COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

County of Rio Grande  )

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State of Colorado  )

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in regular session on December 11, 2019.

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Bothell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Bothell led the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Clerk of the Board, Nikita Christensen called roll. Commissioner Bothell, Commissioner Glover and Commissioner Noffsker were present along with County Administrator, Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Dunn recommended amending the November 13, 2019 minutes. He stated that he did not receive the minutes prior to the approval but found errors after seeing the minutes. He stated that the comments he made at the last meeting regarding the gravel pit discussion were inaccurately recorded in the minutes. Commissioner Glover moved to amend the minutes to read: “if a new application is filed, the Board would need to decide whether they would like to waive the application fee considering that, in Mr. Dunn’s opinion, much of the litigation was due to a poorly written existing code book. Mr. Dunn opined that waiving the fee might be a fair gesture on the part of the Board and the Board collectively agreed they would be inclined to waive the fee if the applicants reapplied”. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Commissioner Bothell asked if there were any public comments, there were none.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was presented which included the Department of Social Services accounts payable, the general fund accounts payable, and the two warrants to void for Monte Vista Coop (152818) and David Scheel (149566). Commissioner Noffsker moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

County Official and Department Head Reports

9:10 a.m., Patrick Sullivan, Road and Bridge Department updated the Board on work that has been completed. He reported that the conveyor leg at the hot plant has been stripped for preparation of new parts, the two new graders are in use and working well, the 10 South pit is being stockpiled, tree removal has been completed in the South Fork area and repairs to the truck damaged in the snow plow accident have been completed. Mr. Sullivan also informed the Board of work planned including completing welding projects, sign projects on County Road 13 and County Road 14, County Road 11 South will have grader work done, snow plowing as needed, and inventory will be taken for the auditors.

Mr. Sullivan asked that the Board consider the purchase of a snow plow. The department has lost one plow due to mechanical breakdown. The cost to repair the unit would not be an efficient use of funds. Mr. Sullivan recommended purchasing a plow that he has found. He explained
that he will need to go over the capital budget line, however, this was an unplanned breakdown. Mr. Sullivan will come to next meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Sullivan discussed the ice build up issue in South Fork. He explained that the County has no authority or place with this issue as the Rio Grande Reservoir is privately owned and is releasing water to do repairs on the reservoir. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the County not get in this discussion.

Randy Kern, Building Department was present to discuss the plumbing inspections and other department issues. Mr. Dunn noted that by January 1, 2020, the state will take over plumbing inspections in Rio Grande County. He also explained that the County will have open plumbing contracts though 2020, however was wondering after all contracts are closed, if the plumbing inspection codes could be rescinded by the Commissioners.

Mr. Dunn stated that the Board needs to make sure people know that Rio Grande Count is having the state do plumbing inspections. The County also needs to check to see that all contracts/permits are closed prior to rescinding the codes.

Mr. Kern also gave a short report of the department revenues.

Dixie Diltz, Land Use Administrator, presented the Board with recommendations from the Planning Commission Board for the appointees for the vacant seats on the Planning Commission. She stated that the Planning Commission met on December 3, 2019 to review letters of interest for the Planning Commission and adopt the code book.

Ms. Diltz stated that the Board felt that Dave Slater and Kelly Slater were both well qualified but feel that the perception would be bad for either Slater to be appointed to the Board while Tricia Slater is the County Administrator. Their recommendation was to thank the Slaters for their interest and explain the Board’s position. The Planning Commissioner’s recommendation was to appoint Charles Stillings to District 2, Russell Pratt to District 1 and Jessica Loveless to District 3. The Board noted that although Russell Pratt is in District 2, they felt that it is more important to have qualified members than it is to keep within boundary lines. Leonard Brown stated at the Planning Commission meeting that he feels Jessica Loveless is a good candidate because she is very involved in the community and will bring a young perspective to the Board. Commissioner Bothell felt that she has not lived in the Community long to be a good member of the Commission. After the Planning Commission meeting, Rodney Reed and Jeremy Gallegos sent in letters of interest for the Planning Commission. The Commissioners then tabled the decision until the December 18, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Diltz also updated the Board on the Silverton Club. The owner stated he is in the process of having it removed.

At 10:00 a.m., the budget hearing regarding the 2020 budget was called to order.

Commissioner Bothell stated that the purpose of the hearing is to hear any community concerns about the budget. She asked if there were any comments from the public.

Bob Mattive asked what the budget numbers look like for CSU Extension Service this year. Commissioner Glover asked if the same question has been asked of other Counties. Ms. Slater noted that the County does pay $51,008 into salaries for the secretary and gets reimbursed some years. Some years have there been no reimbursement.

Ms. Slater stated that the budget has went from $3.5 million deficit to a $2.1 million deficit. Currently, $10.9 million is in reserves after Tabor reserve. Ms. Slater also stated that reserves usually are not actually used as the County under spends.

Virginia Christensen asked if the board has ever considered funding some of the more important organizations with excess funding closer to the end of the year when spending is better understood.

At 10:10 a.m., the Budget Hearing was adjourned.

General Business and Administrative Updates
Friends of Ski Hi were present including: Kathy Rogers, President; Jim Clare, Friends of Ski Hi member and community leader; Forest Neuerburg, Monte Vista City Manager; Virginia Christensen, 4-H leader and community leader, Bob Mattive, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee; Gary Wilkinson, Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce; Greg Metz, Ski Hi Stampede Committee member and Cliff Edwards, Ski Hi Stampede Committee member.

