Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on October 12, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

Members Present: Darius Allen, Chair  
George Wilkinson, Vice-Chair  
Mike Yohn, Commissioner  
Jason Kelly, County Attorney  
Mark Garcia, County Interim Administrator  
Carol Osborn, Administrative Assistant  
Belina Ramirez, Administrative Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda


M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve the agenda of October 12, 2011.  
Motion was passed unanimously.

Consent agenda Items:

Approval of General Business/Minutes

The Following Minutes were presented:  
Regular Minutes- September 28, 2011

M/S Yohn/Wilkinson motion to approve the Minutes of September 28, 2011.  
Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills/Obligations

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve the Bills/Obligations  
Motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comment
Approval of Consent Agenda
2012 Commissioners Meetings and Holidays
LoGO Master Services Agreement-Wording Change

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve Consent agenda
Motion was approved unanimously.

Biomass Energy Conversion

Erwin Young with Colorado Gators was present. He is here today to talk about a Biomass Energy Conversion system Feasibility Study Project. Rocky Mountain Farmers Union will be the fiscal agent. The system would take wood chips and heat them to produce a gas to fuel an internal combustion engine. It would produce electricity and byproducts would produce electricity, heat, and biochar. It could be manufactured and sold by farmers and ranchers. The wood chips that are too small could be used as wood pellets. The size they would like to build would be a 40kw which would be large enough to power a pivot sprinkler, a pump and an auxiliary sprinkler. There is a surplus of wood right now in the forest. Renewable energy from biomass is normally considered a carbon neutral; the carbon dioxide produced would be the same the trees would use to recycle. This is carbon negative because the carbon could be concentrated into the soil permanently where as compost becomes carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. The size of the request would be $50-$80,000 for the feasibility study. The second phase would be to build a model unit which would be east of Alamosa. This would be for a demonstration project. The final stage would be to go into production.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked if they would have to obtain the wood chips yourself. They have a private ranch that could produce 90 tons a day forever. In reality there are people in Denver that would deliver wood chips to them for $40 a ton. Due to the beetle kill of pine there is an unlimited availability of wood. This is a small project they are perusing which could be handled through Rustic log, people who gather wood, or saw mills.

Commissioner Allen asked if it is cost effective when they have to ship it in. He is thinking local for a small project now. There are also places where you pick up the wood and get it for free just the cost of loading it. Commissioner Allen asked if he has talked to the Land Use Department. No he has not because right now they are seeking funding for a feasibility study. He is proposing east of town where he owns some property. More research needs to be done before anything gets done. Commissioner Yohn asked if they are considering any other places such as the saw mills. Right now this is for a small project they are looking at for the feasibility study. This study could attract Saw mills or others who gather wood if this study is found feasible.

Alamosa Senior Citizens

Dan Gutierrez Director was present. He is requesting funding. They have been struggling over the last year. They have done some fundraisers such as selling food during the Early Iron Festival and a Casino night. The funding they do receive they appreciate. They use it for transportation. Their driver won an award for Senior Inc driver of the year. Two positions which include their driver are paid by the Senior Inc so that doesn’t come out of their budget.
They have been writing for grants but these don’t apply for operating expenses. This is what they need funding for operating expenses. El Pomar they have got mini grants for $1000-$1200. Their annual budget is $105,000. Their Excel Utility bill is 30% of their budget. They did participate in the Energy Audit assistance to find ways to keep the bill down. Hopefully they will be able to help them with that. The City gives them $20,000. CSBG gave them $1900. This is for transportation related expenses such as oil changes and minor repairs. Their fuel costs around $3000 for two vehicles. They also do trips such as their trip to New Orleans which makes about $4000. They have Casino trips as well which make them a couple of hundred dollars. They are requesting $15000. Commissioner Allen asked in the future are they going to be self sufficient. That is their goal stated Mr. Gutierrez. Their membership is increasing right now they have about 300. Seniors pay dues but most don’t go daily to the center. Depending on the menu their attendance increases such a when they have Salisbury steak. They also lease their kitchen to the Nutrition Program of $650. They may need to raise that amount. They have a couple of CD accounts. They just received ownership of the Senior Center so it is their building now. Commissioner Wilkinson asked if they obtained any property. They have the Marsh house where they rent for $700 a month. If something goes wrong with that house they take it out of the rent. Mr. Garcia requested a copy of their budget.

