

SAGUACHE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON STRATEGIC PLAN
COMMUNITY BUILDING
SAGUACHE, COLORADO
JANUARY 9, 2015

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joseph at 10:04 am

Commissioner Joseph – Explained the technical difficulties the Saguache County website was having, therefore the comment period has been extended to January 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm. Regular mail comments, comments from the site, and all other comments received will be compiled. The Commissioners are present to listen to comments, this Strategic Plan is a working draft, and no decisions will be made at this time. Commissioner Joseph asked that the sign in sheet be passed around for those in the audience who wanted to speak, address key points, identifying areas within the draft that there are concerns about, and please note that there is a 1 page implementation overview at the end of the draft. The time for comments will be limited to 3 minutes and County Staff will be taking notes as well as recording the meeting. The Strategic Plan draft is for the unincorporated areas of Saguache County where growth is encouraged, but the County would like to also work with the incorporated towns.

II. GUESTS

Randal Arredondo	Anne Nielsen	Howard Funk	Margarey Funk
Shane Cox	Carol Augusto	Susan Wolfrey	Carol Case
Dottie Eichhorn	Wyoma Hansen	Mike Cowan	Bill Case
Gerald Gray	Barry Sullens	Allen Jones	Larry Smith
Richard Drake	Gary Davidson	Tony J Fernandez	Peggy Godfrey
Teresa L Bennis	Greg Terrell	Rebie Hazard	May Engquist
John Judson	Lorraine Flewelling	Carita Ginn	Dorraine Gasseling
Faith O'Reilly	Karen D Cowan	Ed Nielsen	Terry Gillette
Brain J Miller	Donna Ford	Lucky Ford	Jim Shepherd
Scott Swartz	Eleanor Mueller	Donald G Baker	Peter Peterson
Tom McCracken			

Guest who spoke

Anne Nielsen	Shane Cox	Bill McClure	Susan Wolfrey
Carol Case	Dottie Eichhorn	Mike Cowan	Allen Jones
Larry Smith	Greg Terrell	Faith O'Reilly	Terry Gillette
Tom McCracken	Peggy Godfrey		

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Nielsen – Chair of the SCPC – After reviewing the Strategic Plan draft the general consensus of the Planning Commission members is that the draft is a duplicate of the Master Plan except the one area where the County Pay Plan and Evaluation of employees was addressed. Everything is covered in the Master Plan that took 20 years to complete. Strategic Plan draft needs to be trashed, thrown out. Six other members feel same way, one member a maybe. No County manager or planner, the County does not need more government control.

Ben Gibbons – Will the Planning Board be turning in written comments?

Anne Nielsen – yes

Shane Cox – resident – Lives on west side of the county. The Strategic Plan draft has no meat, just a skeleton no details. Page 4 has 1 county 1 community. Communities should have diversity and everyone does not or need to think the same way; page 5 talks about airports and tourism, don't see what is coming through there. Attraction would be fine but there are no actual plans or ideas. Saguache airport has sat for years. Page 6 #2, Research and Development, no form of implementation. Page 7, agricultural manufacturer process, does that mean a feed mill? Page 8, last paragraph, sentence is contradicting.

Commissioner Joseph – implementation of details within next year.

Bill McClure – resident, small business owner, member SCPC – All the information within the strategic Plan draft has been addressed in the Saguache County Master Plan, with the exception of the County employees pay and evaluations. Economic development – yet BoCC hired a company who just became an LLC for \$30,000.00 who is not even in Saguache County. Saguache County is not like Gunnison County, no College, no tourism, no infrastructure, and sales tax. County spent \$150,000.00 on an airport, how many Saguache County residents have airplanes? 2,000.00 - 4,000.00 gallons of jet fuel, total waste of money. Drones, no one wants spy drones flying over their back yards. Could of taken this to the college gotten a better product and would not of cost a cent. Disband and take no action on this.

Susan Wolfrey – Slick contract inadvertently wrapping selves up in. Inadvertently the power is within the people. Common law, free market, we all have one vision. Strange dream about a lollypop coming down the alley. Minimum wage pioneer for entire nation. Horrible, horrible, horrible stuff going to happen to Saguache unless an unanticipated union with Russia happens. Free energy would uphold and revive. Center is the center of meth. Fewer restrictions the freer we are.

Wendi Maez – letting Ms. Wolfrey know she had 30 seconds remaining.

Commissioner Jason Anderson – Don't restrict time.