Ms. Rogers thanked the Commissioners for meeting with the group. She noted that they are requesting that Commissioners fund $150,000 for Ski Hi Park out of the Conservation Trust Fund. The facility needs an update as it was shut down for a short time in 2018 and is very out of date. She explained that it will be a recreation and events center. The first phase will be the multi-use center and the second phase will be the conference center. Ms. Rogers gave an overview of the project with a written report. She explained that this facility would also be very useful for emergency management. The whole project is for $8.6 million to complete the project. The Outcalt Foundation has committed $2 million for the project. The group is asking the County for support of this project because it is sure to bring economic development to the County.

Mr. Clare showed an overlay of the current building vs. the future building. The return on investment has been reviewed in order to have a good facility. Rocky Mountain Ag Conference needs more room to accommodate the vendors that are wanting to come. The Friends of Ski Hi have brought in the Friends of the NRA and would like to expand on that partnership. Crane Festival is a destination point for people from all over the world. The group is also hoping to expand agency use as they move forward with this project. This project has been in the works since 2006 with a lot of community support and input.

Mr. Neuerburg stated that the larger building will also the City of Monte Vista to expand their recreation programs with the help of the one cent sales tax that was passed. The one cent tax will help with operations and maintenance of the facility for years to come. Recreation is very important to keep at-risk youth in the City of Monte Vista.

Ms. Christensen spoke about how important the facility is for 4-H and Extension as well as other functions with youth. She explained that with the new facility, these events can grow and other regional and possibly state events can be held in Rio Grande County.

Ski Hi Stampede members stated that the community could really use the new facility. The stampede draws in a lot of people and with the 100 year anniversary coming up, this facility will be a great addition.

Mr. Mattive, CPAC, stated that he believes the ag community would be behind this as the Ag Conference is an important event for the community. He also stated bringing more groups to Monte Vista will help the County.

Mr. Wilkinson, stated the Chamber of Commerce has been involved with many groups that have events there. The Ski Hi Stampede, Ag Conference (turns down vendors currently), and the Crane Festival bring people in from around the world. These events have the opportunity to grow and this new facility will allow that. He also stated that the Chamber continuously has calls about conference venues in the area.

It was noted that Friends of Ski Hi has a website (www.friendsofskihi.org) and will be taking donations from individuals as well.

The project will break ground in August 2020 after the SLV Fair.

Commissioner Noffsiker asked about equestrian use. It was clarified that this part of the project does not update any of the equestrian facilities. That was done years ago with the grandstands and outdoor arena. Commissioner Noffsiker stated that GoCo funds are restricted and can’t be used for a conference center. He also stated that he has heard that not all constituents are in favor of this expansion. Commissioner Noffsiker asked for clarification of if these funds were for matching in a grant and if the grant is not received if funds would still be needed. It was clarified that the funds would not be needed until 2020 and would only be for matching purposes.

Mr. Dunn asked about general public accessibility for at risk youth because the County is liable to fund district attorney and many of those cases come from the city. The City’s standpoint is to
have space for youth open frequently. Part of the plan is to have funding for an employee to have the facility open more often. Mr. Dunn asked if the facility would benefit Alamosa instead of Rio Grande as Alamosa has more hotels and restaurants. It was clarified that the facility would help valley wide with economic development however Rio Grande County hotels and business will benefit greatly. The Crane Festival fills every hotel room in Monte Vista. The Ski Hi Stampede is socially very important, and the Ag Conference is very important to Rio Grande County as well.

At 10:55 a.m., the resolution to Adopt the 2020 Budget was presented. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution to adopt the 2020 budget. Commissioner Noffsger seconded the motion. Commissioner Noffsger stated that he will be voting no because he does not feel comfortable with current numbers and how they were obtained. The motion passed two to one with Commissioner Noffsger opposing the motion.
The resolution to appropriate funds for the 2020 budget was presented. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.
The resolution to set 2020 Mill Levies was presented. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Noffsger seconded the motion and the motion carried.
The resolution to adopt the Weed District Budget was presented. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Noffsger seconded the motion. It was noted that the district will be in a deficit and will dip into the reserve fund. The Weed District Advisory Board approved the budget as presented and recommended approval of the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Slater noted that they cannot adopt their own budget. Commissioner Bothell called for a vote and the motion carried.
The resolution to appropriate funds for the Weed District was presented. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Noffsiker seconded the motion and the motion carried.
The resolution to set the 2020 mill levies for the Weed District was presented. The district has certified 0.5 Mills. Commissioner Noffsker moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.
Francisco Chacon, Colorado Retirement Association was present along with executive director Elizabeth Price to discuss the County’s retirement plans.

Ms. Price discussed the recent rebranding of the CRA (Colorado Retirement Association). She stated that they are looking to grow and serve more special districts and counties. The company is a non-project and created by state statute.

Mr. Chacon reviewed the statistic of the County plans.

Elizabeth explained that changes in statute have affected their plans slightly. Peace officers can change to a different plan specific to their job. Statute also changed the employee, employer matches. The matches no longer have to be equivalent for the 401 a plan. The association will be updating their plans and will be updating PA (participation agreement) on January 1, 2020.

