

Mr. Sullivan reported that work has started on the Burnt Creek drainage in the Jasper area. Commissioner Shriver reported receiving calls of thanks for the Road and Bridge Department's work on the drainage. Mr. Sullivan reported that 12,000 to 13,000 cubic feet of material was moved and the water is flowing better. Some residences were threatened. The cost of this project was \$30,512.00. Mr. Sullivan said that Jasper is asking for help from Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Colorado Water Conservation Board for funding and ideas to manage the drainage.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Department is grading roads. He noted that so far, harvest traffic is flowing differently than it has in the past.

Mr. Sullivan reported that proposed work includes skin projects, which will be complete on September 13, 2018. He said that the next phase of the County Road 13 project will begin soon, and will be completed in two weeks. He said that striping projects will be completed before it snows. Mowing projects will continue.

Mr. Sullivan said that a Road and Bridge Department employee has resigned effective September 20, 2018. The Department has two open positions. He stated that he may request the hiring of three employees to keep the Department functional. Mr. Sullivan said that there is money in the budget to pay for these employees. Commissioner Bothell asked what position the new employee would fill. Mr. Sullivan explained that the new employee would fill an operator position. He also said that it is difficult to find people to work. Commissioner Bothell asked if drug testing is an issue. Mr. Sullivan said it is not, because drug testing is discussed with potential employees. He said that the employees are also required to have a Commercial Driver's License, and this requirement eliminates anyone who would not pass a drug test. He stated that Department employees are randomly tested on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Wisdom asked if the Road and Bridge Department works with Trinidad State Junior College on CDL training. Mr. Sullivan said the Department has not worked with TSJC. Also, because a hazmat endorsement is also required by the Transportation Security Administration, Department employees are sent to Colorado Springs for hazmat fingerprints. Fingerprints are required every four years; physicals are required every two years. He added that the logistics of this trip are often difficult for employees. Mr. Sullivan reported that the County's health insurance covers the cost of the physicals. However, if an employee does not have County health insurance, the Department covers the cost. Commissioner Shriver said it is important to find an employee who is a good fit and to also help with the costs of obtaining a CDL. She said this advances the employee. Mr. Sullivan stated that there is a shortage of drivers across the United States.

Mr. Sullivan reported that he has a quote for a new pickup. A bid has been received for a Dodge 2500, in the amount of \$41,582.00, through the State award program. The manufacturer's suggested retail price on this pickup is \$57,000.00. Mr. Sullivan said that the pickup needs to be ordered this month, and noted that the price is well within the Department's budget. He explained that the old striper and the old loader have been sold; the Department has purchased a tractor and a crusher. Even with these expenses, the cost of the new pickup is within the budget. Mr. Sullivan also received a bid on a Ford F250 in the amount of \$46,000.00. Commissioner Shriver said that the plan was to purchase a new pickup this year. Mr. Sullivan reported that the average age of the vehicles in the Department is 20.4 years old; 206,500 miles is the average for the fleet vehicles. He said that he is working to update the pickup fleet. Commissioner Shriver said that 12 years old is an old vehicle. Mr. Sullivan stated that the pickup he is currently using is a 2007, and has more than 200,000 miles on it. Mr. Sullivan explained the State award program, and requested the Board's approval to purchase the Dodge 2500 pickup. The consensus of the Board was to approve the purchase. Mr. Sullivan said he will pick up the new vehicle around the time of the upcoming CCI conference.

Ms. Wisdom reported that she has received some requests to vacate roads. She said that the County has no policy on how to handle these requests, and noted that resolutions are needed. She explained that now the person requesting the vacation of a road is responsible for notifying neighbors, the Road and Bridge Department, and the Building Department. She said that Mr. Sullivan has researched the State statute regarding the vacation of roads and has reviewed it with her. She recommended that a formal procedure be developed, which will include signatures from Mr. Sullivan and Randy Kern, Building Department. Mr. Sullivan said that neighbors should be notified via certified mail, which proves that the notification was sent. The consensus of the Board was to approve developing a formal process.

At 9:45 a.m., Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, and Randy Kern, Building Department, were present to update the Board.

Ms. Diltz reported that the request for proposal for the update of the County Land Use code book has been issued. Interest has been expressed from John Wilder and Planned Tools. Ms. Diltz said that RG and Associates may also submit a bid. The RFP closes September 25, 2018.

Ms. Diltz reported touring the National Hemp Exchange facility. She said the tour was informative, and Mr. Kern added that the hemp processing is interesting. Ms. Diltz recommended that the Board arrange a tour. Chairman Glover agreed. Ms. Diltz stated that hemp processing is complicated and suggested that the County may want to consider it a higher hazard occupancy. Mr. Kern said that many chemicals are used in the processing and the facility stores a high volume of chemicals. Ms. Diltz said that the way the business is classified may need to be changed in the future; she suggested the classification of industrial agricultural. She said that locations considered for hemp processing should be away from highly populated areas.

Ms. Diltz reported that she assessed the building referred to as the "Hut building" owned by Tricia and Robert Creech. Ms. Creech has been in touch with the Sheriff, and the Courts evicted the tenant. Ms. Diltz said the property has been cleaned up.

Ms. Diltz said that she wanted to state again that she would like a better working relationship with the Sheriff, especially in terms of sharing information. Commissioner Bothell suggested that Ms. Diltz call the Sheriff to discuss the issue. Ms. Diltz said that she has called, but does not get past the front desk. Ms. Diltz said there may be some confidentiality issues, but she expressed again that better communication is needed. Mr. Kern explained that he and Ms. Diltz reviewed a property recently that was frightening. There is a mobile home on one-fourth of an acre. Mr. Kern said that the property owner wants to allow migrant workers to live there during harvest. Ms. Diltz said that the property has been subsequently fenced, so the status of the property is unclear.

Commissioner Shriver said that there are safety issues for all County employees, who are not armed in frightening situations. She said this applies to caseworkers, as well. She stated that there are times when employees need back up. Mr. Kern explained that sometimes he and/or Ms. Diltz have to go on to a property; sometimes written communication is not enough. Commissioner Shriver suggested that conflict training might be helpful. Ms. Diltz said that she does not feel safe driving on the other side of the fenced property. It was suggested that a drone might be used. Commissioner Shriver said that privacy issues would have to be researched. Ms. Diltz said that there are abandoned cars and sanitation problems on this property. Ms. Wisdom suggested contacting Workforce, which assists migrants. She said that Workforce would be able to let migrants know that this property is not suitable.

Mr. Kern reported that it has been "business as usual" in the Building Department. He reported that there is an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Creede to inspect commercial projects. The Mineral County courthouse is being remodeled and Mr. Kern was asked to inspect it. He said that Ken Vanlwarden might be able to assist Mr. Kern with the inspections. Commissioner Bothell asked what the Building Department charges for this type of inspection. Mr. Kern said the charge is \$55.00 per hour plus mileage, which covers the costs of the inspection.

Mr. Kern reported that a total of \$66,000.00 has been collected in building permits so far this year. He explained that in 2017, the total building permit revenues were in the amount of \$118,000.00. He said that the 2018 total may not be as high as 2017's total. He said that 12 new home permits have been issued in 2018; there were 23 in 2017. Mr. Kern stated that he has received plans for two additional homes and there may be more through the end of the year.

Mr. Kern reported that the Frontier Corner in Del Norte is being remodeled and will become a restaurant. He reported that the old El Rancho motel's remodel in Del Norte has been permitted. The Tiny Timbers recreational vehicle development in South Fork is installing its onsite wastewater treatment system, which is very complex. The Tiny Timbers bakery and RV spaces will be completed soon. Mr. Kern said that there will be two OWTS systems on this property.

Chairman Glover asked Mr. Kern if the State has contacted him to conduct electrical inspections. Mr. Kern said that this has been discussed, but he does not want to conduct electrical inspections. He asked who brought up the matter again. Chairman Glover thought the idea might have come from CCI. Mr. Kern stated that someone in the County is interested in conducting the electrical inspections on a part-time basis, but this person does not want to complete the required paperwork. Mr. Kern said that taking on electrical inspections does not make sense for the Building Department: these inspections are too much work and permits and charges would have to cover the costs. Commissioner Bothell asked if the Building Department

could stop conducting plumbing inspections. Mr. Kern said the Department could stop at any time. Chairman Glover stated that people are happy when they can schedule plumbing inspections locally, rather than with the State. Commissioner Shriver pointed out that when there was more building in South Fork, the Building Department had an additional inspector. Mr. Kern agreed, stating that that inspector was not replaced. He said that the Department might have to grow at some point.

Ms. Diltz reported that Ramos Castro now has a building permit. Mr. Kern added that Mr. Castro has also obtained a bank loan.