Carol Case – resident – Has been a full time resident of Saguache County for 4 years. Questioned the BoCC, do we the people of Saguache County get to vote on this plan or is this a plan that will not require the citizens' vote?

Commissioner Joseph – Strategic Plan draft is a guiding document, not a citizen vote, listening to comments.

Carol Case – This plan seems to be a duplicate of the Master Plan already adopted. As residents of Saguache County, we choose to live here in an area that is free from a lot of government control. Commissioners need to

listen to the people. Plan talks about growth in areas, most of the residents of County would prefer that there not be a lot of growth, happy with the way it is.

Shane Cox – Questioned the funding coming from DOLA and if any further funding would be coming from the same source or another.

Commissioner Joseph – Indicated that the funding was for the process and there would be no additional funding for implementation.

Dottie Eichhorn – Very disappointed that the Strategic Plan was so vague and needs to be more specific. Where is the money coming from? Be more specific and don't put a plan out and tell the residents of Saguache County we will tell you later. What happens if project goes on and money runs out? Money has to come from somewhere. Saguache County is one of the poorest counties, is money going to come from taxes being raised. Do the people get to vote or not? Grants are very specific on what can or cannot be done. Seems like BoCC is being dishonest and surprised they would put something like this out there. If Master Plan covers everything then why spend money on this? **See attached written comment.**

Mike Cowan – resident – read his comment letter. Suggested there be a question and answer time at the end of the meeting? **See attached written comment.**

Allen Jones – resident – Differs with Commissioner Joseph and their policies and personal. Feels Commissioner Joseph has done a piss poor job as Commissioner the last 8 years. Alamosa has alternate energy, Saguache County has Federal Government lands, no bids received. Blames Commissioners for lack of bids. \$80,000.00 for a County Manager, what are the three Commissioners if not County Managers. Commissioners have 1 day a week, managing, Strategic Plan is a piece of trash, information in the plan is already in the Master Plan, Strategic Plan is junk, throw it out, set down specifics, be business friendly, initiate tax incentives, it should not be about free grants. Residents should have more and more rights, promote tourism, infrastructure, restaurants, and hotels. The residents of Saguache County like their quality of life, simple, lower taxes.

Larry Smith – resident – Has been a victim of this type of plan, taking of private property, taxes sky rocketed. Stop taking grant monies. Jason and Ken level headed, common sense men, this is not Linda's legacy. Shame on you for lack of transparency. Plan will strangle people, don't need more government. Stand up for residents of Saguache County (Jason and Ken) work with existing community and quit pretending you can create more. Land Fill issues still not fixed and how many jobs have you created so far.

Greg Terrell – resident – Aside from the Strategic Plan draft concentrate on finances. County has not done a good audit. Figure where it can be trimmed, embark on another way. Nowhere in plan is water protected.

Commissioner Joseph – The County does get an audit yearly and is on the website.

Greg Terrell – Means a real audit, a Forensic Audit.

Faith O'Reilly – resident – Plan is vague, implementation not clear. Strategic Plan should involve the people, plans are the resident's visions. Plan does not lay out what is needed. Lack of detail, open up the process. See attached written comment. **See attached written comment.**

Susan Wolfrey – True events that she was involved in. Here we are in Saguache. Mandate from Hickenlooper was bogus. We must harmonize for a real Strategic Plan and to prosper. Same thing happened in Boulder

County and she was repeatedly told to be quiet and sit down. She got her constitution out and also ran for governor. You are not supposed to hear the truth. Sorry Hannah Strong.

Anne Nielsen – Research and development implementation. San Luis Valley already has, Alamosa College, partly funded, work with the County, experience for students.

Shane Cox – Residents in Gunnison County voted down several items on their agenda, but their BoCC went ahead. Need to scrap this draft.

Terry Gillette – resident – Economic growth, taxes doubled, does not help new businesses, pay excessive taxes, drones coming in would be a nuisance and noisy.

Carol Case – Let's take a vote (audience with a show of hands if they want this Strategic Plan) unanimous vote of hands (NO). Question: regardless of what the people think is the BoCC just going to pass this Strategic Plan?

Allen Jones – Commissioner Joseph initially involved in the starting of ScSeed, grant monies for the County, slush fund, who will be the new Saguache County Manager.