**Commissioner Updates**

Bill Dunn was present to offer a contract for Mr. McVicker who wants to lease his hanger to Mr. Ecord. Ms. Slater noted that she will add this topic to the agenda for the December 18, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Noffsger updated the Board on the Railroad IGA. He noted that Huerfano County has committed $10,000 and will be invoiced by SLV Council of Governments (COG). He noted that the COG needs an intergovernmental agreement so that the COG can use this money to pay bills and use collected funds. The IGA will also help the interested parties be unified politically. Costilla and Huerfano will join the IGA. Commissioner Noffsger stated that the IGA should be drafted by someone other than himself or the County attorney. Commissioner Noffsger stated that Huerfano County reached out years ago to ban with other Counties to collect taxes from the Railroad. He stated that if the Board would have been proactive then, the County may not be in the same position with the Railroad. Commissioner Bothell recommended that COG be the entity to draft the IGA. Mr. Dunn asked who the COG’s legal counsel is and if they would be willing to write the IGA. Commissioner Noffsger recommended that each county be able to designate the amount they wish to put contribute in the SLV COG IGA. Mr. Dunn recommended that legal counsel be considered again with new information to be sure that the COG is still being represented adequately.

Commissioner Noffsger stated that he feels the priority is to keep the railroad in operating and to the second is to collect County taxes. Operating funds are currently being borrowed from Big Shoulders through the receivership. Commissioner Noffsger will approach COG about creating the draft IGA and discuss COG’s representation.
Cindy Hill, Clerk and Recorder was present and announced that Nikita Christensen, Clerk of Board will be resigning the end of December 2019. Ms. Hill stated that she will be having a Clerk of the Board from the County Clerk’s Office.

At 12:17 p.m., Commissioner Glover moved to enter executive session for conference with County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice in specific questions under 24-6-402(4)(b). Commissioner Noffsner seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 1:00 p.m., the executive session was adjourned.

At 1:30 p.m., the public hearing for the adoption of the Rio Grande County Code Book and Zoning Map was called to order.

Ms. Diltz noted that the maps will be in digital format and hard copies in office. The Planning Commission approved the Comprehensive Revision of the Rio Grande County Land Development Code with rezoning revisions identified by the land use administrator that have been made and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution of the Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners approving a Comprehensive Revision of the Rio Grande County Land Development Code, including official zoning map with revisions identified by the land use administrator that have been made and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Noffsner seconded the motion and the motion carried.
At 1:38 p.m., the public hearing was adjourned.

Attest:

_________________________   ________________________
Nikita Christensen             Suzanne Bothell
Clerk of the Board             Chairman

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

County of Rio Grande County

The Board of Rio Grande County Commissioners met in regular session on December 18, 2019.

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Bothell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Glover led the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Clerk of the Board, Nikita Christensen called roll. Commissioner Bothell, Commissioner Glover and Commissioner Noffsker were present along with County Administrator, Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Noffsker moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the minutes from December 11, 2019. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Commissioner Bothell asked if there were any public comments. Virginia Christensen stated that she was there to make a public comment in support of the request for Conservation Trust Funds in the amount of $150,000 for the Ski Hi Project matching funds. She provided a copy of her statement to the Board and for the record.

Her statement was as follows: “The project is eligible for the funds as proven by the letter that the commissioners received from DOLA. As demonstrated by the Community User groups that
were in attendance, at the last Commissioner meeting the project is widely supported and seen as a recreational economic driver for Rio Grande County and the entire San Luis Valley. This complex is defined as a recreational site by DOLA and is a large support facility for the fairgrounds; a socioeconomic need in the community. The current building is not functional or safe for Rio Grande County children or adults.

Rio Grande County’s Conservation Trust Fund currently has a balance of $451,000.00 after TABOR. Between $38,000 and $50,000 are received from the state each year for use by the County Constituents for recreational projects such as the Ski Hi project. The monies received from interest on the Conservation Trust fund are also required by DOLA to be used on eligible projects such as this.

If there are any other eligible projects ready for funding, the Commissioners should let the Rio Grande County Community members know what those projects are at this meeting. Community members would also like to know what projects and amounts have been funded for over the last 5 years.

It is my hope that the Commissioners will see fit to approve $150,000.00 for use on this project, it is only a small portion of the funds that have been built up in this account over the years.

Thank you for your timely consideration of the funding request.”

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was presented with accounts payable and a warrant to 2nd steel to be voided, as the check was not needed. Commissioner Noffsker moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

County Official and Department Head Reports

Dixie Diltz, Land Use Administrator was present to discuss the appointment of Planning Commission members. Commissioner Noffsker moved to appoint Jerry Gallegos and Rodney Reed to District 3, appoint Charles Stillings to District 2 and reappoint Cary Aloia to District 2, and have Jessica Lovelace as District 3 alternate, and Russell Pratt as District 2 alternate. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Board agreed that terms will be included in the resolution for these appointments.
The foregoing Resolution as offered by Commissioner John Noffsiker, seconded by Commissioner Gene Glover, and passed on vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of December 2019.

ATTEST:

\[Signature\]
Clerk of the Board

RESOLVED 2019-47
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY
APPOINTING RODNEY REED TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING BOARD
C.R.S. 30-28-103

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 30-28-103 (as amended) requires that the Board of County Commissioners appoints a Planning Commission consisting of not less than three and not more than nine members whose terms of office shall be for three years and until their respective successors have been appointed, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, believes that Rodney Reed has the ability, knowledge and judgement necessary to carry out the duties required of members of the County Planning Commission, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County hereby appoints Rodney Reed to fill a vacated seat on the Rio Grande County Planning Commission with the term of such appointment commencing on January 1, 2020 and expiring on December 31, 2021. Re-appointment shall be reviewed upon a request of continuance by the appointee.

