

**COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**August 11, 2014**

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sevier County Commissioners held this eleventh day of August, 2014. Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Gary Mason, Gordon Topham, and Garth 'Tooter' Ogden in the Commission Chambers of the Sevier County Administration Building, 250 North Main, Richfield, Utah. Deputy Clerk/Auditor Barbara Crowther and Executive Director Malcolm Nash were also present.

**Commission Business:**

Executive Director Malcolm Nash reported on the Rural Summit meetings he recently attended, and said that more information on the energy and coal industries will be available online in the near future.

Commissioner Topham reported on a letter from the Timber Products Manufacturers Association regarding the stewardship program of the Forest Service. He said it appears that the Forest Service is paying people to come and cut the trees, so there would be no revenue coming to the Counties.

Commissioner Topham then noted that they had received a letter from Bette Arial of Senator Lee's office thanking us for hosting Senator Lee's mobile in our building. The letter said it was very successful.

Commissioner Topham then reported on the Utah Tourism meeting. He said there is money available to help advertise, and he has spoken to Tourism/Events Director Kevin Arrington those funds and the possibility of getting a 50/50 match for the County booklet that is published yearly. Commissioner Topham said that one of the Universities had done a study on the value of tourism by county, and noted that the results were surprising.

Commissioner Ogden said Allen Levie had called to report on the Clear Creek Canyon Flood last week. Mr. Levie said he had placed some big rocks out there to allow him to get water for his pastures, and now the big rocks are gone. Commissioner Ogden also noted that he felt the County Fair went well.

Commissioner Mason then discussed the possibility of participating with SUFCO and purchasing additional sections for the stage at the Fairgrounds. He said that occasionally SUFCO rents the Exhibit hall for employee events, and noted that they had in the past purchased and donated additional tables and chairs for the building when there would not be enough for their event. Commissioner Mason noted that SUFCO is scheduled to use the facilities next weekend, and the band they are using will need a larger stage than we have. He suggested working with SUFCO to increase the stage with four more sections at a total cost of approximately \$2,600 with each entity paying half. The Commission agreed this would be a good idea.

**Minutes of July 28<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting approved:**

Minutes of the July 28<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected on a motion by Commissioner Ogden, second Commissioner Mason, unanimous.

**Claims approved:**

Claims for the month of July were reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Mason, second Commissioner Ogden, unanimous.

**Agenda change approved:**

Commissioner Mason moved to change the Commission agenda and consider the VOCA grant at 2:10 p.m., second Commissioner Ogden, unanimous.

**Commission to donate to Suicide Prevention walk:**

Reena Ford and her group from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention met with the Commission requesting a donation for their Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk event. She said they are looking for both volunteers and donations for the program, which will be similar to the Relay for Life program held in the spring. Discussion followed concerning the number of suicides in our area this year, their activities at the County Fair on Friday to get the word out, that they have planned a short walk this year to accommodate those with limited abilities, their goal of raising \$10,000, what the money will be used for, that half will stay in the County and provide information for the officers, whether the group is involved in ASSIST or other programs that the mental health community provides, whether or not the Six County Association of Governments has any programs already in place, that statistically the County is already above our average yearly suicide rate, the need for support not only for victims but for families as well, and that as a general rule suicide is not talked about, but is hidden away. Commissioner Mason said he fully supports their efforts, but expressed concern as the Commission is unable to donate to the many requests they receive each year for worthy causes. Further discussion followed concerning the date of the walk, the possibility of encouraging support and donations from County employees, that this is the first time this type of event has been available in Richfield, that this program provides education for suicide prevention as well as post suicide for successful and unsuccessful attempts, and that as of now there are no programs available to those affected by suicide. After discussion, Commissioner Ogden moved to donate \$1,000 to help with the event and to help get information to the schools and the officers stationed there, second Gary Mason. After further discussion, Commissioner Topham clarified that it would be a commitment of \$1,000 towards the program with the Sheriff's Office working with the group and tracking the funds. Commissioner Ogden then moved to amend the previous motion and commit \$1,000 to the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk to be tracked through the Sheriff's Department, second Commissioner Mason, unanimous.

**ATV Jamboree Permit approved:**

Tourism/Events Director Kevin Arrington met with the Commission concerning a special use permit for the Rocky Mountain ATV Jamboree. He said the County Attorney had reviewed the permit. Mr. Arrington noted there have been no changes to the permit for the last 12 years, and expressed his concerns of liability. After review and discussion, Commissioner Ogden moved to approve the ATV Jamboree Permit with the Forest Service, second Commissioner Mason, unanimous. Mr. Arrington then questioned whether or not the matter should be reviewed yearly as the permit is signed, and the Commission indicated it should.

**Travel Council recommendation approved:**

Mr. Arrington then reviewed with the Commission the Travel Council recommendations from their July meeting, noting that number 1 combined two events. After discussion, Commissioner Mason moved to accept and approve the Travel Council recommendations, second Commissioner Ogden, unanimous.

Commissioner Mason then asked Mr. Arrington about the Valley of the Trails book/cd and why the County was not listed as a sponsor along with Monroe City, Richfield City, etc.

**VOCA Grant contract approved:**

Shelly Haupt, Victim's Advocate, spoke with the Commission regarding the VOCA grant contract which has recently been completed. Ms. Haupt indicated that the grant would be the same amount as awarded last year, and that she was currently on the 'fast track' with the State to apply for renewals of the grant which would guarantee the current amount of the grant. Ms. Haupt noted that the funding was cut 10% last year, but remained steady this year. Commissioner Topham noted that Mark McIff was now a judge, so the indigent defense counsel would need to be changed in future applications. After discussion, Commissioner Mason moved to approve the contract for the VOCA grant and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract, second Commissioner Ogden, unanimous. Further discussion followed concerning the match that is required for the grant and whether a cash or in kind match was used. Ms. Haupt then said that the State has promised a decrease in grant funding in the future, and requested that the Commission consider fully funding the program when the time comes to step up and handle more of the cost as the grant decreases.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.