

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado)
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County of Rio Grande)

The Board of Rio Grande County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Members present were Chairman Karla Shriver, Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Suzanne Bothell, County Administrator Roni Wisdom, and Clerk of the Board Mona Syring.

At 9:34 a.m., Chairman Shriver called the Board meeting to order. Commissioner Bothell gave the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the agenda with deletion of a discussion of Marty Asplin and the South Central Workforce Board and the addition of a discussion about advertising for an appointed representative to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the October 25, 2017, minutes with changes. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The consent agenda, which included the November 2017, mid-month vouchers (including the Department of Social Services vouchers), was presented. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the item on the consent agenda. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. The vouchers were signed.

At 9:45 a.m., John Wilder, Clayton Davie, Bureau of Land Management, Patrick Sullivan, Road and Bridge Department, and County Attorney Bill Dunn were present. Mr. Wilder began by saying that he was the Mineral County attorney for 40 years and worked to protect the public's right to use public areas. He worked with Mr. Sullivan to provide access on a property in the Rock Creek area. Mr. Wilder said that a conversation with Mr. Sullivan prompted the issue today. Mr. Wilder owns a property in the Pinos Creek area that includes a road that, according to a plat, is called County Road 14C. Mr. Wilder explained that this road was blocked 40 years ago, but the gate was finally taken down. Mr. Wilder holds the deed to this road and does not want it; he wants to deed it to the County. The deed would also include a small piece of property. This road would become an unmaintained County road and will give the public access to BLM land. Mr. Wilder explained that other property owners will not have to worry about someone putting up a gate; the goal is to protect other property owners. Mr. Wilder said he did not know if the property has a good title.

Mr. Davie stated that having guaranteed access to BLM land is beneficial. He said it is difficult to manage the land. Mr. Wilder noted that another property owner told him about a concern regarding people speeding on the road. Mr. Wilder said he would not support stop signs on the road. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the BLM might provide a cattle guard that would help slow down vehicles. He also noted that if the road is a public road there are liabilities if something is placed in the road. Mr. Sullivan said that this road could be accepted as a non-County, non-maintained road to provide public access to BLM land. He also said it could be called County Road 14C. Mr. Sullivan noted that this would not land lock other properties. Chairman Shriver asked for a definition of "unmaintained." Mr. Sullivan explained that the road would provide public access and a public right of way. However, the road would not be maintained regularly by the County Road and Bridge Department; it would not be on the grading schedule. The road would be a dirt road and there might be some improvements made; a courtesy grading might be done. Mr. Sullivan said that this road provided a good short cut to the recent Hubba fire. Mr. Sullivan said that the speed limit on the road would be addressed, noting that signs are not enough. He said this project is doable.

Commissioner Bothell asked if water turnouts could be put in. Mr. Sullivan said this would be more natural than a speed bump and noted that installing a speed bump is illegal. He said he will work with the BLM. Mr. Wilder said that the County has the authority to protect public safety.

Commissioner Glover said there are several issues regarding the property and the road. He said people drive too fast and shoot bottles on BLM land. The shooting is often toward people's houses. Commissioner Glover also said the road is busy during hunting season, and recommended installing a cattle guard at either end of the road. Mr. Davie said that the BLM property is land locked by private property.

Chairman Shriver asked for Mr. Dunn's thoughts. He reported that the parcel under discussion was owned by Ken Wilson in 1987, who conveyed an easement to Dr. Conour, who conveyed it to Mr. Wilder and Bill Miller, who conveyed it to Mr. Wilder. Mr. Dunn said the road historically has been a public access road and closing it would be difficult. Mr. Dunn said he favors supporting the County in taking the land, and noted that Mr. Miller is also supportive. Mr. Dunn said the County can help with the speeding issue.

Greg Schaffer and Rick Shirey, residents on neighboring properties, expressed their opinion that their preference would be to gate the road due to crime. Mr. Schaffer said that hunters disregard Private Property signs, and noted that there is another access to BLM land, two miles south, which is closed by the Forest Service in the spring, so people use the road in question instead. He said that a dog was recently run over on this road and other landowners have requested that the road be closed. Mr. Schaffer stated that there has been a dump on BLM land for a long time. He said that it must be considered that people will eventually build on their properties. He said he has tried to do things to slow down drivers and that he just wants to be safe in his home.

Mr. Wilder asked if Mr. Schaffer was suggesting installing a gate. Mr. Schaffer said he wants a gate with a code; the code would be given to EMS crews. Mr. Wilder stated that he had not heard this suggestion and noted that there are no gated communities on Pinos Creek. He stated that the road has been used for 100 years. Mr. Schaffer stated that eventually there will be eight to ten developments and these residents should be considered.

Chairman Shriver clarified that Mr. Wilder is offering the County a quitclaim deed on the road with a 30-foot by 30 foot-parcel on the northeast corner to connect with BLM land. She said no survey is needed and the road would be an unmaintained County road. Craig Loomis asked to see a map, and clarified that the proposed change would not affect him. He said that speeding on County Road 14 is a problem and stated that he likes the idea of cattle guards.

Mr. Schaffer asked if cattle guards could be installed if the road is deeded to the County. Chairman Shriver said that the County will have to work with BLM and the Road and Bridge Department. Mr. Wilder said that since he is giving the property to the County, it would be nice if cattle guards could be installed. He said that Private Road signs are confusing.

Chairman Shriver clarified that if the cattle guards were installed, they would be installed on County property and Mr. Wilder's property and that there would be no monetary exchange for the proposed offering. Commissioner Bothell asked if the property from the road to Mr. Wilder's property is gated and Mr. Wilder said it is not. Mr. Wilder drew a map showing where gates were previously and where cattle guards could be installed. Mr. Schaffer showed where cattle come through and get onto the main road. He said this access needs to be limited, as do speeds on the road. Mr. Wilder stated that if property owners want a gate, it could be put in on private land.

Chairman Shriver said the Board has the option to make a decision today or it can take some time to review other options and discuss the proposal with BLM and the Road and Bridge Department or a work session can be scheduled to discuss the proposal. Commissioner Glover said a decision needs to be made by the December 6, 2017, meeting. Chairman Shriver suggested that a work session be scheduled for December 4, 2017, and a decision reached by December 19, 2017. It was then decided to schedule the work session on December 6, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., with a decision on December 19, 2017. Mr. Wilder presented a survey that calls the road County Road 14C, which was recorded on June 9, 2005.

At 10:25 a.m., Mr. Sullivan presented a written update on the Road and Bridge Department's current and proposed work. He stated that the Department is taking advantage of the warm weather. He reported that the ice rink in Monte Vista is up and ready to go.

At 10:37 a.m., Jamie Hart, McDonald Ditch Company, was present to update the Board about the diversion project on the river near County Road 5 North. County Attorney Bill Dunn was also present. Mr. Hart explained that the new diversion on the river was moved to County property with an easement. In the process, more funding was needed and Mr. Hart looked for a grant to complete the project. Steve Massey, of the River Island Group and a property owner, requested \$500,000.00 to complete the project. A new diversion was built with a pipeline to the McDonald Ditch. Mr. Hart wants to remove the old diversion and do river restoration. He stated that there are wetlands on the property. Repairs to the McDonald Ditch will cost \$55,000.00 to \$100,000.00. Mr. Massey has objected to removing the original diversion. Chairman Shriver explained that special studies were conducted to show impacts to the Rio Grande County bridge.

Mr. Hart said that Mr. Massey purchased a nearby property then sold it for \$1.5 million; Mr. Massey does not want rafters near his property. Mr. Hart said that Rio Grande chub was then found in the river between the bridge and the diversion, and Mr. Massey attempted to block the removal of the old diversion because the fish is on the endangered species list. Mr. Hart explained that Colorado Parks and Wildlife plants these fish near Alamosa. Mr. Hart talked to the State Attorney General, who realized that the project could not be stopped, but did request that a fish study be conducted. The river froze last year before the study could be completed, but the study was completed in July 2017. The study showed five different species of fish, including 19 Rio Grande chubs. The chubs were tested and found not to be fish planted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Mr. Hart said all these events have delayed the project.

Mr. Hart stated that he found owners of nearby property where property lines were questionable. Mr. Hart, with the help of the Rio Grande County Assessor, discovered the names of the owners, and Mr. Hart wanted to take possession of this property before the end of 2016. Mr. Hart said that the Assessor recommended that he wait until January 1, 2017. The next day, Mr. Massey paid the taxes on the property and obtained a signed quitclaim deed. Mr. Massey now claims to own the land under the diversion and is trying to stop the project.

Chairman Shriver explained that the County agreed to haul material away from the diversion removal. Mr. Dunn stated that a letter from the County stated its support of the project but did not make the County a partner in the project. Mr. Hart agreed that the County was to haul material.

Mr. Hart stated that the State and CPW may issue letters saying the diversion needs to be removed and that they support the project. Mr. Hart said he has an Army Corps of Engineers permit to complete this work; if the project is not completed as originally designed, the permit will have to be revised. He also said if the wetlands are drained, this will cause a problem with the ACE.

Mr. Hart stated that he has spent \$19,000.00 on attorney's fees and that the County should help. He said that CPW has asked that a new structure be put in before the old diversion is removed. Mr. Hart noted that the County bridge is important and asked the Board for suggestions. Chairman Shriver asked when the State will issue the letter, Mr. Hart said he does not know. Chairman Shriver stated that major funds have been committed and suggested that all the stakeholders should discuss the issue. Mr. Hart said that \$75,000.00 worth of work has not been completed; these funds will have to be returned if the project is not completed. Mr. Hart stated that he does not believe that Mr. Massey will confront the County and he does not think the water users will get involved. He noted that the River Valley Group is opposing other projects on the river and other ditches.

Chairman Shriver asked Mr. Hart to provide a copy of the bridge study to Commissioners Bothell and Glover. Mr. Hart said he has the study, but it will not help them understand. Mr. Sullivan said that the County has gone to great lengths to protect the bridge. An easement was granted and property was deeded to support the project. Mr. Sullivan said he has mixed feelings about the wetlands, but stated that the bridge cannot be affected because it would cost \$3 million to \$4 million to rebuild it. Chairman Shriver stated that this is a wonderful project and one person has delayed it for several years.

Commissioner Bothell asked if the bridge is protected by the existing structure. Mr. Sullivan said the bridge is not at risk. He said what is at risk is the funding to enhance the river. Commissioner Bothell asked if funds would have to be returned if they are not used. Mr. Hart said this is insignificant, noting that it is the public that will lose if the diversion is not removed. He stated that there is some County liability and that River Valley Group offered to take the deed to prevent liability.

Chairman Shriver stated that the long-term goals need to be considered. Commissioner Glover said the issue needs to be settled. Mr. Hart said that the contractor is nervous. He also said that the Prairie Ditch Company has established an easement and now Mr. Massey recognizes Mr. Hart's easement. He said that everyone recommends taking out the diversion.

Commissioner Bothell asked if there is a deadline to complete the project. Mr. Hart explained that permits are renewed every year and the ACE permit will have to be revised. Chairman Shriver noted that River Valley Group does not want river restoration on its property. Mr. Hart said he is trying to arrange a meeting with ACE and Mr. Massey, but is doubtful that Mr. Massey will attend.

