

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado )
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County of Rio Grande )

The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene Glover at 10:00 AM. A prayer was led by Commissioner Deacon and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William (Skip) Schoen, County Attorney Nancy Lake, and Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Deacon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Public Comment

At 10:01 AM, Commissioner Glover asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of BOCC Minutes:
o April 5, 2023
o April 12, 2023
o April 19, 2023
o April 26, 2023
Approval of Accounts Payable and Ratification of June 1, 2023 Checks
Approval of Voided Checks

Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Table with 2 columns: Vender, Amount. Lists various vendors and their corresponding amounts, such as NANCY N. LAKE (13,333.33) and AMERICAN FIDELITY (4,402.38).

GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL	435.86
IDA WHITE	90.00
JANET SANCHEZ	1,380.00
KOLAWOLE BANKOLE	596.59
LUCAS CASIAS	575.00
MADDOX COLLECTIONS	60.00
MAK VALUATION CONSULTANTS LLC	1,900.00
MATRIX CONSULTING GROUP	6,600.00
MDS WASTE & RECYCLE, INC	57.50
ORCUTT P.D.S. INC	400.00
PITNEY BOWES, INC.	456.12
RHONDA RICHARDSON	78.60
RIO GRANDE CONSERVATION	12,000.00
S & S DISTRIBUTION, INC	123.00
SAGUACHE CO PUBLIC HEALTH	1,984.82
SLV AUTO REPAIR, LLC	94.62
SLV PARTS, INC	23.96
SODEXO AMERICA, LLC	773.51
STAPLES BUSINESS CREDIT	1,582.61
THE MASTER'S TOUCH, LLC	437.63
ULINE	8,041.11
WASTE MANAGEMENT-	541.33
WSB COMPUTER SERVICES	2,086.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	4,110.57
SHAMROCK FOODS COMPANY	3,593.99
VALUEWEST,INC	3,180.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	180.12
VERIZON WIRELESS	529.21
VERIZON WIRELESS	51.36
VERIZON WIRELESS	1,863.48
	<b>148,412.47</b>

### County Official and Department Head Reports

At 10:01 AM, Lyndsie Ferrell, Museum Director, gave her report. Ms. Ferrell said the museum is being set up for summer exhibits, and she is boosting the presence of the visitors' center. She said the Spanish Trail Event was a success. Ms. Ferrell said other work in May included finishing a website for the museum, hiring Wendy Polkowski as accountant for the 501c3 board, and holding a Chautauqua at Beaver Creek Camp. Ms. Ferrell said the Monte Vista Chapter of the Daughter's of American Revolution has disbanded, and the museum has taken possession of Albert Pheiffer's gravesite. Ms. Lake suggested posting a sign stating the museum's restrooms are not for public use, and Ms. Ferrell agreed. Ms. Ferrell said Lee Roy Fuchs will give a talk about Summitville on Saturday.

At 10:08 AM, Brian Burrell, Astronaut Rominger Airport Manager, gave his monthly report. He said all the hangars on the south side of Taxiway A have been completed, except for the one on Tract 72. He said the lessee is past his construction deadline. Ms. Lake said she will prepare a notification letter for him. Mr. Burrell said he has received one bid for the fence around the fuel farm; it is around \$7,000. He asked for suggestions of other fence companies to contact. Ms. Lake shared photos of the fuel truck being evaluated by Brimhall Industries. She said the PTO pump is cracked, the tank sealant is cracked and corroded, and the truck cab is disgusting. Ms. Lake said the insurance policy will not cover a vehicle in this condition. Commissioner Deacon said Mark Brimhall, company owner, said he could not guarantee certifiability if he tries to repair it. Ms. Lake said Mr. Brimhall found fuel trucks to be considered for purchase. There was a discussion on finding a fuel truck, or a Gator Utility Vehicle (UV) and fuel trailer for purchase. Amanda Klapperich, Chief Financial Officer, said buying a UV and trailer could be done sooner than buying a fuel truck. She suggested putting a truck in next year's budget, and looking for grants to fund the purchase. Mr. Burrell said he is seeking bids on the UV and trailer. Commissioner Deacon made a motion to pursue the purchase of a UV and jet fuel trailer with a cap of \$60,000. Before the motion was seconded, there was more discussion. Mr. Burrell said he is waiting for the fuel tank inspection by the State. He said an Assistant Manager has been hired, and should start working soon. There was a discussion on fuel contracts, and on

promoting airport use with the Tourism Board and by advertising. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded Commissioner Deacon's motion, and the motion carried. Mr. Burrell said he attended fuel system training.

### **General Business and Administrative Items**

At 10:32 AM, Cindy Hill, County Clerk, presented a special event liquor license application for Rhythm on the Rio. She said all the paperwork is in order. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the special event liquor license application from the South Fork Music Association for Rhythm on the Rio. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:34 AM, Heath Hart, Sheriff's Department, asked the BOCC to consider approval of purchasing two new ATVs for the Department. He said three quotes were received, and the funds are covered in the supplemental budget. Mr. Hart said three ATVs will be traded in. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve trading in three ATVs with tracks for two CF Moto ATVs without tracks for \$10,900. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:36 AM, there was a discussion on airport wells, Jet A fuel delivery, and electric service to new hangars. Ms. Lake said the work needed on the two water wells is under review. Mr. Burrell said he has one quote for five well meters for around \$9,000 from Steffens Quality Plumbing. He said he reached out to other companies, but none have responded. Ms. Lake said she will contact Husmann Plumbing. She also said she is talking with attorneys from other Counties about well requirements. Ms. Lake said funding is coming from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She asked Mr. Burrell to find out the cost per meter.

Mr. Burrell said there is currently no electrical service to the new hangars along Taxiway A. He said there is power at the fuel farm, and he has spoken with REC about equipment and service. He said infrastructure would need to be installed before the runway is completed. Mr. Burrell said REC's fee for on-site staking and engineering is \$1,000; the on-site work must be done before REC will give a quote. Commissioner Deacon said when REC was contacted about work previously, the estimate was around a quarter million dollars. Ms. Lake said the current tract leases include an infrastructure fee clause, so the cost could be passed on to the lessees. Commissioner Deacon made a motion authorizing Mr. Burrell to get the on-site staking and engineering from REC for \$1,000. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:47 AM, Ms. Lake gave an update on the Road and Bridge Department well. She said there is a status conference on July 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the well change of use. Ms. Lake said the well that had been classified as abandoned has been removed from the abandonment list, and they are waiting for the change of use on the second well. She said she does not foresee a problem with the change. Mr. Sullivan, Road and Bridge Department, said the Water Court needs the Division of Water Resource's recommendations for stipulations in regard to the abandonment of one well; recommendations and a water use plan in regard to the change to commercial use of the other well are also needed. He said the recommendations are expected by mid-June. Mr. Sullivan said all fees have been paid and his department is up to date on the contract with the Rio Grande Water Conservancy District, Sub-District 2. Ms. Lake said she will attend a water rights conference on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

At 10:52 AM, Sarah Herrera, Sheriff's Department, spoke to the Board about a Jail Based Behavioral Health Services (JBBS) grant for a Jail Nurse. She said, starting July 1, 2023, House Bill 22-36 requires medication assisted treatment (MAT) be provided for offenders with substance use disorders. She said MAT includes treatment, education, and therapy to be provided by the jail. Ms. Herrera said the JBBS is offering financial assistance if certain requirements are met. She said the start-up cost for MAT is around \$75,000, along with other ongoing costs. The annual grant is \$120,000. Ms. Herrera asked the BOCC for approval to accept the grant. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant contract between JBBS and Rio Grande County, to be signed by the Rio Grande County Sheriff and County Administrator. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:05 AM, Commissioner Glover called for an executive session for discussion of a personnel matter, pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f)(I)&(II), and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or

of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees.

Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to recess from the regular BOCC session into the executive session. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 12:05 PM, the Board exited executive session.

At 12:12 PM, Board resumed the regular session.

Mr. Schoen said the Board had discussed a pay increase for Department of Social Services (DSS) caseworkers, caseworker supervisors, and the DSS Director. Mr. Schoen said he recommended an increase in pay and grade for the caseworkers and caseworker supervisors, and a pay increase for the Director retroactive to her last annual evaluation. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve Mr. Schoen's recommendation. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Commissioners, Administrator, and Attorney Updates**

At 12:15 PM, Ms. Lake said she responded with pleadings to the Edwards lawsuit. She said she has been working with Commissioner Deacon on the airport's Jet A fuel truck issues, working on land use issues and all valley IGA water issues, and on water court for the airport and hot plant wells. Ms. Lake said she has also worked on the JBBS grant and Sheriff personnel issues.

At 12:17 PM, Commissioner Ratzlaff said he attended his first San Luis Valley Transportation meeting. He said he was at the Sheriff's Department for the rifle delivery. Commissioner Ratzlaff said he attended the Monte Vista City Council meeting, and the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. He said a citizen would like more information on the proposed River Corridor Overlay Code. A BOCC work session to discuss the Code with the public was tentatively planned for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Mr. Schoen will check with Dixie Diltz, Land Use, to see if she can meet at that time.

At 12:31 PM, Commissioner Deacon said he has three bids for the McMullen Building lighting and fans. He said he has taken phone calls about the River Corridor Overlay, cemeteries, and blight situations. He said he worked on finding options for the airport's jet fuel truck.

At 12:32 PM, Commissioner Glover talked about the Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) conference the Commissioners attended last week. He said they met with the veterans' representative to congress there. Commissioner Glover said he has met with South Central Seniors and Tri-County Seniors who are working out details for combining the two groups. He said he attended a Del Norte Community Field Project meeting, and Draggin' Main in Monte Vista. Commissioner Glover said Rotary is sponsoring its annual golf tournament at the Rio Grande Club on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

At 12:36 PM, Commissioner Deacon said the Hoodlums Car Club will have a car show this Saturday at Southwest Bank in Monte Vista.

At 12:37 PM, Mr. Schoen talked about the County Technical Services, Inc. (CTSI) 2024 cap renewal. He said a company representative did an assessment for insurance of County buildings yesterday. He said the County can finalize the cap after the assessment report is submitted. Mr. Schoen said Larry Brown asked if the BOCC would like a briefing on the Ag Conference's economic impact in the San Luis Valley; the briefing will be given at the San Luis Valley County Commissioners meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schoen said he received a memorandum from CTSI soliciting input on the renewal of the County Health Pool. He said several employees have approached him wanting health pool options. Commissioner Glover said changes are being discussed, but the soonest any change will occur is next year. There was a brief discussion on ways the plan can be customized for individuals, such as by providing a health savings plan. Mr. Schoen asked if the Board would like to have a work session on health plan options, and the Commissioners said they would like one after Administration researches options. Mr. Schoen said the preliminary consideration for renewal is due June 30<sup>th</sup>. A work session was scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 AM. Mr. Schoen talked about an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Whole Community Listening Session opportunity being offered to each San Luis Valley County. He asked if the Commissioners were interested in having one. Ms. Lake asked what EPA grants could be used for, and said it would be helpful to have a session if there were grants the County could use. Mr. Schoen said he would find out before setting up a session. Mr. Schoen said CCI would like to gather legislative proposals for

next year’s legislative session by July 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schoen said his action items include setting up two work sessions, resetting evaluations for appointed positions to January, and looking into ways to cover the cost of the Veterans’ Service Officer’s fall conference attendance.

At 12:57 PM, Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

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Gene Glover  
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs  
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado                    )  
  ss  
County of Rio Grande                )

**Public Hearing**

The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners met in Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. At 9:00 AM, Commissioner Glover opened the Public Hearing to consider the Designation of Water Projects as Activities of State Interest.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William (Skip) Schoen, Dixie Diltz, Land Use, Brian Burrell, Emergency Management, Marshall Boyd, citizen, Darrin Ehardt, citizen, Dusty Hicks, constituent, Bruce Steffens, citizen, and Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs.

Mr. Steffens said he was concerned that the Intergovernmental Agreement to Protect Water Resources (IGA) states planning board can change the agreement at any time. He cited the phrase “including, but not limited to.” Mr. Hicks agreed. He said wording in the IGA needs to be tightened up. Commissioner Glover said the purpose of the IGA is to unite the San Luis Valley counties in their efforts to stop water export. Mr. Hicks said his attorneys had looked over the IGA, and made suggestions. He gave examples, such as the need to state the planning board has authority only over water exportation, and has no authority over any governing authority in the Valley. Mr. Hicks said the IGA is good, but just needs to be cleaned up. He said his attorneys’ suggestions were based on points challenged in other IGA’s. Mr. Hicks said another area of concern was about the planning board appointing an advisory committee, and said it needs to be made clear the advisory committee does not have any authority. Mr. Hicks said he would get his revised IGA to the BOCC, Administration, and Ms. Lake. Commissioner Glover said the SLVBOCC meets June 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Council of Governments (COG) meets on June 27<sup>th</sup>; he said he would like to present the revised version to them at that time. Mr. Hicks said he was concerned by the five-year agreement term. Commissioners Glover and Ratzlaff said that was to allow continuation over possible changes in elected government officials, and to prevent an entity from immediately pulling out of the IGA to sell water. There was a discussion about how importing water into the Valley might affect challenges to the IGA. Commissioner Glover said this draft of the IGA was written to get the process of County cooperation started, and agreed revisions are needed. Mr. Hicks suggested adding an IGA section for “first right of refusal” for local entities if private owners want to sell their water rights.

Mr. Ehardt said he recently moved back to Rio Grande County. He thanked the BOCC for having the public hearing. Mr. Ehardt said he is just learning about water export issues, and knows other residents do not know about them. He offered to help market information to the public. Mr. Ehardt said he is concerned about language in the IGA which seems to take power from the Counties and give it to the planning board. He said language about export infrastructure could be misinterpreted and misapplied to local projects.

