

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, December 15, 2009 with the following present:

Linda Joseph, Chair
Mike Spearman, Co-Vice Chairman
Sam Pace, Co-Vice Chairman
Ben Gibbons, County Attorney
Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator
Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator
Melinda Myers, Secretary and Clerk to the Board

Meeting called to order by Chair Joseph at 9:03 A.M.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.

1. The FEMA report will be postponed to January.

Pace moved to approve the agenda as amended. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Reading and approval of minutes of November 17, 2009.

Pace moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2009 as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Reading and approval of minutes of December 8, 2009.

Pace moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2009 as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Review of Mail and other correspondence:

1. La Puente sent the 2009 Winter Newsletter on new updates and achievements
2. May Engquist with Saguache County Planning Commission brought in a letter stating that her Commission will expire on December 31, 09 and is asking to be reappointed. (12/10/09)
3. State of Colorado, Board of Health sent a Notice of Upcoming Public Rule-Making Hearings on January 19, 2010 at 3pm in Denver. (12/10/09)
4. State of Colorado sent a Notice of Meeting & Agenda for Air Quality Control Commission on December 17, 09 at 9am in Denver. (12/10/09)
5. Susan Lucas Coordinator with Outreach & Read is inquiring of the fund available for nonprofit organizations in Saguache County. (12/9/09) Administration will direct them to the Spring Sales Tax Grant cycle.
6. State of Colorado, Board of Health sent the Agenda for the December 16, 09 meeting at 10am in Denver. (12/10/09)
7. San Luis Valley 4-H Foundation sent a request asking for voluntary donations to help hire a full time 4-H agent and to help maintain a variable 4-H program in the valley. (12/11/09) Administration will direct them to the Spring Sales Tax Grant cycle.

8. State Board of Equalization sent a Revised Notice of Public Hearing on Dec 11, 09 at 1:30pm in Denver. (12/11/09)
9. Colorado LTAP sent the November 2009 newsletter. (12/11/09)
10. United States Dept. of Agriculture sent a letter for the Programmatic Agreement & Survey Protocol for the Grand Mesa, Gunnison National Forest. If you would like more information or have any questions call Leigh Hunt at 970-874-6691. (12/14/09)

Introduction of Guests: Leigh Mills – Crestone Eagle; Allen Jones; Bruce Sanborn; Erin Minks – US Rep Salazar; Leslie Griffith; Jeannie & Larry Ewing, Julie Sullivan and Eric Barandes - Citizens for Non-destructive Power

Commissioners Reports:

Mike Spearman reported:

- Dec 10 – Attended Saguache Town Christmas party.
- Dec 10 – Attended the ITA Meeting in Alamosa. Group is still working out the details to set up the bus routes. Should be ready to go first of April.
- Dec 11 – Attended the Community meeting on the Tessera Preliminary 1041 application.
- Dec 14 - Attended the DRG end of year meeting in Alamosa. Spearman proposed to set up Bob Real from ITA in an office in the Depot building.
- Leach Airfield has a municipal airport designation from FAA, which qualifies Saguache County for grants. An area pilot is interested in purchasing the field and setting up a refueling station, which would bring some much needed economic development to Center.

Sam Pace reported:

- December 9 - Attended the Villa Grove Area Merchants Association Holiday dinner at Joyful Journey Hot Springs.
- Dec 11 - Attended the Community meeting on the Tessera Preliminary 1041 application.

Linda Joseph:

- December 9 - Attended the Villa Grove Area Merchants Association Holiday dinner at Joyful Journey Hot Springs.
- Dec 10 - Attended the Town of Saguache Holiday dinner, and some of the Villa Grove Master Plan public forum.
- Dec 11 - Attended the Community meeting on the Tessera Preliminary 1041 application.

Lyn Zimmer and Wendi Maez– Co-administrator report:

- \$89058.00 was appropriated for the District Attorney’s office in 2009, the SLVCCA letter - got the amount mixed up and the DA thinks we own another \$600.00. The Board decided to send the amount budgeted. Administration will write a letter of explanation to the DA’s office.

