



MINUTES
August 24, 2021**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
Rio Blanco County

The Board met at 11:01 a.m. in regular session at the RBC Courthouse, 555 Main St., Meeker, CO. Chairman Gary Moyer, Commissioner Ty Gates, Commissioner Jeff Rector, Board Assistant Vicky Edwards, Budget Director Janae Stanworth and Clerk to the Board Boots Campbell were present.

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

AGENDA CHANGES – none

Approval of the August 24, 2021 agenda

Commissioner Rector moved to approve the August 24, 2021 agenda with changes.
Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye.

CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of the August 24, 2021 consent agenda

BOCC Meeting minutes of August 17, 2021.

Payroll Management Reports

Commissioner Gates moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Rector seconded.
Roll call vote: Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rector moved to approve a letter to Emily L. Blizzard, PhD, MS Assistant State Director APHIS Wildlife Services, requesting emergency assistance to mitigate and control the Wyoming Ground Squirrel population within Rio Blanco County. Commissioner Gates seconded. Roll call vote: Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye.

Commissioner amended his motion to request for emergency assistance to the Colorado Department of Natural Resources for the Wyoming ground squirrel population within Rio Blanco County. Roll call vote: Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye.

Discussion before the amended motion between County Attorney Don Steerman and the Commissioners was regarding the term Wyoming Ground Squirrel and how it is used to describe all species of ground squirrels.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve the appointment of Kelly Christian to the Rangely Library Board. Commissioner Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye.

Commissioner Rector moved to approve a letter to the Colorado Department of Transportation, requesting speed limit changes on Highway 13. Commissioner Gates seconded. Roll call vote: Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye. The request is to reduce the speed limit from 65 mph to 55 mph.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve a letter to the Honorable Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Town of Meeker, granting permission for HopeWest to serve alcohol at the Rio Blanco County Fairgrounds on September 25, 2021 during the HopeWest Corn Hole Tournament. Commissioner Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye.

BID AWARDS

Commissioner Rector moved to approve an award of the 2021 Solar Tower Site Improvements Project to Thin Air Communications, in an amount not to exceed \$454,776.17. Commissioner Gates seconded. Roll call vote: Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye. It was noted that this is for broadband towers only.

MOU'S, CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Commissioner Gates moved to approve an Agreement for Services with Thin Air Communications, for the 2021 Solar Tower Site Improvements Project, in an amount not to exceed \$454,776.17. Commissioner Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye.

Commissioner Rector moved to approve an Agreement for Services with Jessica Perkins to provide Eligibility Technical Services, in an amount not to exceed \$17,680.00. Commissioner Gates seconded. Roll call vote: Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve an Agreement for Services with Joy Thompson to provide Home Study Services, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Commissioner Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Rector-Aye, Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye.

RESOLUTIONS – None

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comment – None

County Commissioner updates

Commissioner Gates had 2 meetings and emails with the NW CDC group and Rascal Recovery Intervention group. He received a call from Senator Bennet’s office regarding the horse gather and wanted to know if we had any negative feedback on it. They also discussed draft legislation which is more intended for oil, gas and coal impacted counties and how to fund them. Ty has a meeting in Craig tomorrow with Senator Bennett as well. He had a good conversation with Heidi William at the Attorney General’s office regarding the Opioid Regional Governance for Routt, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties. Ty also had conversations with staff.

Commissioner Rector attended a meeting of Montrose Western Regional Mtg. Topic COVID funding and federal money and will tie it to a percentile in the community. If don’t get to that, give it back. Talked about new leg oil, gas, bad deal for oil and gas industry as a whole. He also had visits with staff. He talked to Tia about several of her programs and Jeff had praise for her.

Commissioner Moyer attended Fruita AGNC meeting, # of state legislators there. Lot of discussion with them regarding Glenwood Canyon closure. It’s focusing concerns regarding Cottonwood Pass. The northerly route is the primary route and some businesses may be benefiting, but there are a lot of negatives. Gary had a conversation with Representative Janice Rich from Mesa County regarding the issue with Mesa County and the Secretary of State’s office. He also attended a meeting at the Meeker Library regarding election integrity. Gary stated this looks like it may be a chapter of a state and national group.

Commissioner Gates moved to go into executive session pursuant to Section 24-6-402 (4)(e) C.R.S., with County Attorney Donald L. Steerman to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, development of strategy for negotiations and instruction of negotiators regarding a potential agreement for the Sheriff’s Office. Commissioner Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Moyer-Aye, Gates-Aye, Rector-Aye.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Attest:


Boots M. Campbell, County Clerk




Gary Moyer, Chairman