Mr. Steffens said it would be good to have a simpler explanation of the IGA for the public. He said he believes there will be more attempts at water export in the future.

Mr. Hicks said section 3.1.3 of the IGA may be open to third-party law suits. Ms. Lake said that section is being discussed by County Attorneys.

Mr. Boyd said he came to the San Luis Valley about twenty-seven years ago, and water export was not much of an issue. He said several very arid areas in the world have deep aquifers. Mr. Boyd said the Front Range also has an aquifer, but it prefers to import water rather than drill for it. He said our resources need to be protected from outside government interference.

Commissioner Glover said he would like to have more meetings with the public on this issue. Ms. Lake said input given at this Public Hearing has been very useful.

At 9:48 AM, Commissioner Glover closed the Public Hearing, and a recess was taken.

The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene Glover at 10:00 AM. A prayer was led by Commissioner Ratzlaff and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William (Skip) Schoen, County Attorney Nancy Lake, and Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs.

At 10:00 AM, five members of the Sheriff's Department were recognized. Frank Clark was recognized for fifteen years of service, and Emily Lopez was recognized for ten years of service. Jared Quintana was sworn in as Detention Captain. Stephen Pino was sworn in as Investigator Corporal. Marcie Baker, newly hired, was sworn in as Patrol Deputy.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

At 10:16 AM, Commissioner Deacon made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

At 10:17 AM, Commissioner Glover asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Accounts Payable
- Approval of March and April Financials
- Approval of Resolution Authorizing Annual Salary Increase for DSS Director

Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Vender	Amount
OUTDOOR DEPOT	11,080.50
A GREER ROOFING, LLC.	15,000.00
ANDREW ATCHLEY	78.93
ARLAN'S PRO SERVICES	70.00
BRANDI HAZARD	92.75
BROWN'S SEPTIC SVC INC	190.00
CARY ALOIA	109.06
CDHS CENTRAL ACCOUNTING	54.00
CHARLES STILLINGS	97.93
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	323.16
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	67.50
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	645.27
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	63.95
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	140.24
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	148.14
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	179.95
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	605.14
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	134.49
CIELLO POWERED BY SLVREC	24.69
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	5,362.50
COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIES, LLC	8,130.00

COSTILLA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH	2,222.93
CTSI	45.80
DEE KESSLER	9,204.00
DIANNE KOSHAK	19.65
DOLORES ATENCIO	141.81
DREW SMITH	100.00
EMILY ABEYTA	260.00
GARRISON FENCE, INC	3,350.00
GISELLE ALMEIDA	670.00
GOOGLE, LLC	6.00
GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION	445.00
GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL	334.13
HAYNIE'S INC.	55.27
IHS PHARMACY	23.71
JM SERVICES	25,000.00
JULIE RAMSTETTER	1,332.66
LEONARD BROWN	78.93
MASTER PRINT & WEB DESIGN, INC	3,394.87
McKESSON MEDICAL-	17.56
MONTE VISTA COOPERATIVE	2,026.94
MOUNTAIN WEST SERIES OF LOCKTON COMPANIES	1,335.00
O & V PRINTING, INC	175.15
PNS COLORADO, LLC	736.00
PRO COM, LLC	123.00
RACHEL TAFFIN	50.00
RIO GRANDE COUNTY DEPT OF SOCIAL SERVICE	4,259.11
RUSSELL PRATT	93.34
S & S DISTRIBUTION, INC	53.40
SARAH HERRERA	121.83
SHAMROCK FOODS COMPANY	2,354.82
SLV PARTS, INC	59.47
SLV REC	1,000.00
SPARKLE CLEANERS	250.00
STAPLES BUSINESS CREDIT	73.24
TERMINIX PROCESSING CTR	74.00
TOWN OF DEL NORTE	924.79
TRAVIS CROSS	94.65
UBEO BUSINESS SERVICES	146.57
VALLEY COURIER	290.00
VALLEY PUBLISHING	268.80
VERIZON WIRELESS	391.78
VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUND	54.00
WEX BANK	748.68
WEX BANK	4,799.66
WSB COMPUTER SERVICES	1,004.00
XCEL ENERGY	3,193.94
YOUR GREAT OUTDOORS	5,600.00
	<b>119,602.69</b>

RESOLUTION NO 2023- 21

A RESOLUTION OF THE RIO GRANDE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AFFIRMING THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §26-1-116 establishes a County Board of Social Services consisting of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §26-1-117 establishes basic rules for the appointment of a Social Services Director by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the salary of the County Social Services Director shall be established by the Board of County Commissioners; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims its determination of the value of Jody Kern as our Social Services Director to be that annual salary of \$132,267.20 (Grade 23, step 18 on the 2023 Rio Grande County pay matrix) based upon her scope of responsibilities, superior performance, and continued excellence in our Social Services Department, and the Statutory authorization provided. This salary to be "retroactive" to her anniversary date (January 2023).

THE FOREGOING Resolution was offered by Commissioner Ratzlaff, seconded by Commissioner Deacon, and passed by the following votes by the of the Board of County Commissioners at a meeting of said Board on the 14th day of June, 2023.

VOTES:		
Commissioner Deacon:	<u>X</u> Yes	_____ No
Commissioner Glover	<u>X</u> Yes	_____ No
Commissioner Ratzlaff	<u>X</u> Yes	_____ No

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Gene W. Brown  
Chair

ATTEST:  
Adrian Cooper  
Clerk of the Board

202300450121 RESOLUTION NO CHARGE  
06/15/2023 07:56 AM Page 1 of 1  
Fee: \$0.00  
Cindy Hill, Clerk and Recorder, Rio Grande, CO

County Official and Department Head Reports

At 10:18 AM, Patrick Sullivan, Road and Bridge Department, gave his monthly report. Mr. Sullivan said construction work on County Road 28 had been completed, pothole patching projected had begun, utilities were reconnected at the hot plant, grading operations in the South Fork area were completed, a culvert at the intersection of County Roads 4 North and 2 East had been replaced, debris from the spring run-off had been removed near bridges, unexpected repairs of larger equipment had been done, bleachers had been set up for a law enforcement event near Center, and three employees had attended Traffic Incident Management (TIMs) training in Monte Vista. Mr. Sullivan said an emergency road repair due to a culvert issue on County Road 4 East near Highway 160 was also completed. Mr. Sullivan said proposed work includes installation of the new loadout equipment at the hot plant, setting up bleachers at Alamosa and South Fork, an asphalt project on County Road 1 South, repairing several areas of asphalt damaged during the winter, and grading.

