The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Chairman Noffsker called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Noffsker, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Noffsker, Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

There were no minutes available for approval.

Public Comment

Commissioner Noffsker asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution Adopting Temporary Meeting Rules

Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the consent addenda; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2020-16

WHEREAS, C.R.S. § 30-10-302, as amended, provides that the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County (“BOCC”), has the general statutory authority to establish rules and regulations to govern the transactions of its business; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Chairman of the BOCC issued a local disaster emergency declaration as it relates to the COVID-19 outbreak in Rio Grande County, which outlines the progressive spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, as the disease has progressed, various public health orders and recommendations have been issued by the County, the State of Colorado, and United States of America recommending social distancing and limiting public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, to comply with said orders and recommendations and to ultimately assist in combating the spread of COVID-19, both private businesses and government organizations are practicing social distancing and encouraging remote working opportunities where possible for employees; and

WHEREAS, the BOCC desires to temporarily adopt this Resolution to permit the BOCC to conduct business telephonically or electronically, with proper public notice, and if so desired by the BOCC members; and
WHEREAS, to also facilitate the ability of the BOCC’s appointed boards and committees to continue to serve the public in a safe, efficient, and transparent manner, the BOCC also adopts this Resolution to provide temporary rules and guidance for its appointed boards and committees to conduct regular and special meetings and hearings and other business telephonically or electronically, with proper notice and posting as may be required; and

WHEREAS, transparency and public process remains of paramount import to the BOCC and this Resolution shall be read to permit maximum public participation in BOCC meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County hereby adopts the following temporary meeting rules and procedures:

Section 1. Purpose and Term:

The BOCC finds in consideration of the COVID-19 outbreak, and upon recommendations of public health experts to practice “social distancing”, the following temporary rules and procedures shall be in effect for a period of ninety (90) days, or until further repeal, extension, or amendment by the BOCC, whichever occurs sooner.

Unless otherwise modified herein, it is the intent of the BOCC to otherwise maintain and follow the Rules to the maximum extent practicable.

Section 2. Temporary Meeting Schedule:

Notwithstanding Resolution 2020-03 Setting the 2020 Meeting Dates of the Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners the BOCC may hold special and emergency meetings, as necessary.

Additionally, for as long as these temporary rules remain in effect, the BOCC will meet at least twice-weekly, each Monday and Wednesday, to review and take action on any issues, including but not necessarily limited to the COVID-19 outbreak and/or the Local Disaster Emergency declaration.

Section 3. Telephonic or Electronic Participation:

All BOCC members shall be permitted to participate in any BOCC meeting by way of telephone or other electronic means.

Any commissioner(s) participating by means of telephone, or other electronic method (excluding but not limited to Zoom®), shall be deemed present and counted towards a quorum for voting purposes.

Section 4. Telephonic or Electronic Meetings:

For any meeting whereby a quorum of the BOCC is to participate by means of telephone, or other electronic method, the County shall, as appropriate:

- Publish a conference call dial-in number and/or web/IP address and any associated access code, with the agenda for the purposes of inviting public participation; or
• Publish the electronic medium and access method to the platform the BOCC may utilize, with instructions to members of the public on how to listen and participate.

In order to ensure maximum transparency and public participation, the County Administrator shall notify the public, through customary means, of any such BOCC Telephonic or Electronic Meeting.

Upon convening a properly noticed telephonic or electronic meeting, the BOCC is authorized to take any formal action as contemplated by Colorado law.

The County shall audio-record any telephonic or electronic meeting of the BOCC and said recording shall constitute the official record of the meeting. When it is not feasible to audio-record, then the Clerk to the BOCC, or designee, or a County staff person assigned by the BOCC shall take written minutes of the meeting, and the written minutes shall constitute the official record of the meeting.

Where the County holds a meeting by other electronic means, the County shall endeavor to video and audio-record that meeting. When it is not feasible, then written minutes shall be taken as set forth above.

Section 5. Suspension of Rules:

The BOCC, by this Resolution, hereby suspends any rule which may, or does conflict with any term or provision of this Resolution.

Section 6. Applicability to Appointed Boards and Committees:

The BOCC, by this Resolution, hereby adopts and applies the above temporary rules and procedures for and to its appointed boards and committees to enable them to conduct authorized meetings telephonically or electronically.

For applicability purposes, where the above temporary rules and procedures refer to “BOCC” and as the context directs, it is understood that the name of the specific appointed board or committee would be substituted.