Pace moved to adopt the 2010 Budget for a total of \$12,087,173: General Fund - \$3,062,569; Road and Bridge Fund - \$4,170,475; Library Fund - \$80,167; Public Health Fund - \$819,415; Social Services Fund - \$3,760,048; SLV-TV Fund - \$500; Conservation Trust Fund - \$34,000; Tourism Fund - \$10,000; and Sales Tax Grant Fund - \$150,000 as presented. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Adoption of 2010 Budget was discussed for approval.

Pace moved to approve the 2010 Mill Levy Certifications for a total assessed value of \$61,638,329. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Adoption of 2010 Mill Levy Certifications.

Pace moved to approve the 2010 Certification of Levies and Revenue. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- 2010 Certification of Levy and revenue for the County.

Pace moved to approve the transfer from the General Fund to the Library Fund in the amount of \$1850. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Transfer of funds from General Fund to Library fund in the amount of \$1850. This requested transfer is to cover expenses through the end of 2009. The Sales Tax Grant was transferred into the Library account but more funds are needed to cover until the end of the year.
- Julie Smith with Benefit Health Advisory would like to set January 5, 6 and 7, 2010 to come into the county to do the blood draws for county employees. The results of these tests will only go to the employee not to the County or to the insurance company. These results will not be used for pre-existing conditions.
- The Veteran Officer Service report for November 2009 was signed.
- Budget Amendments will be discussed at the end of the day.

Break

Wendi Maez - Land Use report:

Pace moved to approve the variance request for Bruce Sanborn for a 1970 Mobile Home on Ewing Ranch Lots 13 with the Planning Commission recommendations and the plumbing removed. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Bruce Sanborn – Ewing Ranch Lot 13 – Variance Request to place a 1970 Mobile Home on lot. This trailer was moved to the property on September 2, 2009. Owner has been fined. This trailer is to be used for storage only. There are 3 existing 8’X8’ storage buildings on the property. There is an existing driveway to the property, drive way permit #AP108. Electricity will be off grid – solar/ Telephone – Cell/ Water supplied – Well permit #281305, Sewage Disposal – Will need to apply for when residence is being constructed. Saguache County Planning Commission recommended unanimous approval of this request with the following recommendation – ALL electrical be removed and trailer set with ties on ground. No time limit was given for the electrical and ties to be set.

Pace moved to approve the Lot Consolidation for John Q and Cheryl B Rowe on Baca Grande Chalet Unit I, Lots 2127 and 2128. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- John Q. and Cheryl B. Rowe – Lot Consolidation request to consolidate Lots 2127 & 2128 Baca Grande Chalet Unit One. CBPC recommended unanimous approval of this request by phone vote on December 9, 2009.
- Maez updated the Board on results of the Master Planning forums so far.

Ben Gibbons - County Attorney

- Discussion on Special Event Permits – Gibbons will research other county permits and draft up a revision for the next meeting.

Mike Norris - Sheriff

- Medical Marijuana discussion.

Jail Tour

Adjourned for Lunch at 12:00 P. M.

Resumed meeting at 1:00 P. M.

Randal Arredondo - Supervisor Road & Bridge and Land fill report:

- Jones Oil has locked in fuel at \$2.15/gallon for gas and \$2.5844/gallon for diesel.
- Arredondo will draft the agreement with the Districts with the numbers set down in the meeting with the Superintendents.

Jeannie Norris – Director Board of Human Services:

- There were 24 TANF cases for the month of November, which is an increase of 3 for the total in the month of September. Food assistance cases rose once again to 455, which is a steady increase for both case categories. November had 27 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases, and old-age pension cases decreased to 102.
- The CHEERS training center had 9 TANF clients, and 3 adult basic education clients. Pearl has expanded agency contracts to include Saguache County Road and Bridge and Nursing Services. We currently have TANF participants working with Head Start, Road

and Bridge and Public Health in addition to Center Head Start, the school library and Center Housing.