The foregoing Resolution as offered by Commissioner John Noffsiker, seconded by Commissioner Gene Glover, and passed on vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of December 2019.

ATTEST:

\[Signature\]
Clerk of the Board
RESOL 2019-48
RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY

APPOINTING CHARLES STILLINGS TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING BOARD
C.R.S. 30-28-103

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 30-28-103 (as amended) requires that the Board of County Commissioners appoints a Planning Commission consisting of not less than three and not more than nine members whose terms of office shall be for three years and until their respective successors have been appointed, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, believes that Charles Stillings has the ability, knowledge and judgement necessary to carry out the duties required of members of the County Planning Commission, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County hereby appoints Charles Stillings to fill a vacated seat on the Rio Grande County Planning Commission with the term of such appointment commencing on January 1, 2020 and expiring on December 31, 2022. Re-appointment shall be reviewed upon a request of continuance by the appointee.

The foregoing Resolution as offered by Commissioner John Noffsiger, seconded by Commissioner Gene Glover, and passed on vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of December 2019.

ATTEST:

[signature]
Clerk of the Board

[signature]
Gene Glover

[signature]
John Noffsiger

RESOL 2019-49
RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY

RE-APPOINTING CARY ALOIA TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING BOARD
C.R.S. 30-28-103

WHEREAS, CRS 30-28-103 (as amended) requires that the Board of County Commissioners appoints a Planning Commission consisting of not less than three and not more than nine members whose terms of office shall be for three years and until their respective successors have been appointed, and;
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, believes that Cary Aloia has the ability, knowledge and judgment necessary to carry out the duties required of members of the County Planning Commission.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County hereby re-appoints Cary Aloia to the Rio Grande County Planning Commission with the term of such appointment commencing on December 31st, 2019, and expiring on December 31, 2022. Re-appointment shall be reviewed upon a request of continuance by the appointee.

The foregoing Resolution as offered by Commissioner John Nofsiker, seconded by Commissioner Gene Glover, passed on vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of December 2019.

ATTEST:
Clerk of the Board

Gene Glover
John Nofsiker

RESOL 2019–50
RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY

APPOINTING JESSICA LOVELACE TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING BOARD
C.R.S. 30-28-103

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 30-28-103 (as amended) requires that the Board of County Commissioners appoints a Planning Commission consisting of not less than three and not more than nine members whose terms of office shall be for three years and until their respective successors have been appointed, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, believes that Jessica Lovelace has the ability, knowledge and judgement necessary to carry out the duties required of members of the County Planning Commission, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County hereby appoints Jessica Lovelace to fill a alternate's seat on the Rio Grande County Planning Commission with the term of such appointment commencing on January 1, 2020 and continuing until terminated by appointee or Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners.
The foregoing Resolution as offered by Commissioner John Noffsner, seconded by Commissioner Gene Glover, and passed on vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of December 2019.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
Gene Glover

[Signature]
John Noffsner

RESOL 2019-51
RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY

APPOINTING RUSSELL PRATT TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING BOARD
C.R.S. 30-28-103

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 30-28-103 (as amended) requires that the Board of County Commissioners appoints a Planning Commission consisting of not less than three and not more than nine members whose terms of office shall be for three years and until their respective successors have been appointed, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, believes that Russell Pratt has the ability, knowledge and judgement necessary to carry out the duties required of members of the County Planning Commission, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County hereby appoints Russell Pratt to fill a alternate’s seat on the Rio Grande County Planning Commission with the term of such appointment commencing on January 3, 2020 and continuing until terminated by appointee or Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners.

The foregoing Resolution as offered by Commissioner John Noffsner, seconded by Commissioner Gene Glover, and passed on vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of December 2019.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board
Ms. Diltz also presented a new fee schedule to the Board to accompany the new codebook and regulations within the codebook. She presented a comparison chart for the Board to review. Commissioner Noffsker asked if the County should be regulating home daycare facilities. Ms. Diltz stated that counties are encouraged to not regulate daycares as they are regulated by other agencies. Ms. Diltz explained that impact of activities is key in regulations and guidelines in the new codebook and fee schedule. Most enforcement will be complaint driven. Commissioner Noffsker asked about the camping permit fee. Ms. Diltz stated that this will be a starting point that is consistent with other counties, and she anticipates that enforcement will be high in 2020 as people learn about this new rule. This regulation is for vacant land where sanitation is the major concern. The fee is set at $50.00 plus $5 per week per camping permit. Commissioner Noffsker felt that price was too high. Commissioner Glover mentioned that the codebook and fee schedule is a living document and can be changed as the Board understands the new regulations more. It was noted that permission to camp on someone else’s property is required. Commissioner Noffsker moved to approve the land use fee schedule. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Diltz also presented the contract from Community Planning Strategies, LLC, TJ Dlubac for “on call” planning services. Mr. Dunn completed his review of the contract and stated that he does not have a concern with the contract as it is an engagement letter and does not obligate the County to use Mr. Dlubac’s services. The rate on the contract is $90 an hour for on call work and the Board agreed that was reasonable for professional services. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the contract with Community Planning Strategies, LLC. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nikki Rosecrans, Emergency Manager was present to update the Board. Ms. Rosecrans presented a written report for the Board. She also updated the Board on the incident for the Del Norte gas outage and noted that the incident activity log has been completed. An operational after-action review has been scheduled for Monday, December 30, 2019 at the Rio Grande County Annex.