Mr. Hart said that it is terrible that the public does not know what is going on with this project. He asked if the County wants to take out the diversion and accept liability, because taking out the

diversion will damage the bridge. Chairman Shriver suggested continuing the conversation when Mr. Dunn can again be present. Mr. Dunn stated that if there is a lawsuit and the County is not named in it, the County could be a witness. Chairman Shriver suggested keeping Mr. Sullivan apprised of meetings. Mr. Hart said he does not know where to go; perhaps he will write a letter to the newspaper regarding why the project has not been completed.

At 11:16 a.m., Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, and Randy Kern, Building Department, were present to update the Board.

Mr. Kern reported that his update from the morning Managers' Meeting is the same for this meeting: Two new hangars are being built at the airport. Mr. Kern worked with Emily Brown, Department of Public Health, on providing on-site wastewater treatment system updates to the State. There have been 20 new home starts this year, with three more to come. This is an increase from last year. Mr. Kern reported that ground work has started at Rio Grande Hospital.

Ms. Diltz presented two resolutions for signature. One resolution appoints Leonard Brown to a three-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The second resolution appoints Mike Mitchell (who verbally agreed to serve) to a three-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Tim Butler, Xcel Energy, was present, along with County Attorney Bill Dunn, to discuss 18 miles of pipeline along Highway 160. This pipeline will be replaced and moved 3.4 miles to private property. Mr. Butler explained that there are some County road crossings that will be affected. Chairman Shriver said that for the purposes of full disclosure, she owns property on Highway 160.

Mr. Butler explained that the line being discussed was contracted in 1961 in Rio Grande and Alamosa Counties using a maximum allowable operating pressures program. Mr. Butler said that pressure levels are not available in some areas, and pipe needs to be replaced. He explained that between County Roads 3 East and 6 East the line fell within the railroad right of way and the railroad does not want utilities along its tracks. He said that Xcel Energy will be asking for a 50-foot easement and an equal work site area. The plan is to directionally bore under the Empire Ditch and stands of trees. Where fields will be impacted, Xcel Energy will reimburse the owner for crop loss. Mr. Butler said this is a 2018 through 2019 project and will be completed to County standards.

Chairman Shriver said that landowners have not been contacted. Mr. Butler said that landowners with existing easements have been contacted, but not landowners who would require new easements. Commissioner Bothell asked if the easements would be purchased or condemned. Mr. Butler said that Xcel Energy has no intent to condemn; reasonable offers will be made to landowners. He stressed that the pipeline must be maintained and Xcel Energy will condemn if necessary. He asked for the County's support before property owners are notified or a public hearing is held. Chairman Shriver provided Mr. Butler with the Empire Ditch Company's president's telephone number.

Mr. Butler said that Xcel Energy intends to give proper notice of impacts to be addressed ahead of time. The project will attempt to time the work around the Sandhill Cranes and potato harvest.

Chairman Shriver asked if a loop would be constructed so there will not be a gas power loss. Mr. Butler said there would not be a loop. He noted that because Rio Grande and Alamosa Counties are growing more line pressure is needed. He said this is a very reliable, well-managed system. He noted that remote cut off valves are a safety feature; two valves have been addressed on County Road 14 this year.

Chairman Shriver noted that there is a line near the Monte Vista Co-op, and stated that the County's master plan allows for light industry. Mr. Butler said that Xcel Energy wants to have the capacity for growth. He also said that if Proximity Malt needs additional laterals, Xcel Energy can provide them. Mr. Dunn asked if the pipeline would prevent highway expansion if the pipeline in the railroad right of way south of Highway 160 is moved north, and the Colorado Department of Transportation wants to extend the four-lane highway. Mr. Butler said the pipeline is deep, very safe, and can be paved over. If the pipeline was constructed in a public right of way, it would have to be moved.

Commissioner Bothell expressed concern about extending 100 feet into a field, noting that sprinklers have to run. Mr. Butler said it makes sense to complete the project during the off season. He said that existing lines will remain active until the new pipeline is complete.

Mr. Butler said that Xcel Energy has authorized appraisals for 18 property owners, two of which are in Monte Vista. He said one property owner, located north of the project, may be difficult to work with. Market value of the property will be established and Mr. Butler will serve as the negotiator.

Chairman Shriver asked if Mr. Butler was requesting a decision from the Board or if he is providing information. Mr. Butler said he is providing information. He asked if a permit would be required or if a public hearing would be required. Commissioner Bothell asked if it would be a public hearing with landowners. Chairman Shriver, stating that she would abstain from a vote, said she could argue the question two ways: one option would be to meet with Xcel Energy and landowners; the other would be to provide transparency to the public with articles published in the newspapers. Mr. Dunn said the advantage of a public hearing is that both information and concerns are shared. He said this would reduce the amount of complaints later. Commissioner Bothell suggested holding a public hearing with a special invitation to affected landowners. Commissioner Bothell moved to hold a public hearing regarding the relocation of Xcel Energy gas pipelines with a special invitation to landowners. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried with Chairman Shriver abstaining from the vote.

At 11:45 a.m., T.J. Dlubac, RG and Associates, and Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, and County Attorney Bill Dunn were present to discuss the revision of the County's land use code book. Mr. Dlubac distributed code book assessment from RG and Associates. He stated that the recommendation is to implement the changes in the assessment, including technical, policy, and other major changes as noted. The assessment includes an organizational structure, a process matrix, and meeting minutes. There are six recommendations:

1. Update the structure and format of the code book
2. Streamline and simplify the various approval processes to be consistent and easier to administer
3. Create an enforcement abatement process
4. Evaluate the use tables and identify appropriate approval levels, missing uses and outdated uses
5. Review definitions (administrative component) so they are used consistently throughout the code book
6. Update the sign code to reflect the Gilbert vs. Reed Supreme Court Decision

Mr. Dlubac said updating the structure and format of the code book could be completed separately at the same cost. He also said that definitions are important so they are interpreted correctly. Mr. Dlubac said that recommendations 2 through 4 need stakeholder engagement and should be completed at the same time.

With regard to the sign code, Mr. Dlubac explained that this is important because of a recent Supreme Court decision stating that government can regulate a sign's location, how long it can be in its location, and its size. However, government cannot regulate a sign's content. Chairman Shriver added that South Fork is updating its sign code, Del Norte does not have one, and Monte Vista has had three codes. She also pointed out that the Colorado Department of Transportation will have to be involved.

Mr. Dlubac recommended that the first five items be completed at the same time to make the project cost effective (at a cost of \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00). The cost will depend on the number of public meetings and engagements. He stated that it is difficult to break out a cost for each item. He estimated that public outreach will cost between \$4,000.00 and \$8,000.00.

Mr. Dlubac said developing a sign code is difficult to price because it depends on how the County and the County Attorney want to handle signage; he said the cost for the sign code alone could be between \$50,000.00 and \$70,000.00. If stakeholders are engaged in the sign code process there will be many costs. He said that Centennial's sign code is the most advanced in the state. Commissioner Bothell asked if the sign code could be included in other stakeholder meetings (items 2 through 4). Mr. Dlubac said this would add time and would increase the price, but it could be done. Ms. Diltz noted that sign content is not regulated now. Mr. Dlubac said that once items 1 through 5 are completed, the sign code may not be an issue.

Ms. Wisdom asked if the County's master plan was taken into consideration in the assessment of the code book. Mr. Dlubac said it was reviewed and is included in the assessment. Ms. Wisdom noted that funds have been allocated for this assessment. She asked what the cost of the code book revision would have been if the assessment was not completed. She said this needs to be considered for grant applications. Mr. Dlubac said the cost of the revision would have been \$60,000.00 to \$80,000.00.

Commissioner Bothell asked when notes included in the assessment would be implemented. Mr. Dlubac explained that the assessment does not implement anything. Appendices in the assessment were used to develop next-step strategies; the notes were made with input from stakeholders and RG and Associates.

Mr. Dlubac explained that long-term policies have been left separate and can be plugged in later. He said some cases such as trends like marijuana, tiny homes, and short-term rentals may take more time to develop.

Ms. Diltz said this assessment is what the County asked for. Commissioner Glover added that this is the direction the Land Use Department wanted to go. Ms. Diltz said that getting the book organized and consistent is important and will make it easier to use. Commissioner Glover pointed out that the County has no leg to stand on with regard to enforcement issues, and new codes will help. Chairman Shriver said that policies need to be updated regularly.

Commissioner Glover noted that in the past, sometimes changes have been made but have not been consistent throughout the book. Mr. Dlubac said the code book is a living document that can be codified. Commissioner Bothell asked if references are made to other sections of the book if a change is made in one section. Mr. Dlubac said they are; the idea is not to have to write anything twice.

Ms. Wisdom asked what the code book software will cost. Mr. Dlubac said the software is subscription based, with free set up. Software updates might be additional charges. He said an alternative to the software might be to use an interactive PDF format, where there is a cost on the front end, but there is no maintenance cost. Ms. Diltz suggested that the Clerk and Recorder may have the software.

Chairman Shriver asked if the \$50,000.00 to \$70,000.00 will be the cost to write the code book. Ms. Diltz said it will help update and clarify the book. Mr. Dlubac said it will determine the process and the book can be put on the software, PDF, Word, or interactive PDF. Any of these could be shipped to the software company so the code book can be posted online. Chairman Shriver noted that the County is responsible for the County codes.

Ms. Wisdom asked if the information in the assessment included the benefit of RG and Associates' experience. Mr. Dlubac said it does. He explained that the code book needs to be rewritten. RG and Associates did not find any fatal flaws in the County codes. A new zoning district is not needed. Issues such as conditional use permits and the sign code will likely be addressed in the process of the rewrite.

Ms. Wisdom noted that a request for proposal for a firm to rewrite the code book will have to be drafted. She asked how many public meetings will be needed. Mr. Dlubac said that one-third of the project will be completed initially when the rewrite is complete. The first outreach will be done when the rest is crafted (two-thirds complete); there will be two outreach meetings. The last third of the project is obtaining approval of the code book. Chairman Shriver pointed out that the process is now in phase two, and asked if an RFP is actually needed. Ms. Wisdom will check with the Department of Local Affairs. Mr. Dlubac said that DOLA has granted some single-source grants. Ms. Wisdom asked if the County is obligated to share RG and Associates' assessment with other firms. Mr. Dunn said that the information belongs to the County; this should be confirmed with DOLA. Mr. Dlubac said that the information is public knowledge and is not proprietary. Sharing the information would not give another company unfair advantage.

Ms. Wisdom said that RG and Associates did a great job and the information is good to have for the second phase of the project. She said she will request a sole source grant from DOLA. Mr. Dlubac offered to assist in fine tuning the scope of the grant.

Chairman Shriver asked if completing the work in 2018 is feasible for RG and Associates' schedule. Mr. Dlubac said the project can be completed easily in the first quarter of 2018.

Ms. Wisdom said she wants to be able to show that the \$8,700.00 paid for the code book assessment can be considered matching funds. She suggested that funds from the Council of Governments might be available. Mr. Dlubac said that the United States Department of Agriculture might also provide funds and require a lower match. He said that since the structure and the format of the code book needs to be completed first, RG and Associates could budget the rest of the work to coordinate with the USDA. He said that maybe the "behind the desk work" could be funded by DOLA. Phase Three of the project, which would be the public outreach, might be funded by the USDA.