At 10:10 a.m., Sheri Valdez, Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, was present. Ms. Valdez thanked the Board for the County's support. Commissioner Shriver noted that Ms. Valdez presented a report two or three years ago.

Ms. Valdez reported that according to Colorado Children's Campaign data, 14.4 percent of children were uninsured in 2008; that number has been reduced in Rio Grande County to 3.5 percent. Ms. Valdez said that this is due to the Healthy Communities program.

Ms. Valdez explained that Alamosa County had a contract with Healthy Communities for four years, during which time there was staff turnover and funding cuts. She said this caused a transition for the Early Childhood Council. She said the organization is trying to get its work done, and to continue to work together. Ms. Wisdom asked if Ms. Valdez has spoken to Emily Brown, Department of Public Health. Ms. Valdez said she has not.

Ms. Valdez explained that in 1999 a child-care pilot program was started. This became the Early Childhood Council, with \$4,000.00 and volunteers to run the agency. Ms. Valdez said that the Early Childhood Council's current budget is \$2.5 million. Ms. Valdez stated that in 2009, Rio Grande County became an early Headstart grantor. She said that Headstart served 72 children then; there are now 208 children enrolled.

Ms. Valdez reported that the Early Childhood Council has contracts with licensed child care centers in Monte Vista and Sargent. Through HB 13-1291, the Early Childhood Council worked with the Department of Social Services on grants to fund quality early childhood programs. The directors of the Departments of Social Services agreed on eligibility and rates. The contract operates regionally and helps with people who move from one county to another. Ms. Valdez reported that Rio Grande and Conejos Counties are participating in the Working Together program, which helps family become self-sufficient.

Ms. Valdez reported that the Early Childhood Council has created a San Luis Valley community resource guide, which can be used by caseworkers and families to find resources and services in one place. Ms. Valdez said that the Council is also working with Communities that Care. Commissioner Shriver asked if Ms. Valdez has been in communication with High Valley Community Center and the Kids' Connection. Ms. Valdez said she has not. Ms. Valdez said that the Council works with licensed facilities and provides scholarships. Commissioner Shriver said that the directors of HVCC and the Kids' Connection need training; training is hard to obtain because the directors are working with the children. Commissioner Shriver said that there are also potential succession issues in both organizations. Ms. Valdez said that the Council provides strong professional development programs.

Ms. Valdez said that research shows that early experiences and economics affect children. She explained that good early childhood programs provide a 13 percent return on investment. Commissioner Shriver asked if studies has been completed on the effects of a four-day school week. She asked if this affects future job performance. Commissioner Shriver also noted that there are many grandparents and great-grandparents raising children. Ms. Valdez said that children's development is impacted by adverse situations. Commissioner Shriver noted that HVCC, the Kids' Connection, and Boys' and Girls' Clubs become second homes for some children. She said the organizations need to be brought together. Ms. Valdez said that a Council goal is to recruit high school students to work with younger children. She noted that child care for infants and toddlers is inadequate in the Valley. Chairman Glover said that HVCC is a real champion for children; it helps them with homework and provides them meals. Ms. Wisdom noted that economic development is not possible without good child care. She said this is critical.

At 10:32 a.m., Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, was present to discuss the Terlingua Management Trust replat decision. She presented two resolutions and requested that the Board vote on one or the other. Ms. Diltz asked if a new plat of the new plat will be needed. Commissioner Shriver said the plat and it would also be needed if the property is sold in the future. Commissioner Shriver moved to approve the replat of the Terlingua Management Trust

property with the requirement that a survey be done and recorded. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. It was noted that the resolution cannot be recorded until a new plat map is recorded. The resolution was signed. [Book Page](#)

At 10:45 a.m., Ms. Wisdom reported that there would be no presentation from the District Attorney.

Ms. Wisdom reported that tax lien assignments do not have to be recorded with the Clerk and Recorder; they must be a record of these resolutions in the minutes. At the request of the Treasurer, the following tax lien assignments have been approved:

- Tax certificate #7839 is assigned to Randy and Jeannette Vrska. Assessed owner is Edward C. Tietig. Property is located at Lot 1, Block 21, Alpine Village No. 1. Schedule 21251 21001 for tax year 2014 in the amount of \$183.53.
- Tax certificate #7807 is assigned to Jeffrey and Emily Cruz. Assessed owner is Edward C. Tietig. Property is located at Lot 3, Block 2, Alpine Village No. 5. Schedule 19304 38003 for tax year 2014 in the amount of \$183.53.

Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the tax lien assignments. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion and the motion carried. The assignments were signed.

Ms. Wisdom reported that Rio Grande Hospital is conducting a community needs assessment. The Commissioners need to attend at least one of the three meetings. Ms. Wisdom said that the Department of Public Health also uses the information from the needs assessment.

Ms. Wisdom reported that the Energy Resource Center will meet on September 28, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. She explained that the Center provides resources for low- and moderate-income residents. Commissioner Shriver noted that the Center helped with improvements at the Tri County Senior Center.

Ms. Wisdom reported that the Monte Vista Historical Society has requested funding in the amount of \$500.00 per year.

Ms. Wisdom reported that most of the departments have turned in their budget requests. She suggested that meetings be scheduled with the individual department heads; not all department heads have requested meetings. Ms. Wisdom said that the proposed cost of living increase is three percent. She will have information regarding the costs of health insurance on September 13, 2018. The Board discussed the pending retirement of a County employee. Commissioner Bothell asked if it would be prudent to start a search for a replacement. Commissioner Shriver suggested that this would start the transition process. Commissioner Shriver suggested that meetings with department heads be scheduled for September 20, 2018. Commissioner Bothell added that the meetings should be held in one day. Chairman Glover suggested that the Managers' Meeting be cancelled and the department head meetings be scheduled on September 19, 2018. Ms. Wisdom will schedule the meetings over a period of two days. She noted that most department budgets are the same as this year; the jail and Sheriff's budgets will need to be discussed because there are large changes in their proposals.

Ms. Wisdom reported that there will be a meeting regarding the multipurpose building at Ski Hi Park on September 25, 2018, at 7:00 a.m. She asked if the meeting with the Town of South Fork could be scheduled for lunchtime. She will get confirmation from South Fork.

At 11:00 a.m., Clerk and Recorder Cindy Hill was present. She reported that the Movie Manor restaurant has been sublet to the Tequila Star. The owner of the Movie Manor, Mike Suthar, has requested that he be able to maintain his liquor license, with Bonifacio Garcia listed as the manager of the Tequila Star. Commissioner Shriver moved to approve the request. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Hill reported that the Clerk to the Board, Mona Syring, is resigning the position, effective with the first meeting in January 2019, or earlier if a replacement is found. The Board and Ms. Hill discussed salary and other details of the position.

Ms. Hill reported that Joe Schlabach, Democratic candidate for County Commissioner, has withdrawn his candidacy. She also said that there are two write-in candidates for Sheriff on the ballot. Commissioner Shriver asked if the write-in candidates have filed the required paperwork. Ms. Hill said they have. Ms. Hill continued to explain that according to Colorado Statute, voters have to ask the election judges who the write-in candidates are. The list cannot be posted at the polling place. She stated that if a write-in ballot is cast, it must include the candidate's name and the oval will have to be filled in. Commissioner Bothell asked if the name must be spelled correctly. Ms. Hill said that she will find out. Ms. Hill noted that it will take longer to manually count the ballots with write-in votes.

Ms. Hill reported that one candidate for office has not turned in his proof of fingerprinting. The ballots are due to the printer today; if proof of fingerprinting is not turned in, that candidate's name will not appear on the ballot.

Chairman Glover noted that the election training seminar he recently attended was informative.

At 11:20 a.m., pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(d), Commissioner Shriver moved to go into executive session for security arrangements. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 12:05 p.m., the Board came out of executive session. The meeting was recessed.

At 1:32 p.m., the meeting resumed. Chairman Glover requested Commissioner's updates. He reported attending an eight-hour seminar regarding elections with the Secretary of State. He said it was good training. The guest speaker was Kirstjen Nielsen, Department of Homeland Security.

Chairman Glover reported attending the Southern District legislative meeting in Walsenburg. He said 45 bills were discussed, which will be narrowed to seven to nine. He asked Ms. Wisdom to scan the bills and distribute them to the Board.

Chairman Glover reported attending a Safe Routes to School meeting in Center. The grant to improve an intersection and install a sidewalk is due November 1, 2018. The grant requires a 20 percent match. Chairman Glover stated that the State owns 50 feet from the middle of Highway 112 where a stoplight will be installed. He said a decision is needed for how students will cross County Road 2, then cross Highway 112, then walk to school. Ms. Wisdom stated that there is room for a sidewalk on County Road 2. Chairman Glover said that driveways on County Road 2 would be affected by the sidewalk and noted that there is not room for it. Commissioner Bothell said the sidewalk would have to be installed on private property and clearing snow from the sidewalk would also be an issue. Chairman Glover said that CDOT wants as little foot traffic as possible on the highway, so there can be no diagonal cross walk.

