

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, OCTOBER 13, 2009**

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTER COUNTY MET IN SPECIAL SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONER’S BOARDROOM.

Commissioner Lynn Attebery called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Roll Call was taken:

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

Also present was Nora Drenner reporter for the Wet Mountain Tribune, Deborah Young, Joel Plath, Tommy Covington, Beverly Goertz, Bill Donley, Dee Hoag, Bob Tobin and Robin Young.

MOTION by Commissioner Attebery, seconded by Commissioner Austin:

To accept the posted agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

The BOCC discussed the preparation of a Proclamation to honor John Coleman for his dedication and service during his terms as Custer County Commissioner.

Commissioner Austin gave a report on the recycling of tires for the building construction walls at the landfill facility. He remarked a tire baling company has been located in Sedalia, Colorado.

Commissioner Attebery reported the US Census 2010 website has been linked with the Custer County website for public reference.

Deborah Young, CSU Associate Provost and Director met with the Board and confirmed the State is under a hiring freeze. She said CSU has been instructed to reduce their budget by 3-6% every year for the next six years. Ms. Young stated that due to the State hiring freeze CSU is not able to hire or place a CSU Extension Agent in Custer County. She explained that all the new CSU Extension Agent positions were required to be multi-county positions. She commented that if Custer County would totally fund the position, a CSU Extension Agent could be placed immediately. Ms. Young said the typical compensation formula for an Extension Agent is the county contributes \$12,000 a year and CSU pays the remaining salary. She again stressed this type of hiring and placement would be a regional placement serving multi-counties.

Joe Plath, CSU Southern Regional Director said during the multi-county commissioners/extension agent meeting held last month, several extension programs for the three counties of Custer, Huerfano and Las Animas were discussed. He reported the mutual priorities are 4-H, agriculture, ranching and community development. He stated Custer County was named as a first priority for hiring of an agent and confirmed it would be a multi-county position. Mr. Plath submitted a Proposal for an Extension Agent Position to the BOCC for their review and input. He said he wanted to be prepared and ready to fill the position in Custer County as soon as it was approved by CSU.

The Board expressed their desire that Custer County have an Extension Agent with community and county commitments to prevent the pattern of transfer and relocations experienced in the past. The Board asked about a possible transfer of a potentially interested CSU Agent. Ms. Deborah Young responded that particular individual was presently being fully funded under county funds and Custer County would be responsible for 100% of the compensation. She said she understands the county's needs but does not have any open positions at this time. She explained when there is an opening it comes back to the CSU campus for review and decisions on how to best utilize that position or funds from that position.

Deborah Young outlined the options available to Custer County at this time.

1. Placement of a full-time CSU Extension Agent for Custer County would be totally funded by the county.
2. Placement of a multi-county CSU Extension Agent funded by the multiple counties.
3. Placement of a multi-county CSU Extension Agent with a county contribution of \$12,000 per year when that option becomes available.

Commissioner Custer stated that she supported the correspondence previously sent to CSU from the BOCC that Custer County needs a full time Extension Agent. She proposed that the county explore the options and possibilities of having its own full time Extension Agent paid for with county funds. Commissioner Austin said although that was the ideal scenario and solution he did not see that happening right away given the existing budget restraints. Commissioner Attebery agreed and felt the county needed the support of CSU. Commissioner Custer asked Ms. Deborah Young and Mr. Joel Plath to forward the guidelines and the criteria required by CSU for an Extension Agent to the Board for further review.

The Board thanked Deborah Young, Joel Plath and Tommy Covington for their time and effort in scheduling this meeting.

The BOCC recessed at 3:10 PM

The BOCC reconvened at 3:20 PM

Robin Young approached the Board and expressed her interest in the Extension Agent position. She said she understood the budget restrictions but asked the Board to consider the Conservation District as a budget line item for 2010.

MOTION by Commissioner Attebery, seconded by Commissioner Custer.

To adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Debbie Livengood, Clerk and Recorder
Attest

Lynn Attebery
Chair