Chairman Shriver asked for a timeline for the project. Mr. Dlubac said that the rewrite will take three to four months; the public process will take two to three months; the adoption process will take 2 months. Commissioner Bothell asked if the County can pay as the process progresses or after the project is completed. Mr. Dlubac said the contract is a "not to exceed" contract and the County will be billed on a monthly basis. Commissioner Bothell asked if the grant could be extended to 2019. Ms. Wisdom said it could and will discuss with DOLA how it should be structured. Mr. Dlubac said that DOLA is focusing on issues (water quality and resiliency) that are not code book related, so more information may be required. Ms. Wisdom asked for a price for long-term policies if they need to be written now. Mr. Dlubac said this is hard to price, but that it is better to do all or most of them at the same time. Chairman Shriver asked how long this would take, and Mr. Dlubac estimated 8 to 10 months. He also said that this would extend the public meetings. Commissioner Bothell recommended that the Board determine what it wants, get a cost estimate, check with DOLA regarding a sole-source grant, and then get the grant.

At 12:50 p.m., the meeting was recessed.

At 1:25 p.m., the meeting resumed.

Ms. Wisdom presented an email from Sally Allee requesting to remain as the Rio Grande County Representative to Blue Peaks Developmental Services Board. Commissioner Glover moved to appoint Ms. Allee to the Blue Peaks Developmental Services Board. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom presented a termination of services agreement with CIC and the County Treasurer's Department. The County offered to settle for the total amount of \$23,626.86, consisting of an initial down payment of \$8,907.60 and a one-time payment of \$14,719.26. This offer was accepted by CIC via a letter dated August 7, 2017. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the termination of services agreement. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom requested signatures on the Hazard Mitigation Plan resolution. The resolution was signed. Book 588 Page 1364

Ms. Wisdom requested approval to void a warrant in the amount of \$46,112.66 (#14972) to Digitcom. Commissioner Bothell moved to void the warrant. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom presented the October 2017 Veterans Service report. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the report. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom presented a contract between the County and Cynthia Ford to serve as the San Luis Valley Healthcare Coalition Coordinator. The County serves as the fiscal agent for the Healthcare Coalition grant. The amount of the contract will not exceed \$39,000.00; expenses will be reimbursed. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the contract. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom reported that the State has agreed to extend the County's Underfunded Courthouse grant to December 31, 2018. An RFP will be drafted.

Ms. Wisdom reported that the Downtown Institutes will meet in Monte Vista on November 15, 2017, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meeting will focus on economic development.

Ms. Wisdom reported that an ad will be run for a County representative to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

Ms. Wisdom presented a letter from Robert Lane regarding the Summitville Cyanide Destruction Plant Feasibility Study. The Board will review the letter before an upcoming meeting with Mark Rudolph, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the resolution to reinstate Leonard Brown and Mike Mitchell to the Planning and Zoning Commission. (See above.) Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. Book 588 Page 1365 and 1366

Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, was present to report that Highway 112 from Highway 285 to Highway 17 is being resurfaced with a one-inch asphalt overlay. She asked the Board if it has comments. She explained that some ADA ramps will be installed. She said she has sent the information to Patrick Sullivan, Road and Bridge Department, and he has comments regarding County road crossings. Commissioner Glover reported that he has spoken with CDOT about the

need for speed limit signs, and asked if the signs would be included in the project. Ms. Diltz said the signs would not be included. Chairman Shriver stated that it is the Road and Bridge Department's responsibility to install stop signs and visual enhancements. Commissioner Glover said he would speak to CDOT about the speed limit. Ms. Diltz said that she will tell CDOT that Mr. Sullivan has comments. Chairman Shriver asked to review the letter to CDOT.

Ms. Diltz reported that Alamosa County has approved an Amish furniture sales and assembly business on County Road 104 and Highway 160. She stated that if the business is a success, it will expand to two more buildings. Ms. Diltz said she has a copy of the application if the Board would like to review it. Commissioner Bothell asked if there were conditions on the approval. Ms. Diltz said the conditions were standard, including the installation of an on-site wastewater treatment system and meeting USDA standards if a bakery business starts. Commissioner Bothell asked how the property is zoned, and Ms. Diltz said it is zoned rural.

Chairman Shriver reminded the Board that department head evaluations need to be completed by the end of the year. She asked if the Board should provide comments since the Board supervised the department heads for half the year (Ms. Wisdom now supervises the department heads). Ms. Wisdom said she would welcome comments from the Board. Ms. Wisdom pointed out that if the evaluations are completed by the end of this year, the department heads will not receive merit raises until a year from now. Commissioner Bothell asked if the evaluation dates should be changed to the department heads' anniversary dates. Chairman Shriver said this needs to be thought through. Commissioner Bothell asked if the evaluations could be done in December and a merit raise given on the anniversary dates. Ms. Wisdom said she would find the department heads' anniversary dates. Chairman Shriver said completing the evaluations before the end of the year is the way it has always been done. Commissioner Bothell suggested that the evaluation could be given in December and the merit raise could be given in January.

Ms. Wisdom presented a copy of the County's 2018 preliminary budget. She explained that it has not changed, except that there are two options regarding Sheriff's deputy salaries. In Option 1, the jail nurse salary has been moved to operating costs and there is no extra increase in the deputies' salaries. Option 2 includes an increase of 13 percent in the deputies' salaries. The fund balance for Option 1 would be \$7,008,396.00. The fund balance for Option 2 would be \$7,032,112.00. She said this increase was discussed in order to become competitive with Alamosa County deputies' salaries. However, Ms. Wisdom reported that Alamosa County is increasing its salaries so Rio Grande County will still not be caught up.

Commissioner Bothell noted that an investigator was eliminated and that salary was divided, and asked if that made the numbers the same. Ms. Wisdom said that a full-time deputy was added and two part-time positions were made full time. Ms. Wisdom noted that these numbers include the salary of an undersheriff, and said that the salaries of the deputies who have been in the Department for some time need to be right sized. Chairman Shriver asked if the salaries include two full-time transport employees. Ms. Wisdom said these salaries are included in the jail salaries.

Chairman Shriver said that the budget needs to be ready for the public hearing. Ms. Wisdom asked the Board to choose either Option 1 or Option 2. Commissioner Glover noted that the difference between the two options is approximately \$24,000.00. Chairman Shriver said the decision would be made with a formal vote (a roll call vote).

Commissioner Bothell moved to approve Option 2. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Commissioner Glover stated that he does not understand the chasing of other counties' salaries. Ms. Wisdom said that a budget book has to be created for the public hearing and the final vote on the budget.

Chairman Shriver called for a roll call vote and stated that this is an important vote. She asked for discussion and then read from a prepared statement:

"A. County employees are one of the biggest and most important assets the County has as a resource. Rio Grande County has some very loyal and talented people working for it. After the economic down turn in 2008, county departments have continually been asked to cut their budgets significantly; which most have done. Another method through the years by the Commissioners to keep a stable County financial condition, was approving minimal salary increases or even none at all. Thus, salaries of County employees have not kept pace with the private sector or even other local government jobs within the San Luis Valley. Here recently, other significant issues most employers including the County are having to deal with are the new increased minimum wage laws and the Affordable Care Act. The County wage chart that was devised quite some time ago is out of date, particularly with the new laws. Thank you to Administrator Wisdom for updating it. That was not an easy task to do. We, the Commissioners,

cannot keep asking the employees to carry this large burden. The County is starting to experience employee retention and turn-over issues, or even find good qualified replacements in today's employment market. It costs money to keep hiring and training employees. I firmly believe we have to give the employees a raise as I think you, the other Commissioners feel as well. The question is the amount of increase and if all get equal raises or a portion of a department get even more of a raise.

1. I am in favor of giving all employees the "right sizing" adjustment, and the option for elected officials/department heads the flexibility to give a one-step merit increase at the employee's anniversary date if the supervisor feels it is warranted.
2. The county covering the 5 percent of the health care insurance raise
3. Adding Columbus Day and a half-day on Christmas Eve to the County holidays.

B. I am not in favor at this time of approving Sheriff Norton's and Commissioner Bothell's proposal of a higher rate of increase in salary approval to the Sheriff's road deputies – more than all other County employees - just so that Rio Grande County offers the same or similar hourly pay rate as Alamosa County for this job position. Rio Grande County does not have the revenue that Alamosa County has.

1. As Commissioners, we have learned and discussed in the last couple of months some inefficiencies in the Sheriff's office, which I feel is only the tip of the iceberg, and some benefits those employees get over other County employees. I firmly believe that there is inefficient use of resources – staff and assets at the Sheriff's office. That department has its own elected official, and the Commissioner's only over-site of that department is the budget. Each Commissioner is going to have to make a decision in the best interest of the county, for which each of us has taken an oath. We should not let friendship, business relationships, personal feelings about each other influence that decision. Again, it is about the best interest of the County.
2. I feel these inefficiencies should also lead to asking questions about accountability.
3. I don't feel the Sheriff's department is cutting its budget and being resourceful as all the other County departments have been asked and done. Its budget expenses keep going up.
4. I don't get any type of an answer as to why the Conejos County Sheriff's total department budget is roughly \$ 800,000.00 less than our County? Even if we take out our jail lease payment for comparison, the difference is \$612,000.00. The Conejos County jail is very similar in size to our Rio Grande County jail as well as other similarities. Also, if you look at the revenue side of the department compared to other Counties, I don't think our Sheriff's department is pursuing all avenues by the department.

Am I very concerned about the impact to the General Fund? Yes, extremely so. Last year there was an adjustment of the amount of mill levy from Road and Bridge to General. We can't keep doing that forever. We have discussed the possibility of proposing a ballot question to the voters next year. I believe it was 2008/2010 when the Commissioners at that time put a tax question on the ballot. The citizens' appetite for a tax increase was not favorable at that time, and now we know the Del Norte School bond ballot question passed, that could significantly impact the vote if we, the Commissioners, put a question before the voters in the upcoming year."

Chairman Shriver said she wants the Board to know where she stands and voted no on approving the Option 2 salary increase for the Sheriff's Department deputies. Commissioner Glover voted no on approving the Option 2 salary increase for the Sheriff's Department deputies. He stated that this is an unfair balance sheet. Because of his law enforcement background, he supports the Sheriff's Department, but he said he cannot give more money to that department and look other department heads in the eye.

Commissioner Bothell stated that there has been an increase in crime and drug use has increased. She said the County is responsible for providing the Sheriff's Department and its resources. She said there has been a job opening in the Department for a year and there was a resignation yesterday. If there are no deputies, there is no law enforcement. She said that law enforcement creates a safe community. She said that regarding Chairman Shriver's statement that other departments are more efficient, the activities of the Sheriff's Department are different and the accounting is different. She told Chairman Shriver that if she knew more of the inner workings of the Department she could see the differences. Commissioner Bothell said that things have changed. Commissioner Bothell voted yes on approving Option 2 salary increase for the Sheriff's Department deputies. The motion did not carry.

Chairman Shriver asked for a motion on approving the Option 1 increase in Sheriff's Department deputies' salaries. Commissioner Glover moved to approve Option 1. Chairman Shriver seconded the motion.