Chairman Glover reported that the Bustang bus routes are open. He asked reporter Lyndsey Ferrell if she would take the bus to Salida and photograph the route.

Commissioner Bothell reported that the Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (SB-94) has added Cindy Cotten to its State advisory board.

Ms. Wisdom asked if the Board would like her to meet with Louise Colville, Rio Grande County Museum, Clerk Cindy Hill, and John Paulsen regarding the Museum's photographs. Commissioner Bothell said that the scanned images should be sent to the Museum. Ms. Wisdom said that Ms. Colville is concerned about the ownership of the photographs, and Chairman Glover expressed concern about the pricing of the photographs.

Commissioner Shriver reported that two bids have been received for the Valley radar project. She also reported that the vault bathroom for Summitville has been ordered. She reported that the airport board is creating new drawings for the RFP for the pilots' lounge.

Commissioner Shriver expressed excitement about the radar project. She said it is a structurally complex project. Ms. Wisdom noted that funding for the maintenance of the radar site will have to be included in the budget. Commissioner Shriver said the amount does not need to be budgeted now, but it will have to be discussed. Commissioner Bothell said she understood that other entities will maintain the radar site. Commissioner Shriver explained that other entities will purchase the equipment and that counties will be asked to help maintain it. She said this is a work in progress. She said that the water community will contribute, along with the weather service; television stations may pay for the data generated by the radar.

Ms. Wisdom reported that Alamosa County received a Federal Aviation Agency grant for fencing at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport. She explained that the reason the County is not applying for a similar grant is because the Rominger Airport is not an FAA airport. It is a general aviation airport.

At 2:06 p.m., a public hearing for a conditional use permit was called to order. Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department; Rachel Brinks, Wanda Patterson, and Jonathan Moore, Community Energy Solar; Debra Martinez, property owner; Rick Robirds, Lisa Robirds, Cozette Price, Paul Silzell, John Noffske, and Martin Landers, residents, were present. Chairman Glover swore in the participants.

Ms. Diltz explained that Community Energy Solar has applied for a conditional use permit to build a two megawatt solar farm at 3004 Sherman Avenue, Monte Vista. The 39.66 acre property, owned by Debra Martinez, is zoned agricultural estate. Ms. Diltz said that property on the north side of Ms. Martinez's property is zoned residential and rural residential; property to the east is zoned agricultural estate; property to the south is zoned agricultural ranch. Community Energy Solar intends to lease 12 acres from Ms. Martinez for the solar garden.

A neighborhood meeting was held on June 5, 2018. Two neighbors attended this meeting and there were no objections to the solar garden. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Monte Vista Journal on June 13, 2018. A total of 78 property owners were notified on June 4, 2018. The application was heard by the Planning and Zoning Board on July 17, 2018. Residents opposing the solar garden were present at this meeting. Ms. Diltz reported that the applicant requested a continuance in order to reach an agreement with neighbors.

A second notice of the public hearing was published in the Monte Vista Journal on July 25, 2018. Neighbors were notified again on July 20, 2018. A second neighborhood meeting was held on August 7, 2018. Mr. Robirds and his son attended this meeting. Ms. Diltz explained that Community Energy Solar stated that it is not practical to move the solar panels. The Planning and Zoning Board heard the application again on August 21, 2018, and recommended approval of the conditional use permit with the conditions that a surety bond is issued in an amount determined by the BOCC, that a six-foot, solid fence is built on the north side of the garden, and that there is continued maintenance and repair of the fence. Ms. Robirds asked if the transformer can be moved from its proposed location. Ms. Price asked if a nine-foot fence can be built. Ms. Diltz explained that moving the transformer is not a condition set by the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Moore agreed that the Planning and Zoning Board did not require that the transformer be moved, nor did it require a fence higher than six feet.

Ms. Martinez stated that the solar garden is good for the community, and that this location is also good. She said that the solar garden is as close to her house as it is to anyone's. Commissioner Bothell confirmed the location of the solar garden and residences on a map.

Mr. Moore explained that Amendment 37, the Colorado Renewable Energy Requirement Initiative, provides opportunities for installations of solar gardens. He noted that participating with Xcel Energy is the only option because the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is not participating. Mr. Moore explained the difference between utility-scale solar facilities and solar gardens. Utility-scale facilities are large, noisy, and have centralized inverters. Power produced by utility scale facilities is sent out of the Valley; there is no local participation. Community solar gardens are tightly regulated, can produce a maximum of two megawatts, and be 12 acres in size. Community solar gardens can serve 300 to 400 households.

Mr. Moore explained that the solar panels stand nine feet high in the mornings, and four-and-a-half feet at midday. He said that row inverters minimize impacts. There are no lights, no sewer, and there is no personnel at the facility. He stated that staff will visit the solar garden once a month. Mr. Moore added that it will take six to eight weeks to build the solar garden. Of that time, the first few days will be noisy.

Mr. Moore said that the power generated by the solar garden will stay in the Valley; it can be used by residents or businesses of County or an adjacent county. He explained that customers of the solar garden will save money and will not have to put any money down to subscribe. He also said that it is required that 10 percent of the solar garden's production must be provided to low-income residents. Mr. Moore said that this is the last solar garden project in the County.

Mr. Moore reported that solar garden sites are chosen based on their proximity to substations. The property must be flat. He stated that Community Energy Solar works to protect agricultural land and other uses of the land. Mr. Moore said that the goal is to complement the property for the future. Mr. Moore explained that there are some issues with this property, and Community Energy Solar and Ms. Martinez are working through the plan. Mr. Moore also explained that Community Energy Solar has a 20-year agreement with Xcel for solar gardens, with an option to extend. However, Community Energy Solar has a 30-year agreement with Ms. Martinez. If the project is no longer operational, Community Energy Solar is held accountable for decommissioning the area.

Mr. Moore said that he spoke with neighbors at two community meetings. Two neighbors attended the first meeting and neither of them expressed opposition to the solar garden. A letter of support was signed by one of the attending neighbors after the first meeting. This letter was read for the record:

“September 7, 2018

“Ms. Dixie Diltz
Rio Grande County
Land Use Administrator

“RE: Proposed Conditional Use Application for a Community Solar Garden,
Located at 3004 Sherman Avenue, Monte Vista
Owner: Debra Martinez
Applicant: Community Energy Solar LLC

“Dear Ms. Diltz:

“My wife and I have reviewed the proposed community solar project and also attended a community meeting on June 5, 2018, with Ms. Martinez and Jonathan Moore. Based on our review of the project, we are not opposed to this application.

“I am sorry we cannot attend the Board of County Commissioners hearing on September 12, 2018. Our work schedule simply makes daytime hearing [sic] very difficult.

“Feel free to call Martin on his cell, listed below, if you have any questions.

“Regards

“Martin and Chelsea Velasquez”

Mr. Moore stated that Community Energy Solar agreed to the continuance and a second community meeting. He said, that the solar panels cannot be moved, which is a disappointment to the Robirds. He explained that all the concerns of the objectors cannot be solved to their satisfaction. Mr. Moore stated that when the solar garden is operational, there will be no traffic and no sounds. There could be more intensive uses for this land. Regarding the Robirds' concern about the economic impact of the solar garden and whether it will lower property values in the area, Mr. Moore said that the only information he could find was related to utility-scale solar facilities. This research showed that there are no negative impacts to property values.

With regard to environmental concerns regarding sound from the solar garden affecting pacemakers, Mr. Moore said that the Department Health and Human Services information states that a person with a pacemaker should stay one foot away from a transformer. He said that he spoke to a representative from an inverter manufacturer who explained that 60-watt string inverters were tested by the Federal Communication Commission, and there were no issues. Mr. Moore noted that Ms. Price's house is 200 feet from the solar garden. Mr. Moore stated that the solar garden project meets the conditional use regulations and conforms to the County's Master Plan. He said there are benefits to the solar garden's customers. The documents to which Mr. Moore referred are on file in the County Land Use Office.

Ms. Patterson explained that she is an advocate of renewable energy. She said that renewable energy creates a \$2.2 billion in savings in the world. She stated that schools are excited to save money through their subscriptions to the solar gardens. She reiterated that there is no outlay of money from customers who subscribe, and that 10 percent of the solar garden's production must go to low-income residents in the County or in adjacent counties. Chairman Glover asked for clarification of the adjacent four counties. Ms. Patterson did not provide clarification. Mr. Moore explained that the solar garden would generate revenue to the County without stressing County services.