MOVED, READ and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado, at a special meeting held the 1st day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: John Neffiker, Commissioner

Gene Glover, Commissioner

Suzanne Bothell, Commissioner
County official and Department Head Reports
There were none.

General Business and Administrative Items
At 10:05 AM there was a discussion regarding COVID-19. Courtney Arthur, Sheriff Department Public Relations Officer, said she has been putting out information on how to stay safe at home. She clarified the State has put out a “stay at home” order, but it is not marshal law, so people may drive or leave their homes for essential business as long as they are observing physical distancing. Ms. Arthur said the Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Department has released this information to the public.

At 10:15 AM Emily Brown, Department of Public Health Director, reported Rio Grande County currently has five cases of COVID-19. There has been one case reported in Mineral County. The person does most activities in Rio Grande County, but has a mailing address in Creede, so Mineral County is handling it. Rio Grande Hospital has handled testing and patient care very well. Ms. Brown said most people in the San Luis Valley who have reported symptoms that may be related to COVID-19 have very mild symptoms; she reiterated that the message to have people stay home is very important to keep carriers from spreading the disease.

Ms. Brown asked the Board how they would like to receive her updated information. Commissioner Noffsker said the Board needed to receive information affecting policy changes, and statistics. Ms. Brown will work with Ms. Arthur to email daily updates to the Commissioners.

Ms. Brown said the number of positive COVID-19 cases is expected to gradually increase in the San Luis Valley. The region is sharing public information and updates at www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org and on Facebook’s SLV Emergency page. She asked if the Board wanted local public updates as well as the regional ones. The Commissioners said the regional updates are fine.

Ms. Brown said tourists and seasonal home owners are beginning to ask about coming to Rio Grande County, especially the South Fork area. She asked if the County wanted to work with the Town of South Fork to put out a joint message, and what that message should be. Mr. Dunn said the Board needed to consider whether to have a policy concerning people traveling into Rio Grande County from outside. Commissioner Glover agreed. Commissioner Noffsker asked Ms. Brown, Mr. Dunn, and Art Wittner, Emergency Management, to work together on recommendations to be discussed at the next BOCC meeting on April 6, 2020.

At 10:50 AM Mr. Wittner said he has received requests from first responders for patient information needed to protect themselves. He said if they had addresses of reported COVID-19 cases, it would help them save their limited PPE supplies for use at those addresses. Ms. Brown said she will continue working with Sheriff McDonald to give as much information as possible for first responders’ protection.

At 10:55 AM Ms. Slater requested approval from the Commissioners for their electronic signatures on documents. Commissioner Bothell, Commissioner Noffsker, and Commissioner Glover each gave their approval for use of their individual electronic signatures.

Commissioners and Administrator Updates
At 11:06 AM Commissioner Glover said the Rio Grande County Weed Board would like BOCC approval to move ahead on the hiring process of a new employee.
At 11:12 AM Commissioner Noffske asked for a motion to adjourn the special session. Commissioner Glover made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

____________________________________________________________________________
John Noffske              DeAnn Jacobs
Chairman of the Board     Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado )
                    ss
County of Rio Grande )

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Monday, April 6, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Chairman Noffske called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Noffske, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Noffske, Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda
Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting
There were no minutes available for approval.

Public Comment
Commissioner Noffske asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda
- Jay Sarason, Airport
  - Price Lease – Action Item
  - CDOT Grant Money – Action Item
  - AWOS Contract – Action Item

At 10:04 AM Jay Sarason, Astronaut Rominger Airport Manager, said the Price Lease contains a space variance for the hangar size. The variance will have no impact, and Mr. Sarason recommended accepting the lease. Randy Kern, Building Department, agreed with Mr. Sarason. Commissioner Bothell said an electrical hook-up fee needed to be added into the lease. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the lease with the variance and hook-up fee. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:12 AM Mr. Sarason said the 2020 CDOT Grant will be used for the runway. The cost to the county would be $16,000. Commissioner Noffske asked that the decision be delayed until next BOCC meeting on April 8, to allow more time to review the grant. Mr. Sarason said there is also a CDOT grant for jet fuel to discuss at a future date.

