

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 15, 2009

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

Lynn Attebery	Chairman
Jim Austin	Vice-Chairman
Carole Custer	Commissioner
Kris Lang	Deputy Clerk to the Board

Also present was Jim Little reporter for the Wet. Mountain Tribune and several community members.

AGENDA

Call the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business:

Letter of Support Denver and Rio Grande Depot in Westcliffe Grant Application

Victim Assistance/Law Enforcement Fund Grant Application

Custer County Youth Club

New Business:

Wetmore Community Building/Library

Recycling Bins

E-Waste 4/18/09

Fire Ban Resolution #09-03 Amendment

Road Sign Damage

County Wide Energy Savings Project

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION by Commissioner Custer, seconded by Commissioner Austin:

To sign a letter of support for the Denver and Rio Grande Depot in Westcliffe Grant Application. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Austin, seconded by Commissioner Custer:

To sign the 2009 Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Fund Grant Applications for the COVA Conference/Training/Equipment/Other Direct Victim Services in the amounts of \$4,634 and \$3,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Custer asked for clarification on whether she was to over-see these grants as part of her role as the County Grant Administrator. Commissioner Attebery responded that the grant had been initiated and completed by the Sheriff's Department, however as the County's Grant Administrator it was within her realm. Commissioner Custer reported that advocate Jan Yatch receives a small stipend to operate the program.

Commissioner Custer reported the Custer County Youth Club Board met on 04/14/09 to revise the by-laws to reflect the suggestions made by state staff during their technical assistance visit on April 8 – 9, 2009. She stated a contest was held so that the Custer County Middle and High School students could decide on a club logo and name as recommended in the Strategic Planning meeting. A club logo has been selected and the winners of the contest will be announced in an upcoming assembly at the school. Commissioner Custer asked the Board to reinstate the Youth Club program and the quarter time employment position for Micki Campbell. She explained that Ms. Campbell as part of her assigned duties would work with the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments Workforce Center to help connect county employers and youth in the count for potential jobs under the youth summer employment programs offered by the state.

Commissioner Attebery explained to those in attendance that the County has initiated three new programs; Kids Club, Youth Club and the Hanssen Haus Resource Center. He shared previous concerns that the programs had not been directly accountable to the Board of County Commissioners and had been subject to public criticism. The main concern was the Youth Club and he proposed the BOCC go back to the beginning and start over with the first step being a consultation with the school district regarding their interest and support. Commissioner Custer responded that the school board, superintendent and administration were in support of the program and even sat on the Boards for the Kids Club and Youth Club and participated in the Strategic Planning Processes that occurred in February. Commissioner Attebery commented that in order for himself and Commissioner Austin to completely understand the project from beginning to end these steps were necessary. Commissioner Austin commented this process would also create transparency. .

John Spaar, citizen asked if the information on the club programs would be available to the entire county or just the community of Westcliffe. Commissioner Custer responded that any youth that attends the Custer County School District or lives in Custer County can participate in the club programs. She gave a brief outline of the Kids Club, Youth Club and Hanssen Haus Resource Center and explained the use of the TANF funds prior to June 30, 2009. She reported that approximately \$300,000 was available which included \$49,000 of funds offered by Jefferson County along with Jefferson County paying the fees related to the transfer of these funds. Commissioner Custer complimented Jefferson County for their current support of the rural counties and reported Jefferson County has already indicated they would be willing to fund the program in the future if it proved to be successful.

Commissioner Attebery referred to the motion of March 18, 2009 BOCC meeting to suspend the operations of the Youth (Bobcat) Club until legal consult from the County Attorney could be obtained and stated he felt the BOCC should adhere to that motion.

Commissioner Austin clarified that the motion of March 30, 2009 BOCC meeting was to stop the salaries for the Youth Club positions and that he agreed to keep the program active as a result of the scheduled youth contests and interest in the naming of the club and selection of the logo. He stated the continued Youth Club activities were still not as transparent as requested and supported the motion of March 18, 2009 BOCC meeting to suspend the operations of the Youth (Bobcat) Club until legal consult was obtained.