Ms. Price presented petitions from the community. The petitions stated:

“A Petition of Protest from the undersigners, on the installment of a Solar Energy farm next to a residential area, at 3002 [sic] Sherman Ave. in Monte Vista. To be presented to the Rio Grande Board of County Commissioners on September 12, 2018.”

One petition was signed by 17 residents of Monte Vista; the second was signed by 11 residents of Monte Vista.

Ms. Robirds stated that she and other residents will be directly affected by the solar garden site. She displayed a photograph of a solar garden in Romeo, Colorado. Ms. Robirds said the

proposed Community Energy Solar site can be viewed from her house. She stated that noise from the Romeo site was recorded. She displayed a photograph of a solar garden in Sangre, which she said is identical to the site proposed by Community Energy Solar. Mr. Moore acknowledged that he was involved with the solar garden site in Romeo when he was with a different company. Ms. Robirds displayed similar photographs of solar gardens in Antonito.

Ms. Robirds said her concerns include health, noise, adjacent land value, environmental, and community. She stated that the magnetic field of the solar garden does penetrate and transmits a magnetic field. Ms. Robirds said it is frustrating to see the Romeo site and how the value of her house will be affected. She said she spoke to a realtor who explained that the solar garden would have to be part of a real estate disclosure; the realtor said the solar garden will impact the value of her house.

Mr. Robirds played the recording of the sound emitted by the solar garden in Romeo. He said this was recorded from the highway, which is 100 feet away. Ms. Robirds stated that she understood that the transformer could be moved.

Ms. Robirds explained that health concerns caused by the solar garden could include melanoma, neurological issues, childhood obesity, asthma, and miscarriages. She said that industrial parks cause these effects. Mr. Robirds said that this project is not a garden, noting that this is a term used to slide by.

Ms. Robirds said that 30 years are their lifetimes, and stated that this solar garden should require a zoning change. She said that more scrutiny and more involvement are needed, and that this conditional use application is not being handled correctly. She said that tourists will see the solar garden, and noted that windmills in eastern Colorado litter the skyline for renewable energy. She also said that there is already a solar garden planned for Homelake, and noted that this project is closer to houses.

Mr. Robirds said he feels like David battling Goliath in dealing with Community Energy Solar. He said that Ms. Martinez receives the rental revenue from the project, and that Community Energy Solar and Xcel have an alliance with government kickbacks. He noted that the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative has not jumped on the project because of this alliance.

Mr. Robirds reported that he spoke to elderly neighbors of the Romeo solar garden. These residents told him that their bill from Public Service is \$200.00 per month, and there is no discount from Community Energy Solar.

Ms. Robirds reported that she spoke to two farmers, who explained that the agricultural rate they receive from Xcel is cheaper than the Community Energy Solar rate. She said they also stated that they do not want the solar infrastructure. She said that this is where the idea of the surety bond originated.

Mr. Robirds stated that he does not want anyone's future health to be affected, noting that there are children in the neighborhood. He said he presented a letter from a neighbor expressing concern about health issues at the Planning and Zoning Board meeting, however the letter was not given to the Planning and Zoning Commission at that time. He provided a copy of the letter of opposition:

"7/17/18

"To whom it [sic] concern:

"I Barbara Jean Atencio together with my husband Gilbert E. Atencio have resided on Sherman Avenue for the last twelve years. We have since then enjoyed our home as well as our neighbors. To our understanding, Solar Panels are being installed behind our homes. And we have quite a few unhappy neighbors. We as well are opposed to this happening for two reasons. First reason being the health issues that this may have on people. My own health issue includes having had three lung surgeries in the past twenty three years. With the last one having been done in March of 2017. I continue to use oxygen and am very winded the majority of the time. We all know that Solar Panels create radiation and will emit raydon [sic]. We also know that raydon [sic] is a lung cancer causing agent. I ask that these Plans be looked at in a very close manner. Secondly we as citizens work very hard to have our homes depreciated in value because of one person wanting to have her way. I hope this letter makes a difference in the decision that will be made. I thank you for taking the time to read this.

"Barbara Jean Atencio

"Gilbert Eugene Atencio

"P.S. I together with my husband are opposing the Solar Panels that Mrs. Debbie is wanting to put up.

"Thank you!"

Mr. Robirds said that building the solar garden would "pass the mess on to the children." He requested that the Board vote no on the project, noting that there are other sites in the County that could be used. He said he does not want the solar garden in his back yard. He stated that there is no benefit to the Valley.

Ms. Robirds asked if the County is prepared to manage the solar garden sites. She asked the Board if it knows how to manage the risks. She said that enough due diligence has been done and also said that there is no surety bond on the first solar garden. She explained that the Planning and Zoning Board did not have enough information.

Ms. Robirds said the solar garden will be funded by subscribers. She asked that the Homelake solar garden be built first so that its impacts can be studied before this second solar garden is built. Mr. Robirds noted that overspray from the sprinkler will not affect the solar garden if the transformer is moved to the residents' preferred location.

Ms. Price asked if the noise on the recording that sounded like thunder came from the solar panels. Mr. Robirds explained that this sound was the wind. Ms. Price said that the background noise would be heard all day.

Commissioner Shriver asked for clarification regarding the nine-foot fence. Ms. Price said she received a letter stating that a nine-foot fence would be built, based on what she understood the Planning and Zoning Board said. She asked how the noise from the solar garden would affect a defibrillator. She requested that a nine-foot fence be built with a cinderblock fence inside it to mitigate the noise. It was noted that Ms. Martinez does not use the well in this area, and suggested that this area be used for the transformer. Ms. Price requested modifications to the plans.

Mr. Moore responded that the well is a small piece of the reason why the transformer cannot be moved. He explained that the ditch would be affected and Ms. Martinez would not be able to irrigate her farm land. Ms. Price asked if the area of the solar garden could be reduced to 10 acres, rather than 12. Commissioner Bothell asked if Ms. Price's health concerns were centered on the transformer or the overall solar garden. Mr. Moore said that the transformer makes a sound. Commissioner Bothell asked if the transformer could be moved to a different location. Mr. Moore explained that moving the transformer will lengthen the interconnection line. He offered a different solution that would place it farther away from the houses.

Commissioner Shriver asked for clarification on the length of the lease being 20 or 30 years. Ms. Martinez explained that Community Solar Energy's lease with her is for 30 years, noting that the minimum term required by Xcel is 20 years. She said there are options for extensions.

Chairman Glover asked for clarification on the fencing being either six feet or nine feet. Mr. Moore explained that the solar panels could reach a height of nine feet. Chairman Glover said that the fence should be tall enough to hide the panels. He also recommended installing a sound barrier and moving the transformer. He noted that different people attended the two community meetings.

Commissioner Bothell asked if other responses have been received. Ms. Diltz said no other responses from the ones noted at this meeting were received. Chairman Glover stated that the Planning and Zoning Board worked on this application and recommended approval of the solar garden. He said that the BOCC can make the final decision and requested that changes to the project be submitted in writing.

Mr. Moore reported that moving the transformer to the location recommended by Ms. Robirds creates a problem. Ms. Diltz explained that the planned fence is 100 feet from the property line, with an additional 100 feet inside the fence to the panels.

Commissioner Shriver asked if Community Energy Solar would submit drawings of the fence before the solar garden is built. Chairman Glover also asked for measurements to be included on the map, as well.

Commissioner Shriver asked if the ditch Ms. Martinez uses can be moved. Ms. Martinez explained that the ditch is shared and it would not be easy to move it. Ms. Robirds asked when the ditch was used last. Ms. Martinez said the ditch was used last year; it has not been used this season.

Mr. Silzell, an Alamosa resident, expressed his support for the solar garden. He said that the company is stable and reputable. He said there are tax benefits. He stated that he supports the project to meet the community's needs.

Mr. Noffske noted that this is a very specific project and its impacts would be felt County-wide. He said this is not the last time the County will see a project like this. He said he was bothered because no experts have been consulted to address the concerns such as health issues. He stated that when "science says," it bothers him. Mr. Noffske also said that thermal impacts are not being anticipated. He suggested that the County be indemnified in case neighbors of the solar garden are harmed by it. Mr. Noffske added that he is not philosophically opposed to the solar garden. He said that the community is unaware of it and that Monte Vista will be impacted. He stated that the motivation behind the solar garden is to make money; he said that he does not want problems overlooked.

Ms. Diltz explained that the County Land Use code book, which addresses alternative energy, indicates that the solar farm requires a conditional use permit. She reported speaking to the Conejos County Assessor and the Land Use Administrator, who informed her that there have been no negative impacts or property value decreases as a result of solar gardens in Conejos County. Ms. Diltz also spoke to the Alamosa County Assessor, who reported no property value decreases, but that there have not been enough good sales to make a strong determination. Ms. Diltz reported that the Rio Grande County Assessor stated that there appears to be no decrease in property values surrounding the solar farms located in Del Norte.