A grant application for a table top exercise in coordination with the Monte Vista Head start has been completed. This will most likely be a chemical spill exercise.

Ms. Rosecrans presented a memorandum of understanding for transferring ownership of iPads with Conejos County through the EMPG Special Project Grants. Regionally, 12 iPads will be owned and Rio Grande County will own two iPads. Rio Grande County will owe $421.79. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the MOU. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Rosecrans stated that she received a scholarship for lodging for the CEMA conference this year but not for the registration fee. It was noted that the registration fee is within her budget. She is also speaking at this event.

Ms. Rosecrans will be hosting a multi-agency Coordination (MAC) meeting at the Rio Grande County Annex on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Ms. Rosecrans also reviewed top priorities in her report.

**General Business and Administrative items**

Commissioner Bothell opened the floor for the Friends of Ski Hi. Community members present were Virginia Christensen, Brandon Rogers, Mark Deacon, Charles Burd, Derek Cooper, Cliff Edwards, Jason Tillman, Bob Mattive, Doug Cooper, Jim Ehrlich, Denise Temple, Marty Asplin, Linda Burnett, Emily Brown, Kathy Lorenza, and Helen Smith.

Linda Burnett, Monte Vista Chamber representative stated that the Chamber is concerned with the present building structure. She explained that the building and complex is important to the San Luis Valley and the events that are held there. The Chamber partners on many of the events that are held at this complex and the current facility is not adequate to hold these events especially those that are growing.
Jim Ehrlich, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (CPAC) stated that he is highly involved with the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference and the facility is important to this event. He stated that the CPAC committee would really appreciate the County’s support for this project as this is a good match for these funds. Mr. Ehrlich stated how important the Ag Conference is for the valley and noted that every year in the survey of vendors for the Ag Conference, the vendors state that the facility needs to be improved. Mr. Ehrlich stated that the Friends of Ski Hi are in a funding position that only requires around 1 million dollars to be raised locally which is very beneficial for the community. The Outcalt Foundation has already pledged two million dollars to the project.

Commissioner Noffsiker voiced his concern about providing a match out of the Conservation Trust funding. He stated that it feels awkward. He said that he had not seen the figure for the local match or the numbers and information until this meeting. Commissioner Noffsiker continued that he thought that it is a significant amount of funding to contribute after being given new information. He stated that from his standpoint, the County sees this facility as a recreation center and he has received “blow back” from the picture of the horse on the plan. He stated that opposition was not invited to this meeting. Ms. Christensen stated that the agenda is public and posted online for concerned citizens.

Charles Burd, Ski Hi Stampede Committee Member, was present. He stated that the engineer’s studies show that the facility is not structurally sound for much longer which the Friends of Ski Hi group and Stampede Committee has known for years. He stated that from the Stampede Committee’s standpoint they have events there that affect those throughout the County. The Stampede Committee has invested in this area with purchasing 10 acres north east of the facility for parking during Stamped. Mr. Burd also spoke about how the new facility could be used for an emergency shelter. He stated that it is extremely important for this side of the valley. Mr. Burd said that “this is our future in Monte Vista and Rio Grande County”.

Marty Asplin, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development stated that it is important to have this type of facility in the same location as the current facility. He stated that the Monte Vista community has a great track record of helping with these events. He stated that conferences that are held there all promote Rio Grande County and the San Luis Valley.

Jason Tillman, San Luis Valley Fair Board stated that the 4-H and FFA Fair covers all six counties in the San Luis Valley and it is important to keep the fair in Monte Vista and make improvements to this facility. He noted that the Fair Board hopes that RGC will support this project.

Emily Brown, Rio Grande County Public Health addressed the Board on this issue. She stated that the Rio Grande County Youth Prevention Partners have created top priorities to help support youth. One of the top two priorities that have been established is to support youth facilities within the community. She stated that this facility should be a priority from this standpoint. She also explained that it is very important to have County government support on projects that are heavily depended on grants. Without County support with matching funds, this could be an opportunity that is lost.

She also spoke about her personal feelings on this project. She stated that her husband is involved with the planning group for the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference. The planning group knows that the space is horrible and does not have adequate space for the conference to be held. The group is looking at other options for the Ag Conference so that it can grow and support the ag community. She stated that the Friends of Ski Hi have a lot of momentum for funding and support. This momentum needs to continue, and the County needs to find a way to support this project now so a wrench is not thrown into the system.

Kathy Lorenz, Monte Vista City Council, clarified that the recreation program opportunities will be available to anyone in the Valley that fit within the age groups. She stated that the programs are not just for Monte Vista City residents. She reminded the Board that the City passed the 1 cent tax and are committing $160,000 dollars for maintenance and programing.
Denise Temple, Monte Vista Coop stated that the Coop uses the facility for the Agricultural Progressive Farm Safety Days that serve all schools in the valley. The Coop supports this project for this event and others.

Ms. Christensen stated that she had a point of clarification. She noted that the project must have commitment for matching funds for grants. Grants such as the El Pomar grant and Daniels funds need commitment for matching funds before they can be submitted.

Commissioner Noffsinker stated that he had heard new information that was not given to the Board previously. He stated that he would like a timeline of grants and the amounts that are being applied for within these grants. He stated that the Conservation Trust Funds has been used as a piggy bank, but this administration will be planning what to do with the funds. Commissioner Noffsinker stated that he would like time to think about the request and analyze the information.