Chairman Shriver stated that she agreed with Commissioner Glover that being consistent across the board prevents employee morale problems. She said this was discussed with regard to County employees, and also stated that her preference would be to cut the Sheriff's Department budget more. Chairman Shriver voted yes on the motion.

Commissioner Bothell stated that micromanaging departments is wrong and using purse strings to control departments is wrong. She said it would be nice to give everyone more and that some areas are overlooked. She stated that the Sheriff's Department uses more money than other departments because it is open 24 hours per day and this is expensive. Commissioner Bothell said that she understands that treating employees equally will make them happy. She stated that an analysis is needed of each job classification that is not being followed. Commissioner Bothell voted against the motion.

Commissioner Glover stated that Option 1 is simpler and cleaner, and noted that there has been negativity with the Sheriff's Department in the last year. He said that the Sheriff's Department works 24 hour per day and the employees have targets on their backs. He said the County benefit package is the same for all employees, and that sending more money to the Department will not fix the problem. He said County problems have to be fixed one at a time. He also stated that when Alamosa raises its salaries again, there will be more unhappiness. He voted yes on the motion. The motion carried.

At 2:16 p.m., Mike Hurst, Del Norte Federal Bank, and Marty and Bonnie Asplin, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Council were present.

Mr. Hurst reported that it was decided three years ago to hire a professional economic development team at a cost to the County of \$15,000.00 per year. This sum is funded with \$7,500.00 per County municipality, \$1,000.00 per business with more than ten employees, and \$150.00 per business. The Asplins were hired, and Mr. Hurst said this was the right thing to do, stating that the original three-year work plan was accomplished in the first year with Proximity Malt, LLC and the River Valley Inn. He said that URGED provided a "one-stop shop" for businesses. Mr. Hurst acknowledged that the starch plant project did not happen, even though there was a great deal of effort. Included in the project objectives and outcomes in the last three years are the creation of a website, brochures, and a list of available commercial buildings on the URGED website.

The next three-year plan for 2018 through 2020 includes four goals:

1. Physical Environment: place making and awareness are important
2. Business Assistance: providing resources for education and data collection
3. Work Force: Working with top employers on their needs for training; providing internships and apprenticeships
4. Business Responsibility: Businesses have to participate

Mr. Hurst stated that UGED is a back-bone organization and the Asplins are connected.

Mr. Asplin stated that the work force goal is the biggest piece of the plan this year. He said healthcare and agriculture work forces are important. Youth need to be better trained in hard and soft skills. Education will participate, but the private sector is needed to work with youth as well. Experience needs to be provided. Mr. Asplin explained that the Centauri school is running a program that puts students to work in the hospital, and said that this should be done Valley wide. Other hospitals and clinics need to participate. He also reported that businesses indicate that they have jobs they cannot fill, and noted that schools teach to the test, rather than teaching needed skills.

Mr. Asplin said that place making includes the inside of businesses, too. It is not just the façade of a building that draws people in, even though the town has to look good. People need to be made comfortable while shopping.

Mr. Hurst said that one of the ways that URGED is valuable is the development of the code of ethics that Del Norte, South Fork, and Monte Vista all signed. He stated that Del Norte has stepped up its thinking. Leadership and guidance are needed.

Mr. Hurst said that URGED respects the budget position of the Commissioners. He stated that URGED's dues structure will stay the same (\$15,000.00). URGED's operating budget is \$65,000.00 and will spend \$61,000.00 in the coming year. He said the organization has a good fund balance, which was designed from the beginning and a reserve was built. He said the organization has to prepare for the next level. Mr. Asplin explained that one-third of the budget

is used for tasks and projects. What is not spent on those projects rolls into the fund balance. Ms. Asplin said that costs in 2018 will be higher because of working with interns and data collection. She stated that the interns from Adams State University School of Business will interview every business, which will shorten the response time when there is interest from the outside. Mr. Asplin said that URGED's entire budget will be used in 2018.

Chairman Shriver said the Board is tentatively considering the \$15,000.00 budget, and noted that the County cannot support an economic development position on its own. Public and private cooperation is needed. She said it is unclear where the railroad project is going because the feasibility study has not been completed; URGED needs to be involved in the next steps.

Chairman Shriver excused herself from the discussion for a medical appointment.

Mr. Hurst said that the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is looking to URGED with regard to its fiber optics project and how to generate population growth. Mr. Asplin said that URGED meets with the REC board and that Cielo is a utility that will help rent buildings.

Commissioner Glover said he is a fan of people learning by shadowing. He said it is a good way to teach. Mr. Asplin said it is a good way for a student to determine if this is a job he or she wants. Commissioner Glover said that students are catching on to this concept. Commissioner Bothell said there is a class in Del Norte that helps students discover their interests and to find possible skills. She noted that warehouses need people to run computerized equipment. Ms. Wisdom said that she has served on the South Central Work Force board, but can no longer serve because she is a public employee. She suggested that the Asplins might want to join that board. She said if they do, they may come before the BOCC and indicate their interest.

Commissioner Bothell asked if the salary for URGED is \$40,000.00. Mr. Hurst explained that Asplin and Associates is the contracted party and that the salary is for both Mr. and Ms. Asplin. Mr. Hurst said that the organization "has legs" no matter who runs it. Commissioner Bothell asked if the dues would increase when the Asplins retire. Mr. Hurst said he hopes the dues will not increase. He said more businesses and more people should be involved over time.

At 2:53 p.m., Commissioner Glover reported that he attended the opening of the chapel at the Veterans Center. He said the service, speakers, and singers were good. Veterans living at the Center attended. Ms. Wisdom asked if the chapel will have other uses. Commissioner Glover said that the chapel will be used for other uses such as weddings. He said that Van Iwaarden Builders did the work and that the restoration is nice.

Commissioner Bothell said that the Del Norte school buildings are in good shape; the Underwood building has no cracks in its foundation. Commissioner Glover said there are other safety issues and it is not ADA compliant.

At 3:00 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Karla Shriver, 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, November 30, 2017. Members present were Chairman Karla Shriver, Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner Suzanne Bothell, County Administrator Roni Wisdom, and Clerk of the Board Mona Syring.

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

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the agenda with deletion of the monthly update from Emily Brown, Department of Public Health. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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

Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the November 15, 2017, minutes with changes. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The consent agenda was presented and included the November end-of-the-month vouchers and the November 2017 payroll. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried. The vouchers were signed.

November 2017 Mid-Month Vouchers

VENDOR	SERVICE	AMOUNT
Airport Rd Café	Meeting	\$165.00
Allpine Title	O & E for Property by Summitville to be Deeded to County	\$200.00
Alta Fuels, LLC	Inv Cont - 292432 292002	\$176.70
Amber Lynn Newhouse	Photographs	\$500.00
Brown's Septic Svc Inc.	Acct RGSO	\$110.00
Brown's Septic Svc Inc.	Septic Service	\$102.00
Business Solutions Leasing, Inc.	Copy Lease #101-1260978-000	\$60.10
Center Parts Store, Inc.	Shop Supplies	\$238.96
Center Redi Mix, Inc.	Concrete	\$362.25
CenturyLink	719-657-3325-233	\$58.78
CenturyLink	719-657-9017 478	\$148.26
CenturyLink	7198524781 380	\$423.41
Chaffee Cnty Public Hlth	EPSDT Contract Billing July-October 2017	\$5,780.00
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000703800	\$97.39
Colorado Chapter	Training/Randy	\$400.00
Colorado Counties Inc.	Winter Conference P Sullivan and D Miles	\$700.00
Colorado Depart. of Revenue	October Sales Tax Fuel	\$248.00
Computer Information Concepts, Inc.	Final Pymt from Treasurer	\$14,719.26
Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	Application Hosting & Technology - Hardware	\$2,624.96
Costilla County Public	EPSDT Contract Billing October 2017	\$2,140.00
County Sheriffs of Colo	Training- Personal and Leadership Development	\$567.50
D-A Lubricant Company	Inv Cont 201793452-01	\$10,053.75
Dana Delaine	VA Mileage	\$115.20
Deeann Sierra		\$0.00
Del Norte Auto Supply	Acct#7050/Bolts, Washers, Nuts	\$4.30
Del Norte Auto Supply	Diesel Additive	\$20.95
Direct TV	Acct# 045235405	\$175.23
District Attorney Office	11Th Portion of the 2017 Budget	\$15,000.00
Division of Reclamation	Pit Permit # M-1978-071	\$791.00
Dixie Diltz	Blight Miles	\$72.90
Galls, LLC	Acct# 3737546	\$84.85
Gobins, Inc.	Cont2725-01	\$31.50
Great America Financial	Agreement# 025-1070947-0000	\$349.13
Great America Financial	Agreement# 015-0875950-000	\$452.00
Great America Financial	Agreement#016-0939369-000	\$136.17
Gunbarrel Station, Inc.	A 17, B2, B-37, A-60	\$298.54
Haynie's Inc.	Acct# 7068	\$51.47
Jack's Market	Paper towels 40@ 4.50 - 8 Rolls to A Pkg	\$180.00
Jack's Market	Inv Cont - 250591 185404 251969 185966 254735 256044 256313 245925 246483 246792	\$133.53
Jay Sarason	Mileage and Misc. Repairs	\$365.07
Ken's Service Center	Inv Cont - 48365 48338	\$1,325.33
Kimberly Bryant	Monthly Pay October SIM	\$2,145.00
Kimrad Transport LP	Rigrdnco	\$2,452.11
Kristi Hillis	Monthly Pay October 2017	\$1,000.00
La Puente Home, Inc.	For Food Bank from Rio Grande County Commissioners	\$400.00
Lyle Signs, Inc.	Reserved Signs for Court Security \$26.20/No Parking Signs for Cg \$135.00	\$222.29

