

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Daggett County Commission, Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Commissioners Steglich and Perry were present and Commissioner Blanchard was excused. Vicky McKee, County Clerk, was present as board secretary. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Steglich.

Also present were: Brian Raymond-Economic Development, Grant Charles-County Attorney, Cindy Keller, Dave McDonald, William (Buddy) Rogers, David Orr and Jess Jackson.

There was no one present with old business nor citizens comments.

The minutes of the August 7, 2013 were provided by the County Clerk's office for review and approval. Mr. Steglich provided a couple of revisions regarding Congressman Bishop's proposal for the minutes. Upon review, motion by Mrs. Perry to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Steglich, all in favor.

The Open Invoice Report was provided by the County Auditor's office for review and approval in the amount of \$36,843.02. Mr. Steglich stated that he had several questions as follows regarding the report so Cindy Keller was requested to attend the meeting: 1. Warren Blanchard for mileage and meals for search in the amount of \$775.61. Ms. Keller stated that it was to feed the Search & Rescue people and mileage for driving back and forth and Mr. Blanchard had paid for that from his own credit card. 2. Bridger Valley Electric for fire for two for \$80.53 and Ms. Keller replied the total billing of \$161.06 was split equally between fire and ambulance. 3. Mr. Steglich questioned the amount of the BVE for \$1,517.43 and this matter was discussed. He requested a report of how much the Courthouse electricity had reduced this last month. The concern is that these figures for the new Sheriff's office have not been budgeted in for 2013. 4. Consolidated Electrical Dist. for fluor fix for the Dutch John Town Maintenance Shop was discussed and determined that it was for fluorescent lights. 5. Jack's General Tire for \$320.80 for ambulance with a question mark and Cindy replied she was needing to check which ambulance this needs to be applied to. 6. Mr. Steglich questioned why the invoice from Jack's General Tire in the amount of \$1,191.55 was coded to 4210-255 for General Fund, Sheriff fleet vehicle maintenance rather than Search & Rescue. Ms. Keller stated that was for parts for the Polaris Ranger and Jane Foucault had signed and coded it this way. Upon review of the billing it was determined that it was mainly for six tires and Mr. Steglich will verify the coding with Sheriff Jorgensen. 7. Warne Chemical for \$225.68 coded to 10-4610-610 for Weeds was determined fine. 8. Wex Bank for the new fuel card and Mr. Steglich questioned what was included under non fuel items. Ms. Keller stated that in order for this to be clarified on the billing the employee would need to turn in their receipts. Mr. Steglich stated that he will work with James and Mrs. Pallesen regarding this. 9. Mr. Steglich questioned the receipt named Flaming Gorge Cafe and it was determined that the invoice was from Brownings Cafe for food as the receipt reflects a tip. With no further discussion, motion by Mrs. Perry to approve the Open Invoice Report in the amount of \$36,843.02. Seconded by Mr. Steglich, all in favor.

With regards to correspondence, Brian Raymond reported that Daggett County has received \$12,461.90 for the Cooperative Marketing Program and he provided a copy of the press release for review. Mrs. McKee had also provided correspondence from Ken Brown regarding a Salt Lake Tribune article entitled Navajo Nation Supports State's Horse Slaughter House.

The matter of the fire restrictions will be continued until the next meeting as of this date there has been no change.

Motion by Mrs. Perry to recess the meeting at 9:30 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.
Seconded by Mr. Steglich, all in favor.

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:00 A.M. with everyone still present as listed earlier.

Mr. Steglich stated that the County Commission had called for a Public Hearing at 10:00 A.M. for the purpose of obtaining public comments for the Opening of the 2013 Budget Opening. Motion by Mrs. Perry to go in to the Public Hearing at 10:00 A.M. Seconded by Mr. Steglich, all in favor. Those present were Brian Raymond, Dave McDonald, Buddy Rogers, David Orr and Jess Jackson.

