

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2006**

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTER COUNTY MET IN
REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Downey	Chairman
Kit Shy	Vice-chair
Dale Hoag	Commissioner
Ric Ferron	County Administrator
Debbie Livengood	Clerk to the Board

Also present was Nora Drenner and Carole Custer

Road and Bridge Supervisor, Clint Englehart, met with the Board to give his monthly report.

WORK COMPLETED IN OCTOBER

- Graded County Rd. 255
- Repaired culvert on County Rd. 271
- Continued blading in Blumenau
- Graded in Antelope Valley
- Continued patching on Rosita
- Continued grading in south valley
- Installed drainage behind fire station
- Trenched drainage ditches and graveled Bull Domingo Dr.
- Plowed snow as needed
- Graded in Cuerno Verde

WORK PLANNED

- Continue patching
- Major rebuild of County Rd. 323 between County Rd. 320 and County Rd. 325
- Plow snow as needed
- Complete grading in Blumenau
- Continue grading in Rosita Hills
- Mix and stockpile salt and sand

Other Road & Bridge issues brought up:

- Shop roof is of great concern because of snow season.
- Green Leaf berm along Schoolfield could cause drifting.
- Some Property Owners Associations have offered funds for road improvement. This is a delicate issue.

Jerry Lacy who is the county's Veterans Service Officer, and Rick "Hutch" Hutchison, Deputy Director with the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, met with the Board to give them an update on the information that Jerry had just received at a seminar he attended and introduce Mr. Hutchison to the Board. Currently there are 576 individuals in our county that are receiving benefits from this organization, which is a total of \$816,000.00 a year. Mr. Lacy believes that there are approx. 1,200 veterans in our county, and there has been a 40% increase in applications for benefits within the last six months. There have also been some changes in legislation on who qualifies for benefits. With these changes the number of applications will probably keep getting higher. Currently Jerry is working out of his home, but would like to find a space where he can open an office. Mr. Lacy, knowing that the county had no space available, looked into what might be available in town. The Raven Woods building and the Porth building both have space available. The Board suggested that he check at the Chamber building as well. The next step would be how to find the funds to pay for office space. Mr. Hutchinson commented that there is grant money available. The deadline for filing an application for a grant is March 31st and has to be done through a non-profit organization. There does not need to be any matching funds in order to apply for the grant, however, it does look good on an application. Matching funds can be in the form of equipment, or office space. Mr. Hutchison offered to help with the grant application, if the county was interested. He will meet back with the Board at a later date.

The Board met with the Social Service Department.

Commissioner Downey reported on the DA's 2007 proposed budget meeting that was held in Canon City. The District Attorney for the 11 Judicial District, was asking for an additional \$45,367 over last years budget. Every one that was in attendance (Park, Chaffee, Custer, and Fremont) was in agreement of the additional funds with the exception of Fremont County who stated they did not have the additional money. After much discussion, it was decided to cut her request in half. This will make Custer County's share of the DA's budget for 2007, \$64,307.50. The budget was approved for 2007.

The Board met with John Piquette, Clint Englehart, and Sam DeNardo joined them by a conference call to discuss using money from the Road & Bridge Reserve Fund balance in the 2006 budget to maintain existing roads. Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hoag to approve the inclusion of \$187,000.00 from the Road & Bridge fund balance in the 2007 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

County Extension Agent, Karen Crumbaker met with the Board to give them an update. She reviewed the requirements to be followed in order to Premise I.D. farm animals and the fact that the state will be making this program mandatory for the 4-H animals as well. She also reported that sixteen people attended the workshops pertaining to a private application license for spraying herbicides.

Karen will be going to a Tamerasc workshop in La Junta next week and will also be attending an Upper Arkansas weed meeting in Canon City. Also discussed was the economic development committee and how the group is getting very frustrated with the outcome of these meetings. Karen also will remind her various boards of upcoming reappointments.

Chuck Ippolito met with the Board to give an IT update. He has sent Chuck Neilly, who is our GIS contractor for E-911 a copy of our GIS database showing our county roads and address points. Chuck will also be purchasing an updated software package for our GPS system and will attend a two-day training seminar on how to use this equipment.

At the request of the Board, Chuck gave a presentation of the program he wrote for the sheriff's office to help with their case filings, a power point presentation he wrote for the extension office, and a program he put together for the zoning office to process their post cards that are sent to all individuals that have permits open in their office at the end of the year.

The Board adjourned at 2:50pm.