

**GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 22, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Leland Pollock, Commissioner Del LeFevre, Commissioner David Tebbs, Attorney Barry Huntington and Clerk Camille Moore.

Commissioner Pollock called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Dell LeFevre made a MOTION to adopt the agenda with the correction of Public Hearing on the Emergency Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner David Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

Commissioner Dell LeFevre made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015. Seconded by Commissioner David Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

BOARD REPORTS

Commissioner David Tebbs gave the Commission a spread sheet giving an overview of the staff hours spent per meal served in the county centers. He also discussed a meeting with Dr. Blodgett, Southwest Public Health, to discuss measuring air quality in the communities during controlled burns.

Commissioner Del LeFevre reported on the National Parks meeting he attended last week.

Commissioner Leland Pollock reported on the Commissioners Meetings last week. Brian Bremner, County Engineer and Drew Parkin, Consultant, made a presentation at that meeting on behalf of the Garfield County. He reported on the defense of Commissioner Phil Lyman.

PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS

Catastrophic Fire: Brian Bremner, County Engineer, gave a review of HB408, Catastrophic Fire Nuisance. Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties are working together to prepare documentation.

Federal Sage Grouse Management Plan : The Commission approved and Commissioner Pollock signed a letter requesting an extension of the deadline for comments on the Federal Sage Grouse Management Plan. The Commission directed Brian to complete Garfield County's comments on the plan.

Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to open a Public Hearing to discuss the condition of the old grandstands at the fairgrounds. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING - FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTANDS

Present: Lori Talbot, Panguitch City, Robert Lowe, Brian Bremner, Justin Fischer.

Lori Talbot, Panguitch City Manager, explained that the old grandstands are no longer structurally sound. There was discussion regarding replacing the grandstands, and possibly borrowing or leasing bleachers for the summer events.

Art Cooper and Robert Lowe commented on the need for the grandstands and use of the facility.

Commissioner LeFevre made a MOTION to return to general session. Seconded by Commissioner Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

The Commission agreed to help with the demolition of the grandstands. Commissioner LeFevre made a MOTION to authorize the road crew and/or inmate crew to assist in removal of the grandstands.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Justin Fischer, Planner, presented a proposed amendment the County Mobile Home and Recreational Coach Ordinance. The amendment will be to Section 2-4 of the Ordinance. After discussion, the Commission directed Justin to proceed with the process to amend the ordinance.

Economic Development Committee There was discussion regarding appointment of a County Economic Development Council. There was discussion regarding possible appointments. Justin will email recommendations for the appointments areas.

GARKANE ENERGY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT ORDINANCE

Garkane Energy is requesting a renewal of the Franchise Agreement between Garkane Energy and Garfield County. After review, Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to begin the advertising process for Ordinance 2015-2, An Ordinance Granting to Garkane Energy Cooperative, Inc. Its Successors and Assigns, an Electric Light, Heat and Power Franchise. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

PANGUITCH INVITATIONAL RODEO

After discussion, Commissioner LeFevre made a MOTION to sponsor the Panguitch Invitational Rodeo in the amount of \$1,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC REGIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

After discussion, Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to sponsor the Southwest Pacific Regional Baseball Tournament in the amount of \$1,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION adopt Resolution 2015-2, A Resolution Appointing Executive Committee Members to the Southwest Regional Response and Coordination Team, appointing Chris Hatch and Denise Dastrup to represent Garfield County. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

GARFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to sponsor the Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament in the amount of \$250.00. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING - STATE OF EMERGENCY RESOLUTION - GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DECLINING ENROLLMENT

Commissioner Pollock welcomed those in attendance. Superintendent Ben Dalton and Business Administrator Patty Murphy presented information regarding declining school enrollment in Garfield County. They informed the Commission that data is also available for Kane, San Juan and Wayne Counties.

Rochelle Mitchley asked what a “state of emergency “ resolution would accomplish?
Commissioner Pollock explained the purpose of the resolution is to educate and bring attention

to the problem and ultimately return multiple use to the public lands within the Counties. There is possible legislative funding that may be available. Commissioner Tebbs explained his frustration with the discriminatory hiring practices in the federal agencies against local residents.

Mrs. Mitchley asked what the process would be to educate the public. She suggested making an effort to educate the public regarding the situation.

Doug Heaton, Kane County Commission, explained the public land percentage in Kane County and the loss of industry and decline in school enrollment. The tourism industry is continuing to increase but does not as a general rule provide family sustaining jobs. As a result, the young families are forced to leave the area to find family sustaining employment. He detailed the loss of industry as a result of federal regulations.

Art Cooper expressed appreciation for the efforts of the County Commission.

Justin Fischer, County Economic Development, explained that something that may come from this resolution is to prompt a study of the economic effects of the monument designation to the surrounding areas.

Ken Ivory, Utah State Representative, explained the crisis in many communities throughout the western United States as a result of federal management. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Commission in bringing the situation to light. Commissioner Tebbs asked Representative Ivory if the problem of hiring practices is a problem in surrounding states. Representative Ivory stated that those stories are common throughout the west.

