved in 1980. They put gravel in 1977 and Chip sealed in 1998-99. We can make this work.

 Commissioner Yohn was concerned in getting this grant. It still it is a County Road we have a lot of truck traffic with oversized load. The County may have to look at restrictions as being a County Road.

 George Wilkinson stated after you get this built you can give it back to the State. They said if we ever got the Road to State standards they would take it back.

 m/s Yohn/Sigmond motion to proceed with scoping and authorize $10,000 match from the County which is 17.2% of the overall match.

 Motion was approved unanimously
Gigi Dennis asked for an update on the revamping of the website.

Rachel Baird stated our website is outdated and has a lot of outdated information. Gigi Dennis applied for a grant with the State Portal Authority. They set up websites for county and municipal governments. All the State websites are on this. They do all of the programming and give you a package project. We just have to put in our information. We will have fillable forms. It will be user friendly and accept online payments. We will have dual websites for a while because our Tax Lein Sale will be going on at this time. At the beginning of year we will go with just the one website.

**Alamosa County Public Health**

Della Cox-Vieira was present. A written report was presented.

**CDPHE Task Order Contract**

This is for our HCP program for children with special needs. It combines our care coordination activities and our clinic coordination activities. It is similar to last years in terms of our scope of work and our budget.

Jason Kelly stated he has reviewed it and it is fine.

**m/s Sigmond/Yohn motion to approve CDPHE Task Order**

Motion was approved unanimously

**Saguache National Network Institute**

Della Cox-Vieira stated she hasn’t received the one from Hindsdale yet.

Jason Kelly stated you have only one right now from Saguache County but you are going to have the various counties that need to be signed. If no issues with the contract you can authorize Della Cox-Vieira to sign them. They will all be the same.

**m/s Yohn/Sigmond motion for Della to sign the subcontracts for National Institute**

Motion was approved unanimously

Commissioner Sigmond asked how the collaboration works with the other counties.

Della Cox-Vieira stated we formed in 2012-13 to start this regional partnership. It formed to explore an environmental health program. It has been a good close collaboration. They are exploring with this funding to continue to respond to community needs. They feel maxed out with what we are currently doing. They are looking at options on how to expand.

Commissioner Yohn had a concern off of the report of bed bugs.

Della Vox-Vieira stated it is not a concern because it don’t cause illness it is a nuisance. If in a public building they talk to the facility about eradication. If in a private home they will send them information. Typically it needs a licensed service to get rid of the bed bugs. They are surges periodically around the country. They are working with people to get them the information they need. They are tough to get rid of.

Commissioner Sigmond stated there used to be a website listing what hotels have had them.
Della Cox-Vieira stated she don’t know of this website but we do get complaints. We work with other counties on these issues as well.

Gigi Dennis stated on the chart of regional health are we having to keep track from other counties.

Della Cox-Vieira stated this is information from Lynnea because they do provide these regional services all through the Valley

Commissioner Allen stated we are the only region in the State that work as a regional. We are fortunate enough have two people to cover the region. The State uses us as an example for these Regional Services.

Alamosa County County Sheriff

Sheriff Robert Jackson and Lt. DeHerrera were present.

The current population today is 105 in-house inmates with a facility with 95 beds. He is responsible for 143 inmates today. The female population we have 11 beds and we have 14 in there. He has 9 in holding and 16 are housed outside the facility. They have 22 in holding right now. Some are in the rec area and some in the lobby. It is a struggle to do the day to day business. At one point: he has had 160 inmates. The jail population is mainly because of the heroin problem and we don’t see this problem going down.

He voiced his concern with municipal prisoners. We are down to 5 today. This changes hourly/daily. We have two sentenced and 3 pre-trial. The City is concerned of what we are going to do. The total jail population we have to look at who is a danger to the Community and by at large the City inmates are not. If we could limit a population it would be them. We had conversation with the County and the District Court to limit misdemeanor warrants. He is hoping the judges give them the ability to do a PR bond to get them out. We want to have the same conversation with Judge Powell and the City. If inmates come in Wednesday afternoon after court it will be a week before going before the judge again. Pre-trial services and the Center for Restorative Programs are there to assist. Everyone is trying to work on this problem. They have no Jail studies available. Rio Grande jail is full, Saguache jail is full, Costilla jail is full, and Conejos jail won’t even answer their phone calls. We are housing inmates out 38 inmates at $45 average which is $1710 a day to house in other facilities. We are going to back off his decision of not taking City Municipal’s but if the numbers go back up we will have to have this conversation again. It is a safety issues with our employees, community safety, and the inmates safety. Out of 143 inmates only 20 have been sentenced.

Commissioner Sigmond asked how many will this divert from the jail with the RMOMS (Rocky Mountain Offender Management Services).

Sheriff Jackson stated Intervention wasn’t as aggressive as RMOMS and didn’t have as many programs available such as ankle monitors and house arrest. Pueblo County uses them and they save them a lot without them they would really struggle.