Ms. Patterson noted that people put solar panels on their homes, which causes a positive increase in property values. She also said that the Antonito project hired local workers to install that project. She noted that hazardous materials are produced on land that is zoned agricultural.

Mr. Moore explained that the Romeo solar garden was not built by Community Energy Solar. He said the proposed site does not include a storage unit. He stressed that this is not an industrial site.

Mr. Moore said that he is open to moving the transformer. He also said that the site will be too far away from Highway 160 to be seen. He said there will be no deflected glare from the solar panels. Mr. Moore said that change is not easy, and added that there will be great economic benefits to the whole community.

Mr. Moore said that the solar garden will not be built until it is 100 percent subscribed. However, it has to be approved before the project can proceed. Ms. Robirds asked if the Homelake solar garden is 100 percent subscribed, and Mr. Moore said it is not.

Mr. Moore said that the solar garden is not new technology, and that solar energy is a fast growing industry. He said it helps with national security. There are many sites all over the county, and solar energy is an important part of the future.

Mr. Moore said that lease payments to Ms. Martinez are modest, and that she will not retire on payments from this project. He reported that this project will help her better manage her property. Mr. Moore also stressed that Ms. Martinez did not have water on the property this year. He said that the solar garden cannot be moved "just anywhere," because it needs to be close to the substation and distribution line. He said he hopes the County will subscribe to the solar garden.

Ms. Patterson asked the Board to look at the visual aspect of the project, noting that there are neighboring outbuildings, trees, and shrubs. Chairman Glover said that before the solar garden is built, the field provides a clear view. He said that the project has to be done right.

Mr. Moore said he would explore moving the transformer to the second row of solar panels. Chairman Glover asked if the transformer could be enclosed. Mr. Moore said that the Planning and Zoning Board discussed a cedar picket fence. He said he does not want to build a nine-foot fence, but will build an eight-foot fence. He said a concrete wall will not work. He also said he is willing to enclose the transformer. He said that the electrical code requires a seven- to eight-foot fence. Ms. Patterson noted that the Antonito community wanted to see the solar garden. A fence will close off the view. She said if there is a road inside the fence, the fence will be 80 feet from the property line. This will give Ms. Martinez more usable field. Commissioner Shriver

asked to review plans for the fence. Mr. Moore said that Community Energy Solar will maintain the fence. He also noted that Community Energy Solar is obligated to decommission the site at the end of the lease.

Commissioner Shriver said that the Board needs time to review the information entered into the record. (These documents are attached at the end of these minutes.) Ms. Diltz will email the documents to the Board. Commissioner Shriver noted that the Board has 30 days to make a decision. Commissioner Shriver moved to table the decision for 30 days. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The public hearing was closed, and it was noted that no new information will be submitted. Chairman Glover said the Board will revisit the project, and he noted that a decision can be made by telephone. Mr. Moore will revise the drawing of the solar garden site.

At 3:52 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Gene Glover, Chairman
Chairman of the Board

Mona Syring
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado)
 ss
County of Rio Grande)

The Board of Rio Grande County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Members present were Chairman Gene Glover, Commissioner Suzanne Bothell, Commissioner Karla Shriver, County Administrator Roni Wisdom, and Clerk of the Board Mona Syring.

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Glover called the Board meeting to order. Commissioner Shriver gave the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the approval of the 2018 Homeland Security grant. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Glover asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Commissioner Shriver moved to approve the September 12, 2018, minutes with changes. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The consent agenda, which included the September 2018 end-of-the-month vouchers and the September 2018 payroll, was presented. Commissioner Shriver moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. The vouchers were signed.

September 2018 Mid-Month Vouchers

VENDOR	SERVICE	AMOUNT
Adamson Police Products	Acct# C0521/Shirts	\$411.90
Alamosa Co Nursing Svc	July 2018/Tob Sub Contract Payment Ph/Tob	
	Sub Contract Monthly Environmental Health	\$306.63
Alta Fuels, LLC	Acct# 1935	\$979.88
Alta Fuels, LLC	Acct# 1935	\$447.04
Brown's Septic Svc Inc.	Septic Services/Rental	\$76.00
CDHS Central Accounting	CDHS Central Accounting	\$4.00
Chaffee Cnty Public Hlth	EPSDT Contract Billing for July and August	
	2018	\$2,890.00
Coast to Coast Computer	Acct# 291679/Inkjet/Toner	\$305.58
Colo Assoc in Med Physics, LLC	X-Ray Machine Check	\$425.33
Colo County Treasurer's	Seminar Registration	\$225.00
Colorado Depart. of Revenue	August Sales Tax 2018	\$392.00

Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	Cust# 287831/Monthly Hosting	\$2,624.96
Costilla County Public	EPSDT Contract Billing for July 2018	\$2,140.00
County Sheriffs of Colo	Acct RGSO/State Concealed Handgun Permits	\$500.00
District Attorney Office	9Th Portion of the 2018 Budget	\$19,666.67
DP Ag Services	Rangestar Herbicide/Locktite/Vaporgard/Hi-Dep Herbicide	\$1,608.80
Fastenal	Inverted Stripe Wand	\$48.08
Galls, LLC	Acct# 3737546/Seal Nameplate	\$18.18
Gobins, Inc.	Acct# 21611Can	\$34.73
Gunbarrel Station, Inc.	B-1/89-2/A-12/B-16/A-19/94	\$174.00
Haynie's Inc.	Inv Cont 483585/Acct# 7068	\$95.67
Interstate Energy, Inc.	Annual Cleaning and Service of Clean Burn Furnace or Boiler	\$506.38
J. & J. Rental Centers, LLC	Hotsy in DN	\$54.39
J.J. Keller & Associates	Acct# 06-005729	\$218.82
Jack's Market	Inv Cont - 358557, 364165, 152241, 358965, 359332, 148859/Acct# 4000	\$62.38
Jade Communications, LLC	Acct# 2938	\$173.82
Karla Shriver	Printer Ink for Budget, Minutes, and Summitville	\$34.97
Ken's Service Center	Acct RGSO	\$755.73
Kimberly Bryant	Monthly Pay for August 2018/Sim	\$2,508.00
Kimrad Transport LP	Acct# Rigrdnco	\$5,076.12
Marc Mid-America Chemical	Cust# 00-2215182/Tuff Stuff, Super-Zyme, Ring B Gone, Room Service Disinfectant	\$531.00
MDS Waste & Recycle, Inc.	Sept Payment	\$143.00
MDS Waste & Recycle, Inc.	Id 636860020167/Weed Department	\$95.02
Mona Syring	Clerk to the Board 8/8-8/31/2018	\$444.20
Monte Vista Journal	1 Year Renewal	\$34.75
Myers Brothers Truck and Tractor, Inc.	Unit# A31	\$2,103.12
Park County Jail	August Billing	\$1,080.00
Pro Com, LLC	DOT Training	\$180.00
Pro Com, LLC	Reasonable Cause Drug Test	\$41.00
Pro Com, LLC	Drug Testing	\$172.00
Pro Com, LLC	Acct RGSO/Pre-Employment	\$37.00
Rio Grande Hospital	Bill# B/Bb/ 18/22626	\$80.00
Rock Water Management, LLC	July and August Rent	\$900.00
Rogers Family Mortuary, Inc.	Storage	\$1,050.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water	\$27.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water	\$18.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water	\$36.00
Safeguard Armor LLC	Shsg 2017/Covert/Overt Vests	\$3,289.00
Safety – Kleen	New Solvent	\$210.94
Sam's Club	Acct# 5560531010182538	\$3,170.16
SLV Development Resource Group	Grant Pass-Through Request #9	\$92,800.00
SLV Glass, Inc.	Windshield/2012 Dodge Van	\$315.00
SLV REC	Acct# 4705001905	\$98.00
Staples Business	Inv Cont - 720285854003/Cust# 10232802Rch	\$844.98
Torres Plumbing & Heating, LLC	Acct# 5660/Repairs in Pod C	\$1,976.32
Total Office Solutions	Pens/Hole Punch	\$17.15
Town of Del Norte	Customer#'s 1512-01/1892.01/1822.01/1030.02	\$459.96
Upper Rio Grande Animal	2018 Contribution	\$1,500.00
Valero Marketing	Inv Cont - 3627899635, 3627859244/Customer Id 124164	\$63,278.25
Valley Imaging Products, LLC	Monthly Service Charge	\$33.94
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 765509857-00002	\$280.94
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 765509857-00004	\$1,333.47
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 765509857-00005	\$170.40
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 765509857-00006	\$322.03
Victim Assistance Fund	Victim Assist Fund	\$4.00
Wagner Equipment	Inv Cont - So3W0841608	\$280.14

