

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THAT OCCASIONAL MEETINGS OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION BE HELD IN LOCATIONS OUTSIDE MONTICELLO, UTAH.

WHEREAS, San Juan County is one of the largest counties in the United States and its citizens often live far from the County seat in Monticello, Utah. For example, citizens living in Navajo Mountain, Utah, must drive nearly four hours to get to Monticello.

WHEREAS, meetings of the San Juan County Commission are currently held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Monticello, Utah. Holding meetings in this location effectively shuts out participation by citizens from the southern and northern portions of the County.

WHEREAS, in a letter dated January 4, 2019, the Town of Bluff requested that the San Juan County Commission hold “regular sessions to various locations within San Juan County and not limit the meetings to the Hideout in Monticello.”

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2018, the Navajo Utah Commission adopted Resolution No. NUCDEC-767-18, which requests that the “2019 San Juan County Commission Meetings [be held] on a rotating basis between the county seat and a location in the southern region of San Juan County with Navajo interpretation assistance.”

WHEREAS, citizens in the northern part of the County (Spanish Valley) have recently voiced concern that they have been historically ignored by the Commission and have also requested that Commission meetings be held in their part of the County.

WHEREAS, at the Commission meeting of April 3, 2019, during the public comment portion of the meeting, comments were received requesting, once again, that the Commission hold occasional meetings in the southern portion of the County.

WHEREAS, pursuant to UCA § 17-53-204 the San Juan County Commission has authority to approve holding occasional meetings of the Commission outside the County seat “as the public business requires.”

WHEREAS, the San Juan County Attorney, Kendall Laws, objected to a prior version of this resolution, stating that it is his legal opinion that regular meetings of the Commission cannot be held outside Monticello; however, the legal opinion provided by Laws was based primarily on advice he received from the Utah Association of Counties, a private entity that does not purport to provide legal advice to its members, and his opinion was not supported by any citations to the Utah Code or decisions of the Utah courts, as would ordinarily be expected in a competent legal opinion.

WHEREAS, in light of the size of the County and the requests of communities in the southern and northern parts of the County, the San Juan County Commission believes the public business

requires that its meetings occasionally be held in locations around the southern and northern parts of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1: The regular meeting of the San Juan County Commission on the third Tuesday of June, August, October and December 2019, shall be held at different locations in the southern part of the County or in the Spanish Valley area.

Section 2: The County Administrator shall immediately contact the chapter managers of the Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Mexican Water and Aneth chapters, as well as the Town of Bluff, to make arrangements to hold the Commission meeting on the third Tuesday of June, August, October and December 2019 on a rotating basis at each one of the chapter houses (or in the case of Oljato, at the Monument Valley Visitor Center), at the Bluff Community Center and at a location in Spanish Valley. The County Administrator shall also make arrangements for Navajo interpretation at those locations south of Blanding.

Section 3: The first such meeting shall be held on the third Tuesday in June 2019. The County Administrator shall report to the Commission at its regular meeting on the first Tuesday in June 2019 on the arrangements he has made for these meetings.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of San Juan County Commissioners this
_____ day of _____ 2019.

Those voting aye:

Those voting nay:

Those abstaining:

Absent:

Board of San Juan County Commissioners

Kenneth Maryboy, Chairman

ATTEST:

John David Nielson, County Clerk/Auditor