Commissioner Attebery and Commissioner Austin remarked they approve and agree with the programs but at this time they agreed all operations of the Youth Club remain suspended until May 5, 2009 when legal consult from the County Attorney is obtained.

Commissioner Attebery proposed relocating the Extension and 4-H after-hour classes from the courthouse to the Hanssen Haus Resource Center (HHRC) in an effort to create additional funding for the HHRC. Commissioner Custer pointed out that none of the Custer County Extension Programs met one or more of the federal purposes of TANF funding and were therefore not TANF eligible.

Commissioner Austin suggested remodeling the garage adjacent to the Hanssen Haus Resource Center for a Youth Club Center. Commissioner Custer explained that in the original grant proposal she had requested funds to renovate the 24' x 60' garage to provide eight additional offices for the use of agencies and regional social services providers. As the application for funding was being reviewed the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) they asked Commissioner Custer to amend the application to exclude any remodeling of the garage from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and she did. Commissioner Custer agreed it would be beneficial if the county could make use of all the building space available on the property.

Commissioner Attebery reported that the county acquisition of the run-down building at the intersection of State Highway 67 and State Highway 96 had stalled because according to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) the proposed project was not eligible for funding under the CDOT Enhancement Fund Program. He stated the Board was going to continue to seek other options to purchase the building and provide space for a new use, perhaps a new community building and relocation of the library.

Commissioner Custer said she hoped the Wetmore community would not give up on the library idea since there are other avenues and resources to explore. She reminded those present that this initiative poses additional challenges since the Wetmore Library is not part of a Library District. Therefore we have to be creative in the way we approach this project. Commissioner Custer stated that the BOCC welcomes ideas and proposals from the community regarding the space needs they have.

Commissioner Austin reported he has been in contact with Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and they are aware of the BOCC's desire to take some positive steps to address a potentially dangerous health situation and at the same time construct a building at the Wetmore intersection and provide the community with a new library.

Bill Donley, citizen asked for an update on the installation of the stair-chair in the community/library building. Commissioner Attebery responded that the BOCC had hoped the costly installation of the stair chair would be eligible under TANF funds due to the American Disability Act (ADA) requirements. He reported the installation did not meet TANF criteria since the facility did not offer any TANF social service to the community. Commissioner Attebery assured those present the BOCC is still working on funding options.

Commissioner Austin informed those present that he had received an ADA concern regarding the use of the Wetmore Community Library Building. He stated that an individual residing outside Custer County questioned why a meeting between the Wetmore Library Board and the BOCC was scheduled in the Wetmore Community Library Building when the public facility was not ADA accessible. The meeting was relocated to the Wetmore Fire Station and the individual was notified and invited to attend. Commissioner Austin reported the individual did not attend the meeting.

Commissioner Austin reported the county has purchased the necessary recycling bins for placement at the landfill and said the next step would be to place recycling bins in the Wetmore area. Following a discussion with the citizens present, it was determined that recycling in Florence and Canon City were satisfactory and they did not want to go forward with installing recycling bins in Wetmore at this time.

Commissioner Attebery stated that the courthouse has a number of electronic and computer items to add to the electronic recycling event scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009. He reported that there are several recyclable electronics in the basement of the court house and proposed the estimated county contribution of \$200 to support the event be split between the BOCC and county IT budget. Commissioner Custer asked if the items to be recycled could be identified by department and the recycling fee be charged to that department. Commissioner Attebery responded that the items have been accumulating over several years and it would be difficult if not impossible to specifically identify which department had stored the equipment in the basement.