Wall, Smith, Bateman, Inc.	2017 Audit/Client# 19863	\$27,400.00
Wall, Smith, Bateman, Inc.	2017 Audit	\$3,150.00
Wall, Smith, Bateman, Inc.	2017 Audit	\$1,550.00
Waste Management-	Customer Id# 05925-74006	\$234.06
Xcel Energy	Acct# 53-1083310-0	\$2,184.30
Xcel Energy	Acct# 53-1084871-0	\$3,089.63
TOTAL		\$257,729.82

September End-of-the-Month Vouchers

VENDOR	SERVICE	AMOUNT
Agency Tourism Marketing	Leads Processing Monthly/Maintenance Work	\$250.00
Airgas USA, LLC	Welding	\$226.47
Airport Rd Café	Lunch for Participants Child Fatality Review Meeting	\$272.00
Alamosa Co Nursing Svc	Tob Sub Contract Payments for August 2018/Public Health and EPSDT	\$824.25
Alamosa County	September Rent	\$315.00
Alta Fuels, LLC	Acct# 1935	\$3,058.48
Avionics Specialists, LLC	Scheduled Maintenance for AWOS	\$1,350.00
Business Solutions Leasing, Inc.	Agreement# 101-1260978-000	\$60.10
Carnegie Public Library	2018 Funding Contributions/Books for Monte Vista and South Fork Libraries	\$2,500.00
CenturyLink	Acct# 7196573325233	\$61.93
CenturyLink	7196573454	\$61.28
CenturyLink	7198735588	\$54.29
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct#s - 7000860100 and 7000860000	\$123.77
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000758500	\$91.75
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000703800	\$93.69
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000751300	\$565.10
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000751200	\$519.01
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000708800	\$55.95
Coast to Coast Computer	Acct# 291679	\$220.00
Colorado Dept. of Ag/Plant Industry Div	QS Applicators License	\$100.00
Colorado Seed LLC	Balance of Invoice 05886	\$3.00
Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	July 2018 Land Records Mgmt System	\$1,598.40
Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	Comp Services/Extra Station	\$656.25
Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	Track Search	\$25.00
Conejos County Nursing	Payment for August 2018	\$2,531.51
Costilla County Public	EPSDT Contract Billing for August 2018	\$2,140.00
Costilla County Public	Tob Sub Contract Pymt for August 2018 Stepp	\$2,243.26
Critters Barricades	Signs, Cones, Pilot, Flag Hours - Hwy 160 to Wolf Creek	\$34,995.00
Cynthia Ford	Miles to Meetings	\$126.00
Cynthia Ford	Professional Service Contract	\$705.00
Cynthia Ford	Miles and Verizon	\$353.10
Cynthia Ford	First 1/2 of Month Contract Salary	\$2,295.00
Dianne Koshak	Miles to Meetings	\$12.15
Digitcom Electronics, Inc.	Acct# 429	\$105.00
DP Ag Services	Loctite, Vaporgard, Rangstar Herbicide, Plateau Herbicide	\$2,352.06
Edifice Creative, LLC	Monthly Tourism Engine/Tourism Delivery	\$45.65
El Paso County Coroner	Autopsy	\$5,600.00
Emily Brown	Miles to Meetings	\$499.62
Emily Lopez	Came Out as a Deduction Again When It Was Supposed to Have Timed Out	\$874.55
First Bankcard	2016 & 2017 Grants Proj 1 L1,2,3 & M&A/Acct# 1595	\$6,767.41
First Bankcard	Facebook	\$108.57
GCR Tire Center/TDS	Fs Lt265/70R17/10 Transforce Ht Owl	\$560.44
Gene Glover	Mileage and Meal to CCI - Denver	\$289.02
Glenn's Auto Repair, Inc.	Acct# RGSO/2009 Ford F150/Engine Noise	\$1,670.58

Gobins, Inc.	Acct#21609/Contract# Cont2725-01	\$35.63
Gobins, Inc.	Acct# 13756/Contract #1359-01/# 2011109690	\$56.93
Great America Financial	Agreement# 025-1070947-0000	\$349.13
Great America Financial	Agreement# 016-0939369-000	\$136.17
Great West Trust Company, LLC	Missed Retirement Contributions for Eva Salazar	\$515.85
Haynie's Inc.	Acct# 7066	\$762.29
Ida Salazar	Miles to Meetings	\$144.00
Jean Borrego	Verizon Bill	\$100.69
Jean Borrego	Coordinators Salary	\$5,000.00
Jean Borrego	Miles	\$257.40
Kimrad Transport LP	Acct# Rigrdnco	\$10,160.01
Kristi Hillis	Monthly Pay for August 2018	\$1,125.00
Kristy Dennis	Norwex for Courthouse/ Enviro Cloth/Window/ Descaler/ Spirisponge/Cleaning Paste	\$228.28
Lacal Equipment, Inc.	Blades	\$273.44
Lake County Health Dept.	August Statement	\$725.00
Lawson Product Inc.	Cust# 10139971	\$119.06
Lenco West, Inc.	Miscellaneous Shop Supplies	\$90.04
Leroy A Romero	Monthly Cleaning	\$150.00
Master Print & Web Design, Inc.	Search Engine Optimization/12 Month Contract	\$100.00
Mayah Dominguez	Miles, Farmers Market, RGPP Mtng	\$40.50
Meadow Gold Dairies, Inc.	Inv Cont - 81002414/Acct# 1052229	\$343.50
Monte Vista Cooperative	Acct# 4545094/Weed District	\$807.14
Monte Vista Cooperative	Acct# 4530243/Heating Propane	\$64.55
Monte Vista Cooperative	Inv Cont - 4589, 4519, 5077, 5078, 4734, 24064/Acct# 4531231	\$416.30
Myers Brothers Truck and Tractor, Inc.	Unit #A51	\$28.88
O & V Printing, Inc.	Land Use/Balance On This Invoice	\$37.84
O & V Printing, Inc.	50 Invitations - Std Cards	\$32.50
Peggy J Kern	Postage Miles	\$9.45
Pen Craft Design Company	Tourism Assistant for August and June	\$1,600.00
Petty Cash, R & B Dept.	Repairs, Postage, Misc. Registration	\$31.92
Pitney Bowes, Inc.	Acct# 0016457644/ Agreement	\$295.00
Pitney Bowes, Inc.	Acct# 0016457644/Rental	\$105.00
Pro Com, LLC	Reasonable Cause	\$41.00
Pro Com, LLC	Drug Testing	\$172.00
Pro Com, LLC	Acct# RGSO New Employee - Left After 1/2 Day	\$37.00
Radio Services	Acct RGSO/Child Safety	\$830.00
Rio Grande County	Due to Rio Grande County for Payroll and Expenses	\$5,112.05
Rio Grande Cty Weed Dist.	Chemicals	\$13,221.50
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water for September	\$18.00
Saguache Co Public Health	Tob Sub Contract Payment for August 2018	\$1,525.08
Saguache Co Public Health	EPSDT Services for July and August	\$1,550.00
San Luis Valley Federal	Loan # 01 800049 19	\$191,328.27
Sarah Herrera	Nurse Mileage/28 Miles @ .45	\$12.60
Shamrock Foods Company	Inv Cont - 10994328/Credit Of\$4.32	\$3,180.57
Simple Distributors LLC	Ribbons /White Out/Toner/Toner-Elections	\$484.88
SLV Development Resource Group	Grant Pass Through # 10	\$22,117.50
SLV Auto Repair, LLC	Highway Truck Clutch Work	\$1,532.83
SLV Auto Repair, LLC	2011 Ford F350 Super Duty/Dpf Filter and Tuner	\$1,206.00
SLV Behavioral Health Group, Inc.	Behavioral Health Group/SIM August 2018	\$6,691.16
SLV Parts, Inc.	Acct# 7046	\$57.85
SLV REC	Acct#'s & Meters- 1337000605, 1001816/7000235200, 1001815/7000524700, 1001813/7000541400, 1003804	\$601.00
SLV REC	Acct# 4705001905/Weed Dist	\$96.00