Lyle Signs, Inc.	Die Cut Hip D Series Yellow	\$299.34
Mackey Construction Co.	30 Pcs Bridge Decking	\$13,073.10
Maddox Collections	Acct RGSO/ Jail Cook	\$30.00
Max Garcia	SLV Youth Empowerment Summit	\$100.00
McCandless Truck Center, LLC	2018 International 7600 6X4/Atg Plow, Dump, Sander Installed	\$183,021.00
Mike Medina	Shirts W/Logo for Emily	\$75.00
	Inv Date Was 6/16/2016/ Oversight When Must Have Gone to Wrong Address When We Started This	\$24.00
Mobile Record Shredders, LLC	Shredding	\$24.00
Mobile Record Shredders, LLC	Tank Rental	\$194.45
Monte Vista Cooperative	Customer# 1036273093-0007	\$46,112.66
Motorola Inc.	Customer Acct#1036273093-0007/2016 Homeland Security/Del Norte Ambulance	\$1,999.88
National Association Of	2018 Dues	\$450.00
O & V Printing, Inc.	Letterhead	\$223.90
O & V Printing, Inc.	Envelopes	\$244.13
Park County Jail	Acct RGSO/Sept Bill Holding	\$1,260.00
Penny Plummer	Monthly Pay October 2017	\$2,726.47
Pro Com	Pre-Employment	\$37.00
Pro Com	Saliva Test	\$21.00
Pulltarps Manufacturing	18' Black Mesh Tarp	\$472.53
Randall Rahn Music	Live Music SLV Youth Summit	\$200.00
RG & Associates, LLC	Land Use Code Assessment	\$337.50
Rio Grande County	Airport Payroll	\$1,283.40
Rio Grande Hospital	Stipend	\$400.58
Rio Grande Pharmacy, LLC	Emergency Epinephrine	\$210.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water Delivery	\$40.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water	\$36.00
Saguache Co Public Health	EPSDT Services October 2017	\$775.00
Sam's Club	Acct# 5560531010182546/Membership Fee	\$45.00
Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.	Tubersol	\$132.64
Sbrand Consulting, LLC	RWEACT Strategic Plan	\$1,500.00
Schaeffer Mfg Co	Moly Universal Gear Lube Sae 90	\$390.00
SLV Auto Repair, LLC	Alignments/A-34/#94	\$190.03
SLV REC	Acct# 4705001905 2 Months	\$194.00
	Toner, Calendars, Staples, Phone Message Book	\$628.01
Staples Business	HP Toner – Black	\$297.98
Staples Business		
The Sunflour Inc. C/O Rhoda Koehn	Employee Appreciation Luncheon	\$1,768.00
	Full Maintenance, Added 3 Gal Hydro Oil, Cleaned Out Head Connector/ Returned to Service	\$739.00
Thyssenkrupp Elevator	Computer Supplies	\$279.96
Total Office Solutions	Calendars	\$28.47
Total Office Solutions	Acct# 13756 Luncheon Plates	\$105.86
Total Office Solutions	Water and Sewer	\$278.58
Town of Del Norte	Asphalt Cutback Base Product	\$12,582.90
Valero Marketing	Ad for Jail Cook	\$155.25
Valley Courier	Budget Legal Notice/Wastewater RFP	\$40.00
Valley Publishing	Ad Healthcare Coalition Coordinator	\$31.50
Valley Publishing	Ad for Cook	\$46.50
Valley Publishing	Ap Flu Preparedness	\$99.00
Valuwest, Inc.	Commercial Reappraisal Pymt	\$3,000.00
Vaxcare, Inc.	Monthly Charge for Sept, Vaccine Fee Flu	\$500.01
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 084202032000001	\$126.78
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 765509857-00002	\$273.28
Verizon Wireless	Acct# 765509857-00004	\$1,259.93
Verizon Wireless	Acct#765509857-00005	\$170.72
Verizon Wireless	Acct#765509857	\$260.88

	Inv Cont - Pooc2011040, Po3C0452141, Po3C0452323, Po3C0452693, Po3C0452694, Po3C0452695	\$6,651.95
Wagner Equipment		
Waste Management-	Customer# 05925-74006	\$217.96
Waxie Sanitary Supply	Acct# 32318-1/Bufing Pads and Hand Soap	\$633.80
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-819100-9	\$342.75
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-819100-9	\$69.90
William F. Dunn	Legal Fees	\$375.00
WSB Computer Services	Ida's Laptop	\$196.00
WSB Computer Services	Hard Drive and Recycling	\$302.80
Xcel Energy	Acct#53-1083310-0	\$1,970.27
Xcel Energy	Acct# 53-1084871-0	\$3,099.44
Zep Manufacturing Company	Zep 40 Aerosol/Cust# 11043427	\$274.59
TOTAL		\$358,612.57

November 2017 End-of-Month Vouchers

VENDOR	SERVICE	AMOUNT
Airgas USA, LLC	Inv Cont- 9069460873 9949025409	\$812.36
Alamosa Co Nursing Svc	Aug/Sept 2017 Contract Payment	\$4,135.19
Alamosa Co Nursing Svc	Contract Payment	\$2,205.31
Alamosa County	2016 Grant M&A/December Rent	\$300.00
Alta Fuels, LLC	Inv Cont-161432 160287 160409 160985	\$16,355.55
Asphalt Constructors	Hot Mix Asphalt	\$3,742.40
Asphalt Drum Mixers, Inc.	Hot Plant Repair	\$1,077.05
Big R Bridge	Galvanized Steel Structural Plate	\$8,060.00
Brenda Atencio	Election Judge Rla	\$50.00
Business Solutions Leasing, Inc.	Copier Lease	\$60.10
Carla Clutter	Canvass Judge/Mileage	\$63.50
CenturyLink	719-657-9167 029	\$65.74
CenturyLink	719-657-3454 758 Plant	\$59.24
CenturyLink	7198524781 380	\$432.48
CenturyLink	719-873-5588 534 South Fork	\$52.48
CenturyLink	719-657-0646 508	\$159.94
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000751300/Phones	\$562.05
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000758500/ Internet	\$97.75
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000751200/Phone 719-657-4000	\$577.24
Ciello Powered by SLVREC	Acct# 7000708800/Internet	\$59.95
Co State Forest Service	2017 Firewise Program/SRS Title Iii Funding	\$1,260.00
Colo Dept. of Agriculture	Scale and/or Measuring Device	\$280.00
Colorado Dept. of Ag/Plant Industry Div	Commercial Pesticide Applicator Business License	\$350.00
Colorado Dept. of Agriculture	Scales Tested	\$120.00
Columbine Automotive	Nylon Sleeve Red Extra Narrow/Female	\$22.00
	Track Search/Support for Software	
Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	Maintenance	\$25.00
Conduent Business Solutions, LLC	Indexing & Imaging-Land Records	\$1,088.29
Conejos County Nursing	July August September Contract Paymt	\$2,710.79
Conejos County Nursing	Tob Sub Contract	\$1,757.61
Costilla County Public	Tob Sub Contract for August and September	\$3,393.56
Costilla County Public	Youth Symposium Reimbursement	\$333.00
Costilla County Public	Tob Sub Contract for October	\$1,390.35
Cynthia Ford	Healthcare Coalition Coordinator	\$1,195.12
Del Norte Auto Supply	Inv Cont-54785 54673 56211	\$238.89
Del Norte Bank	Safe Deposit Box	\$15.00
Devi Jardon	Secretarial Wage	\$1,500.00
Dianne Koshak	Miles for November	\$300.60
District Attorney Office	12th Portion of the 2017 Budget	\$15,000.00
El Paso County Coroner	Autopsies	\$4,200.00
Emily Brown	Miles	\$343.14
First Bankcard	Acct# 4804079969931595/2015 Proj1 L2/M&A/2016 Proj1 L3/Proj1 L2/Proj1 L3	\$11,523.63
GCR Tire Center/Tds	Cust# 636802	\$25,327.51

Gobins, Inc.	Acct# 13756/#2011109690	\$107.48
Gobins, Inc.	Contract# Fru01780-01	\$33.08
Gobins, Inc.	Cust# 13756	\$182.93
Gobins, Inc.	Acct# 21609	\$35.02
Great America Financial	Agreement# 025-1070947-0000	\$384.04
Great America Financial	Agreement #015-0875980-000	\$497.20
Great America Financial	R&B Canon Copier Machine	\$136.17
Grover Hathorn	Work Session Meeting and Miles	\$63.50
Gunbarrel Station, Inc.	A-11/94/A-60/A-9/B-1	\$110.00
Haynie's Inc.	Acct# 7066	\$1,187.56
	Federal/State Posters/5-All In One English Poster	\$125.00
ICP Inc.	Poster	\$125.00
Ida Salazar	Miles	\$310.50
Industrial & Farm Supply	A28	\$91.92
International Sportsmen's Expo	Booth Space for 2018 Expo	\$625.00
Jaime Hurtado	Power of Prevention	\$87.35
	Misc and Repairs/Hand Held Airport Radio and Credit Card Paper	\$222.23
Jay Sarason		\$222.23
Jean Borrego	M&A Supp/Mat/Verizon	\$128.45
Jean Borrego	Shsg 2015/Proj 1 Planning/Travel Per Diem	\$286.90
Jean Borrego	Shsg 2016 Proj 1 Planning	\$5,000.00
Jorie Scott	Rla Judge/Mileage	\$64.40
Kathy's Fabric Trunk	Acct# RGSO/Sew On Patches	\$614.00
Kimrad Transport LP	Mc-250	\$2,377.48
	Grade 5 Nuts and Bolts By the Pound/And Statement Balance	\$32.04
Lenco West, Inc.		\$32.04
Leroy A Romero	Monthly Office Cleaning for November	\$150.00
Leslie Lopez	Monthly Pay Youth Summit	\$100.00
Linda Robinson	Canvass Judge/Mileage	\$63.50
Meadow Gold Dairies, Inc.	Inv Cont-81001872 81002111	\$542.88
	2018 T880/Freight to Pueblo/Headache Rack Jail Bar with Chain Trays and Hangers/Pto and Wet Kit Installed/Includes 5 Year 200K Engine and after Treatment Warranty	\$137,024.93
MHC Kenworth		\$137,024.93
Michael Mitchell	Work session and Miles	\$65.30
Michael Pena	Election Judge/Security/Mileage	\$156.00
Monica Falk	Election Judge/Mileage	\$253.50
Monica Felix	Election Judge/Mileage	\$250.60
Monte Vista Cooperative	Emily's Work Boots	\$98.69
Monte Vista Cooperative	Zero Ice Melt 50Lb Bags	\$101.94
Monte Vista Cooperative	Inv Cont-18249 65916 40628 39955	\$246.98
Monte Vista Machine Tool	Resurface Flywheel/ Sheer Material	\$107.00
Motorola Inc.	Inv Cont-13182623	\$46,112.66
Myers Brothers Truck and Tractor, Inc.	Heater Hose and Hose Clamp	\$25.88
Nancy Davis	Election Judge/Mileage	\$252.40
O & V Printing, Inc.	Postage-Extra Tabor Notices	\$10.85
Parts Plus of New Mexico, Inc.	Winter Wiper Blades	\$197.29
Paul Wertz	Mileage	\$174.60
Peggy J Kern	Mileage Po	\$9.00
Reliance Steel Co. #12	Expanded Metal/Hot Rolled Steel Sheet	\$517.50
	Ballot Paper/Ballot Envelope Printing/Postage Shipping	\$6,901.93
Response Technologies, Inc.		\$6,901.93
	Crack Sealing/Snow and Sanding/Striping/General Maintenance	\$29,156.32
Rio Grande County Road & Bridge		\$29,156.32
Rock Water Management, LLC	October and November Rent	\$900.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water November	\$27.00
S & S Distribution, Inc.	Water Delivery	\$40.00
Saguache Co Public Health	Aug Pymt	\$2,020.70
Saguache Co Public Health	Sept Oct Contract Pymt	\$3,365.22
Shamrock Foods Company	Inv Cont-10726317 10732379/Acct# 86268	\$4,074.93
	Mileage-Health Care Facilities/Coordinated Election	\$25.20
Sherryl Steving		\$25.20
Skyline Metal	Sno-Stop/Truck Room	\$9.95