Jim Ehrlich asked the Board if they would provide a list of information that they feel they need in order to make this decision. It was noted that the goal is to break ground after the SLV Fair in 2020 and have the center ready for the 2021 Ag Conference.

Commissioner Glover moved to put forward $150,000 for the Friends of Ski Hi Project. Commissioner Noffsinker stated that he could not second the motion. The motion died to a lack of a second. Commissioner Bothell stated that a work session needs to be scheduled to review the information prior to a decision. A work session was scheduled for December 23, 2019.

Brandon Rogers asked what other questions are bothering the Board other than the local contribution amounts. Commissioner Noffsinker stated that one concern is the warming kitchen vs. the commercial kitchen. He may have other questions as he goes through the information.

Jim Ehrlich stated that a commercial kitchen was in their plan previously, however the commercial kitchen would be hard to maintain. He stated that there is no “fluff” in this project, the planning committee is trying to make the facility very usable with no extras due to funding.

Commissioner Bothell stated that the Board will have a decision on December 31, 2019.

The intergovernmental agreement between the Rio Grande County Sheriff and the City of South Fork was presented. This agreement allows municipal prisoners to be accepted into the County Facility. Commissioner Bothell asked if a cost analysis has been done on what each prisoner costs per day. The Sheriff said they hadn’t, but that is what the standard charge is across the valley.

The intergovernmental agreement between Rio Grande County Sheriff and the City of Monte Vista was also presented. Commissioner Noffsinker moved to approve both IGAs as presented. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Town of Del Norte submitted a request for Waiver of Annexation Impact Report regarding the annexation of the Upper Rio Grande School District into the Town of Del Norte. Mr. Dunn stated that he had no objection to the board approving the Waiver of Annexation Impact Report as a map of the area and properties to be annexed was already completed. Other requirements were minimal, and most have already been covered by other requirements. He did not believe that the County has any liability in approving this waiver. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the request for Waiver of Annexation Impact Report. Commissioner Noffsinker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Town also requested a letter of support for the Downtown Revitalization. Commissioner Glover moved to write a letter of support for the Downtown Revitalization Project. Commissioner Noffsinker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The GOCO Grant was discussed. The Town approved the resolution for the GOCO Grant. The Board asked that a copy of the resolution and agreement be shared with the Board so that they can also record those documents.

An airport hanger subdivision sublease agreement was presented. The sublease agreement is between John McVicker, lessor, and Ron Ecord, lessee, for Tract 34. Mr. Dunn asked about insurance that is on the sublease agreement. Commissioner Bothell stated that she didn’t think
the County requires insurance. Commissioner Noffsger moved to approve the sublease agreement. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The resolution opposing the export of water from the San Luis Valley and the Rio Grande Basin to the Front Range was presented after revision. The resolution was as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO 2019-40**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPORT OF WATER FROM THE SAN LUIS VALLEY AND THE RIO GRANDE BASIN TO THE FRONT RANGE**

**WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County recognizes that agriculture is central to the history and modern economy of Rio Grande County; and

**WHEREAS,** Rio Grande County is one of six counties situated within the San Luis Valley; and

**WHEREAS,** the San Luis Valley is the second largest potato growing region in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS,** in addition to potato farming, agricultural activities within Rio Grande County include the farming of grains and produce as well as livestock ranching, all of which rely upon locally sourced water from mountain springs, artesian wells, and the Rio Grande River; and

**WHEREAS,** prospective land use projects and municipal growth within Rio Grande County are largely dependent upon the continued availability of sufficient water resources; and

**WHEREAS,** the Rio Grande Basin is an already over-appropriated aquifer, and the conditions of the aquifer have been compounded by a 19-year drought; and

**WHEREAS,** the water of the San Luis Valley is seemingly under constant threat from interests outside of the San Luis Valley, including a recent proposal to drill wells and establish a pipeline and delivery system to export water from the San Luis Valley to the Front Range; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County believes any export of water from the San Luis Valley to the Front Range, or elsewhere, would have a potentially crippling effect on the economy of the San Luis Valley and, in turn, the residents and interests of Rio Grande County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County, Colorado:

**THAT,** the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County hereby opposes any plan to export water from the San Luis Valley to the Front Range, or elsewhere.
Commissioner Noffsner moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Tricia Slater, County Administrator stated that in 2017 the Board of County Commissioners adopted a reserve fund balance policy stating that all funds must reserve 35% of their funds. With this policy in place, the Conservation Trust Fund has $291,000 available.

**Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Noffsner stated that nothing new has developed on the railroad. The DRG approved a revolving loan for the Mushroom farm. He also stated that he talked with Kathy Woods (Rogers) co-chair for the Friends of Ski Hi to ask about the project.

Mr. Dunn spoke about the project as a citizen of Rio Grande County. He stated that the barrel racing, bull dogging and other rodeo events are dwindling but if there were stalls on the property for these competitors to keep horses in, the entries would increase. The Board discussed stall options for the facility including temporary stalls in the McMullen Building. Mr. Dunn thought the Friends of Ski Hi should consider installing horse stalls in this project.

Commissioner Noffsner stated his issue with this proposal is that the group hit the Board with this information last week and expected a decision. He stated that some of the members were “bullying” the Board to make a decision and he doesn’t appreciate it. He stated that he hadn’t heard about the project prior to this and is missing details.

Commissioner Glover asked why the Board couldn’t investigate the topic on the agenda prior to meeting in order to be prepared for the community members and constituents. Commissioner Noffsner stated that he did not know that this topic was on the agenda with enough time to investigate.