At 10:19 AM the Board discussed the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) contract. The contract is for maintenance by DBT. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:23 AM Mr. Sarason said there is an old, unused hangar where Dusty Wings Aviation would like to house an airplane used by student pilots. The current owner would like to donate the hangar to Dusty Wings. Mr. Sarason said if the BOCC is interested in this arrangement, he will work on it. Commissioner Noffske asked that this be discussed at an Airport Advisory Board meeting before the BOCC makes a decision.
County official and Department Head Reports
At 10:28 AM Jack Rudder, Veterans’ Affairs, said his office is working remotely.

General Business and Administrative Items
At 10:30 AM Steve Keller, applicant for the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, asked the BOCC if it had any specific items it would like him to address if he is appointed. The Board voiced their concern that water be kept for San Luis Valley use, and not sold to an outside entity. The Board would also like regular updates from the Conservation District. The BOCC will vote on the appointment for the Rio Grande Water Conservation District at the next meeting, April 8, 2020.

At 10:34 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of Health.

At 11:29 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

Art Wittner, Emergency Management reported the unified command is changing in various sections. The regional Emergency Manager has applied for funding from FEMA to cover costs of the changing staff. The six counties in the region have been asked to share projected costs of about $1,300 per county. This would cover costs through the end of April 2020. Mr. Wittner also said he talked with Stephen Hunzeker, County Coroner. There are seventeen chill units in the San Luis Valley. Healworks has a chill unit for sale or rent if necessary. A 40-foot unit would hold fifty decedents. The purchase price would be $7,500. Reuse of the unit for other purposes would need to be researched. Ms. Slater said there is $25,000 in the budget for emergency purposes. Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve payment of the County’s $1,300 share of unified command costs. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:42 AM Commissioner Bothell said other counties are putting a daily COVID-19 update on their websites, and suggested Rio Grande County do the same. Other departments, such as the Public Health Department or Municipalities could share the link on their websites. Ms. Brown will look into this.

At 11:46 AM Commissioner Noffsner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glover made the motion; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

John Noffsner
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs
Clerk of the Board
There were no minutes available for approval.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Noffsger asked if there were any comments. There were none.

**County official and Department Head Reports**

At 10:06 AM Jody Kern spoke about the TANF Emergency Reserve Policy. The department has not had any requests, but she would like the Board's authorization to use the emergency TANF funds if the need arises. Commissioner Bothell made a motion authorizing Ms. Kern to use the emergency TANF funds at her discretion. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:10 AM Ms. Kern said the area agency has very limited funds to house homeless individuals who need to be isolated due to COVID-19. Rio Grande County DSS has paid for one person in this situation. Ms. Kern wanted the Board's approval to accept money from the agency for housing costs as well as the $3,000 from El Palmar. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve acceptance of funds. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:11 AM Ms. Kern said the DSS is almost out of hand sanitizer. Commissioner Glover said he has source, and offered to order some for all County offices needing sanitizer. Ms. Brown, Department of Public Health, said her department has an emergency fund which would be able to cover part of the cost of hand sanitizer and goggles for County essential workers. Commissioner Glover will order supplies.

At 10:24 AM Jay Sarason, Astronaut Rominger Airport Manager, spoke about the two 2020 CDOT grants. One grant is for Fog Seal resurfacing the runway. It is a 90/10 percent grant; CDOT’s share of the grant would be $170,000, and the County’s share would be $16,600. The other grant is for a jet fuel tank system. It is a 50/50 percent grant, and CDOT would pay up to $20,000. The grant periods last until 2023. Mr. Sarason recommended going ahead with the grant for the runway now. He said the Airport is considering different options for the fuel farm now. Mr. Sarason said both grants are tied together, and would have to be approved together, but there is no penalty for the County not funding the fuel now. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the grant, but not move forward on the fuel farm at this time. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**General Business and Administrative Items**

At 10:36 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of Health.

At 11:26 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

At 11:26 AM the BOCC discussed the appointment to the Rio Grande Water Conservation Board. Doug Messick and Steve Keller applied for the position. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to appoint Steve Keller to the Water Conservation Board. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:28 AM there was a discussion related to the Federal audit requirement to sign the County’s Code of Ethics annually. Ms. Slater said County policies on PI/PHI, Internal Control, and Admin Segregation of Duties will also need to be approved, these are also audited requirements we have had findings on since 2015; they will be presented for approval in the near future. Ms. Kern said many audits are specific to DSS. Mr. Dunn said he has looked at the Code of Ethics and found no problems. Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the Elected Code of Ethics Policy and Employee Code of Ethics Policy to be signed annually. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Commissioners and Administrator Updates**

At 11:36 AM Ms. Slater said the Fire Mitigation Presentation, which had been scheduled before COVID-19 closures, was still planned for April 20, 2020. The BOCC did not object to keeping it on that date.