SLV Behavioral Health Group	Aug Sept Behavioral Health Group	\$9,046.55
SLV Behavioral Health Group	October Pymt	\$8,462.07
SLV REC	#1001816/#1001815/#1001813/#1003804	\$610.00
SLV REC	Sf-4699010705/Dn-759843705	\$185.00
	November 2017 Renewals/December 2017	
State of Colorado	Renewals	\$650.81
Terisa Atkins	Election Judge/Mileage	\$250.60
Thompson Distributing Inc.		\$515.94
United Rentals, Inc.	Paint	\$437.58
United Reprographic	Maintenance Agreement/Cost Per Copy	\$217.53
Valley Lumber and Supply, Inc.	Wire-Chip Brush-Paint-Survey Stakes	\$208.59
Valley Publishing	Notice of Election/2017 Coordinated Election	\$399.00
Valley Publishing	Budget Legal Notice	\$72.00
Valuwest, Inc.	Commercial Reappraisal Pmt	\$3,000.00
	Heating Service 10/11/2017 Troublshot Boiler/	
Vendola Plumbing, Inc.	Control Module Fail	\$1,017.50
Volvo of Denver	Acct# 478100	\$580.00
Wagner Equipment	Inv Cont-So3W0835598 Po3C0453341	\$2,315.32
Wesley O'Rourke	Work session and Miles	\$63.50
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-819102-5	\$1,349.59
Wex Bank	Acct# 0406-00-821424-9	\$3,917.85
William F. Dunn	Legal Fees/ Mileage/Per Diem Lodging	\$3,373.37
	2015 Homeland Security Grant New Computer	
WSB Computer Services	for Jean Borrego	\$2,982.00
WSB Computer Services	Tray Assembly/Color Printer	\$115.00
WSB Computer Services	Remote Mgmt/Backup	\$253.00
WSB Computer Services	Maintenance Agreement	\$2,500.00
Xcel Energy	Acct# 53-1143312-0	\$378.63
Xcel Energy	Acct# 53-1143312-0	\$7,194.27
TOTAL		\$407,083.52

November 2017 Payroll

County General	\$211,948.96
Road and Bridge	\$ 77,012.13
Social Services	\$114,745.76
Weed District	\$ 3,570.67
Airport	\$ 1,022.90
Public Health	\$ 18,993.22
TOTAL	\$427,293.64

At 9:11 a.m., the Board adjourned to the Board of the Department of Social Services.

At 9:50 a.m., the Board reconvened. Chairman Shriver reported that she learned at the recent CCI conference that the availability of Secure Rural Schools funding is becoming questionable. She also reported that Payments in Lieu of Taxes funding will be available in 2018. She stated that there is work being done to make these funds permanent. Ms. Wisdom said the Board will need to think about how to handle these changes in the future. Commissioner Glover suggested having discussions with the school superintendents in the County about how SRS funds will be handled.

Commissioner Glover reported attending the CCI cyber meeting. He said his eyes were opened in terms of the need for password systems and hiring trustworthy IT specialists. Chairman Shriver asked if the meeting covered the sort of work that Tobin and Associates performs for the County (penetration tests of the computer system). Commissioner Glover said the meeting did not cover that, but said that he learned it is important also to protect personal computers so that hackers are not able to obtain access to the County system through them.

Ms. Wisdom reported that she is exploring a dual-key lock box that would be used to hold County passwords and keep them safe.

At 10:06 Commissioner Bothell reported that the County won a projector from CTSI.

Ms. Wisdom requested approval to be allowed access to the Rio Grande County Colorado Counties Officials and Employees Retirement Association accounts, due to the extended illness of Kristy Dennis, Human Resources. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve Ms. Wisdom's access to CCOERA accounts. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom presented a letter to the Rio Grande Water Canal Association appointing Patrick Sullivan, Road and Bridge Department, to act as proxy at the annual stockholders meeting. Commissioner Bothell moved to appoint Mr. Sullivan as proxy. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Wisdom presented a letter of support to Tom Metsa, Colorado State Parks, in support of the Rio Grande National Forest-Divide Ranger District Office's grant applications for two separate trail maintenance crew projects. The draft of this letter was approved by the Board via email. Commissioner Bothell moved to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Glover seconded the motion and the motion carried. The letter was signed.

Ms. Wisdom requested a signature on an amendment to the Department of Local Affairs grant to the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Team stewardship agreement. The County is the fiscal agent for this grant. Ms. Wisdom explained that the entire amount of the grant has not been spent, so the contract is being extended for a year. Commissioner Glover moved to approve the amendment to the DOLA grant. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Shriver reported that she may not attend the December 19, 2017, BOCC meeting, where the mill levy will be certified. She has been asked to attend a meeting in Denver regarding funding for the radar project being proposed for the Valley.

Ms. Wisdom reported being contacted by the Colorado Work Force Board, who is requesting a County representative who owns a business. The Work Force Board meets quarterly. She asked the Board to consider whom to appoint.

Ms. Wisdom reported receiving two bids for the work on the Veterans wastewater treatment plant, and said she is expecting another bid on December 1, 2017. She stated that these bids need to be opened with representatives from the City of Monte Vista next week. Chairman Shriver suggested opening them during the December 6, 2017, meeting, noting that no decision can be made. She said a decision could be made by the end of the month.

Ms. Wisdom reported that the RL Banks feasibility study of the railroad will be complete by December 31, 2017. She said there is some concern regarding the tailings on the Creede side of the railroad, which is an environmental concern. Chairman Shriver suggested that a Brownfields grant might be available to fund the mitigation.

Ms. Wisdom reported that she attended an All Hazards meeting on November 27, 2017. She learned that an emergency exercise was conducted recently and said that an emergency exercise needs to be planned for the Astronaut Rominger Airport. She also reported that San Luis Valley 911 funding is available to train dispatchers. She suggested that the County dispatchers could receive training from CSP 911 Dispatch.

At 10:20 a.m., Patrick Sullivan and Darryl Miles, Road and Bridge Department, and KC Ware and Ed Smola, Caterpillar Finance, were present to discuss leasing or purchasing graders for the Road and Bridge Department. Chairman Shriver explained that there have been conversations the last few months regarding whether to purchase or lease equipment for the Department. Mr. Sullivan explained that the Department has requested two additional leases in 2018. He said he believes leasing is a good deal.

Commissioner Bothell said there are three leased graders in the Department at this time. She presented a spreadsheet based on the lease for the L-24 grader showing a new equipment price and payments and lease payments, and the balloon payment due at the end of the lease. She noted that the leases did not include the number of hours a grader can be used. Mr. Ware explained that because the last payment is a balloon payment, there is no limit to the hours a grader can be used.

Commissioner Bothell stated that at the end of a five-year lease, the balloon payment is made, but there is no guarantee as to what the grader is worth. She said she looked up market value and estimated that the value would be approximately \$150,000, with 7,500 hours of use. Mr. Ware said there is not much sales history, and noted that he recently had a \$170,000.00 trade-in.

Commissioner Bothell stated that when a grader is turned in at the end of the lease, there is no trade-in value; the next time a grader is leased, it is leased for its full amount. She noted that payments on new equipment would be \$41,000.00, based on the 3.2 percent interest rate the County is currently paying. She said that when speaking to a representative from Cat Finance, she was told the lowest rate they currently offer is 4.2 percent, 1 percent higher than the current lease-purchases. Mr. Smola stated that he has the authority to lower interest rates. Commissioner Bothell asked if interest rates are based on market rates. Mr. Smola said interest rates are based on many factors, not on bonds or the stock market. He explained that Caterpillar Finance provides private financing. He noted that interest rates would go up if rates increase across the board. He said that interest rates are monitored on a monthly basis, and stated that when a lease is contracted, the interest rate is fixed for the term of the lease.

Commissioner Bothell explained that her concern with leasing graders is not the first lease (there are plans to lease new equipment every year to replace older equipment), but with the second batch of leases, when the first graders are turned in at the end of the five-year term. The final payment "eats up" the value of the grader and there is no trade-in value. She said if all seven graders are leased, the cost of the payments is \$280,000.00 per year if the interest rate does not go up. If new graders are purchased with a trade-in, the cost to purchase them would be \$260,000.00 each, until new graders with higher trade-in values are traded in. She explained that the interest on the current leases is \$32,000.00 per grader. Commissioner Bothell stated that she believes purchasing the graders rather than leasing them will save the cost of the interest payments. The amount of the payments, if all seven graders are leased, when trade-in values are considered, would be enough to purchase a new grader every 8.5 months.

Commissioner Glover asked if the leases are closed-in leases with buy-out values. He asked what the trade-in values are. Mr. Sullivan said that the trade-in value for a 1995 grader was \$58,500.00. The trade-in value for a 2005 grader was \$105,000.00. Commissioner Glover asked if the graders were limited to 7,500 hours. Mr. Sullivan said the hours are included as part of the warranty. Commissioner Bothell stated that there could be a 7,500-hour warranty on purchased graders. Mr. Sullivan said that was incorrect; there is a five-year warranty on a purchased grader. Commissioner Bothell asked if the same warranty on a leased grader could be purchased for a purchased grader. Mr. Ware said it could.

Commissioner Bothell also asked what the benefits of leasing equipment are. Mr. Smola explained that the benefit is being able to defer cash flow over time. He said the balloon payment is determined based on hours used and the estimated worth of the machine on the wholesale market. He said financing options are offered to lessors, and stated that leasing helps the Department obtain more equipment because the cash flow is better. Commissioner Bothell stated that by the time the Department leases seven graders, the cash flow would be the same amount needed to purchase a single grader. She said that for the same amount of money a new grader could be purchased every year. Mr. Ware explained that other municipalities use leases to obtain more machines per year, rather than just one. Chairman Shriver added that the leasing plan keeps the fleet updated.

Commissioner Bothell stated that the end value of \$150,000.00 is lost at the end of the lease. By the time the trade-in is calculated, she said a new grader could be purchased every eight months. She asked if the goal is to not have equipment older than five years. Mr. Sullivan said this is the goal. Mr. Ware stated that there is a cost to leasing equipment and added that Commissioner Bothell's spreadsheet is logical.

Commissioner Bothell noted that at the end of the lease the Department has the option to purchase the machine. She said if multiple machines are purchased, they would use the same parts. Mr. Sullivan said the warranty covers this, noting that if the machine is owned, the parts are only covered for five years. Commissioner Bothell said this would be the same if a machine and extended warranty are purchased. She also said that in the second five-year period, the cost becomes larger for the County with no trade in. She suggested that the Road and Bridge Department purchase one grader, rather than lease two.

Commissioner Glover explained that the trade-in value gives the Department the option to purchase the grader and refinance the balloon payment. Chairman Shriver agreed, noting that the County would own the machine. Commissioner Glover said that trade-ins are hour-friendly to lease. Chairman Shriver said that the lower the hours on a machine, the higher the trade-in value. Commissioner Bothell said this would be the same with a purchased machine.

Chairman Shriver asked about the electronics on the graders. Mr. Ware said the company is working on better controls and better engines; technology improves all the time. Commissioner

Bothell said if a grader was purchased, the County would save \$32,000.00 and the warranties would be the same.

Chairman Shriver said the Road and Bridge Department is projected to receive \$278,000.00 from the County Mill levy. She said other equipment is needed and other funds would have to be used to purchase this equipment. Commissioner Bothell said the cost would be higher this year to purchase a grader, but in five years, the cost would be less. Chairman Shriver said that to purchase two machines a lump sum would have to come from the fund balance. Commissioner Bothell said that while leases cost less now, they cost more over time.

Commissioner Glover explained that the Department is working to build up its equipment. He said if two of the old graders go down, the Department would be in trouble. If the Department obtains two more graders, more work can be done.