At 10:21 AM, Randy Kern, Building Department, gave his monthly report. Mr. Kern said construction is in full swing; there were six new home starts, and three more are under review. Mr. Kern asked for Board approval for naming a lane in River Dance Ranch subdivision. He said the unnamed road has been used for access only, but now an address has been requested. Mr. Kern said the property owners have suggested it be named Nickerson Lane. He said Mr. Sullivan said the Road and Bridge Department should be able to provide road signs. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve naming the road access from Alpine Village #1 subdivision to River Dance Ranch subdivision Nickerson Lane. Commissioner Deacon

seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mr. Kern said the lane is privately owned, and will not be County maintained. Mr. Kern spoke about Senate Bill 23-166. He said he has not read all of it, but it establishes a State board to adopt model codes for wildland-urban wild fire areas. He said he will keep the BOCC posted as he learns more. Mr. Kern said he has a flyer to advertise public training opportunities about code implementation and plans. He said his office is getting new furniture. He said his staff is busy reviewing building plans.

At 10:34 AM, Ms. Lake said the Sheriff's Office received a \$50,000 Judge Advocate General (JAG) grant. Sheriff Anne Robinson said the department's new ATVs were used for campground patrols. Mr. Kern said the fenced area used for Sheriff's Office vehicle parking was designed as an evacuation area for the jail. The topic will be discussed in the future.

### **General Business and Administrative Items**

At 10:36 AM, Commissioner Glover said paperwork for the special events liquor license had not yet been received, so the discussion would be postponed.

At 10:36 AM, Sheriff Robinson spoke about a State grant opportunity to fund COVID-19 detection and mitigation in confinement facilities. She said she would like to apply, and the application deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>. She said the funds would be used for HEPA filtration and upgraded COVID testing equipment. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve Sheriff Robinson pursuing the grant. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:39 AM, Andrew Atchley, Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Housing Development Specialist, spoke with the BOCC concerning Proposition 123. He encouraged the County to opt in to be eligible for affordable housing funding. Mr. Atchley went over requirements for Rio Grande County. Commissioner Glover asked how the funding would be tied to water use. Mr. Atchley said he will investigate. He said he is encouraging communities to opt in by using American Community Service data. Commissioner Glover said the BOCC would consider opting in after Mr. Atchley provides more information. Mr. Schoen said this could be part of a broader solution for affordable housing in the San Luis Valley. Mr. Atchley said he will get details to the BOCC.

At 10:51 AM, Mr. Schoen said the RGC 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee met with seven members from different departments. He said Rio Grande County was formed in February 1874. Mr. Schoen gave the Commissioners a spread sheet showing committee ideas for events, memorabilia, and coordination. He said event ideas include County Department showcasing and open houses, a cattle drive, historical figure displays, and a kick-off event at the museum. The Commissioners suggested having entries in the parades in the Monte Vista, Del Norte, and South Fork. Mr. Schoen said memorabilia ideas include pamphlets, advertising, department shirts, and sale of challenge coins. The Commissioners agreed the plans look good.

At 11:07 AM, Mr. Schoen asked the Board to consider approving a micro-grant for the County Website. The maximum \$6,500 grant from the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) provides funding for transitioning to the State-supported website, which has more stringent accessibility and security standards than the County's current website. Mr. Schoen said the County must meet these standards by July 2024. Ms. Lake asked if there would be any content censorship if the State supported website is used. Mr. Schoen said he was not aware of any issues. Ms. Lake said Administration needs to find out if there is any censorship before the County transitions. Mr. Schoen he was asking the BOCC for permission to pursue the SIPA micro-grant for funding to hire professional web design services to assist in Rio Grande County's transition to the State-supported website during fall of 2023. The services would assist departments with web content and design. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the pursuit of the SIPA micro-grant for funding to hire professional web design services. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Dr. Kolawole Bankole asked how the website will be maintained after grant funding runs out. Mr. Schoen said it is County maintained, and either departments or administration will post content.

At 11:17 AM, the Board considered the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Executive's request for construction of a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor IT closet and Court Clerk's storage room changes. Mr. Schoen said the Court's computer servers are currently in the corner of the jury room, and the Court would like a secure enclosure. He said this request is not for any specific work, but just for permission to pursue the project. Mr. Schoen said the Court also would like to renovate the east end of the

Clerk's space by removing filing shelves that are no longer used; the space would be used for a break room. Commissioner Glover said he had spoken with the Court Clerk about using the room for County department storage. Mr. Schoen said he will talk to the Court Clerk about using some of the space for County storage. Cindy Hill, County Clerk, said there is storage space in her office if it is needed. Commissioner Deacon made a motion to authorize the County Administrator and the 12th Judicial District Court Executive to move ahead with plans to create a secure closet for IT equipment, and plans for removal of the Courthouse Clerk file system and redesignation of the space, with the agreement that Rio Grande County will be able to use part of the space as needed. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:29 AM, Mr. Schoen said the discussion on a Resolution Designating Site Selection and Construction of Major new Domestic Water Systems and Existing Domestic Water Systems, and on the IGA for 1041 Water with other San Luis Valley Counties and Municipalities would be tabled to work on language and to contact other communities. This was based on the conversation during this morning's Public Hearing. Commissioner Glover said he would like the information before the upcoming San Luis Valley Board of County Commissioners (SLVBOCC) and the Development Resources Group (DRG)/ Council of Governments (COG) meetings. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to table the discussion on the resolution and IGA concerning water issues. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 11:30 AM, the Rio Grande County letter of Invitation to Property Taxing Entities for Mill Levies was discussed. Mr. Schoen said it was based on Elbert County's letter regarding possible mill levy adjustments in response to Senate Bill 23-303 and Proposition HH. J.J. Mondragon, County Assessor, said property valuations have gone up by a median amount of 46% over the past two years. She said the Assessor's Office must send notices of determination by June 30<sup>th</sup> to property owners protesting their adjustment, hearings with the BOCC, acting as the County Board of Equalization (CBOE) must be scheduled July 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, and held by August 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mondragon said the abstract is due to the State by August 25<sup>th</sup>. She said her office has received 1,238 protests so far. Mr. Schoen said the Invitation, which would likely be sent in September, would give taxing entities notice of the County's right to reduce mill levies, and invite them to discuss it with the Board. Commissioner Glover said it would be good to get the letter ready to send at the end of August. Mr. Sullivan said fire districts will be concerned, because increases rarely occur after a mill levy is lowered. He said he understands the County's point of view too. Ms. Mondragon said it is not yet clear how taxes will be affected. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to table the discussion on the Invitation to Property Taxing Entities for Mill Levies until August. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Commissioners, Administrator, and Attorney Updates**

At 11:47 AM, Ms. Lake said she has been part of many discussions on taxing issues and 1041 water rights issues. She has been responding to a resident concerning a land use issue. Ms. Lake said she has been reviewing grants, Public Health, and Sheriff's Office issues. She said she is expecting a response to her motion to dismiss in an ongoing case in the next three days. She said she is reviewing the airport water situation.