Jason Kelly stated Judge Gonzales was a key factor so they asked him what we needed. Anything that we do with RMOMS has to be placed. He would feel more confident on getting them on pre-trial release with these things in place.
Commissioner Sigmond stated we need to deal with this problem now the jail won’t be done for a long time.

Sheriff Jackson stated these records stay in the computer for 5 years so if somebody could fail to appear they will end up in our jail. They have a very large population in jail that have other charges as well. Prisoners may in jail you may find with a mini-warrant only. Today we are in process getting a bad guy who was a fugitive from Fremont County. We cannot hold him here.

Commissioner Yohn stated the City’s concern was housing of inmates from the City. He appreciates him backing off because the City is within County. We have always believed that. We know there is a problem. Hopefully we can get with the Judges with those needing to be in jail be there but those need bonding bonded out. Building a bigger jail is not the problem we can fill that easily. Pre-trial is the immediate thing to look at. It is the safety of staff we cannot do business with that many inmates around. We have the responsibility in housing them. With other jails in the Valley being full it really makes it difficult.

Sheriff Jackson stated hopefully the community jail doesn’t go back up.

Commissioner Sigmond asked what kind of monitoring do you have where you are keeping the extra people.

Sheriff Jackson stated they have some in visitation where there is no monitoring. There is a window that you can see in. Most room have cameras in there and we can put more but who is going to watch them. We had an attempted suicide in there before.

Commissioner Allen noted Mayor Joseph Lucero, Charlie Griego, Jan Vigil, Ty Coleman, Heather Brooks, and Chief of Police Oaks were present today.

Sheriff Jackson stated he speaks with the Chief of Police daily and they meet every other week.

Commissioner Allen stated we have a great collaboration with the City more than any other time.

Heather Brooks City Manager stated the Sheriff did call them last night stating he is willing to continue to evaluate this. We appreciate the collaboration. We want to share some information on what the City is doing. We do understand the overcrowding in the jail. They have a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. This past year with the issue of the jail overcrowding is something they do want to help. They want to come up with solutions. Their Judge is open to different sentencing options and their office is trying to analyze things that we can do differently. We have applied for the Jag grant to allow judge alternative sentencing. We want to reduce population in the jail. Council did approve to work with RMOMS last week. We are adding adult diversion and we are looking at daily reporting. Those who are not a threat to the Community we will have more sentencing options. She is not sure our numbers get over 15. The big scope of things we do realize even 1 bed makes a difference. As we look at to prevent crime if we remove jail as a potential for extreme it can undercut what we do. If we take it out entirely it could hurt some of the other efforts. We are open to look at the failure to appear to look at ways to reduce. We are talking about repeat offenders. It is not murder or some other felony charges but we don’t want the perception that they are not a criminal. We don’t want it to appear it is just a municipal charge and downplay it. On the Committee Judge Swift started a group of everyone in the justice system are trying to figure out how to reduce the crime in Alamosa County. How can we
reduce levels in the jail is what we focus on. They are very aggressive on this. Judge Martinez chairs this now. We need the data of who is in there. Marianne Dunne was on this committee. In the Bylaws there is a position on the committee for a County Judge, County Sheriff, County Commissioner, and an Alamosa County Rep. She wants to make sure the County has a representative to know what is going on. Currently we are providing IT services in Monte Vista. We could see how they handle their jail and the municipal clients there. Also if there is a similar relationship we could help Rio Grande jail have this structure which would help in transporting.

Sheriff Jackson stated the relationship with the City of Monte Vista has more problematic with the GSO than we do. Rio Grande has to house the municipal. They are less flexible than we are. Arapahoe has this same issue.

Heather Brooks stated we pay $60 to the jail right now. RMOMS can provide savings to the City in the terms of the numbers in jail. They are excited to have them.

Commissioner Sigmond asked if the City has representatives in this committee.

Heather Brooks stated yes herself, Chief of Police, the District Attorney and the Municipal Judge.

Commissioner Allen stated other counties are experiencing the same thing. All charges boil down to drugs especially heroin. They are stealing to buy drugs. It is all over rural Colorado. They talked about this at CCI on what can be done. They talked about a regional drug task force but it boils down to money. He attended the NACO Conference where they talked about this also. They are experiencing the same thing. It is a big problem. We used to never have female inmates and now we have over 25. You have to segregate them which makes things more difficult. A sales tax got approved to improve the jail but it is not a fix. We appreciate your concern.

Commissioner Sigmond stated it is something we need to work on. She appreciates the City coordination with us.

Joseph Lucero spoke. As elected officials we have a duty and responsibility to those individuals who pay both property taxes and sales taxes for the services they both need and deserve. As we ponder on the problems in the jail of overcrowding we are challenged and troubled in finding a sustainable solution. Please keep in mind that City residents are first and foremost County residents and must be afforded the same rights and privileges human beings deserve. Our treatment of City or County offenders should not be the issue before us. The issue is how we solve the dilemma we are now facing the treatment of all offenders. We are here to work with you to find solutions. This is not something new. We have been facing this problem for years. We need to find a comprehensive and sustainable solution. We need to work together to find a solution.