Mr. Sullivan reported that a 2006 grader was purchased from the State and had \$25,000.00 worth of problems. He said that money could be applied to a lease for a new machine with new technology. He said at the end of five years, this machine is traded in for a new one. He said that with new technology it made sense to give the Department's employees the best equipment possible. He asked what would happen if a new grader is purchased every year, and other equipment goes down. He said no one likes to pay interest, but the Department has other needs. He said there is no ideal replacement schedule, because it is hard to predict what will break down. Commissioner Bothell said that without the interest payments, the Department would have more money for other equipment over time. The first purchase will cost more, but there will be savings down the road.

Mr. Sullivan said that he and Commissioner Bothell would have to agree to disagree. He said the first three years of lease program has been good for the Road and Bridge Department.

Chairman Shriver noted that the 2018 budget includes the lease-purchase option. She said two motions were possible: to purchase a new grader or to continue the lease-purchase program. Ms. Wisdom said the cash flow discussion is pertinent. She explained that the amount of \$656,000.00 is being taken from the fund balance. A purchase in the amount of \$200,000.00 would increase that number to approximately \$800,000.00. She said that \$152,000.00 is budgeted for lease payments. Chairman Shriver added that people want County roads fixed. She asked if the Board wants road to be fixed or to purchase a new grader. She said projects have been discussed and the County needs to commit to making road improvements. Commissioner Bothell asked Chairman Shriver if she is comfortable spending a higher amount of money. Chairman Shriver said that her goal is to get work completed for the citizens.

Commissioner Bothell moved to purchase one new grader this year and one new grader next year rather than leasing equipment. There was no second to this motion and the motion died. Commissioner Glover moved to continue with the lease-purchase program. He said he has no problem with leasing and stated that he does not want words put in his mouth about spending County money. He said his goal is to do the best for the Road and Bridge Department at this time. Chairman Shriver seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioner Bothell voting no. Commissioner Bothell requested two bids from leasing companies.

At 11:05 a.m., Ms. Wisdom presented the 2017 Supplementary Budget Resolution for the Board's review. She explained that the supplementary budget must be approved by December 27, 2017. Ms. Wisdom explained that postage comes from the general fund. She noted that CTSI insurance costs for property, liability, and workers' compensation increased. The jail had additional expenses for repairs. The Road and Bridge Department purchased a truck in 2017, rather than in 2016. The Weed District's expenses increased because a flagger had to be hired and chemicals were more expensive. The airport did not budget for a purchase of equipment from Denver International Airport. This purchase was an 80-20 percent split, and the County was reimbursed the 20 percent after the purchase. Ms. Wisdom explained changes in revenues. The Homeland Security grant was awarded after January 1, 2017. The Department of Social Services received additional grants. SRS funds were given to the Road and Bridge Department. The supplemental budget includes the number of hours the Road and Bridge Department worked at the airport. Ms. Wisdom said the supplemental budget is available for public comment.

Commissioner Bothell asked that the 2018 County budget be corrected to indicate that there will be two leases in the Road and Bridge Department rather than three. She also asked that the reference to Caterpillar be removed, because the leases may not be with Caterpillar because there needs to be two bids.

The Board reviewed the 2018 County Budget. Chairman Shriver commented that she likes the format. Commissioner Bothell asked what the facility for DSS refers to under goals. Ms. Wisdom said that an additional building might be acquired so Single Entry Point and DSS could share the same space. Chairman Shriver thanked Ms. Wisdom for preparing the budget.

At 11:25 a.m., the Board reviewed the holiday and meeting schedule for 2018. The holiday schedules from other counties were reviewed for comparison. Chairman Shriver said that Managers' Meetings need to be planned with the department heads. Ms. Wisdom said these meetings have to be posted because the BOCC attends them. Commissioner Bothell said that it would be good to start scheduling trainings for the department heads now. Chairman Shriver noted that Rio Grande County is not closed on Columbus Day. Ms. Wisdom said that the employees agreed to work on Columbus Day in exchange for having the day after Thanksgiving off. Ms. Wisdom suggested adding Columbus Day to the 2018 holiday schedule, along with a half-day off on Christmas Eve. She said this might make employees who are concerned about the County's low salaries feel better.

Ms. Wisdom noted that Rio Grande County has 10.5 holidays; Alamosa County has 12 days; Conejos County has 13.5 days; Costilla County has 12 days, and Mineral County has 11.5 days.

Commissioner Glover stated that most employers do not explain their benefit packages (including holidays) to their employees. He said that the Human Resources Department must emphasize the actual monetary value of benefits and holidays. Commissioner Bothell suggested that this be given in a statement at the end of the year. Chairman Shriver said this has been done in the past and is time consuming to create. Ms. Wisdom said she would be able to demonstrate how valuable time off is.

Chairman Shriver asked if pay for annual leave is considered a liability on the County financials. Ms. Wisdom said it is considered a liability; if an employee resigns, annual leave must be paid. Commissioner Glover asked if an employee can buy out vacation days. Ms. Wisdom said they cannot.

At 11:50 a.m., the meeting recessed.

At 1:30 p.m., the meeting reconvened, and adjourned to the Board of Adjustments. Dixie Diltz, Land Use Department, and Frances Perea, Monte Vista Headstart, were present.

Ms. Diltz explained that an application was submitted by the Monte Vista Headstart for a variance of the County sign code. The owner of the property is the City of Monte Vista. The property is leased by the Monte Vista Headstart. Monte Vista Headstart wants to install an illuminated sign to provide information to parents and the community. The sign will be 33.4 square feet and will be installed 85 feet north of Sherman Avenue. Ms. Diltz said the sign will not obstruct traffic. According to the Land Use Code Book signs in rural residential areas should be 20 square feet in size, not lighted, and 10 feet high. Ms. Diltz explained that notice of the application for the variance was sent to neighboring property owners on October 27, 2017. There has been no opposition to the sign.

Commissioner Bothell asked how the sign will be illuminated. Ms. Perea explained that the sign will show one solid message, rather than a scrolling message; the message will be changed as needed. She also said that the illumination will be dimmed at night. Chairman Shriver asked how old the County sign code is. Ms. Diltz said she found the code, which was dated 1998. She stated that she did not know of any changes. Chairman Shriver noted that technology has changed since 1998. Commissioner Glover asked if the property is in the County or the City of Monte Vista, and Ms. Diltz said it is in the County. Commissioner Glover asked if the sign would be lighted on both sides. Ms. Perea said the sign would be lighted only on the south-facing side.

Commissioner Glover moved to approve the application for the variance. Commissioner Bothell seconded the motion and the motion carried. Book 588 Page 1784

At 1:40 p.m., the meeting of the Board of Adjustments was adjourned. The Board of County Commissioners meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Bothell asked when comments are due on the Forest Service revised management plan. Chairman Shriver stated that Erin Minks, Forest Service, will be included on an upcoming agenda.

At 2:00 p.m., a public hearing regarding Rio Grande County's 2018 Budget was opened. Several members of the community were present, along with County employees: Jody Kern,

Department of Social Services; Clerk and Recorder Cindy Hill; County Treasurer Peggy Kern; Frank Clark, Sheriff's Department; Dale Trujillo and Eva Salazar, County Assessor's Office; and County Sheriff Brian Norton. Several deputies were also present.

Chairman Shriver welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating that it is good for people to be engaged with the County budget process.

Ms. Wisdom explained that the County budget is not created in a vacuum. She stated that the process began in August 2017, and that by State statute the budget must be balanced. The budget for 2018 is \$22,228,087.00. This is a seven percent increase from the 2017 budget. County revenue comes from property taxes (\$2,889,545.00), local revenues (\$1,549,013.00), and intergovernmental (\$16,219,700.00). In order to balance the 2018 budget, \$1,569,829.00 will be taken from fund reserves.

Ms. Wisdom explained that a three percent cost of living increase will be given to all County employees in order to raise base salaries to comply with the Affordable Care Act requirements. Ms. Wisdom also explained that the County has used a step-and-range salary program, but noted that it has not been updated for some time. It has been updated for 2018. She stated that department heads will be able to award two percent merit increases on employees' anniversaries with a satisfactory evaluation. There has been a five percent increase in health insurance costs for 2018; the County will pay for this increase.

Ms. Wisdom explained that there will be some capital expenditures in 2018, for equipment upgrades and vehicles. Also, \$110,000.00 has been budgeted for inmate health care (either hiring a nurse or for other programs). The BOCC has approved several staff increases, as well. Ms. Wisdom stated that the County mill levy, which has not been increased in many years, is 15.567. The mill levy will be distributed as follows in 2018:

General Fund:	11.292 mills	\$2,096,020.00
Road and Bridge:	1.5 mills	\$ 278,430.00
Social Services:	2.3 mills	\$ 426,926.00
Capital Expenditures:	0.125 mills	\$ 23,202.00
Public Health:	0.35 mills	\$ 64,967.00

Chairman Shriver reported that the yearly budget message is prepared and published annually in the December minutes. She recommended that citizens can currently review the budget messages on the internet from 2008, because the BOCC minutes are published that far back; hard copies of the budgets are also available. She stated that the Board attended the recent Colorado Counties Inc. conference, where the main concerns expressed had to do with underfunded courthouses and jail issues. Commissioner Glover agreed, stating that these are statewide issues. Chairman Shriver stated that the County is like a wheel with many spokes. The Board is responsible for all the departments of the County: Road and Bridge Department, Weed District, Airport, Department of Social Services, Department of Public Health, Land Use Department, Building Department, Maintenance Department, Tourism, the Sheriff's Department, and the Jail.

Chairman Shriver stated that many people were in attendance today because of a Facebook post on the internet that stated that "no raises have been given to Sheriff's Department deputies since 2003." She reported that Commissioner Bothell and Sheriff Norton requested a salary increase for the deputies in August 2017; this was tabled. Chairman Shriver explained that each County department submitted their requested budgets in September 2017. There were two special work sessions regarding the Sheriff's budget on October 24 and October 31, 2017. She said that a great deal of time and effort went into preparing the preliminary budget, which was presented in October 2017. The preliminary budget reflected a salary increase for all County employees that was equal in percentage.

Chairman Shriver reported that there is a statewide problem regarding providing health care for inmates. She explained that at the first of this year, a meeting was held with Rio Grande Hospital and the Alamosa County jail nurse. She reported that Sheriff Norton has since reviewed several options for providing inmate health care. Funds were included in the 2018 budget to pay for this health care. Chairman Shriver said when Sheriff Norton was asked how the program would work, the Board discovered that there would need to be additional funds to cover expenses related to a supervising doctor. Chairman Shriver stated that Sheriff Norton needs to decide how to conduct the program.

Chairman Shriver reported that after the preliminary budget was prepared, Ms. Wisdom discovered that the step-and-range salary program had not been updated; there were errors

that needed to be corrected. Chairman Shriver said that the ACA has had an impact on employees' salaries.

Other issues regarding the Sheriff's Department budget were pointed out by Chairman Shriver. She suggested that it might be less expensive to use the 911 system rather than having dispatching done by the Sheriff's Department. She said that Alamosa County spends \$70,000.00 on 911 calls; Conejos County spends \$47,000.00; and the City of Monte Vista spends \$83,000.00. A request was made to the Sheriff's Department for call reports from 2014 through 2017. These reports have not been submitted.