Mr. Dunn stated that the Board should give notice of the work session on this topic on the website. He suggested that the Board needs to discuss how things are put on the agendas. Commissioner Glover stated that nothing gets done at work sessions as the Board does not come prepared.
Ms. Slater stated that the Board needs to confirm that everyone has January 1, 2020 off. A resolution to set this day off will be on the agenda for December 23, 2019.

At 11:32 a.m., the meeting was adjourned to executive session for conference with county attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice in specific questions under CRS 24-6-402(4)(b).

At 12:15 p.m., the executive session was adjourned.

Attest:

_________________________  __________________
Nikita Christensen            Suzanne Bothell
Clerk of the Board            Chairman

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

County of Rio Grande  
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ss
State of Colorado  
)

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met for a special session on December 23, 2019.

At 9:02 AM Chairman Bothell called the meeting to order. The prayer was led by Commissioner Noffsner. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Bothell, Commissioner Glover, and Commissioner Noffsner, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater and DeAnn Jacobs, acting Clerk of Board.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Noffsner moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Commissioner Bothell asked if there were any public comments; there were none.

Public Hearing

Commissioners met for a public hearing for Public Health Supplemental Budget.

Emily Brown, Rio Grande Public Health Director, presented the supplemental budget.

Commissioner Noffsner asked about one expense line item that had increased from $19,000 the previous year to $66,000 this year. Ms. Brown said the line referred to a grant from the Health Care Coalition. The fiscal year for that grant runs July to June. Expenses are from the last half of 2019, and will be paid by the grant in the first half of 2020. She said revenue from the grant increased $20,000 for the July/June fiscal year, and there will actually be an overall increase in funds. She also said all the expenses on that line are paid by the Health Care Coalition and not the county.

Special Business Meeting

At 9:17 AM, Commissioner Noffsner made a motion to accept the Public Health Supplemental Budget, Resolution #2019-42, book 599, page 310. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
RESOLUTION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET and APPROPRIATION
RIO GRANDE COUNTY

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Rio Grande County duly adopted and appropriated the 2019 budget in December of 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Rio Grande County could not have reasonably foreseen several situations at the time of the adoption of the 2019 budget; and,

WHEREAS, the following funds need additional sums of money to defray expenses in excess of amounts budgeted and that these funds are available from the following sources:

**PUBLIC HEALTH FUND**

Reason for Additional Funds: Various Grants awarded after December 31, 2018
Source of Funds: State of Colorado and Federal Dollars passed through CDPHE

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WHEREAS, the Airport Fund did not receive grant revenue as anticipated; therefore the Airport Fund will use fund balance in the amount of $205,461 to defray the cost of the project.

WHEREAS, the Weed District Fund did not receive anticipated Revenue; therefore the Weed District Fund will use fund balance in the amount of $55,000 to defray the cost of operating expenses.

WHEREAS, the Public Health Fund may not receive some anticipated Revenue; therefore the Public Health Fund may need to use fund balance in the amount of $60,000 to defray the cost of operating expenses.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2019 budget shall be increased as follows:

Revenues:
- Public Health Fund
  From: $943,450 To: $1,013,217
Expenditures:
- Public Health Fund
  From: $902,022 To: $1,012,194

ADOPTED this 11th day of December, 2019

RIO GRANDE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signatures]

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

At 9:18 AM, Commissioner Glover made a motion to accept the Amendment to the Weed District Mill Levy, Resolution #2019-43, book 599, page 312. Commissioner Noffsner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
At 9:19 AM, Ms. Slater presented the Resolution for Additional Holiday, Resolution #2019-44, book 599, page 313. The resolution states that January 1, 2020, New Year’s Day, will be a paid holiday for Rio Grande County employees. This holiday was not included in Resolution #2019-1, Resolution Setting the 2019 Holiday Schedule, recorded in Book 595, Page 149. Commissioner Glover made a motion to accept the resolution. Commissioner Noffsner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 9:22 AM, Commissioner Glover made a motion to adjourn the special session. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Attest:

_________________________   ___________________________
DeAnn Jacobs            Suzanne Bothell
Acting Clerk of the Board    Chairman

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

County of Rio Grande)

ss

State of Colorado  

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in regular session on December 31, 2019.

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Bothell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Noffsker led the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Clerk of the Board, Nikita Christensen called roll. Commissioner Bothell, Commissioner Glover, and Commissioner Noffsker were present along with County Administrator, Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the minutes from the Special meeting on December 23, 2019. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Commissioner Bothell asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda
Commissioner Noffsiker moved to approve the consent agenda which included the Department of Social Services accounts payable, general fund accounts payable, payroll, and the Veterans report. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### 2019 Monthly Vouchers

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<th>Vendor</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACE TOWING/AMERICAN CUSTOM ENGINEERING</td>
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<td>ALL-PRO FORMS, INC</td>
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<td>ALPINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC</td>
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SUMMIT MARKET $161.60
TONI STEFFENS-STEWARD $67.50
TOTAL OFFICE SOLUTIONS $940.07
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC $5,000.00
UNITED REPROGRAPHIC $262.09
VALLEY LUMBER AND SUPPLY, INC $84.00
VALUEWEST,INC $3,000.00
VERIZON WIRELESS $360.52
WAGNER EQUIPMENT $3,460.12
WEX BANK $1,036.80
WORLD FUEL SERVICES, INC $17,084.11
WSB COMPUTER SERVICES $26,320.50
XCEL ENERGY $1,164.76

$211,161.05

December 2019 Payroll

County General: $ 262,028.47
Road and Bridge: $ 80,297.60
DSS: $ 125,835.91
Weed District: $ 3,939.87
Airport: $ 1,634.89
Public Health: $ 26,452.12
TOTAL: $ 500,188.86

County Official and Department Head Reports

At 9:10 a.m., the Board adjourned to the Board of the Department of Social Services. At 9:18 a.m., the Board reconvened.