At 11:38 AM Mr. Dunn said he has received documentation about the railroad. He will continue providing updates about meetings to the BOCC.
At 11:39 AM Commissioner Noffsker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glover made the motion; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

John Noffsker
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado  )
                   )
County of Rio Grande  )

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Monday, April 13, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Vice Chairman Bothell called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call.

Present were Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

There were no minutes available for approval.

Public Comment

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

County official and Department Head Reports

At 10:01 AM Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, said her department has two conditional use permit applications, both for gravel pits. Due to COVID-19 closures, Mr. Dunn has advised Ms. Diltz to postpone public hearings if possible. One application is for a CDOT project scheduled to begin in June, so they would like to have a May hearing. Mr. Dunn said hearings may be done remotely, but remote meetings might limit public participation. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be May 19, 2020; Ms. Diltz said that date would be soon enough for a hearing. If Public Health orders are not relaxed by then, she will work with Mr. Dunn to prepare for a hearing held remotely. There was concern that holding a public hearing remotely might set a precedence for hearings after Public Health orders are lifted. Mr. Dunn advised the hearing notice be worded to state the meeting would be held remotely “only if” Public Health orders were still in effect.

At 10:15 AM Ms. Diltz said she does not have ready access to information on the number of spaces available in Rio Grande County RV parks. Commissioner Glover said he is working on finding out how many camper sites are available to tourists. Ms. Slater said she received information from Dan Hicks, Town of South Fork Manager. South Fork has 357 RV sites inside town limits, and 687 outside. There are seventeen RV parks inside South Fork town limits, and six outside town limits. This information may be used in determining the economic impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions. Ms. Diltz said many short-term rentals have already been booked for the upcoming tourist season.

General Business and Administrative Items

At 10:26 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of Health.

At 10:48 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.
There was a discussion on Tyler Technology Software Purchase Order and Benefit Modules. Ms. Slater said the modules were not included in the previously approved contract. Commissioner Bothell asked Ms. Slater to share the Benefit Module demo with Danielle Bronkema, Human Resources Director to get her opinion. Commissioner Glover made a motion to amend the Tyler Technology Software contract to include the PO and Benefit Modules if it was determined that the Benefit Module would be necessary. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:54 AM the Tyler Technology Software Historical Data was discussed. Ms. Slater said the current package includes two years of history. Access to additional history costs $4,000. This would be six years of detailed history, as well as summaries back to 2002. The cost has been budgeted. Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve purchase of the Tyler Technology Historical Data. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:56 AM the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) letter of support was discussed. Commissioner Bothell said the letter needed to be reworded to clarify that County support is not financial. Ms. Slater will rewrite the letter before the next BOCC meeting on April 15.

Commissioners and Administrator Updates
At 11:01 AM Ms. Slater said that the COVID-19 website she is creating links to the Department of Public Health daily update. It also includes resource telephone numbers. The site will be live this afternoon, April 13, 2020.

At 11:03 AM Commissioner Glover made a motion to adjourn the special session. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Suzanne Bothell
Vice Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS
State of Colorado )
ss
County of Rio Grande )

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Chairman Noffsker called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Bothell, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Noffsker, Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda
Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting
There were no minutes available for approval.

Public Comment
Commissioner Noffsker asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda
Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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County official and Department Head Reports

At 10:04 AM the BOCC discussed the March Road and Bridge report submitted by Patrick Sullivan. Commissioner Glover said it was good and that work was going well.

At 10:05 AM the BOCC discussed March updates for the Building Department submitted by Randy Kern. Commissioner Glover said it appeared all building permits were up to date.

General Business and Administrative Items

At 10:06 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of Health.

At 10:52 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Slater said she rewrote the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) letter of support to read that BOCC support is not financial. The Commissioners agreed the letter was now ready for a signature.

At 10:54 AM Ms. Slater presented a letter from the County’s Department of Public Health for receiving $17,000 in COVID-19 funds from the Federal government. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to accept and sign the letter. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:56 AM Ms. Slater said the County Treasurer is finding it hard to keep up with business demands with the office being closed to the public. She has requested the BOCC discuss finding a way to open the office while keeping staff protected from COVID-19. Use of a Plexiglas shield at the counter was discussed. Commissioner Glover said people coming into the building should wear masks, to protect the guards. Ms. Slater said she will talk with maintenance about installing Plexiglas in the Treasurer’s Office, and will also change notices to let the public know the office is open.

Commissioners and Administrator Updates

At 11:02 AM Ms. Slater presented the February Financial Update.

At 11:04 AM Commissioner Glover gave an update on the Rio Grande County Weed and Pest District. They have received a second application for the open position. There will be a meeting via Zoom tomorrow, April 16. The District will also discuss an IGA with Mineral County.

At 11:06 AM Commissioner Noffsker asked for a motion to adjourn the regular session for executive session according to 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Bothell made the motion; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:33 AM, the Board exited executive session.

Commissioner Bothell made a motion to allow the Sheriff's Department to have the pay increase as requested. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Noffsker gave permission for his electronic signature to be used to sign the Rio Grande County’s Local Disaster Emergency Declaration.

At 11:35 AM Commissioner Noffsker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glover made the motion; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado
County of Rio Grande

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Monday, April 20, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Chairman Noffsker called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Noffsker, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioners Noffsker, Bothell, and Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes approved:
- Board of Health: 03/30/2020, 04/06/2020, 04/08/2020
- Social Services: 04/08/2020
- BOCC: 03/30/2020, 04/01/2020, 04/06/2020, 04/08/2020, 04/13/2020

Public Comment

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

County official and Department Head Reports

At 10:05 AM Art Wittner, Emergency Manager, spoke about the SLV Regional Emergency Coordination Group Memorandum of Agreement. The copy he has is from 2017. The MOA will need to be updated before it can be approved.

At 10:15 AM Sheriff Donald McDonald spoke about the USDA Forest Service Modification of Grant or Agreement. It is a $5,000 grant for forest patrol. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

General Business and Administrative Items

At 10:16 AM Ashley Valdez and Kirk Scheitler from Xcel Energy gave a presentation on fire mitigation. Xcel has been working with all San Luis Valley county commissioners and emergency management departments in preparation for the 2020 fire season.

At 10:43 AM the Board discussed the letter Emily Brown, Department of Public Health Director, will be sending to county municipalities. Her message focuses on the Department of Public Health’s message. The Commissioners may also put out a message specific to tourism.

At 10:54 AM the BOCC discussed the County Personal Identifying Information (PII) and Personal Health Information (PHI) Policy. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the policy. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:57 AM the BOCC discussed设计ating a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for Rio Grande County. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to appoint Danielle Bronkema, Human Resources Director, as CISO for Rio Grande County. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:59 AM the BOCC discussed installing a protection shield in the Treasurer’s Office. Dusty Duran, Maintenance Department, got a quote of $201.82 for a 48 x 96-inch acrylic glazing. He would also need about $200 for tools. The Board discussed other material options; Commissioner Glover will research more permanent options, and also talk with the County Clerk, and Assessor about shields for their offices.
At 11:06 AM Commissioner Glover said Cheryl Rue, County Treasurer, had asked whether interest charges on late property tax payments have been excused because of COVID-19 office closures. Ryan Dunn, County Attorney, will see if he has received any notices from the State about this.

**Unfinished Business**

At 11:09 AM Commissioner Bothell referred to the $17,000 grant to the County’s Department of Public Health from FEMA discussed at the last BOCC meeting on April 15, 2020. Rio Grande County does not qualify for the grant, so no application was made.

**Commissioners and Administrator Updates**

At 11:12 AM Ms. Slater gave an update on the panic button. It has been fixed. The Court Security Grant will cover the cost of the repair and the warranty.

At 11:14 AM Commissioner Noffsiker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bothell made the motion; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

__________________________________________
Chairman of the Board

__________________________________________
Clerk of the Board

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado )
               ss
County of Rio Grande )

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Chairman Noffsiker called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Bothell, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Noffsiker, Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

Commissioner Noffsiker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2020. Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Noffsiker asked if there were any comments. There were none.

**County official and Department Head Reports**

At 10:06 AM, Dixie Diltz, Department of Land Use, spoke about the blight situation at the Kristen Edelman property east of Del Norte. There are three unauthorized recreational vehicles on the property. Ryan Dunn, County Attorney recommended filing a summons for a land use violation against the property owner, and also talking with Emily Brown, Department of Public Health Director, to find out if it is a public health issue. If there is a public health issue with waste water disposal, Ms. Brown may file a public health order. The BOCC agreed with Mr. Dunn’s recommendation. Mr. Dunn will meet with Rio Grande County Sheriff Don McDonald tomorrow, April 23, to get a summons. He will also talk to the court clerk to get a court date.
General Business and Administrative Items

At 10:10 AM, Commissioner Bothell spoke about the Bothell Hangar at Astronaut Rominger Airport (ARA). She said there are a few issues with the hangar that need to be brought before the ARA Advisory Board before it can be discussed by the BOCC.

At 10:11 AM the protection shield in the Treasurer’s Office was discussed. Commissioner Glover said Chenlyn Rue, Rio Grande County Treasurer, would prefer to have a permanent shield rather than a temporary one. Commissioner Bothell said supplies for a temporary shield had been purchased, and could be installed today. Commissioner Bothell will meet with Ms. Rue after this meeting, and decide whether to use the temporary shield while working on a permanent one. Commissioner Noffsker asked Cindy Hill, Rio Grande County Clerk, to think about what type of protection shield should be installed in the Clerk’s Office.

At 10:29 AM the BOCC decided to table discussion of the letter of support for Jerry Sonnenburg.

At 10:31 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of Health.

At 11:02 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners. There was a discussion on opening the Court House. Cindy Hill, Rio Grande County Clerk, said the Clerk’s Office was working well with a walk-up window for customer transactions. She is planning to open the office to the public on May 11. Her office will need to have protective shields in place before then. Ms. Slater said the message sent to County department heads and elected officials stated that, even though the Court House building will open to the public on April 27, 2020, each department may choose to open as works best for the department. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve opening the Court House on Monday, April 27, 2020, with each department to determine the protocol that serves it best for opening. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Noffsker said a public message will need to be sent out about the opening.

At 11:19 AM Mr. Dunn said he had followed up on the Treasurer’s request for information on whether interest charges on late property tax payments have been excused because of COVID-19 office closures. One of the Governor’s executive orders directs the State Department of Revenue to work with local governments wanting to extend the property tax deadline to July 15, 2020. Another executive order gives local governments the authority to waive interest accruing through April 30, 2020.

Commissioners and Administrator Updates

At 11:20 AM, Ms. Slater talked about the Tyler Tobin Clean Monthly Cyber Security Report. The County received a clean report for the last four months.

At 11:21 AM, Ms. Slater presented Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) projections. The 2019 actual was $2,408,686, and the 2020 projected is $2,396,000. Projections for 2021 and 2022 are also around $2.3 million.

At 11:23 AM, Ms. Slater gave the Tyler Technology Benefit Module update. After reviewing the module with Danielle Bronkema, Human Resources Director, the decision was made not to purchase it.

At 11:24 AM, Ms. Slater gave an update on the 2020 Census grant. To date, only $650 of the $2,000 grant has been used. She has plans for more media messaging. Commissioner Noffsker suggested putting messages on the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) electronic sign boards. Commissioner Glover will look into it.

At 11:29 Commissioner Noffsker adjourned the regular session for executive session according to 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters.

At 11:52 AM, the Board exited executive session.

Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve a pay increase for the administrative department. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion. Commissioner Bothell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Glover voted against the motion. Commissioner Noffsker voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:54 AM, Commissioner Bothell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado )
                 ss
County of Rio Grande )

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in special session on Monday, April 27, 2020.

At 10:00 AM Chairman Noffsker called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Glover, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Noffsker, Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Slater said the Governing Policy was not ready for approval, and should be discussed at a later date. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Commissioner Noffsker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2020. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Public Comment

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

General Business and Administrative Items

At 10:03 AM, Commissioner Bothell made a motion to hire Armando Ross as Pest Control Supervisor. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:05 AM, general business regarding COVID-19 was discussed. Ms. Slater presented a comparison on revenue changes in sales tax, lodging tax, and Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF). Revenue is similar to that previously collected, but may be lower next month. Ms. Slater said funds from the CARE Act will be available for some local public health expenses: there will be no reimbursement for expenses already budgeted.

At 10:11 AM Ms. Slater asked if the BOCC would be interested in submitting an application for a CDPHE Variance for Rio Grande County concerning the Safer at Home Order. The Commissioners and Ryan Dunn, County Attorney, agreed this should be done. It will be put on the agenda for the next BOCC meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

Commissioners and Administrator Updates

At 10:15 AM, Ms. Slater presented the financial update for March 2020. She said revenue lags behind expenses, so any negative numbers on the update are normal for this time of year.