Tom McCracken – resident – business owner – County website was not working, Landfill hours still on the county website, Saguache County potential economic development, need public meetings. Is the BoCC going to listen to the comments, otherwise what is the purpose of the comment period? Letter in the paper was cut off. ScSEED Julie Mach taken comments for Economic Development, not even here, no one knows what those comments were. A lot of huff and puff with grant writers. **See attached written comment.**

Peggy Godfrey – resident – Wanted to make it clear she did not raise her hand so the vote was not unanimous. Sees things differently. Strategic Plan is like planting trees. We have planted trees before and didn't work. To have really nice trees we need planters, irrigation, and trees that work here, whether they be fruit or shade trees. We need to make sure someone will prune the trees that knows how, someone will rake and take care of the trees. Connect the dots, Saguache County Planning Commission, ScSEED, BoCC, plant trees and make it work.

Commissioner Joseph – The intention of the Strategic Plan is that the year-long implementation plan will be created by all those who choose to participate and people who are in areas to contribute.

Teresa Benns – resident – addressed Tom McCracken – Sorry for the letter in the paper being cut off. The entire letter is on the website and Facebook.

Wyoma Hansen – resident – Heard about planting trees. Appalling, at a public meeting when told the draft Strategic Plan was unavailable for public view. BoCC evasive and transparency didn't exist. People are upset with lack of transparency and the disrespect from the BoCC if you disagree.

Comments completed, Commissioner Joseph began a Question and Answer period:

Gary Davidson – What plans do the BoCC have to work with the incorporated towns, are the Counties intentions to work with the towns, together for the county. What about infrastructure in towns?

Commissioner Joseph – No jurisdiction over towns.

Bill Case – Direct question to Commissioner Joseph – Are you going to run for the position of Saguache County Manager.

Commissioner Joseph – NO, and thank you for asking that question.

Cathy Geddes – Thinks BoCC should give and look into history of County and the County Manager position, we have never been without that position.

Richard Drake – Would like to know who is all involved in the acknowledgement section of the Strategic Plan and how their involvement relates to the Strategic Plan?

Commissioner Joseph – The BoCC acknowledged people involved in things that relate to the Strategic Plan.

Donna Ford – She first learned about the Strategic Plan at a meeting held in Sargents, was told the public would not be involved, glad that has changed. BoCC should always involve the citizens. How confident is the BoCC that the Strategic Plan will be successful within the parameters of property tax revenues and how do you know without an implementation plan? A great deal of transparency is needed.

Commissioner Joseph – We are at the very first part of the Plan.

Commissioner Ken Anderson – The draft is not cut in stone. Was involved in the creation of the Master Plan, several meetings were held with the public. There are a lot of complainants but no ideas. Think about Saguache County no matter where you live, and think about Saguache County first. Doesn't think anyone wants development or growth. You want solar but don't want to send the power out of here, but a lot okay with sending water out of here. Property rights not what we are after and drones are not checking your property.

Lucky Ford – Gunnison County should be a red flag for Saguache County. Zoning policies, how will they affect the residents of this County?

Commissioner Joseph – BoCC has not taken further steps on where incentives could be implemented, has not been explored nor studied, possible tax incentives, supportive programs, or building into Land Use codes.

Mike Cowan – Will the BoCC allow this to go before a vote of the County residents? Need to sever the connection with DOLA and MR.

Commissioner Jason Anderson – The money we received from DOLA is because DOLA is doing so well with oil and gas. People pulling a lot of oil and gas from this State and making a lot of money, money is then paid to the State. That money goes to the people of this State and we should take advantage of it. DOLA's job is to support counties, towns, and the people.

Bill McClure – Will the BoCC set a time frame, allow additional public input, form committees, or take a stand with the voice of the people?

Commissioner Joseph – The contents of the master plan is a guide. The process of the Master Plan is to conduct a 6 month review.

Larry Smith – Another layer between the County and the residents, County Manager, do we need it, another salary and another building?

Anne Nielsen – Too much government.

Larry Smith – Wendi and Lyn are competent Co-County Managers. Will this be put before a vote?

Teresa Benns – Is there a list of DOLA grants?

Commissioner Jason Anderson – Informed everyone that the list of DOLA grants is on the DOLA website.

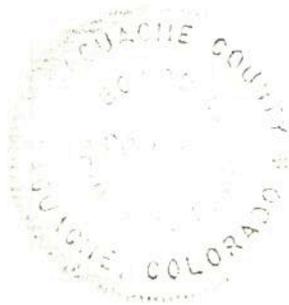
IV. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Wendi Maez, ACTING SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES APPROVED ?, 2014




CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD


ATTEST
CLERK & RECORDER
CARLA GOMEZ


COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER