

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 15, 2011 with the following present:

Sam Pace, Chairman
Mike Spearman, Co-Vice Chair
Linda Joseph, Co-Vice Chair
Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator
Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator
Ben Gibbons, County Attorney
Melinda Myers, Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Meeting called to order by Chair Pace at 9:02 A.M.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.

1. Add Daniel Johnson, Firewise Title III Funding Request at 2:35.

Joseph moved to approve the agenda as amended. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Reading and approval of minutes of February 8, 2011.

Joseph moved to approve the minutes of February 8, 2011 as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Review of Mail and other correspondence:

1. **Friends of the SLV National Wildlife Refuge** sent The Avocet Volume 16 No. 1 February 2011 Newsletter. (2/11/11)
2. **Karen Hoffner** sent a letter thanking the BOCC for the funds given to the SLV Extension Service for Leadership Training. (2/11/11)
3. **Rio Grande Water Conservation District** sent the February 2011 Ground Water Table Measurements. (2/11/11)
4. **Mike Cowan** sent an email expressing his concerns in regards to the Saguache County General Election. (2/14/11)

Introduction of Guests: Matie Bell Lakish – Crestone Eagle; Kim Smoyer - ScSEED and Daniel Johnson – Firewise.

Commissioners Reports:

Sam Pace reported:

- Feb 10 & 11 – Attended the CCI Steering Committee meeting in Denver.
- Received several calls on the Tessera situation.
- Spoke to Randy Ethridge from Tessera about the new contact person, Dan Diamond. Ethridge stated that Tessera Solar will not be changing to different solar technology and they will go forward with the current application.

Linda Joseph reported:

- Feb 14 - Attended the Democratic reorganization meeting in Moffat.
- All other meetings were cancelled due to weather.

Mike Spearman reported:

- Feb 9 & 10 - Attended the Ag conference in Monte Vista.
- All other meetings were cancelled due to weather.

Wendi Maez & Lyn Zimmer – Co-administrator report:

- Report from Zimmer regarding her speaking with Town of Saguache about the SLVCOG. Joseph had also spoken with Town Clerk Caroline Irwin. Zimmer will follow-up with Mayor Milton Jones on the Town’s hesitance to join the COG. Saguache is the only Town in the County at this time that has not joined.
- Zimmer attended the Blue Peaks Development Center Board meeting. The budget has been frozen and they have a 6 month fund balance. If they lose a client due to death or going into a nursing home, they lose about \$100,000 in revenue and are prohibited from filling that slot, right now they are down 2 slots.
- Elected Officials and Department Heads are working on the leave policy and other policies.
- Contacted George Welch to come give a report on the Center library.

Joseph moved to approve a \$100 donation to the Sage Grouse Festival and Summit in Gunnison in March. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was the Ayes.

Break

Wendi Maez - Land Use report:

- Maez received word that the contact person for Tessera Solar has changed to Dan Diamond.

Joseph moved to approve the Vacation/Consolidation for Karma Thegsum Tashi Comang on Baca Grande Grant Unit I, Lots 211 and 212. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Joseph moved to approve the Vacation/Consolidation for Karma Thegsum Tashi Comang on Baca Grande Grant Unit I, Lots 208, 209 and 210. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Joseph moved to approve the Vacation/Consolidation for Karma Thegsum Tashi Comang on Baca Grande Grant Unit I, Lots 206 and 207. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Pace moved to appoint Joy Hill as the BGPOA representative on the Crestone/Baca Planning Commission beginning April 1, 2011. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Maez read a letter from the Baca Grande Property Owners Association that due to the change of Board members after the last election, they would like to replace Diane Dunlap with either Bill Folk or Joy Hill as their representative on the Planning Commission.
- The Tessera Solar escrow account is behind \$15,146.96 and must be brought current prior to the Public Hearing to be held on March 10, 2011. The Public Hearing costs would be about \$400 and the consultant fees will be about \$2300. Board worked on the agenda for the Tessera Solar Public Hearing.