- The Child and Adult Protection Unit reported 10 referrals during October, and 7 during November, all of whom were accepted for investigation. There were 12 dependency and neglect court cases, and 19 children in placement with 179 children in open cases. November showed 7 adult protection cases.
- IV-D year-to-date collections are relatively steady, with a total of \$433,372.13 in 2009 as opposed to \$432,090.51 for 2008 at this time. Interstate cases continue to rise, and require a good deal of the technician's time.
- The first LEAP payroll disbursed \$84,178.74 to 219 households.
- Commodity distribution served 211 households including 469 individuals at three separate distributions prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Immediately before Thanksgiving, turkeys and turkey roasts were distributed to those persons certified for commodities, and placed in reserve enough turkey to assist the Sheriff with Christmas Sharing meals.

Melinda Myers - Tourism Report

- Received Performance Evaluations from all grant recipients except Energy Fair and the Crestone Artist's Studio Tour, which was only last weekend. The award letters were very clear that for an event to continue to get funding every year, an evaluation must be completed before the end of the year.
- Partnered with the other six counties in the Valley in a coop ad in the Official Colorado Vacation Guide. SCTC has excellent representation on the San Luis Valley Tourism Association and hopes to partner in many projects to promote the Valley.
- Chair, Susan Soltysik has been working on optimizing Saguache on the Colorado Tourism Office and the SLVTA websites.
- Partnering with individuals from Crestone, towns of Moffat and Crestone to create a visitor's center in the building at the corner of Hwy 17 & County Road T in Moffat. Part of the project would be the creation of a Special Marketing District, which would double the lodging tax paid by visitors who spend the night in Saguache County. These funds would double the SCTA budget and could be used to maintain the visitor's center. The renovation costs could be covered through a County Sales Tax and CDOT Grants.

Penny Bruce - Library Administrator

- The children's Summer Reading Program was successful this year in bringing a record-setting number of kids to the Library (131) and in encouraging them to read a record-setting number of books for the reading contest (1507!). Our first year of collaboration with the Community Garden brought many children and their caretakers to the garden plots each week and generated a high level of enthusiasm for the project. We've been meeting with Leigh Mills, director of the Garden, and are already planning our theme for next year and working to refine the weekly agenda to appeal to even more kids.
- Weekly story hours for the children enrolled in the Head start School resumed in September and now include the kids in the Little Learners daycare center.
- The RSVP volunteer program, headquartered at the Library, continues to provide help to seniors in need and opportunities for others to volunteer their services. This program is funded by a grant from the Daniels Foundation and staff has been diligent about keeping

records of expenses and activities for our year-end report to them. After doing some price comparisons, Friends purchased tools and equipment for volunteers with the program to use for minor home repairs and yard maintenance, all of which was put to good use in September when we partnered with the SDRP for a downtown spruce up day.

- The Library partnered with nine other libraries in the Valley to write a LSTA grant, which was awarded to us in September. The purpose of the funding is to set up regular computer classes at each library location, to replace the ones previously provided by Adams State. The Library received 6 new Dell laptops (and a cart to store them in) which will be used for the classes and will also be available for meetings and private use in the Library. Representatives from several of the involved libraries, including Penny Bruce from our library, met in Alamosa in November to interview applicants for the job of teaching the classes and subsequently hired Esteban Salazar, a highly qualified graduate of Adams State. Classes will begin by the end of the year and we're conducting an informal survey at the Library to learn what topics for study would be the most popular.
- The monthly Fourth Friday Open House celebrations that were so popular last winter will resume in January. In October, volunteers helped organize a great Halloween event that brought over sixty people to the Library. The party included a costume contest for kids (everyone got a prize), fortune-telling for the older kids, a hilarious magic show, some spooky Halloween stories, goodies for everyone and a free, slightly used book for every child that attended.
- Volunteer and Friend of the Library, Joy Hughes, has installed the marvelous Google Earth program on the Library's public Mac computer (with its fancy big monitor) and gave a demonstration at the last Friends meeting. Joy wants to create an after-school program that would involve students in the process of submitting panoramic views of our valley for inclusion in this program's graphics and has written one grant proposal to fund it (still pending). She has also been brain-storming with staff to create a similar project, aligned with the many Google Earth applications that would include adults as well.