At 11:51 AM, Commissioner Deacon said he gave three bids for McMullen Building lights and fans to administration. He said he attended an Astronaut Rominger Airport Advisory Board meeting; he said the airport plans to be able to sell jet fuel by the middle or end of July. He said the property owner west of the airport spoke with him about the proposed jail site. Commissioner Deacon said the airport's old fuel truck would likely be returned to the donor. Commissioner Deacon said he is still working with ranchers and the USDA about building a processing plant. He said Mark Deacon would like to meet with the BOCC and administration about developing property east of Del Norte.

At 11:55 AM, Ms. Lake said she has been reviewing documentation about a pesticide spill at Home Lake. She said Armando Ross, Weed and Pest District, has documentation proving the District is not at fault.

At 11:56 AM, Mr. Schoen said the bids for the McMullen Building will be on next week's BOCC agenda.

At 11:57 AM, Commissioner Glover said he attended the Weed and Pest District Meeting, as well as the Upper Rio Grande Development Group (URGED) and the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce meetings.

At 11:57 AM, Commissioner Ratzlaff said he attended his first SLV Housing Coalition meeting. Mr. Schoen said he would like to attend the next meeting.

At 12:02 PM, Commissioner Glover said the Pagosa Springs Work Force would like to meet about its training center.

At 12:03 PM, Commissioner Ratzlaff said the road crossing at Home Lake Veterans' Center is still being discussed.

At 12:04 PM, Mr. Schoen said the City of Monte Vista is looking for funds to create a pedestrian/ bicycle transportation corridor. He said a San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLVGO) representative may speak with the BOCC about it. Mr. Schoen said his action items from today's meeting include following up with SIPA concerning mandatory website content, and getting information from Mr. Atchley about affordable housing. He said the BOCC has a listening session on land use code adoptions this afternoon.

At 12:13 PM, Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Attest:

Gene Glover  
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs  
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado            )  
  ss  
County of Rio Grande        )

The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene Glover at 10:00 AM. A prayer was led by Commissioner Deacon and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William (Skip) Schoen, County Attorney Nancy Lake, Administrative Assistant Bobbie Hatton, and Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion of the Road and Bridge Department bulldozer under General Business. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

At 10:01 AM, Commissioner Glover asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes: May 3, 2023 BOCC; May 24, 2023 DSS
- Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Deacon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Vender	Amount
CARLA CHRISTENSEN	170.00
CENTURYLINK	220.73
CINDY HILL	267.95
CO DEPT OF PUB HLTH & ENV	33.84
COLUMBINE AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS SLV	5,250.00
DP AG SERVICES	421.70
DWANA K PHILLIPS HAUGEN	750.00
FASTENAL	1,845.57
GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL	334.22

GUNBARREL STATION, INC	65.00
HELEN LESTER	794.66
INLAND TRUCK PARTS & SERVICE	198.70
INTERMOUNTAIN SALES	230.00
JANET SANCHEZ	1,760.00
LEDS, LLC	2,988.00
LEROY A ROMERO	150.00
LOWE'S PAY AND SAVE, INC	17.45
McKESSON MEDICAL-	47.16
MEADOW GOLD DAIRY - ENGLEWOOD - DFA DAIRY BRANDS	47.87
MOBILE RECORD SHREDDERS, LLC	100.00
MONTE VISTA COOPERATIVE	19.50
MYERS BROTHERS TRUCK AND TRACTOR, INC	492.50
NOTES & NUMBERS, LLC.	1,000.00
PRO COM, LLC	213.00
ROBERTA MARQUEZ	119.87
S & S DISTRIBUTION, INC	105.00
SLV REC	705.00
SLV REGIONAL SOLID WASTE	30.49
STATE OF COLORADO	1,948.87
THE GLOVE WAGON	354.00
THE SIDWELL COMPANY	3,600.00
TOWN AND COUNTRY	281.58
UBEO BUSINESS SERVICES	154.78
VALLEY LOCK AND SECURITY, INC	2,731.42
VALLEY LUMBER AND SUPPLY, INC	418.63
VJ'S EMBROIDERY, LLC	1,111.00
WAGNER EQUIPMENT	9,854.95
WILLIAM (SKIP) SCHOEN	222.70
WORLD FUEL SERVICES, INC	19,525.47
WSB COMPUTER SERVICES	12,478.00
AIRGAS USA, LLC	183.83
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	184.70
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	26,602.00
WEX BANK	917.89
XCEL ENERGY	1,673.17
	<b>100,621.20</b>

### **County Official and Department Head Reports**

At 10:01 AM, Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, gave her report. She has been working on boundary line adjustments, zoning, camping permits, short term rentals, and attending meetings. Ms. Diltz said she received a letter of interest from Will Hathaway who would like to serve on the Planning Commission in place of Andrew Atchley who moved out of the eastern district. Ms. Diltz and the Commissioners agreed Mr. Atchley has served the Planning Board well, but a representative living in the eastern district should be on the Board. Commissioner Glover asked Ms. Diltz to have Mr. Atchley contact him. Ms. Diltz said she would, and she would also contact Mr. Hathaway.

### **General Business and Administrative Items**

At 10:06 AM, Craig Rauwolf, Valley-Wide Health's Veteran Outreach Coordinator, spoke with the BOCC about the Veteran's Crisis Hotline and Suicide Prevention. Mr. Rauwolf said Valley-Wide has received a grant to provide free behavioral health care to Veterans and their families. He explained who is covered and how they are qualified for care. Mr. Rauwolf said services are available through the Veterans Administration (VA) or Valley-Wide Health. He said the wait for care through the VA is about three months, but care through Valley-Wide is two to three weeks.

