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MINUTES
June 23, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING

The Board met at 8:09 a.m. in special session at the RBC Courthouse, 555 Main St., Meeker, CO. Commissioner Ty Gates, Board Assistant Vicky Edwards, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Shawn Luce were present. Commissioner Jeff Rector, County Attorney Don Steerman and Contract Attorney Todd Starr attended via teleconference. Commissioner Gary Moyer was excluded from the meeting.

Call to order – Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda - none

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Gates moved to approve the June 23, 2021 agenda. Commissioner Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye.

BUSINESS

Discussion of legal advice received from Todd M. Starr, regarding the handling and/or release of particular executive sessions and hostile work environment claims and authorization to act on either matter as directed.

Todd Starr spoke on executive sessions and a letter from him was handed out explaining his position. The letter is available in the Clerk & Recorder's BOCC file.

Lucas Turner from the Rio Blanco Herald Times asked questions regarding the number of executive sessions during the past 2 ½ years, including the 16 executive sessions in 2020, since Attorney Starr has been employed by Rio Blanco County.

Attorney Kent Borchard had questions regarding the January 13th and 15th recorded executive sessions that the county still has and about the November 24, 2020 session that was recorded by Dave Morlan. He also stated that Mr. Morlan will sign a release of the records.

Todd Starr stated he does not believe there is any record of any one making the claim of a hostile environment within the county work force. He suggested that the county engages an outside firm to investigate claims of a hostile environment, and also suggested that he could procure an independent firm so the investigation would be through him and not through the county.

Commissioner Rector moved to authorize the release of all prior executive session recordings involving Dave Morlan and RBC road and bridge employee Roy Gilbert by declaring them open sessions and authorize the release of Dave Morlan's personnel file pending a waiver from Mr. Morlan. Commissioner Gates seconded. Roll call vote: Rector-Aye, Gates-Aye.

Commissioner Rector moved to authorize contract attorney Todd Starr to procure an independent firm to investigate claims of a hostile work environment. Commissioner Gates seconded. Roll call vote: Rector-Aye, Gates-Aye.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Attest:

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Boots M. Campbell, County Clerk



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Jeff Rector, Chairman Pro Tem