Commissioner Yohn stated we are in agreement.

Charlie Griego stated it has been a long time since he has seen the Sheriff, Chief of Police, and District Judge work together. It has set a positive outlook to the Community. Sheriff Jackson has brought a lot of positive things. We understand the problem and we will continue working with them. He understands in the past there wasn’t a workable relationship. Their concerns is they don’t want to have the message of if you do something wrong you will not go to jail. We don’t want to lose that or we will have some problems.
Commissioner Sigmond stated we need to address the RMOMS issue.

Jason Kelly stated in regards to the housing of municipal inmates the reason the Sheriff was coming before you was Municipal Statutes allows the Sheriff to house municipal inmates upon the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff isn’t asking to revoke this at this point but the Sheriff does have a concern about the fluctuation of municipal inmates. The Board could indicate if at a certain amount he can have the discretion to control if it comes to this point where he can’t take any more municipal inmates on that given day. We met with RMOMS Monday and they were fine to move forward with a letter of intent with them to the services they could provide.

Commissioner Yohn stated he doesn’t agree at this time. The implied consent of the Sheriff is proper. At this time he does need this discretion. RMOMS wasn’t on the agenda but in Staff Updates it can be brought up.

Jason Kelly stated it is a topic now so that is why he brought it up now. They can delegate the consent to the Sheriff if at a time he won’t be able to take Municipal inmates.

Commissioner Yohn stated it implies that now.

Jason Kelly stated the Statute isn’t set up that way. The Board makes that decision not the Sheriff.

m/s Sigmond/Yohn in regards to the Commissioners authority to accept Municipal prisoners motion to allow to delegate the discretion to the Sheriff if the safety of the jail is at risk to refuse Municipal prisoners if deemed a safety necessity issue.

Motion was approved unanimously.

**Board/Staff Updates**

*Rocky Mountain Offender Management Services (RMOMS)*

Jason Kelly stated we met with RMOMS. He is encouraged by the amount of individuals they are involved with and their experience. They are ready to go with what they can do. It was nice to have the Judge there. They are willing to move forward with a Letter of Intent. They don’t have a standard contract but we will look at the contract with Pueblo or the City of Alamosa’s contract with them. Services are based on an offender basis. They charge per offender that is on pre-trial release. To give you an idea if someone is on House arrest it is $10 a day, GPS tracking $10 day, or $9 for the breathe test. The breathe test takes picture of them doing this test. This would be the cost to the County.

Gigi Dennis stated they said they are usually able to collect 80% back from the person.

Jason Kelly stated the demographic is different in Pueblo than here. The inmates here don’t have a lot of funds. It will be difficult to collect but there is a difference between $40 a day versus $10 a day.

Commissioner Sigmond stated the cost analysis does make a lot of sense. It would be less than we are paying right now.

Jason Kelly stated one concern he has is budgeting for this because it is based on per offender. We don’t know how many we will have. Judge Gonzales really wanted the three things in place; the GPS tracking, house arrest, and Vivitrol. Vivitrol helps with the craving of heroin. They are authorized to do
this the State has approved it so they are working on this. We will have a clause that we can terminate 30 days, 60 days, or whatever. We need to budget appropriate. The concern is it will be hard to budget because we don’t how much to appropriate to pay for this.

Commissioner Allen stated it is the same thing for budgeting for housing outside. We never know how many people are going to be in there.

Commissioner Sigmond stated Julie Zaragosa is a local who does this and she has a lot of experience and knowledge.

Commissioner Yohn stated this is a step in the right direction. They are willing to go in the jail now and determine who needs to be in there. Trying to get the money back from the offender will be difficult. Evidently the City has gone into contract with them.

Jason Kelly stated he is not sure if they are in contract right now or in a Letter of Intent.

Commissioner Sigmond stated they mentioned getting the Jag Grant.

Jason Kelly stated he will follow up with Eric the City Attorney on what they did.

Commissioner Yohn stated the success will be great. The Judges agreed if monitored properly.

Commissioner Sigmond stated the Sheriff talked to Pueblo and they were happy with RMOMS. Gigi Dennis has toured the Pueblo Jail and they had civilians doing the intake.

Commissioner Yohn stated we need a Letter of Intent for them now.

**m/s Yohn/Sigmond motion to have Letter of Intent with RMOMS**

    Motion was approved unanimously

**Authorization for RFP for Commissioner Agent**

We need a Commissioning Agent. We need to get a RFP out. You want to have them on board for the drawings. The important thing about having a Commissioning Agent is to talk to the architects on important things such as mechanics and HVAC systems. We had this issue of not having one at the Airport Building that caused problems. We did have this for the Annex building so things went a lot more smoothly.

**m/s Yohn/Sigmond motion for a Commissioning RFP**

    Motion was approved unanimously

**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

Michael Yohn, Vice-Chair

Helen Sigmond, Commissioner