At 10:12 AM, the request from the Town of Del Norte for County help with street lights on County Road 14, from Highway 160 to the hospital was discussed. Mr. Schoen said the County's share is projected to be \$1,954.65. Patrick Sullivan, Road and Bridge, said he talked with the Xcel Energy planner about the project about proximity of the poles to the roadway. Mr. Sullivan wants to ensure they would not be in the way for road maintenance. Commissioner Deacon raised the question of whether the Town or the County would assume liability if the poles are damaged, and the topic was discussed. Mr. Sullivan said an Xcel easement specialist will write the contract, and Commissioner Glover said a liability disclaimer should be included. Ms. Diltz asked about the lighting style as per code standards. Mr. Schoen said he will get more information about liability and light pollution. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to table the decision on County support for the project until the Board's questions are answered. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:28 AM, Mr. Schoen said three bids for electrical upgrades to the McMullen Building were received. He said two quotes are detailed, but the other is not itemized. There was a discussion on fan brands, cost, and potential added costs. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to accept the bid from Valley Electric as written. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:40 AM, Sheriff Anne Robinson spoke to the BOCC about a Critical Care Bank request from a Sheriff's Department employee. Sheriff Robinson said the employee has been with the department for a little over one year. She said due to an off-duty injury, he has used up his leave time. He is requesting fifteen hours. Sheriff Robinson said she informed the employee this could be his only request for this year. Mr. Schoen suggested tabling a Board decision, since the Human Resources Specialist was not available today. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to table a decision on the Critical Care Bank request. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:43 AM, the Board discussed using Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds (LATCF) to purchase a bulldozer for the Road and Bridge Department. Mr. Schoen said the initially requested amount could be increased to a ceiling of \$500,000. Mr. Sullivan said the additional funding may allow the department to get the larger dozer that it prefers, and would also allow him to act quickly when a suitable dozer is found. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to allow the Road and Bridge Department to use up to \$500,000 of LATCF to give Mr. Sullivan latitude to purchase a dozer as one becomes available. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:48 AM, Ian Vander Male, Colorado Retirement Association (CRA) Client Service Representative, gave a presentation about CRA and the County's retirement plan. He said CRA is a non-profit retirement plan administration serving Colorado. Mr. Vander Male said the plan was amended in 2020 to be IRA compliant. He gave details about the 401(a) plan with mandatory employee participation and the 457(b) plan with voluntary employee participation. Commissioner Glover asked if employees can borrow funds from their account, and Mr. Vander Male said the plan is not set up to allow borrowing. He said the 457(b) plan can be used by employees who do not qualify for the 401(a), such as part-time seasonal workers. Mr. Vander Male explained options the County can make to the current plan, and said the changes can be made gradually. Commissioner Glover said the County's current Administration can consider the options. Mr. Schoen suggested the Board consider implementing the discretionary employees matching contribution.

### **Commissioners, Administrator, and Attorney Updates**

At 11:40 AM, Commissioner Ratzlaff said the Commissioners were all present at the Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center groundbreaking, and suggested the BOCC consider contributing to hospital housing units at a future date. He said he attended the collective bargaining meeting via Zoom. Commissioner Ratzlaff said he talked with Mr. Sullivan about the road crossing at Home Lake Veterans Center.

At 11:44 AM, Commissioner Glover said he visited new businesses in South Fork, and would like to meet with the Town Manager and Building Project Manager. Commissioner Glover said he attended the San Luis Valley Regional Landfill Authority Board meeting where equipment purchases were discussed. He will attend the South Central Seniors meeting. Commissioner Glover said the Del Norte Community Field meeting was well attended. He said the BOCC will need to approve all field plans before they are implemented.

At 11:50 AM, Commissioner Deacon said the Monte Vista Fire Protection Board ordered a new tanker a year ago, and it should be ready in another year. He said he is working on the ranchers' co-op, has helped two veterans set up benefits, and has answered questions about possible contributions to cemeteries in Rio Grande County. Commissioner Deacon said the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramp at the Del Norte Library is cracking. There was a discussion on how the Library District distributes its funds. Commissioner Glover said he did not think the Del Norte Library gets a fair share.

At 11:56 AM, Ms. Lake said she reviewed public comments about the water IGA, and has spoken with County Attorneys about it. She said her monitoring agreement with the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is at its end and the Attorney General's Office said the District is compliant. Ms. Lake said the new District Attorney (DA) is to be commended for her support of victims' rights. She said Rio Grande County has a good working relation with the DA. Ms. Lake said Mr. Edwards' attorney returned a response to her motion to dismiss, and she is working on a reply. She is reviewing the DSS/law enforcement document. Ms. Lake attended the kick-off meeting for a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) voluntary citizen support for DSS and Child Protective Services Board. She said the Sheriff's grant request was successful. Ms. Lake said there is a need for legislation stating jails cannot pay for all unfunded behavioral health mandates. Sheriff Robinson said behavioral health informed her they would not provide ongoing or emergency treatment for persons experiencing incarceration starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. She said there will be a fiscal impact to the County budget for providing services. Ms. Lake said she is on the application selection committee for help with substance abuse for rural counties, and is looking over applications.

At 12:15 PM, Mr. Schoen went over the agenda for tomorrow's manager meeting. He said Tyler Tech provided training to administration on their time and attendance software. Mr. Schoen discussed a business owner's application to CDOT for a traffic study. He also talked with a resident wanting to verify the proposed jail site. Mr. Schoen said he discovered an IGA with the Tourism Board for the BOCC's review. He said the next Tourism Board meeting is in August. Mr. Schoen said he met with the Court Executive about a secure server space, and file storage system removal. He said the storage system was provided by the State, so the State may pay for the removal. Mr. Schoen will talk to the Court IT, and the Building and Maintenance Departments before finalizing plans. Mr. Schoen said his take away tasks include contacting the hospital administrator about a County contribution, finding out if the Weed and Pest District's well has been tested for iron, finding out about carpeting payment options for the District office's reception area, and following up on questions about the Sheriff's radio console. He said he will also reach out to Valley Electric about the McMullen Building bid. The Commissioners said work on the building should not be scheduled during fair time.

At 12:31 PM, Anne Kelley, District Attorney, spoke with the Board. She thanked Ms. Lake for her help with the monitoring project. The Commissioners voiced their confidence in Ms. Kelley. Ms. Kelley said her office has experienced an employee shift. She said a newly hired lawyer will be covering the Rio Grande and Saguache District Courts for the foreseeable future. She said local law enforcement is doing amazing work. Ms. Kelley said the State has its own filing system which will have free public access in about a month. She said she wants to have seven lawyers employed by the DA's office. Ms. Kelley said she is working with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on establishing a satellite office in the San Luis Valley with four agents.

At 12:44 PM, Commissioner Deacon made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Attest:

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Gene Glover  
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs  
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado            )  
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County of Rio Grande        )

## Public Hearing

The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners met in Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 28, 2023. At 9:00 AM, Commissioner Glover opened the Public Hearing to allow public comment on the proposed Land Use Fee Schedule. A prayer was led by Commissioner Deacon and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William (Skip) Schoen, Dixie Diltz, Land Use, Tom Haefeli, Eve Bauer, Laura and Chad Barr, vacation rental owners, and Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs.

Commissioner Glover asked for public comment.

Tom Haefeli said he owns a bed and breakfast (B&B) inside Del Norte town limits. He said that he is exempt from the County's proposed \$1,000 yearly fee because the B&B is inside city limits, but is concerned that if the County raises its fee, the Town will follow. Mr. Haefeli said last year he netted \$10,000, so the County fee would be ten percent of his profit. He said it is a lot of money for him and for other B&B owners who net even less. Mr. Haefeli said he spoke with Gigi Dennis, City of Monte Vista, about the lack of hotel rooms in Monte Vista. He asked why vacation rentals should be penalized when there is a shortage of hotels. He said 100% of money spent for stays at locally owned B&Bs stays in the county.

Chad and Laura Barr spoke next. Mr. Barr said they own three vacation rentals inside Del Norte town limits, so the proposed per rental fee would be exorbitant. He said the rentals currently make just enough money to cover the bills. Ms. Barr said she could not find detailed information on the proposed fees. She said the proposed fee would be the highest short term rental fee in the state, and asked what the money would be used for. Mr. Barr said their rentals fill the gaps between vacation and long-term rentals by housing people moving to Del Norte for work. He said it would be very hard to absorb the proposed fee hike.