Ben Gibbons - County Attorney Report:

Spearman moved to enter into Executive Session at 11:46 A. M. for Conference with County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on the pending CORA litigation under CRS Sec. 24-6-402(4)(c). Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Joseph moved to return to regular session at 11:52 A. M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Spearman moved to authorize Attorney Gibbons to represent Clerk Myers in a CORA request case in District court. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Mike Norris

- Due to personnel changes, Norris has changed some payroll across departments and would like to transfer \$2,000 from Sheriff Fund to the Jail fund. Administration will write up a resolution.

Adjourned for Lunch at 12:05 P. M.

Resumed meeting at 1:05 P. M.

Joseph moved to convene as Saguache County Board of Social Services at 1:05 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Jeannie Norris - Director Board of Social Services

- There were 21 TANF cases during the month of January. Food assistance cases held fairly steady at 522. There continue to be 28 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases, and old-age pension cases remained steady at 96 for the month. The CHEERS facility served two TANF clients during January.
- The LEAP program has now approved 454 households for the season, with 117 still being processed. Jan Garduno reports that she has given out all the weatherization applications, and had to get more. We received word that based on the availability of

additional federal funds; the February payroll will include additional benefits for LEAP clients. The new maximum payment will be \$1,000, rather than \$700.

- The Child and Adult Protection Unit reported 7 new referrals in January, with all being accepted for investigation. There 17 dependency and neglect cases in process, and 88 open child protection cases. The Unit continues to have 4 adult protection cases. Child Protection Supervisors and Directors from the six Valley counties are meeting to develop a cooperative way of recruiting, training, and supporting foster care providers which could then be shared by all the counties. Home studies in advance of certification currently consume a large block of time by individual departments, and could be accomplished in a timelier manner if there were a person dedicated solely to that issue.
- The IV-D Unit began the year with an increase in collections of six percent over the same month in 2010, with \$35,906.74 having been collected.
- We attended a program presented by WSB to assist agencies who receive federal grants in understanding what is required and how to prepare for the audit. We received valuable reference material and benefited from the presentation.
- Della Vera and Norris have been working on a proposal for the Center facility, and are very close to presenting a plan which we believe will greatly enhance the ability of both agencies to serve Saguache County clients. One of the benefits financially to DSS, will be closing out the Blue Horizon/CHEERS facility, and serving the training needs of our clients in the Haskin Building and the Saguache facility.

Joseph moved to return to regular session at 1:31 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Kim Smoyer - ScSeed Economic Development Update

- Saving Places Conference (Denver) – Smoyer recently attended the Saving Places Conference in Denver and was one of the speakers for a breakout session. This is a brief description of our session: *Saguache: A Case Study of Character, Culture, and Community in Rural Colorado* Panelists, Kim Smoyer (Director, ScSEED), Patrick Eidman (Director, Endangered Places), Kate Vasha (Trustee, Town of Saguache), Deb Phenicie (past Project Director, CO Brownfields Foundation) and Chris Gydesen (Owner, Ute Theatre) will provide an overview of the 2009 Endangered Places designation of Saguache’s historic 4th Street Business District and the resulting “ripple effect” that has included the creation of a historic preservation ordinance and commission, an application to become a Local Certified Government (CLG), new 4th Street business investments and a vision for 4th Street beautification and improvements. This session will outline the keys to success and lessons learned in a rural community, one of the poorest in Colorado that struggles with limited capacity and a decreasing population. Our breakout session had about 75 participants and we had wonderful feedback. Came back with a PowerPoint presentation that we can use for other ED and marketing pitches. CPI covered all my expenses for this conference.
- Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) – Up until Feb. 1st I was volunteering on the RPD Steering Committee, which meets monthly (since Oct.). As you know, I made a pitch for Saguache to be the host site for this event (I also have a detailed inventory of hotel, motels, B&Bs, etc. for Saguache). Saguache was awarded the event. I was recently hired

to be the paid RPD Coordinator – this will certainly help integrate with ScSEED and ED activities. Plans are moving forward. The event will be held September 14 – 16th.