**Alamosa Mosquito Control District**

Harvey Teyler, Sara Cantu Intern Assistant Manager, and Tyler Herst Operations Assistant Manager were present.

Harvey Teyler will retire as of January 2012. Ms. Cantu and Tyler Herst will be taking over.

A PowerPoint presentation was given.

Commissioner Allen asked who is on their board. The board consists of Larry Sveum –Chair, Dorothy Myers –Secretary, Patrick Steenberg, Karen Crowder, and Scott Caton –Treasurer stated Mr. Teyler.

Commissioner Allen asked about the requests for not spraying at their property. The Board passed a regulation that if it has to Dr approved health risk or have an organic garden they will not spray. Their fogger trucks have the locations entered into their system so when the trucks are near the location of no spraying the alarm will go off to notify them to turn the pump off. When they get on the other side of the property they turn it back on. They cannot control the drift.

Commissioner Allen asked if they have any plans to expand the district. They do not have any plans to expand stated Mr. Teyler. He doesn’t know why originally they made the 5.5 mile radius of Alamosa. Presently they cover 75% of the tax money that comes in. The rest of the 25% it would double their costs to cover them. For Mosca it would cost about $150 an hour.

Commissioner Allen stated people ask if they look into other ways such as birds or bats for mosquito control. There isn’t much into that stated Mr. Teyler. It would help if people would clean up their yards and drain where water is collecting such as bird feeders or ponds.
Commissioner Wilkinson asked they are not going to pick up another aerial pilot. No one wants to do it anymore, there is a problem flying at night, and the location is the reasons they cannot continue aerial flights. It won’t be as effective or efficient if they hired someone from somewhere else. The local pilots are getting old and they do not want to supplement their income. Their pilot now has been doing this for 30 years and he deserves to retire.

Alamosa County Land Use

Ken VanIwarden was present.

He has been assisting Juan Altamirano with the Energy Performance Contracts and the Mosca Sewer projects. He has assisted with Andrew Atencio with the signs for DHS and Admin. He has been working with Public Health on some reports. They have been working on the updating of the Land Development Code. They have a meeting on the Flood Plain November 17th to discuss future mapping and strategies. They are close to completion for the solar power generating facilities. They processed 20 Land Use Permit applications. He spoke about some of the public hearings that are going to be held. They are continuing working on the Mental Health Project and also Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Yohn asked about Mr. O’Malley. They were unable to deliver citations because he left the valley and they have no forwarding address. He spoke regarding the citation issues.

Mr. Kelly asked if he has been to Mr. Moyers place. He has and the motor home has been moved.

Commissioner Allen asked about the William Gilmore case. The judge found him guilty of not getting a permit. He was found not guilty on the other citations. He won’t let anyone in through gate, he has refused to pick up a registered letter they sent, so they have decided to tape the notice on the gate and take a picture to document they did leave it there for notification.

The track on Highway 160 has had no activity there. Commissioner Wilkinson asked about the access of the motocross. They were not to use the access off of Highway 160 it was for the residence only.

Break

Alamosa County Public Health

Ms. Geiser was present.

It is Breast Cancer Awareness Month so everyone is wearing pink today. A request was made to the whole county to participate.

Ms. Geiser wanted to review the notion of Public Health being on Social Media such as Face book and Twitter. She gave an example of someone in the East Coast when that hurricane came through they had no electricity but she had a Smart Phone and was looking for information on
the status of the hurricane through Face book. Juan Altamirano stated they need to go over the
guidelines and/or ramifications of social media of doing Face book. Other Public Health
Departments are putting educational information on Face book as well. David Osborn stated
Face book is one resource he uses as well as the Colorado Department of Health and
Environment use this for disasters and training exercises. Mr. Kelly stated they could put a
disclosure clause/statement in there.

The Revenue Expenditure Summary was presented.

In case of an emergency situation she would like to have the option of having some employees
working from home. They originally had a plan to go to the Recreation Center but the City has
changed their mind now. Commissioner Wilkinson stated it depends on what kind of
emergency/disaster it is.

They had a Health Care Leadership meeting and have decided they need to coordinate their
priorities.

They need a pipeline for young people to go into the health field. They will do their part by
continuing mentoring and providing internship opportunities to them.

Recognition for PPHR

David Osborn was present. They were certified through NACCHO for Department of
Emergency Preparedness and Response planning efforts. Their Regional Planner was asked to
send some of their documents/information to be used at a National level. Alamosa, Rio Grande,
and Mineral County plans are going to be reviewed at a National Level across the United States
as best practices.