Eve Bauer said she owns a B&B near Plaza. She said she does not mind paying a slightly higher fee, but the proposed fee is a 900% raise over the current fee. Ms. Bauer said she also cannot find detailed fee information. She said last year was her start-up year, and she lost money. She said the 900% increase is too much.

Ms. Diltz explained the reasoning behind the large annual fee increase. She said when short term rental permitting started in 2018-2019, the County did not anticipate how many there would be. She said there are over one hundred in Rio Grande County, not counting those inside city limits. Ms. Diltz said she cannot keep up with inspections and paperwork for them, and needs to hire an additional employee. Ms. Diltz said the increase in the application fee is due to the current fee not covering County costs. She said land use fees have not been increased since she began in 2012.

Mr. Schoen said the current and proposed fee schedules are on the County's website, and showed how to navigate to them.

Mr. Haefeli asked how much it costs to hire a new Land Use Department employee, and what would happen to the position if enough B&B owners decided to turn them into long-term rentals. He said the proposed short term rental fee makes long term rentals more attractive to owners, and Ms. Bauer agreed.

Ms. Diltz said she sent an email on April 26<sup>th</sup> to all vacation rental owners on her list, notifying them of the proposed fee change. She said during subsequent rental inspections, she has received a mixed response from owners; none are happy about the increase, but most say, "See you next year." Mr. Barr asked if many of those responses were from owners who rent out their expensive second homes, and Ms. Diltz said they were.

Ms. Bauer asked if the County would consider a sliding scale fee.

Commissioner Glover said there is an ongoing conversation across the state on how to not hurt the business while affording the cost of inspections.

Ms. Diltz said the proposed fee schedule was brought before the BOCC in April. It was approved, but no resolution was done. Commissioner Deacon said the BOCC has a duty to answer to its constituents, and the Board needs to look at the fee schedule further. He said if it is detrimental to local business, it is wrong. Commissioner Ratzlaff said this is the biggest jump in fees by quite a bit. Ms. Lake said this issue is of state-wide concern, and no one, counties or people, are happy about it.

Commissioner Glover suggested the BOCC’s decision should be tabled for now. Ms. Lake suggested separating the short-term rental fees from the other fees, so the other fees could be approved. Ms. Diltz said they could. Mr. Barr said if they decide to turn their B&Bs into long-term rentals, the County will lose income. Mr. Haefeli asked if the inspector position could be funded by the increase in property tax. Commissioner Glover said it could be considered, but there is not enough information about property tax revenue yet. Mr. Schoen said the BOCC will not know until property tax protests are reviewed in early August. The Commissioners thanked the people who attended for their input.

At 9:30 AM, Commissioner Glover closed the Public Hearing, and called for a recess until the BOCC meeting scheduled for 10:00 AM.

The Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 28, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene Glover at 10:00 AM. A prayer was led by Commissioner Ratzlaff and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commission Scott Deacon, Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William (Skip) Schoen, County Attorney Nancy Lake, and Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:01 AM, the BOCC transitioned to the Board of Social Services (BSS).

At 10:15 AM, the BSS transitioned to the BOCC.

There was a short recess while the Zoom link was reestablished.

**Public Comment**

At 10:21 AM, Commissioner Glover asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Accounts Payable
- Approval of Payroll Report
- Approval of Veterans Report
- Approval of Updated LATCF Project List

Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Vender	Amount
ALAMOSA COUNTY	315.00
JEAN BORREGO	5,427.22
ALAMOSA CTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT	3,198.76
ANDREW ATCHLEY	78.93
ANNE M. ROBINSON	176.97
CARY ALOIA	109.06
CENTURYLINK	292.31
CHARLES STILLINGS	97.93
CO STATE FOREST SERVICE	9,924.00
CO.BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIO	892.50
COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE	1,000.00
CONEJOS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH	1,649.53
DP AG SERVICES	1,493.30
E-470 PUBLIC HIGHWAY	4.10
FIRST BANKCARD	18,826.31
GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS, LLC.	479.40
GARY HAVERFIELD	120.00
GENOA HEALTHCARE	383.41
GOBINS, INC	329.55
GRAINGER PARTS	981.98
GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL	401.76

GWORKS	546.00
HAYNIE'S INC.	1,374.57
HUSMANN PLUMBING, INC	311.86
IDA WHITE	242.62
INTERSTATE ENERGY, INC	969.20
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY (ISU)	12,366.66
JERRY GALLEGOS	82.86
KALEIGH WHITE	471.13
KIMBERLY BRYANT	106.50
LACAL EQUIPMENT,INC	409.01
LEONARD BROWN	78.93
LOWE'S PAY AND SAVE, INC	78.76
McKESSON MEDICAL-	67.58
MICHAEL MITCHELL	97.27
MONTE VISTA COOPERATIVE	422.96
S & S DISTRIBUTION, INC	17.00
SAGUACHE CO PUBLIC HEALTH	339.78
SIGN SOLUTIONS	124.07
SLV AUTO REPAIR, LLC	147.61
SLV REC	103.00
STAPLES BUSINESS CREDIT	254.87
TERMINIX PROCESSING CTR	74.00
TOWN OF DEL NORTE	325.43
U S POSTAL SERVICE	234.00
VALLEY LOCK AND SECURITY, INC	424.60
VISUAL LABS, INC	25,440.00
WSB COMPUTER SERVICES	843.72
AIRGAS USA, LLC	265.54
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	3,186.84
SHAMROCK FOODS COMPANY	3,704.39
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	5,917.00
XCEL ENERGY	1,966.02
	<b>107,175.80</b>

**June 2023 Payroll**

COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$394,655.73
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$113,727.24
SOCIAL SERVICES	\$178,086.83
WEED DISTRICT	\$23,605.38
AIRPORT FUND	\$5,125.12
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY FUND	\$63,408.47
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$778,608.77</b>

**County Official and Department Head Reports**

At 10:21 AM, Armando Ross and Jazz Miranda, Weed and Pest District, spoke to the BOCC. Mr. Ross said the new weed spotter is awesome. He said the District is short on employees to spray weeds, but the current team is great. Mr. Ross said contracts with CDOT, Del Norte, and South Fork are on schedule. Mr. Ross said he would like to increase the Monte Vista High School scholarships to \$500 each for five students. Commissioner Glover said the Board would discuss this in the future, and the scholarships should be capped at \$500. Mr. Ross said the office property would continue to be rented. Mr. Ross said the District's GPS software has provided proof the County was not at fault at two chemical spills this month. Mr. Ross said there are a couple of people interested in the vacant Del Norte/South Fork position on the District's Board. Mr. Ross said he found a tool that is useful in eradicating puncture vine, and he will present it to the District Board for approval of purchase. Mr. Ross said weed notices are being given out. Mr. Ross said leafy spurge has been found for the first time in the county. It is near the railroad tracks. He said the District is trying to keep it from spreading to private land. Mr. Ross said he would like to have an appreciation lunch for his staff.