SLV REC	SF- 4699010705/DN - 759843705	\$175.00
State of Colorado	September 2018 Renewals	\$395.24
	Acct# 4000/Inv Cont - 2003920808,	
Summit Market	2026670808	\$90.13
Summit Publishing	Elevation Outdoors Ad	\$780.00
Suncor Energy	Acct# 700603322	\$22,207.50
	Customer# 405344/Contract# 443-4008845-	
SunTrust Equipment, Corp	001	\$10,547.00
The Publishing House	Thirst Colorado Ad	\$1,090.00
Timothy Carden	Mileage	\$34.65
Total Office Solutions	Ink and Envelopes	\$40.59
U.S. Tractor, Inc.	Acct# Riogr007/A-33	\$164.94
	Acct# 6573334/Contract# Ct1825-	
United Reprographic	06/Maintenance Agreement	\$112.91
Valley Equipment Leasing, Inc.	Acct# RGCMV	\$2,355.98
	Labor - Fixed Monitor On The First Floor-Had	
Valley Lock and Security, Inc.	to Reset The Entire Server	\$180.00
Valley Publishing	Ad for Nurse Position	\$39.00
	Inv Cont - 119614, 119739, 119807, 119877,	
Valley Publishing	119942, 120034	\$1,935.00
Valley Publishing	MVJ Legal#4243/Bontrager	\$24.00
Valley Publishing	MVJ Legal 4247/RFP Code Update	\$77.50
Valuwest, Inc	Commercial Reappraisal Pymt	\$3,000.00
Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co., LLP	It Audit and Expenses/2018 IT Audit	\$6,164.96
Vendola Plumbing, Inc.	Acct# Riogshe/Check Fryer	\$170.00
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 842020320-00001	\$712.24
	Inv Cont - P00C2096302, P00C2097594/Cust#	
Wagner Equipment	74470	\$2,078.73
Wex Bank	Fuel for Mower	\$63.07
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-819100-9	\$533.53
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-819102-5	\$1,239.36
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-821424-9	\$5,745.93
William F. Dunn	Legal Fees	\$1,464.50
WSB Computer Services	Acct RGSO Battery Backup	\$78.00
WSB Computer Services	Carbonite Power	\$630.00
WSB Computer Services	Maintenance Agreement	\$2,500.00
Xcel Energy	Acct# 53-1143312-0	\$9,328.89
TOTAL		\$425,275.08

September 2018 Payroll

County General:	\$212,349.90
Road and Bridge:	\$ 74,420.07
DSS:	\$116,790.60
Weed District:	\$ 5,379.25
Airport:	\$ 1,034.15
Public Health:	\$ 17,893.14
TOTAL:	\$427,867.11

At 9:10 a.m., Ms. Wisdom requested approval of the 2018 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$154,772.00. She explained that the County is the fiscal agent for this grant and it is administered through contract employees. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the grant. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 9:15 a.m., County Treasurer Peggy Kern, Cherilyn Rue, and Ben Mendenhall, ColoTrust, were present for the County's annual investment meeting. Ms. Kern introduced Mr. Mendenhall. She explained that Mr. Mendenhall is able to provide investment information that is specific for the County. She reported that there are no holes in the County's investment portfolio; the portfolio is well diversified. Ms. Kern distributed a report on the County's cash and investments.

Ms. Kern explained that the County's largest investment, in the amount of \$7.7 million, is with ColoTrust. The County has also purchased certificates of deposit locally. These are timed deposits. Ms. Kern said that banks are required to pledge to cover public funds. The County also has a small bond portfolio.

Ms. Kern informed Ms. Wisdom that Ms. Rue, County Treasurer Elect, has to be sworn in on January 2, 2019, pursuant to C.R.S. 30-10-702.

Mr. Mendenhall explained that ColoTrust is a local government investment pool. ColoTrust must provide safety, liquidity, and yields, per Colorado statute. Because of this, ColoTrust is limited as to what it can invest in.

Mr. Mendenhall explained that with the changing economy, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates 25 basis points. He also said that unemployment is below four percent, and the current economy is booming. However, trade wars are becoming a concern. He said the Chinese stock market and its currency are down. He also stated that it is expensive for banks to hold public funds. He cautioned that the cost of borrowing money is going up, so if the County plans to issue bonds, it should do so as soon as possible.

Mr. Mendenhall reported that ColoTrust invests in diversified securities. The company has been in existence since 1985, and has never had a loss or credit event. Funds are liquid at all times. Total investments are in the amount of \$8.4 billion, and the company has a AAA rating.

Commissioner Shriver asked if ColoTrust provides the results of its annual audit to the County. Mr. Mendenhall said that the County receives financial statements and that ColoTrust's audit, legal opinions, and policies are available on its website.

Mr. Mendenhall reported that Colorado has been growing over the last three years, and there is some slowing of growth this year. He said that property tax valuations are increasing, yet wages have not gone up. He stated that baby boomers are downsizing and millennials are buying their first homes. He also said that the Gallagher Amendment and the Taxpayers Bill of Rights Amendment are affecting fire districts and streets and sanitation districts. Mr. Mendenhall said that there have been some tax increases in the State. With that information, he stated that the County's portfolio is in good shape. Ms. Kern thanked Mr. Mendenhall, and noted that he provides good information.

Ms. Kern presented the County's Conflict of Interest policy, and requested signatures from each Commissioner.

Ms. Kern reported that the State banking commission set the interest rate for tax lien sales at 11 percent this year. The County tax lien sale is scheduled for November 14, 2018. Ms. Kern explained that the Board, the County Administrator, and the County Treasurer are the core of the County Investment Committee.

At 9:45 a.m., the Board adjourned to the Board of the Department of Social Services.

At 10:16 a.m., Emily Brown, Department of Public Health, was present to update the Board. She reported that the next Rio Grande Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment meeting will be held on October 23, 2018.

Ms. Brown reported that the Department is working on methods to keep vaccines safe. She explained that because the Department's telephone service is with Ciello, when power goes out, staff is not notified until the power comes back on. This could cause the vaccines to become too warm. She said a landline is needed.

Ms. Brown said that a few vaccines were lost in a recent power outage. She said that when vaccines get too hot, calls must be made to their manufacturers to determine if they are still viable. She reported that the vaccines are stored in a room that is already at a temperature higher than what is recommended; this room need to be cooled. Commissioner Bothell asked if the vaccines are stored in a refrigerator. Ms. Brown said they are, but if there is a power outage, the vaccines will become warm. Commissioner Shriver said that the generator should turn on. Ms. Brown said that if there is a long-term power outage, the vaccines can be taken to the hospital or the generator can be plugged in. Ms. Wisdom noted that air conditioning is being installed in the district court room; funds are being raised for this project. She suggested that the Public Health office be included in the air conditioning project. Ms. Brown reported that the Department has pharmaceutical-grade refrigerators, but additional electrical outlets are needed in order to plug them in.

Ms. Brown reported that the Department is advertising flu clinics. The schedule includes:

Monte Vista, Tri-County Senior Center, October 3, 2018, 9:00 a.m., to 12:00 p.m.
Del Norte, Del Norte Annex, October 9, 2018, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Sargent, Sargent Elementary, October 25, 2018, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Brown said that there may be a flu clinic in South Fork. She noted that there is limited outreach this year because the Department only has one nurse. She added that the Department is looking for more nurses.

Ms. Brown presented two Healthy Communities memoranda of understanding for the Board's approval: Chaffee County in the amount of \$17,340.00 and Lake County in the amount of \$8,700.00. These contracts are the same as they were last year. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the MOUs. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion and the motion carried. The MOUs were signed.

Ms. Brown reminded the Board of Colorado's open burning regulations. However, the Department does not have the time or the funding to regulate open burning. She reported that waste was burned recently at a construction site without a permit. She said that the State is in charge of these permits and there is a \$10,000.00 penalty. She stated that it is helpful if residents call the Sheriff with their plans to burn, but this does not constitute a permit. Ms. Brown said that the only thing that falls into agricultural burning is crop residue and ditches. Commissioner Bothell stated that when working with agricultural chemicals, the EPA-recommended practice is to rinse the containers three times and then burn them. She asked how this fits into the State regulations. Ms. Brown will research this. Commissioner Shriver pointed out that burn barrels are regulated by County policy, but the County policy differs from State regulations. Commissioner Bothell asked if hospital incinerators are allowed. Ms. Wisdom said because they are enclosed, they probably are allowed.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f), Commissioner Shriver moved to go into executive session for personnel reasons. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 10:34 a.m., Commissioner Shriver moved to come out of executive session. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting resumed.

At 10:35 a.m., Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, was present to discuss the conditional use application submitted by Community Solar Energy and Debra Martinez to build a solar garden on Ms. Martinez's property. Ms. Diltz explained that the Planning and Zoning Board heard the application on August 21, 2018. It recommended approval of the application with the conditions that a surety bond be issued and fencing be built around the solar garden. A public hearing was held on September 12, 2018. At this meeting a request was made for Community Solar Energy to submit drawings of the proposed fence. Ms. Diltz asked if the BOCC had reached a decision on the conditional use application.

Commissioner Shriver asked to review the drawing of the fence, which Ms. Diltz provided. Commissioner Bothell asked Ms. Diltz for the Land Use Code that addresses excessive objections. Ms. Diltz read from Article 12, A4, of the code book:

"Decisions on conditional use applications shall be based upon policy and guidelines set forth in this section and the Rio Grande County Master Plan, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) That the proposed location of the use, the proposed access to the site, and the conditions under which the use would be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare, or materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.
- (2) Will the proposed use be compatible with surrounding land users and uses? Reasonable suggestions and objections from persons in the neighborhood are a measure of compatibility and should be utilized.

Commissioner Shriver stated that she appreciates the neighboring property owners' positions regarding the solar garden. She also said that she appreciates the property rights of the applicant, and the offer of the applicant to provide drawings of the fence and to move the transformer to a different location in the solar garden. However, Commissioner Shriver expressed concern about the timing of this application. She said that because the solar garden located near the middle school in Monte Vista has not been sold out, it might be a good idea to develop it before starting on this one. Chairman Glover expressed concern about how the solar garden is being sold, and acknowledged the concerns of the neighboring property owners. Commissioner Shriver said that after the first solar garden is built, it will be easier to address the concerns of the property owners. Commissioner Bothell moved to deny the conditional use permit from Community Energy Solar because the Board believes its purpose is not compatible with the surrounding land use at this time. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 10:47 a.m., Ms. Diltz was present for the opening of the requests for proposals to update the County's Land Use code book. Ms. Diltz said that the RFP stated that a decision would be made by Friday, September 28, 2018. Proposals were received from:

John Wilder:	\$125.00 per hour; received September 18, 2018
RG and Associates:	\$85,535.00 without optional tasks \$104,390.00 in five phases with optional tasks; received September 24, 2018
Montgomery Little and Soran:	Not to exceed \$65,000.00 Includes three people, mileage, per diem, and hotel \$5,000.00 retainer required; received September 25, 2018
Plan Tools:	\$75,000.00, not to exceed \$100,000.00 Optional services can be negotiated; received September 21, 2018

Ms. Diltz questioned Montgomery Little and Soran's experience in the area of land use, because it is a law firm.

Commissioner Shriver moved to extend the deadline to make the decision to October 10, 2018, based on the number of RFPs received and their complexity. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 11:03 a.m., Chairman Glover asked for updates from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bothell reported that Rapid SOS has been added to the local 911 service. This location service is available only on Apple cell phones with the IOS 12 update and Google phones. The service uses available WiFi to determine the user's location, even if the user is not logged on to the WiFi signal. The service is triggered when the user dials 911 for assistance. Commissioner Bothell said the current location service could be inaccurate by meters. The service is being developed for Android cell phones.

Commissioner Bothell reported attending the Rio Grande Hospital Community Health Assessment meeting, which included a discussion of what services the hospital offers and what services are needed. She said that services that will be available when the expansion is complete were also discussed. A survey to obtain community input is being conducted at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHNA-RGH.

Chairman Glover reported that he also attended the meeting, along with 45 to 50 people. He said the next meeting will include questions from the audience. Ms. Wisdom said she would add the survey information to the County website. Commissioner Bothell said that the assessment also includes the Department of Public Health and Behavioral Health. Commissioner Shriver noted that this is the second round of community health needs assessments. The first community health assessment was conducted five years ago, and was a burden. She said that now Public Health needs are combined with the hospital's needs. Chairman Glover stated that there is a great deal of information from all levels of the assessment, and noted that there will be a total of three meetings.

Commissioner Shriver reported that she will attend a Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team meeting on Friday, September 28, 2018.

Chairman Glover reported attending a meeting of the Tourism Board on September 25, 2018. He said that budget requests were discussed.

At 11:14 a.m., Ms. Wisdom reported that the amount of the CTSI health insurance deductible needs to be decided. She stated that the CTSI plan includes dental and vision insurance. Ms. Wisdom said she does not have information on a gap plan at this time. Chairman Glover stated that he has no problem offering two deductible choices, but expressed concern that this would take a great deal of time and another person might have to be hired. Ms. Wisdom said that during the enrollment period, time will be spent to explain the programs. She added that Alamosa County has a packet of materials that helps explain its health insurance program. She noted that it would be easier if there was only one option. Chairman Glover asked if there would be cross training in the Administration Office, so the health insurance information would not be handled by a single individual. Ms. Wisdom said that the Administration staff is cross training, and noted that the first time more than one option is offered will be the most difficult. Commissioner Bothell noted that the representatives from American Fidelity will explain its programs to employees. Ms. Wisdom said that if the CTSI program is chosen, the Administration staff will have to explain it to employees. Commissioner Shriver said there has not been much discussion with employees at this time. She suggested offering one deductible

to employees now, and starting discussions about other options. Other options could be offered later. Chairman Glover said that the options need to be very well defined. Ms. Wisdom noted that a gap plan has been discussed, but a decision needs to be made about the deductibles by November 5, 2018. Commissioner Shriver said a strategic plan to inform employees needs to be developed.

Chairman Glover asked if it might be better to keep the health plan as it is. Commissioner Bothell asked if the decision made today would be in force for a year. Ms. Wisdom said it would. Chairman Glover suggested offering the gap plan next year. Ms. Wisdom said that CTSI's open enrollment begins in November. She said that most people will continue with the plan they are familiar with. Commissioner Bothell stated that a Flex Plan could be offered in addition to the health insurance plan. Ms. Wisdom agreed that it could be implemented later. She also said that a high deductible plan will increase costs to the County. Ms. Wisdom also said that the budget is showing a \$2 million difference between revenues and requests at this time. Commissioner Shriver suggested obtaining feedback from department heads and elected officials. Ms. Wisdom said she would ask for their feedback by October 3, 2018.

Commissioner Bothell asked how long it will take to obtain information about a gap plan. Ms. Wisdom said she has not had time to explore a gap plan. Chairman Glover said a decision is needed about the health insurance deductible before a decision can be made about a gap plan. Commissioner Bothell said that some employees will not see a difference in their costs no matter which deductible they choose. She said offering more than one deductible will cost less than offering only one deductible. Commissioner Shriver said the employees need to feel comfortable with the plan. Ms. Wisdom will email the department heads and elected officials to obtain their feedback, and will also research a gap plan.

Ms. Wisdom reported that there will be an Energy Resource Center meeting September 27, 2018. The ribbon cutting at the Alamosa County jail is also September 27, 2018.

Ms. Wisdom reported that communities are creating committees to promote the 2020 census. She said that funding comes to the County based on the census count. She asked the Board to consider organizing such a committee.

Ms. Wisdom reported that Tyler Tobin, Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Company, reviewed the cyber security of the County. He submitted the External and Internal Vulnerability Studies, which reported 30 pages of items to be addressed. The vulnerabilities of the County were good and there is no major concern. Ms. Wisdom said that in the next 12 to 18 months, policies will be developed to address firewalls and user access. This needs to be discussed with WSB Computer Systems, and Ms. Wisdom noted that there will be costs associated with these changes. She asked if these costs should be included in the 2019 budget. She stated that one hack could cost the County thousands of dollars. Commissioner Shriver said it is best to be proactive and stay protected. Ms. Wisdom added that State statute mandates that the County IT system remain safe. She said this will be a two-year process.

A special meeting of the BOCC was scheduled for October 10, 2018. There will also be BOCC meetings on October 17 and October 31, 2018. A meeting with the Town of South Fork is scheduled for October 10, 2018.

Ms. Wisdom reported that the County general fund portion of the 2019 budget is down \$2,295,000.00 at this time. She explained that the DSS portion of the budget includes only salaries and insurance at this time. Salaries will be increased with a three percent cost of living raise, plus a two percent merit increase. Ms. Wisdom said that some departments are asking for more than these increases, including the Sheriff's Office, the Road and Bridge Department, the Maintenance Department, and the Coroner's Office. Ms. Wisdom explained that the Coroner's staff is within the budget, however, because these workers are paid on stipends, which will be increased.

Commissioner Bothell stated that some salaries were increased in an amount that was more than five percent. Ms. Wisdom said that these increases were not budgeted in the 2018 budget, but are included in the 2019 budget. Ms. Wisdom reported that some new positions are being added in the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Bothell asked if there are increases at the airport. Ms. Wisdom explained that the airport managers are part-time employees, and sometimes work more than their allotted hours. She said that other departments will be affected by the required increase in the minimum wage. Commissioner Bothell said that these increases need to be discussed before the approval of the preliminary budget on October 10, 2018. A work session was scheduled for October 3, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Wisdom reported that there will be a CCI legislative meeting on September 28, 2018. Chairman Glover said he would call in to that meeting. Ms. Wisdom said that the Board needs to register for the November CCI meeting.

At 11:55 a.m., Commissioner Shriver moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Gene Glover, Chairman
Chairman of the Board

Mona Syring
Clerk of the Board