Mr. Steglich addressed the new rules for those providing public comment. He stated that the Commission has been reviewing the County Budget since April of this year and a resolution will not be passed today as they are not prepared. They will only be receiving public comments today. Mr. McDonald questioned if the Commission would be providing a presentation on the proposed changes and Mr. Steglich replied that the provided notice stated that the documents would be available through Mrs. Pallesen's office. He then provided a copy of Resolution 13-12 for review by those present. Mrs. Perry stated that in December of 2012 the Commission had cut \$175,000.00 from the proposed 2013 Budget and they have again cut \$254,000.00 from the finalized 2013 Budget with the possibility of more reductions as the resolution as presented is not the final version. Mr. McDonald questioned when the Commission would be ready to discuss a final budget and Mr. Steglich replied that they will have the final documents at the August 27th meeting and will be addressing the resolution then.

Dave McDonald stated that he had received a copy of a resolution today that provided the proposed budget changes that will be changed again at the August 27th meeting. He stated that there has not been a lot of information regarding the Federal funding and he questioned the matter of the payment. Mr. Steglich replied that the county has been informed that by the end of the year the payment of approximately \$800,000.00 will be received, but that money is spent. Mr. McDonald then provided the following comments: He stated that the county has been spending on average \$1/2M of the Dutch John money each year so the county's revenue cutting of \$400,000.00 is \$100,000.00 short. He disagrees completely with the proposed tax increase as a way to cover the short fall. The county needs to cut spending not increase taxes. They need to roll back expenditures based on anticipated revenues as the last six to seven years the expenditures have increased without the revenues. Planning for land sales to carry the county is irresponsible and the county needs to plan to make ends meet with what the county knows they will be getting. He questions why the Assessor's office at one time had just one employee and now has three without changing the amount of parcels to assess. The county has gone to a GIS based system that gives \$0 benefit. He does not see that the Economic Development effort brings any returns back to the county and feels that those dollars should stop. There is no one in the county showing that they are an expert in that area and it should be given to the Chamber to handle. The county needs to find a way to cut taxes as a way to bring new people here. There are a lot of people in the county that cannot afford the spending in the county and it is hurting them by raising taxes. The Commission needs to look at how spending money on a function in the

county benefits the county not the county employees. It is a shame the county finances are what they are but County government did this not the people.

Mrs. Perry stated that in 2006 the county had 100 employees and now the county has 74 employees. In 2006 more of the General Fund budget was spent on the upkeep of Dutch John and not until 2007 was the Dutch John money spent on Dutch John but was hoarded. In 2007 it was determined to spend the Dutch John money first. The 2006 Budget was within \$70,000.00 of the 2013 Budget and the 2005 and 2007 General Fund budgets were more than the General Fund budget is this year. The 2013 budget will get the county through this year but next year there will be additional cuts necessary.

Mr. McDonald stated that the general business of the county has not changed in 10 years but Mrs. Perry stated that the cost of doing business has gone up. Mr. McDonald stated that there are a lot of places that the county is expending dollars without getting any benefits back to the residents. Dutch John only represents 10% of the population and the expenses should also be 10% excluding the costs for the utilities. The matter of incorporation of the Town of Dutch John was discussed. Mr. Steglich stated that the Dutch John Incorporation proposal was incomplete due to a lack of a survey so the proposal was returned. A County Commission cannot give a county asset away. Since 70% of the Dutch John property is owned by the county should not all the county residents be allowed to vote on the incorporation and if that is not favorable to the proponents of the petition then withdraw that area from the proposed incorporation. The incorporation could then take place and the county would have someone to negotiate with. Mr. McDonald stated that November 2014 is the date that there will be election in Dutch John which shows if they want to incorporate with the same boundaries as of today with only Dutch John residents voting on the issue. Mr. Steglich asked if there was more conversation regarding the budget. Mrs. Perry clarified that the residents of Dutch John are only 10% of the county. She stated that she had reviewed the actual costs for Dutch John excluding administration and the utility facilities and they average \$124,000.00 each year. How are the residents of Dutch John going to pick up those costs? In 2012 there was over \$680,000.00 expended in Dutch John for Chip Seals and Airport.

Jess Jackson questioned how to get the up to date information so that they would be able to talk about the budget revisions intelligently. Mr. Steglich replied that the notice posted for the meeting stated where the information can be obtained, but they can get copies from the County Auditor's office. The matter of the posting of notices was discussed as well as the State and County websites.