**General Business and Administrative Items**

At 10:35 AM, sealed bids for work on the McMullen Building Pavilion were opened. Commissioner Glover opened the first of two bids received, and handed copies to the Commissioners, Ms. Lake, and Mr. Schoen. After looking it over, Mr. Schoen summarized the bid aloud. He said the bid from SLV Builders came in at \$222,000. Commissioner Glover opened the second bid, and passed out copies. Mr. Schoen said the bid from Alcon Construction was \$197,026. He said the County did not receive any other bids, and both bids appeared to be complete. Commissioner Deacon made a motion to award the bid on the McMullen Building Pavilion to Alcon Construction bid for \$197,026. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:43 AM, the Land Use Fee Schedule was considered for adoption. Mr. Schoen said the original fee schedule had been amended based on the conversation at this morning's Public Hearing. He said the current fee for short-term rentals would not change, but all other fee increases would be included. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the Land Use Fee Schedule as amended. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:44 AM, the Board considered a request for security cameras from Cindy Hill, County Clerk. Ms. Hill presented a written proposal to the Board. Mr. Schoen said Ms. Hill would like to expedite the purchase of the cameras for the Courthouse Annex Building. He said he had a high level of confidence funding for the cameras from the Homeland Security grant would be approved, but funds from that grant would not be distributed until summer of 2024. Ms. Hill said elections are scheduled for March, June, and November 2024. She said the security cameras would be for the entire Annex Building. Mr. Schoen said the Annex Building does not currently have security like the other buildings on the Rio Grande County campus. He said LATCF funds could be used. Ms. Hill said she also has funds in her budget if needed. She said Jean Borrego, SLV Homeland Security, sent an email stating funds would not be available until 2025, and she was not willing to wait that long. Mr. Schoen said Amanda Klapperich, Chief Financial Officer, spoke with Ms. Borrego, and funds should be available sooner. Ms. Hill said the issue is not about elections, but about building security. Commissioner Deacon recused himself from making a motion, because he is Chairman of the SLV Homeland Security Executive Board. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to approve the use of LATCF funds for security cameras at the Courthouse Annex. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Ms. Hill said she requested four bids, but received only two. She would prefer to use WSB Computer Services because they have done the other security cameras in the Annex. Commissioner Glover said the motion would include approval of \$13,197.05 for the WSB Computer Services bid.

At 10:56 AM, the BOCC considered approval of street lights on County Road 14 between Highway 160 and Rio Grande Hospital. Mr. Schoen gave an update on answers to questions in last week's discussion. He said the lights will be hooded and are dark sky compliant. He said if there is damage to the poles, the Town of Del Norte will cover replacement costs. Commissioner Deacon made a motion to support the Town of Del Norte's request for street lights along County Road 14, and cover funding of \$1,954.65. Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:58 AM, Mr. Schoen asked that the discussion of health care comparisons be tabled to allow more time for research. Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to table the discussion of health care comparisons. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 10:59 AM, Brian Puccerella, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors, SLVGO, spoke with the Board. He said SLVGO is partnering with the Cities of Monte Vista and Alamosa on a Safe Streets grant. He said they would like to partner with Rio Grande County also. Mr. Puccerella said the \$400,000 grant would require a \$10,000 in-kind match. He said Monte Vista has the lead on the grant. Mr. Puccerella said the grant will fund a pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure safety study, with the goal of creating a pedestrian/bicycle path between Monte Vista and Alamosa. He said they would also like to create safe access along Sherman Avenue in Monte Vista. Mr. Schoen said presentation material is needed in order to put SLVGO on the BOCC agenda.

### **Commissioners, Administrator, and Attorney Updates**

At 11:02 AM, Ms. Lake said she and Mr. Schoen met to go over the water export IGA. She said two signatories who already signed the IGA are willing to resign one with Rio Grande County's recommended amendments, but another is pushing back. Ms. Lake said she filed an appropriate reply to an ongoing lawsuit. She said the Sheriff's Department has a pending lawsuit, and a CORA request wanting information going back to 2017. Ms. Lake said Sheriff

Robinson submitting a grant for COVID personal protection equipment and measures. Ms. Lake said she is working on scoring sheets for the SLV Behavioral Health grant for the Rural Treatment Center.

At 11:05 AM, Commissioner Ratzlaff said some governing entities were surprised Rio Grande County held a Public Hearing concerning the water export IGA and did not sign the original version. Commissioner Ratzlaff said he attended the SLVBOCC where the IGA changes were introduced. He said Colorado State University Extension Service, also at the meeting, is very active in the county. Commissioner Ratzlaff said he and Commissioner Glover attended the Council of Governments (COG) and Development Resources Group (DRG) meetings also.

At 11:07 AM, Commissioner Glover spoke about the water export IGA. He said the amendment process gave other Counties time to hold Public Hearings. He said he was glad Ms. Lake and other attorneys were working together on the IGA. Commissioner Glover said he attended a Public Health meeting, and a Town of South Fork Board meeting. He said the South Fork water project is moving along, and the Town Board may speak to the BOCC about other projects. Commissioner Glover said he attended the South Central Seniors meeting; this was his first meeting as chair person. He said Alcon Construction will build the new senior building in Alamosa.

At 11:11 AM, Commissioner Deacon thanked everyone who worked on the McMullen Building project over the last two years. He said it was last upgraded twenty to thirty years ago. He said he was asked about the fifty-year contract between the County and Monte Vista for the McMullen Building. Commissioner Deacon said he has volunteered to help at the historical museum in Monte Vista, and will help at the transportation museum for the next two Fridays. Commissioner Glover said the McMullen Building contract is in its fourteenth year of the original lease. He said the County may want to consider adjusting the lease due to the investment in work being done to the building.

At 11:15 AM, Mr. Schoen said he will work with Alcon Construction to get final approval on the McMullen Building Pavilion project from the City of Monte Vista. He said he notified the companies who made bids for lights and fans in the McMullen Building. Commissioner Glover and Deacon said no work on the building should be done during the fair and Stampede; it should be scheduled before July 22<sup>nd</sup> or after August 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schoen said he is working on the CORA request for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Schoen said the Assessor's Office will have all protest response letters out by the end of June. The appeal submission deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Board of Equalization meetings will be completed by August 5<sup>th</sup>. He said the Treasurer's Office and the Assessor's Office are getting new carpet; they will be close from the July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and July 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> respectively for installation. He said about two weeks of public notice has been given for the closures. Mr. Schoen said legislative proposal due date to CCI is July 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schoen said a discussion of elected officials pay grade will be on next week's agenda.

At 11:25 AM, Commissioner Ratzlaff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Attest:

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Gene Glover  
Chairman of the Board

DeAnn Jacobs  
Clerk of the Board