

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

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

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

Also present was: Nora Drenner from the Wet Mountain Tribune.

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am.

The pledge was recited.

Clint Englehart met with the Board to discuss a letter that the OEM Director had asked him to write stating that the Road & Bridge Department had completed \$12,000.00 of in-kind work at the new tower site on Verdemont Road.

County Road & Bridge Supervisor, Clint Englehart, and Dave Trujillo, met with the Board to discuss an employee of the road & bridge department concerning safety and driving issues.

Clint informed the Board of some issues that may be brought to their attention from the last road closures on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Board discussed a mil levy increase to be placed on the November 2007 ballot that would be used for road and bridge department only. Clint stated that it currently takes approx. \$1,300,000.00 a year to maintain the roads we currently have. He also stated that if the county were to only ask for a 3 mil increase, it would allow for maintenance and approx 10 miles of chip seal every year, three new employees, and approx. \$40,000.00 to purchase equipment with. Clint believes it would be better to ask for a 5-mil increase rather than a 3-mil and have to go back to the electors at a later date asking for another increase. According to the figures that were given to the Board by the county finance officer, 1 mil is equal to \$77,538.00.

The county assessor supplied the Board with the following information on mil levies. According to the assessor, a 3-mil increase on a residential property that is assessed at \$100,000.00 would mean an additional \$23.88 a year on property taxes. A 5-mil increase on the same home would be \$39.80 a year.

Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Custer to place on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot a question to increase the property tax mil levy by 5 mils that would be designated for Road & Bridge purposes only. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board met with the county elected officials and department heads concerning the current personnel policy that was adopted in 2000 and the need to update the policy. Carole asked that all departments provide her with a copy of job descriptions for their offices, along with any comments, suggestions, deletions, or additions they would like to have reviewed by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Christy Feldmann, the OEM Director, met with the Board concerning four checks she needed to have written prior to the end of the month. The Board approved her request. Also discussed were the funds that the county has been receiving through the WIN Grant. There is one final payment in the amount of \$110,656.80 to be paid out to the county. According to Christy, DOLA will not release the funds and close out the grant until they have received a letter from the county showing that they have fulfilled their obligation of \$12,000.00 of in-kind donations. After much discussion, the road and bridge supervisor will write the letter that Christy needs.

The Board discussed the purchase of agricultural products and the collection of county use tax on these purchases. This item will be discussed further at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting when the county attorney is present.

County Commissioner Downey reported on the CCI Steering Committee meetings he attended on February 16<sup>th</sup> in Denver. House Bill 1069, Pinion Canyon and the military were discussed. According to Commissioner Downey the military obtained possession of the Pinion Canyon by eminent domain. They are now trying to add an additional 450,000 acres to what they currently have. They are also talking about the Comanche Grasslands being an option. If this were to occur it would have a large deterrent to the ranchers in South East Colorado who lease their grazing lands. Colorado Counties Inc. is supporting this bill.

Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Custer to have the Board write a letter of support for those counties that are impacted by the expansion of Pinion Canyon and send this letter to our senator and representative. Motion carried unanimously.

There is another bill this year that is similar to the one last year that was defeated concerning the sale of public lands to help balance the federal budget. CCI is against this bill.

Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Custer to write a letter to both Ken Salazar and John Salazar asking them to defeat the bill that would allow the sale of forestland, with the bill number to be mentioned in the letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Other bills discussed were, Habitat Partnership, and alternative fuels.

Commissioner Custer also attended a meeting in Denver on February 16<sup>th</sup> that had to do with Human Services. She will e-mail the information to both Commissioner Downey and Shy.

-OLD BUSINESS-

County Credit Card: Debbie Livengood will call and cancel the account that has Dale Hoag's name on the account and ask the company to forward applications to apply for a new account.

Commissioner Shy stated that there needs to be a Memorandum of Understanding written between the county, the school, and possibly Mr. Roever who is donating the 3-phase generator to the county. This document needs to state who may use this generator, who will maintain the generator, and any other issues that need to be addressed.

Being no further business the Board adjourned.