Fund-Raising

- We're still waiting to hear from El Pomar about the two grant applications we submitted last May—we still have hope because last year the funds weren't dispersed until January. We submitted an application to the WalMart state giving program, but were rejected, all of which makes us extremely grateful that the County chose to approve our latest Sales Tax Revenue application—thank you all.
- The matching funds for the Libri grant were provided by the Friends of the Library and in September we were shipped 75 new books (worth \$1400) to add to our children's and young adults' collections. Bruce made the new books the centerpiece of her first story hour with the Head start and took pictures of the kids reveling in the new books, which she then submitted on time with the required report to the Foundation, thus allowing us to reapply in 3 years if we wish.
- The Friends of the Library continued to actively pursue library funding by having a booth at each of the three Flea Markets last summer, holding a bake sale at the Fall Festival, and by opening a used book store on Fourth Street. The owner of the Ute Theater, Chris Gydeson, has donated the use of a room in the front of the theater building and many volunteer hours were spent transforming it into a very nice little shop, full of used books withdrawn from the Library and other donated books. The space is also a venue for local artists to display and sell their works and has already hosted a pre-Thanksgiving bake sale

and will be having a Holiday Bazaar the weekend before Christmas. For the month of December, volunteers have agreed to staff the store every day of the week.

- September 30 brand new gardening books were donated by the Saguache Community Garden, from a grant to Colorado Garden Show INC. This has greatly expanded the gardening selection at the Library.

Library District:

- After a few false steps, the campaign to form a library district has continued to move forward. The Baca Grande Library, previously funded by the POA in their area, has chosen to partner with the Saguache Library and become a public library serving patrons on the eastern side of the new Northern Saguache County Library District. Regular meetings have been held with representatives from both libraries and the POA, resulting in a Letter of Agreement that delineates each library's role in the campaign process being signed by all. At a work session with the County Commissioners, it was decided to begin the process of circulating petitions to the public in order to place a resolution on the ballot for November 2010. We are currently in the process of refining the wording of this petition, getting familiar with the rules for the petition process, recruiting volunteers to collect signatures in different areas of the district and creating a "fact sheet" for volunteers to refer to when asked questions by the public.

Library Hours

- The staff would like to request permission to change the Library's business hours for the next two winter months. Instead of being open Mon-Thurs, from 10am—5:30pm, we would like to be open 9am—4:30pm, moving opening and closing times up one hour earlier. If there are no objections to this change, it would mean that staff can get home after work while there is still a little daylight. The Board denied this request as the local citizens and school kids use the library after 4PM and are used to the Library being open until 5:30PM.

Library Budget

- Both Bruce and Mondragon attended all the budget meetings this fall and submitted a proposed budget for 2010 that included only one major change, i.e., changing the position of Administrator from part-time to full time, which would result in added expenses in the amount of \$5-6,000, to pay for the full time benefits. Since then, it was pointed out in the Administrators Report on Nov. 15 that the Library Department fell short of generating expected revenues for the second consecutive year, necessitating a further transfer of funds from the County's general fund. In all honesty, economic conditions do not seem likely to improve in the near future and grant funding for the Library will continue to be even scarcer. The Library's budget has already been trimmed of unnecessary expenses (books, periodicals, programs, etc.) and next year, we have to expect that the situation will be the same if not worse by years' end. Mondragon would like at this time to advise the Board that without increasing the transfers from the General Fund, increasing the cost of the Administrator's position is untenable and by agreeing to include it in the budget, we will only be postponing the inevitable shortfall next year. To summarize, if the County can't afford to spend any more on the Library, we shouldn't be increasing our budget expenses with little expectation of generating adequate outside revenue.

Break

Spearman moved to convene as the Housing Board at 2:40 P.M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Evan Samora - Housing employee – Monthly report

Pace moved to adjourn the Housing Board and return to regular meeting at 3:00 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was three Ayes.

Julie Sullivan - Citizen's for Non-Destructive Power

- Small group of local citizen on County Road T with concerns about power production in the County.
- Questions on the timeline and public comment period for the permit before the Board regarding solar power.

Sandia Belgrade - FEMA Presentation

- Postponed till January meeting.

Pace moved to approve the budget amendments for 2009 for all County Departments. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Budget Amendments for 2009 were discussed.

Spearman moved to adjourn at 3:45 P.M. Pace seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved January 5, 2009

Chairman of the Board

Attest

Commissioner

Commissioner