At 10:17 AM, Commissioner Glover said he checked with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) about putting Census 2020 messaging on their electronic sign boards. CDOT will allow the messaging; Commissioner Glover will get the message wording to them.

At 10:21 AM, Commissioner Glover said he talked with Cindy Hill, Rio Grande County Clerk, about installing permanent protective shields on the counters in the Clerk’s Office. Carl Hill is working on a plan for the shields. The cost estimate is $1,500. It was unknown whether FEMA would cover the cost.
At 10:26 AM, Commissioner Noffsger said several area preachers have asked about relaxing social distancing restrictions at places of worship. The BOCC will include a discussion on places of worship when working on the CDPHE Variance.

At 10:28 AM, Ms. Slater said she received an e-mail from Patti Kelley, D Mountain Parks and Recreation, concerning the walking trail. Ms. Kelley would like to speak to the BOCC at its next meeting on April 29. A section of the trail is on property owned by Rio Grande County.

At 10:34 AM, there was a discussion about when BOCC meetings will resume being held in person. Commissioner Glover made a motion to resume regular BOCC sessions at the Court House, with public access through ZOOM, starting at the next meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:41 AM Commissioner Noffsger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bothell made the motion; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

John Noffsger  
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs  
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado  
County of Rio Grande

The Board of the Rio Grande County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

At 10:04 AM Chairman Noffsger called the meeting to order. The meeting was held via video conference call. Prayer was led by Commissioner Glover, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Noffsger, Commissioner Bothell, and Commissioner Glover, along with County Administrator Tricia Slater.

Adoption of the Agenda

Ryan Dunn, County Attorney, said the item shown for the Coroner should be discussed as BOCC business, not Board of Health (BOH) business. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

There were no minutes available for approval.

Public Comment

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

Consent Agenda

- DSS AP
- AP
- Payroll
- Veterans’ Report

Commissioner Bothell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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SLV REC $816.00
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TOWN OF DEL NORTE $581.83
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VALLEY COURIER $97.15
VALLEY LOCK AND SECURITY, INC $2,306.63
VALLEY PUBLISHING $1,170.00
VERIZON WIRELESS $357.92
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WSB COMPUTER SERVICES $4,105.00
XCEL ENERGY $1,619.13
XCEL ENERGY $1,382.82
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April 2020 Payroll
COUNTY GENERAL FUND $305,217.72
ROAD AND BRIDGE $96,112.83
SOCIAL SERVICES $161,251.72
WEED DISTRICT $
AIRPORT FUND $1,958.60
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY FUND $31,737.32
TOTAL: $596,278.19

General Business and Administrative Items
At 10:13 AM, Patti Kelley and Jessica Lovelace from D Mountain Park and Recreation District spoke to the Board. Ms. Kelley said the recreation district receives funding from the Conservation Trust Fund. One of its goals is to create a recreation center for the community. The recreation district is interested in land owned by the County for the center. Ms. Lovelace said the recreation district is eligible for the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant on the property which could be used for property maintenance. Commissioner Bothell said currently the GOCO grant is cooperatively held by the County and the Town of Del Norte, and it allows for school or community use. Mr. Dunn said the County owns the property, and was the recipient of the grant, but has assigned its grant interest over to the Town of Del Norte, and the Town accepted all rights and responsibilities of the grant. Ms. Lovelace said GOCO has the County listed as the grant recipient. Commissioner Glover said the County had spoken to Matt Brady at GOCO. Mr. Dunn advised having a work session between the County, Town, and recreation district, after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, to discuss the matter more fully.

At 10:32 AM, the Lion Plan support letter was presented. The letter was sent by the Parks and Wildlife Service. There was no discussion at this time.

County official and Department Head Reports
At 10:34 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of the Department of Social Services.