Alamosa County Home Health

There is a new rule for Medicare patients that if they have been in the hospital and they are
readmitted into the hospital again within 30 days the hospital doesn’t get the revenue.

Minimum wages are proposing raising it to $7.54. This will affect the providers. This is where
they are in financial trouble already. Do they increase everyone’s because that increases the base
level questioned Ms. Geiser. They will have to discuss this.

OLTC they were notified last week they are going to have to hire a contractor where they used to
do their own prior authorizations for home modifications. They were paid $34000 so that is less
they will have this year. Due to this they will not replace the last Case Manager that left.

Contract Amendment No 1 – they have reviewed it and unless there are major changes they will
sign it at the next meeting being that this is a draft.

County Road & Bridge Report
They have been patching, blading, and hauling dirt. They probably will have a couple more days of patching to do. A few years back they cleaned a few allies now the City has a new vacuum truck for their sewers and they want the allies cleaned up. In town everyone has to maintain their own allies. They sent a letter last time but they were not sure if it said they were responsible for cleanup. The enforcement would be done by the Sheriff. It could also be covered under blight enforcement. Commissioner Yohn stated they have got a lot of compliments on the patching in East Alamosa. Mr. Garcia reminded Mr. West of daylight savings time change which would reflect a change to a five day work week.

**Presentation of 2012 Preliminary Budget**

Brittney Deherrera was present.

It is just a planning tool and a snapshot of time so it is nothing set in stone. All Public Comments or Oral Comments can bring them up at the November meeting.

With it being re-appraisal year that market value increased in all residential and commercial. Vacant land stayed the same. This generates about an additional $300,000 in property taxes for next year. The total property tax for the county is 3.7 million. They are still maintaining mill levy base fund 22.38. The General Fund and the Solid Waste mill levy were reduced. This was put into Facilities Expansion and Health Insurance. Fund Balance is stable. They are looking at spending $200,000 of their fund balance. They are currently carrying 2.8 million there. They are looking at spending $650,000 of their 2.1 million fund balance for Road & Bridge Fund which also includes paving and additional equipment. The Internal Service Fund and Capital Outlay requested by department heads they only have a $170,000 fund balance and they have requests over $200,000 in equipment not including Road & Bridge. There will be some decisions to be made regarding those purchases. Health Insurance increased 4% and Workers Comp increased 8% but that is because of a 7% salaries increase. Public Safety is over budget $330,000 over budget today so this does not include the next month and a half. $50,000 was for Securis. The Pre-trial and mapping was put into this.

November 20 is the Public Hearing for public comment on the budget. Mr. Kelly stated they could do this up to the day of adoption. A Cost of living and performance is included but it is what the Commissioners decide to do. They did not change anything reflecting what the Department Heads have requested. There were requests for increase in job reclassifications were they incorporated asked Mr. Garcia. They did not include those into the budget.

**County Interim Administrator**

Mr. Mark Garcia provided a report. He has been organizing his space and sorting through files and information. He has been learning about past and current projects. He has met with staff and elected officials. He has met with the Administrative staff and would like to make the following recommendations:

- Administrative Assistance duties: Expand job description and oversight of the County Finance Officer, Human Resource Coordinator, and DH Accountant.
County Finance Officer: Move all payroll and leave accrual work to this position.
HR Coordinator: Focus on HR related tasks and cross-train in payroll and leave accrual.
Community Development Coordinator: Need to prioritize and improve communications.

He has been familiarizing himself on the Land Use Code. He has provided them a template and they plan to utilize that. They will also be working on getting the zoning map accurate.

He would also like to recommend all the county departments going to 40 hour work week so they all coincide. Commissioner Wilkinson asked if he could get the cost associated with this change.

Letter of Support for Rio Grande Water Conservation

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is submitting comments to the US Fish and Wildlife Services to ask them not designate the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado as Critical Habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Commissioner Wilkinson stated they needed to back the Rio Grande Water Conservation. If not it will tie up more land and water.

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve Letter of Support for Rio Grande Water Conservation
  Motion was approved unanimously.

Crossroads has requested an extension of an additional 3 years which needs to be done by November 24th.

Adjourn

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

ATTEST: 

Belina Ramirez, Administrative Secretary
Carol Osborn, Administrative Assistant

Darius Allen, Chairman
George Wilkinson, Vice-Chair

Mike Yohn, County Commissioner