At 9:20 a.m., the Board discussed the Friends of Ski Hi Letter Requesting Funding. Community members present for this discussion were: Derek Cooper, Friends of Ski Hi; Doug Cooper, Farmer; Charlie Burd, Ski Hi Stampede; Loren Buss; Jennifer Signs, City of Monte Vista; Forrest Neuerburg, City of Monte Vista; Jason Tillman, SLV Fair Board; Brandon Rogers, Farmer; Helen Smith, Friends of Ski Hi; Jim Clare, Monte Vista Chamber; Gary Wilkinson, Monte Vista Chamber; Linda Burnett City of Monte Vista; Kathy Woods, Friends of Ski Hi; Dale Becker, City of Monte Vista Mayor; Marty Asplin, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development (URGED), Bonnie Asplin (URGED), Linda Weyers, Colorado Potato Administration (CPAC); Gary Johnson, Monte Vista City Council; Bob Mattive, CPAC; and Mark Deacon, Farmer.

Commissioner Noffsker stated that he has discussed the proposal with a lot of people. Commissioner Noffsker stated that $150,000.00 was requested for matching grants. He stated that as it stands, the proposed structure complex is so complex and hard to understand. He explained that there is not a good enough understanding of this project. He stated that in the past the Conservation Trust Fund monies were used inappropriately. He asked for more clarification in what the County will be funding. Commissioner Noffsker stated that the letter from the City of Monte Vista stated that the City would provide maintenance funds if funds are available. Commissioner Noffsker asked for the current revenue of the City and what it is allocated to. Commissioner Noffsker stated that the Board hasn’t seen an economic analysis report. He explained that the group has said that there are benefits of the new building to the fair but he has not heard any specific benefits. Benefits stated for Stampede are better bathrooms and wheelchair access to the grandstands. Commissioner Noffsker stated that he wants to make sure that this project is well thought out. Commissioner Noffsker said he thought it was strange that there were more women’s bathrooms than men’s restrooms.

Forrest Neuerburg, Monte Vista City Manager, said that they have estimated, conservatively, that $160,000.00 would be generated to go towards the Ski Hi complex yearly. The one cent tax has
a percentage associated with the Ski Hi Complex and if sales tax trends continue, there will be more funds to work with than the $160,000.00. He stated that fixed costs for the building should be around $160,000.00. There is already $65,000.00 of City funds allocated in the budget for the Ski Hi Complex.

Kathy Woods stated that unless improvements are made to the complex, the facility will no longer be in the area. Ms. Woods said that their hopes are that further activity and revenues will be generated.

Commissioner Noffsiker proposed that if the Board agrees to commit funds that it is clearly earmarked for recreation and matching funds. He also stated that given the history of this complex, he felt that a commission should be formed to manage the complex and manage disagreements between stakeholders.

Commissioner Glover said that all the different concerns and benefits of the complex have been discussed. He stated that the Board and group could talk this issue into a contract that is way too complex. He also said that the Board has received a letter from DOLA that states that Conservation Trust Funds are eligible for the element of this project that is recreational.

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the allocation of $150,000.00 of the Conservation Trust Funds to the Friends of Ski Hi.

Commissioner Bothell stated that she finds it sad that society has started to tear down historic buildings so easily just because they were not maintained properly. She stated that if the building would have been maintained, then the building would still be in good condition and not need to be replaced. She said that although she feels the building was not maintained, she will second the motion in order to move forward.

Commissioner Noffsiker moved to amend the motion to include that the funds will only be used for matching funds and if grants are not obtained, funds will not be allocated. He included in the amendment to replace Friends of Ski Hi with the City of Monte Vista.

Commissioner Glover seconded the amendment.

The motion as amended reads: allocation of $150,000.00 of the Conservation Trust Funds to the City of Monte Vista for Matching funds with the stipulation that if grants are not received, funds should not be allocated to the City of Monte Vista. The motion as amended carried unanimously.

At 9:45 a.m., recertification of the mill levies for the Town of Del Norte was discussed. Ms. Slater noted that after the Town of Del Norte made a mistake on calculations, the certification was amended and now needs to be recertified. The corrected amount totaled $11.00. Commissioner Glover moved to recertify the mill levies for the Town of Del Norte. Commissioner Noffsiker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 9:50 a.m., Ms. Slater, County Administrator gave the Board the financial report for November. Supplemental budgets were filed for Public Health, Pest Control District, and the Airport funds. She stated that the County is on target with total general fund revenues at $5,734,069.00 with budgeted revenues of $6,472,014.00. Expenditures for the County general fund are at $5,463,554.00 with budgeted expenditures of $7,684,004.00. Ms. Slater noted that history indicates that Rio Grande County budgets conservatively.

Ms. Slater noted that she has received a 14-day extension for the Airport DOLA Grant in order for the receipts to be turned in for the fence, signage and gate.

Commissioner Glover moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Attest:

Nikita Christensen
Clerk of the Board

Suzanne Bothell
Chairman