- Saguache Chamber – Both ScSEED and I (Smoyer & Associates) are members of the Chamber. I volunteered to act as the Fundraising Committee chair and I have already put together a DRAFT plan for raising funds – this will be reviewed at the 2/16 meeting. Membership is beginning to increase and the leadership is really moving plans forward.
- Saguache Artist Coop – We hired Lynn Amlie to take over for Marty Mitchell, who as you know moved away. Lynn has already gotten the members together and they are working on a web site through the Chamber web page. Additionally, Byron Smith has offered up his gallery for a spring show – so they are starting to make plans for that.
- Saguache Downtown Revitalization Project (SDRP) – Xcel Energy Foundation gave us a \$5000 grant to continue to work with the Town of Saguache for grant-writing and other project coordination. I recently wrote a CDBG grant for funds to start the actual renovations to 4th Street this spring (if we received the award). The engineering firm is currently working on the construction drawings (with grants that I got for the Town from El Pomar and DOLA). We hope to have the project completed in the fall of 2011 (in time for RPD). I will attend the El Pomar award reception on 2/ 17 to accept a \$10,000 check for matching on the SDRP – 4th Street improvements. These funds will help match others (including the County's \$20,000) in the CDBG application. Deb Downs recently made a site visit and we are feeling very confident that our application will be in the running.
- Economic Developer Training – I applied for a received a scholarship of \$550 to attend a week long Economic Developer Training in Denver during the first week of June. We also again became members of the Economic Development Council or Colorado (EDCC). EDCC was the organization that will provide this \$550 scholarship to attend the training.
- SLV Tourism Conference (2/24) – Smoyer has already preregistered for the upcoming SLV Tourism Conference in Alamosa. I will be attending this event. I will report any pertinent information at my next visit.
- Saguache Historic Walking Tour – We are in the process of making final edits on the documents and checking with local sources to be sure the data is accurate. We have developed a new map for the center of the booklet that is much easier to read than the previous one. We hope to have the final product in hand by spring – for distribution to local businesses, Chamber, Library, Museum, etc. for use this summer. The booklet will be given to these venues at no cost.
- Saguache Clean-Up Day – Once again we will partner with RSVP program (Library) volunteers to help organize a spring clean up day on 4th Street. We have interest from Dan Corson, Director of the State Historic Fund (SHF) in coming down to help. The Town Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has applied to become a Certified Local Government (CLG). If the HPC gets the CLG that will mean an opportunity for additional funds for clean-ups of the future and also façade restoration and other historic preservation projects.
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – Smoyer will continue to work with Donna Wehe to offer SBDC Counseling to Saguache business owners and start-ups. I am also in the process of developing a social media marketing workshop which we will co-host in Saguache in the spring (May/June). I am also offering a Leading Edge (NxLevel Entrepreneur) course this spring (March through May) in Salida.

- SLV Energy Steering Committee – I have been attending the SLV Energy Steering Committee meetings when they don't conflict with other meetings. This is a group that Jeanna Paluzzi, SLV Energy Coordinator, organized to discuss energy related issue and needs for the Valley. Smoyer will continue to serve on this committee. She recently conducted an Ag survey and had a conference in Alamosa to announce the results. She is currently working on a Plan for the entire SLV.
- SLV Economic Developers Monthly Meeting (SLV DRG) – Smoyer has attended several of these meetings which have been organized and hosted by the SLV DRG in Alamosa. The meeting generally covers ED topics like financing, real estate, etc. At the meeting last month, Richard Albair, from the CO Office of Economic Development and International Trade, was there to introduce himself to the region and hear feedback from the Economic Developers and agencies about the needs in the region. This was in preparation for a visit from the newly elected Governor who visited Del Norte (1/15). I was unable to attend the meeting on 1/15 because we hosted our Energy Workshop that day in Saguache.

Pace moved to convene as the Housing Board at 2:00 P.M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Evan Samora, Housing Director Monthly update

Pace moved to adjourn the Housing Board and return to regular meeting at 2:35 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was three Ayes.

Break

Daniel Johnson – Public Hearing for Title III funding:

Joseph moved to approve the 2011 Title III Funding Request for Daniel Johnson, for Firewise fire mitigation. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes. A contract will be drawn up with all conditions and will be signed by all parties at the next meeting.

- Pace questioned the rate of pay on the contract and several items were renegotiated and approved. Overall, the Board has received numerous positive comments on the Firewise work done by Johnson.

Joseph moved to adjourn at 4:04 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved March 1, 2011

Chairman of the Board

Attest

Commissioner

Commissioner