At 10:41 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.
Steven Hunzeker, County Coroner, spoke concerning an indigent burial. The decedent passed away in March 2020, and the body has been in refrigerated storage at Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. There have been attempts to locate friends or family to take responsibility, but none have been found. Mr. Hunzeker contacted the veterans’ center at Home Lake about eligibility for burial, but there is none. Mr. Hunzeker contacted the State Anatomical Board, but it will not accept remains. Monte Vista Cemetery Board has agreed to provide a plot, as well as opening and closing the grave, at no cost. Mr. Dunn said the State can provide assistance when a family member applies through the Department of Social Services (DSS). Mr. Dunn wrote Resolution 2020-17 to allow authorization by the BOCC for Mr. Hunzeker, as County Coroner, to apply to DSS for funding. Costs not covered by DSS would need to be paid by the County. There is some money in the Coroner’s budget, but it may not be enough to cover the cost. The remainder would come from County general funds. Mr. Hunzeker said he would like to work with local health care facilities about doing due diligence concerning burial care of indigent residents. The BOCC will contact local mortuaries for burial bids. Mr. Dunn said the BOCC needed to direct Mr. Hunzeker to make burial arrangements and to apply for assistance through DSS, and needed to pass the resolution stating such. Commissioner Bothell made a motion to follow Mr. Dunn’s recommendation. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Suzanne Bothell moved for adoption of the following Resolution

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF RIO GRANDE, STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO 2020- 17

RESOLUTION DIRECTING COUNTY CORONER TO MAKE BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNCLAIMED BODY PURSUANT TO §15-19-302 C.R.S.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County has a duty to preserve the health and safety of the County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Michael Paul Tontsch (“the Decedent”) whose date of birth was February 10, 1948, died in Rio Grande County on or about March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Decedent was indigent at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, the Decedent died intestate, without any known heirs at law, and his body has gone unclaimed; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande County Coroner is a public officer or agent of the County and has charge or control over the Decedent’s body; and

WHEREAS, the County Coroner has used reasonable efforts to ascertain if the Decedent has any relative, friend, or other representative who will assume charge of the body for burial at his or her expense, but such efforts have not resulted in a claimant of the body; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande County Coroner has notified the State Anatomical Board for donation of the Decedent’s unclaimed body to be used for the advancement of medical and anatomical sciences as required by §15-19-302 C.R.S.; and

WHEREAS, the State Anatomical Board has determined the body to be unfit for anatomical purposes or has otherwise declined to accept the Decedent’s body; and

WHEREAS, §15-19-302(2) C.R.S., provides that “in the case of death of any person whose body is required to be buried at public expense and the duly authorized officer or agent of the anatomical board deems the body unfit for anatomical purposes...the board of county commissioners or agency shall direct a person to take charge of the body of the deceased indigent person, and cause it to be buried, and draw warrants upon the treasurer of the county for the payment of expenses.”
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County directs the Rio Grande County Coroner, Stephen Hunzeker, to take charge of the body of the Decedent, Michael Paul Tontsch, and cause it to be buried; and

2. That the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County authorizes the County Coroner to apply to the Rio Grande County Department of Social Services for any burial assistance from the State of Colorado for which the Decedent may be eligible as a result of his indigency; and

3. That warrants shall be drawn upon the treasurer of the county for any burial expenses in excess of burial assistance paid by the State of Colorado, or for the entirety of the burial expenses if the Decedent is not eligible for such burial assistance from the State of Colorado.

MOVED, READ, AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado, at its regular meeting held the 29th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

[Signature]
John Noffsker, Chairman of the Board

Commissioner Gene Glover seconded adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:

- Commissioner John Noffsker: Yes
- Commissioner Suzanne Bothell: Yes
- Commissioner Gene Glover: Yes

At 11:03 AM, the Board discussed applying for a State Variance for Rio Grande County concerning the Safer at Home Order. The Board reviewed variance plans from Eagle and Mesa Counties. The Board would like advice from Rio Grande Hospital and the County Department of Public Health (DPH) in drafting an application. The application should specifically address openings of restaurants, gyms, and places of worship. Emily Brown, Department of Public Health Director, said she would like the variance plan to include small, specific changes, not large, over-all ones. Commissioner Noffsker said he would like the BOCC to meet soon to begin working on the variance plan. A work session was scheduled for Friday, May 1, at 3:00 PM.

At 11:41 AM, Ms. Brown said DPH has received questions from department heads about opening County offices. She has posted links to State guidelines on opening. Jody Kern, Department of Social Services Director, said she would like the variance plan to include small, specific changes, not large, over-all ones. Commissioner Noffsker said he would like the BOCC to meet soon to begin working on the variance plan. A work session was scheduled for Friday, May 1, at 3:00 PM.

At 11:51 AM the Board adjourned to the Board of Health.

At 11:57 AM the Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

At 12:45 PM the Board exited executive session.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Attest:

John Noffsken
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs
Clerk of the Board