MOTION by Commissioner Austin, seconded by Commissioner Attebery:

To split the recycling fee not to exceed \$200 among the BOCC budget and the IT budget. Commissioner Custer abstained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Attebery reported that Christy Veltrie and Joanie Liebman from High County Recycling met with the Board at the April 6, 2009 BOCC meeting. They proposed that rather than constructing the proposed plastic and cardboard recycling trailers that County recycling funds are used to off-set the public recycling fees at the electronic recycling event scheduled Saturday, April 18, 2009. The BOCC agreed to review the recycling fund balance to help defray the cost up to \$2000. Commissioner Attebery explained review of the county recycling fund revealed it does not have that amount available at this time but would accommodate the recycling program as much as possible.

Commissioner Attebery announced the BOCC held a special meeting on March 10, 2009 to adopt Custer County Resolution #09-03. The Resolution banned open burning in the unincorporated portion of the county. He explained the Amendment to Custer County Resolution adopted on March 30, 2009 specifically states the Sheriff's department can issue citations to any person who violates Custer County Ordinance 2002-1 (CRS Section 30-15-402).

Commissioner Attebery remarked that the Road and Bridge Department had reported substantial shooting damage to the county road signs. Jim Little, Reporter for the Wet Mountain Tribune advised the Sheriffs Department has placed a reward notice in this regard in the community newspaper.

Commissioner Austin outlined the background, purpose, reporting and deliverables proposed under the Charter for the Custer County Wide Energy Savings Project. He stated the project management team would consist of representatives from Citizens-at-Large, C4 Group, Economic Development, Sustainable Ways and the Towns of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe. He explained the project management team of Custer County volunteers would interview the energy service companies and make recommendations to the BOCC. They would also review the preliminary assessments to determine the feasibility of pursuing a countywide energy savings performance contract. He stated this would be accomplished without any cost to the County or any BOCC obligation.

Commissioner Attebery stated although the project proposal has been reviewed by the County Attorney he himself had concerns with the inconsistent number of project team management representatives from each group and suggested equal representation of all groups involved. Bill Donley, Citizen asked if any representatives of the project management team had specific technical training or work experience regarding energy savings. Commissioner Austin replied that Citizen-at-Large representative Joyce Ziesler has previous knowledge and experience with the Federal Energy Management Program.

Commissioner Custer said that in her opinion this was a step backwards since the BOCC has previously met with John Canfield of the Governors Energy Office and the Ennovate Corporation regarding the potential partnership with the school district. She stated if the BOCC elects to continue with the process they should proceed with the next step and expressed concern with granting power to representatives and groups outside the BOCC. Commissioner Attebery agreed if the County was going to move forward with the process the next step should be taken by the BOCC. Commissioner Austin stated he supported the project and proposed having the project management team representatives address the BOCC in the form of a presentation. Commissioner Custer said the purpose and goals were clearly outlined in the submitted proposed project and that she was not in favor of a presentation. Commissioner Attebery agreed.

Commissioner Austin gave a brief report on the Office of Emergency Management meeting he attended. He said along with emergency service volunteers the county is seeking Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers to sign up with Public Health. He stated a wildfire evacuation exercise will be scheduled in the fall of 2009. He remarked the Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) have requested the completion of a county survey.

John Spaar, Citizen inquired on the status of the second light requested from the Colorado Department of Transportation(CDOT) for the Wetmore area. Mr. Sparr stated this issue has been on the table for several years. Commissioner Attebery replied he would follow-up with CDOT.

Kris Lang, Administrative Assistant to the BOCC requested confirmation on the location of the scheduled BOCC Meeting of May 5, 2009. Commissioner Attebery responded that since the County Clerk did not need the BOCC meeting room for an election as previously anticipated, the BOCC meeting would take place in the BOCC meeting room and not at the Cliff Lanes community room. Ms. Lang requested confirmation on whether the BOCC meetings scheduled in the courtroom would remain. Commissioner Custer stated the BOCC meetings scheduled in the courtroom will provide additional space for agenda items involving public participation. Commissioner Attebery agreed.

MOTION by Commissioner Austin, seconded by Commissioner Custer:

To adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Debbie Livengood, Clerk and Recorder
Attest

Lynn Attebery
Chair