John Westwood, Utah State Representative, expressed his concern and pledged his support. He stated that current environmental policies are choking small communities. We need to be united and work together. The Resolution begins here and needs to go to the State and then to Washington. Commissioner Tebbs explained that the transfer of State Trust Lands from Garfield County was another devastating blow to the County. Representative Westwood stated that the legislature is aware of the issue and hopes to address the problem.

Clare Ramsay, Former Commissioner, expressed his appreciation and support to the Commission. He supports doing whatever is necessary to protect the schools in Escalante.

Cheryl Cox, Garfield County School Board, expressed appreciation for the Commission's action. She was proud of the support exhibited at the town meeting in Escalante. She expressed concern over the negative press that may result from the resolution. She feels it is important to diversify our economy to protect stability and build self reliance. Commissioner Tebbs would like to see the school district engage the monument in providing educational and summer employment opportunities for our students.

Commissioner LeFevre made a MOTION to return to general session. Seconded by Commissioner Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

After discussion, Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to adopt Resolution 2015-3. Seconded by Commissioner LeFevre. Motion carried. Voting unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2015-3

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY; CALLING UPON FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS TO COORDINATE LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITH GARFIELD COUNTY AND THE GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND DEMANDING RESTORATION OF RESPONSIBLE NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT FAMILY LIFE AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GARFIELD COUNTY

WHEREAS, families are the basic unit of society; and

WHEREAS, policies and practices that harm families threaten the health, safety and welfare of individuals and the communities where they live; and

WHEREAS, a principal source of Garfield County's custom, culture and historic socio-economic stability has been responsible, natural resource industries on private, state and federal lands; and

WHEREAS, approximately 93% of the land in Garfield County is under federal ownership; and

WHEREAS, historic multiple use/sustained yield policies regarding use and productivity of federal lands are a significant component in maintaining stable and healthy families in Garfield County; and

WHEREAS, current federal land management policies have virtually eliminated historic social and economic stability in Garfield County's communities and families; and

WHEREAS, Escalante High School enrollment at designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in September of 1996 was approximately 150 students; and

WHEREAS, current Escalante High School enrollment since the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was established has declined to only 50 students – a 67% decrease; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in Bryce Valley schools is projected to decline by 26 students in school year 2016; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic loss of school children in Garfield County indicates the declining viability of its communities that are impacted significantly by federal land management policies; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is proposing management changes that damage the health, safety and welfare of Garfield County's families related to recreation; and

WHEREAS, the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are proposing management changes that damage the health, safety and welfare of Garfield County's families related to custom, culture and historic uses of the land including reductions in recreation, mining, oil & gas development, timber harvest, and livestock grazing; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies have not fully and understandably disclosed the impacts of their proposed management changes on small communities as required by federal law; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies have refused to communicate and coordinate with Garfield County on issues that impact the health, safety and welfare of the county's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, State school trust lands that provided economic opportunities for local communities have been eliminated on NPS, BLM and Forest Service lands; and

WHEREAS, Garfield County's pleas for protection of its families have fallen on deaf federal ears; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission hereby declares a state of emergency regarding declining enrollment in local schools as a result of restrictive federal land management policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission respectfully demands federal land managers in Garfield County restore and develop responsible, multiple use/sustained yield activities that preserve the custom, culture and historic socio-economic stability formerly enjoyed by Garfield County's communities and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission respectfully demands the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area manage resources, including roads asserted and maintained by Garfield County, so they provide maximal recreation enjoyment, experiences and opportunities for the American public and their guests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission respectfully demands the Bureau of Land Management manage resources, including roads asserted and maintained by Garfield County, recreation, vegetation, mining, oil & gas development, and livestock grazing consistent with State and local plans, programs, policies, and laws to the maximum extent allowed by federal law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission respectfully demands the Bureau of Land Management institute educational and science programs promised during the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission respectfully demands the USDA Forest Service manage resources, including roads identified in the State of Utah Transportation Plan for the Dixie National Forest, recreation, vegetation, mining, oil & gas development, timber, and livestock grazing consistent with State and local plans, programs, policies, and laws to the maximum extent allowed by federal law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Garfield County Commission respectfully demands federal agencies in Garfield County maximize support of local communities, schools and families to the maximum extent allowed by federal programs and law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution be sent to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Kanab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, the Dixie National Forest Supervisor's Office, the Cedar City District, Powell District, Escalante District, and Fremont District the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Garfield County staff is directed to schedule a meeting within the next 30 days to discuss the matters identified in the State of Emergency. Invitees shall include but not be limited to the Garfield County Commission, the Garfield County School District, Municipalities located in Garfield County, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Kanab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, the Dixie National Forest Supervisor's Office, Cedar City Ranger District, Powell Ranger District, Escalante Ranger District, Fremont Ranger District, Utah's Governor's office, and Utah's Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED in regular session of the Garfield County Commission this 22nd day of June, 2015

Leland F. Pollock
Commission Chair

H. Dell Lefevre
Commissioner

David B. Tebbs
Commissioner

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable list was reviewed, approved and signed by the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m..

Commission Chair

Clerk/Auditor