Chairman Shriver reported that the budget approval process began on October 11, 2017, with approval of the preliminary budget. On November 15, 2017, two budgets were presented: One reflected the across the board pay increase for all employees; the other reflected an additional increase for Sheriff's Department deputies. The vote for the first option was split, but the motion passed. The second option did not pass. Chairman Shriver said the final approval of the budget would be made on December 6, 2017.

In a Power Point presentation, Chairman Shriver presented the mill levies for all the counties in the Valley. She pointed out that Rio Grande County has the lowest mill levy in the Valley. She explained that a vote of the people to increase the mill levy failed in 2005. She stated that in 2010, another vote to provide a mill to the animal shelter and a mill for other County services also failed. She said the voter appetite to increase taxes is low. Chairman Shriver also noted that the majority of taxes collected in the County goes to other entities. The County only keeps 19 percent of collected taxes. Property taxes in 2018 for the general fund will be in the amount of \$2,096,020.00. The Sheriff's Department budget is in the amount of \$2,288,744.00. Chairman Shriver said that Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds pays for many expenses. She stated the County will probably receive these funds in 2018 and they may become permanent in the future.

Chairman Shriver stated that Sheriff Norton has stated that deputies have not received pay raises since 2006. She also stated that the Facebook post stated that there have been no raises since 2003. Deputies have received the same automatic salary increases as other County employees. Chairman Shriver presented a table that showed that increases have been available since 2003. She stressed that merit raises are not automatic increases. The supervisor has to submit a request for a merit increase. She noted that Sheriff Norton does not turn in employee evaluations to the Human Resources Department, so it is unclear if deputies have received merit increases. Chairman Shriver also stated that there were no employee raises at all in 2005, 2010, or 2011. She also presented increases in health insurance premiums. Chairman Shriver stated that County employee benefits include retirement funds, life insurance, and dental insurance.

Chairman Shriver reported that the County has helped employees cover health insurance costs. In 2017, health insurance deductibles were increased, which lowered insurance premiums. The County will pay for the increased cost of the health insurance premium in 2018.

Chairman Shriver presented a revenue and expense comparison for other Valley Sheriff's Departments. This information was obtained from the DOLA website. Revenues collected by the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department are lower than other Valley departments.

Chairman Shriver reported that the County has a lease on the jail building in the amount of \$200,000.00 per year. The expenses for the Sheriff's Office are in the amount of \$1.8 million. A grant funds courthouse security staff. Chairman Shriver asked why the County Sheriff's Department's expense budget is approximately \$612,000.00 higher than the Conejos County Sheriff's Department budget. She noted that the concealed carry classes offered by the County Sheriff's Department are free, and asked if there are ways the Department can generate income. Chairman Shriver said that information needs to be disseminated regarding the costs of law enforcement in the County. Law enforcement costs \$4 million in the County (this includes the Town of Del Norte, the City of Monte Vista, and Rio Grande County), and \$15.5 million in the Valley.

Chairman Shriver said these issues need to be resolved, but the County does not have the revenue. She said Rio Grande County cannot keep up with Alamosa County, and Alamosa County will not discuss sharing revenue. She said that internet sales are hurting the County. She said there is high employee turnover in many departments because Rio Grande County cannot compete with salaries in other counties.

Chairman Shriver reported that an undersheriff has not been hired in the Sheriff's Department since former Undersheriff Rapps retired. In the proposed 2018 budget, \$10,000.00 was moved from the K-9 unit to the undersheriff's salary. She noted that some candidates cannot pass

background checks. She asked if the Sheriff's staff is efficient during working hours. She reported that there have been complaints from the Sargent area regarding speeding and running stop signs. She asked what is being done about this. She asked why a County transport van was on the scene of a recent automobile accident on Highway 160. She pointed out that deputies are provided with meals, uniforms, and vehicles. An audience member commented that the deputies need vehicles in order to respond to calls. Chairman Shriver asked why an unmanned Sheriff's vehicle is parked on a property in order to slow down traffic, but this technique is not used in other areas. Chairman Shriver reported that some items are not budgeted: repairs to the jail, which are a constant challenge, claims against the Department, and attorney expenses.

Audience member Bill Miller asked Chairman Shriver if she would work for \$28,000.00 per year and risk her life doing it. He said that the deputies do not make enough money, while the Commissioners make almost \$50,000.00 per year. He said the Sheriff makes \$60,000.00 per year and the deputies make \$28,000.00. He added that there is not enough help in the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Miller stated that people are needed to get rid of drugs. Chairman Shriver responded that Sheriff Norton does not have to set the salaries of new deputies at the lowest level. Mr. Miller said the Sheriff should make his own decisions and stated that the BOCC does not have a clue about what is happening. He added that thefts need to be controlled and stated that Monte Vista is not doing drug busts. He suggested that the County cut back on other areas, stating that trails do not make money. He said that revenues need to be generated for the community.

Deputy Michael Pena stated that he was asked to come out of retirement ten months ago to join the Sheriff's Department on a part-time basis. He said the Sheriff's Department does not pay well and he has a vehicle that does not run well. He stated that he goes on calls by himself. He said he does not like the way the BOCC treats the Sheriff. He noted that tickets are written in the Sargent area.

Charles Spielman stated, "For the record my name is Charles Spielman. I'm a 4th generation RGC resident. I am currently pres, MVEDC, pres, MVCA, and rep industrial water users on the RGBRT.

"From my perspective, RGC has, for our population size, a significantly large and serious drug-related crime problem.

"Admittedly I know very little about law enforcement, but I know a lot about analyzing and solving problems. It seems to me, considering our crime problem, RGC is going all wrong in your approach to setting the sheriff's budget, with solving the crime problem as your primary objective.

"First, I believe, the sheriff should do his very best to prepare and justify a budget with the main goal of analyzing, containing, and eventually eliminating our drug/crime problem. It should include all of equipment, staff, and training necessary, including paying the staff well enough to acquire, train and retain the necessary people.

"Then the RGC commission should do its level best (with outside consultants if necessary) to objectively review and if justified, modify the proposed sheriff's budget.

"There should be no negotiation, as at present: trim a person here and there; lower wages to below a competitive level; put off a necessary piece of eqpt till next year, etc.

"If, at any point in the budget process, we say, in effect, we can't afford to do a top-notch job of law enforcement, the drug criminals will have won the battle."

Deputy Michael Swartz stated that he makes \$2,000.00 per month, and his take-home pay is \$500.00. He said he is lucky if he has a partner to work with, and noted that he is on the road from South Fork to County Road 6 East. He stated that no one will apply here unless there is a pay increase. He said that health insurance should be paid.

An audience member asked what the pay scale is for Road and Bridge Department employees, noting that deputies are on the road 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Commissioner Shriver indicated that she did not have that information readily available.

Jim Hensley stated that he has been a deputy since 2013. He said he started, with experience, at a salary of \$14.24 per hour. Chairman Shriver explained that the BOCC does not set wages for deputies. Deputy Hensley stated that he found another job in 2015, because he could not

pay his bills. He said he got a judgement for his rent. He now volunteers 50 hours per month for the Sheriff's Department.

Carl Hatch stated that people are concerned. He asked how more money could be obtained for the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Shriver explained that a tax increase will have to go before the voters, whether it is a mill levy or a sales tax. She stated that Las Animas County recently passed a public safety tax. Commissioner Glover stated that the BOCC is committed to put a tax increase question on the next ballot. He asked Mr. Miller if he would vote for a tax increase. Commissioner Glover said that the increase would have to be designated to go to law enforcement. Mr. Miller suggested that deputies should receive hazard pay.

Frank Clark asked how much money is needed. He stated that there is only 50 percent employment in the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Glover stated that wages are the big factor, but the building and the vehicles are issues to deal with.

Sheriff Norton stated that the hiring of a nurse for the jail was tabled at the last meeting. He said the program is up in the air in terms of what to fund. Commissioner Glover said he would connect Sheriff Norton with the hospital and a nurse. Sheriff Norton stated that he has asked for a health care program for the jail for 15 years, and it is only now that funds have been budgeted. Chairman Shriver stated that it is Sheriff Norton's job to do. She added that after the BOCC asked questions after the preliminary budget was prepared, it was determined that there would be extra costs because a doctor would have to supervise the program. She said that the Sheriff should run the program. She also told Sheriff Norton that deputies salaries should start at the correct wage based on the deputies' experience. She noted that there are three line items from the Sheriff's Department budget on the 2017 supplemental budget.

An audience member stated that it takes a lot to feed inmates. County Treasurer Peggy Kern stated that payroll is exponential and this needs to be made clear. Mr. Miller said that Sheriff Norton should run his own department, and asked why the BOCC dictates to the Sheriff.

Deputy Hensley stated that drawing revenue from tickets is illegal taxation. He said he gives a warning, then tickets the driver if the driver is stopped again.

Deputy Pino stated that the transport officer was passing by the scene of the automobile accident discussed above. He stopped to help direct traffic. He stated that County residents can impeach the Commissioners for not supporting law enforcement.

Jeff McCullough thanked the Sheriff's Department, and asked if the District Attorney is part of the Sheriff's budget. Chairman Shriver said the DA is not part of the Sheriff's budget. Mr. McCullough said that the DA is not doing the job. He said that deputies pick up the same people all the time and they are let go.

Charlie Burd stated that he is opposed to deputies being traffic officers. He said that all the recent crime makes him feel as if he has to "take a number" in order to receive help from the Sheriff's Department. He asked if the County has taken on other issues that prevent financing the Sheriff's Department. He said with the drugs, the community needs to be better protected. He said it is better to work on the drug issue than to write tickets. He added that more expertise is needed to investigate and follow up.

Deputy Tyler Dean stated that he has been with the Sheriff's Department for five years. He said that when County deputies are paid less than Del Norte Police Department officers, there are job openings in the Sheriff's Department for a year. He noted that the Del Norte Police Department pays for health insurance. He said there are three applications for a job opening and the Sheriff's Department is reviewing one. He said the Sheriff's Department needs to be comparable to other agencies, so cases can be investigated. He stated that investigations are difficult because the community does not come forward. He said deputies cannot provide safety with current salaries.

Deputy Pena stated that 10 Alamosa officers used to work in the Sheriff's Department. They left the Department for better salaries.

Mr. Spielman stated that deputies are being paid less than harvest help. He noted that people are picked up and released quickly. He asked what the salary of a dump truck driver is.

An audience member asked that Sheriff's Department salaries be compared to other agencies. Mr. Miller asked that the Board vote on the issue in front of the group. Chairman Shriver explained that the vote on the 2018 budget is on the agenda for the December 6, 2017, meeting. Mr. Miller stated that someone will get killed and it will be on the heads of the

Commissioners. Chairman Shriver invited the audience to return on December 6, 2017, for the vote.

At 3:45 p.m., the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Shriver stated that the contention is the bottom-line money. She said the Sheriff should juggle his budget. Commissioner Glover stated that a BOCC meeting is needed to discuss the issue. Commissioner Bothell said the next BOCC meeting is December 6, 2017, and stated that it will be difficult for Ms. Wisdom to make final adjustments to the budget at that meeting. It was decided to call a special BOCC meeting on December 4, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

At 3:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Karla Shriver, Chairman
Chairman of the Board

Mona Syring
Clerk of the Board