Dave McDonald stated that the proposed changes as listed in Resolution #13-12 do not mean anything to him without having knowledge of the funds. Mr. Steglich stated that since there are several in attendance that have some issues with what information has been provided, the resolution will not be approved until August 27, 2013. At that meeting the commission will accept public comments regarding the proposed budget revisions allowing them time to review the budget information provided.

Buddy Rogers questioned the possibility of having the budget listed on the county website as a working document rather than having it mailed or emailed. Mr. Steglich stated that he will work with Mrs. Pallesen regarding this. There are only two times during the year when there normally are possible revisions: the budget is approved each December for the following year and in midyear for possible budget adjustments.

With no further questions or comments, motion by Mrs. Perry to go back into the regular session at 10:50 A.M. Seconded by Mr. Steglich, all in favor.

Mr. Steglich thanked those that were in attendance and expressed their views.

Ken Brown had not been able to attend this meeting for the Public Land Update as scheduled.

The matter of approval of Resolution #13-12 to Reopen Calendar Year 2013 Budget will be continued until the August 27th meeting.

The county has not received anything back from Craig Smith for the Warranty Deed for Left Hand Fork, Inc. so that matter will be continued.

Mr. Steglich stated that he had met with Congressman Rob Bishop in Vernal on Saturday regarding Daggett County's 10 items for the proposed land exchange. Congressman Bishop had expressed his concerns with all the asks and if the county was giving up enough. Congressman Bishop then provided questions and concerns as follows for some of the other items as listed: He had questioned if the Commission would consider moving the wilderness designation that currently exists on the north slope of the Uintahs in Summit County towards Hoop Lake and Burnt Fork above the road into Daggett County. Mr. Steglich voiced his concern with the management of that area with regards to the deadfall on the trails. He stated that he would support this as an "A" Commissioner, if the language could be changed to allow for the deadfall and beetle kill to be removed. Congressman Bishop is hesitant with regards to the WSA issue in Browns Park because of Colorado. The Commission did meet with Moffat County Commissioners and they are supportive and if the full support of the Commission can be obtained as well as to get Legislator Timpkin on board, Congressman Bishop would be willing to work towards releasing the Cold Springs WSA and codifying the Diamond Breaks WSA. The Bare Top proposal was good and he could see the possibilities of giving that over to the State to manage conservation areas. He expressed concerns with Deer Lodge being out of the county. Congressman Bishop had stated that the county can move as much SITLA ground out of Daggett County as possible without being related to a give and would receive the 25% revenues from the extraction of minerals in the exchange. In this situation the grazing allotments would stay for the ranchers through the Forest Service and SITLA would get a lot more money for education. If Jarvie Ranch and Swett Ranch were privatized they will need to go into County ownership as the managing entity. Mr. Steglich stated that it was a good meeting overall but short and quick. The attorneys for SUWA were present at the meeting and a Town Hall meeting was being conducted at which Congressman Bishop was getting hammered. Congressman Bishop's aid will be contacting Daggett County and put the finishing touches on the county's proposal.

Mr. Steglich reported that there is a Public Lands Bill meeting tomorrow at the Capital which he plans to attend. There is also a UAC meeting scheduled for Thursday at the Capital regarding the Staggered Terms legislation. They also have a phone conference scheduled with Ashley Kornblat from Public Land Solutions regarding moving forward with creating mountain bike loop proposals in Daggett County. That would be a low cost Economic Development tool that would have immediate impact on the county. Some of the proposed areas are Bear Top, Hide Out/ Sheep Creek area, Alabama Flats and Silver Lake. She feels that Daggett County has the ability of being one of the top intermountain biking areas with the possibility of doubling county

revenues. There would be a cost of approximately \$30,000.00 to do the flagging and then the construction costs would be over that but they are looking at grants to help pay for the costs. She feels there is also potential for paddle boats and rock climbing. Mr. Rogers stated that jeep trails would also be a good activity to pursue but there is still nowhere for people to stay. Mr. McDonald stated that mountain biking could be huge for the county but they need to find trails close to existing lodging and build the trails there first. There was also discussion regarding an ATV trail system. He stated that Antelope Flats is one of the best recreation investments that the county could do if the boat ramp was moved to Choke Cherry. The ramp as it is now is a liability and needs to be closed and moved.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

/s/ Vicky McKee

/s/ Jerry Steglich

/s/ Karen Perry