

January 2, 2024

The Board of Garfield County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

Present were Chairman Justin Dixon, Member Larry Ledgerwood, Member Jim Nelson, Clerk of the Board McKenzie Lueck and the public.

The Board started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from both previous meetings.

Chairman Dixon called for public comment. There was none.

Road Supervisor, Steve Gormsen, gave the road report for the previous week. The graders ran on Lynn Gulch and Skyhawk Hill. The crew was running short due to the holiday week and vacations. They worked on cleaning up the airport pit. Steve informed the Board that someone has already dumped a desk and chairs at the pit after the crew cleaned it up and he isn't sure what to do to deter the littering. Chairman Dixon requested that the signage of what is acceptable to be dumped get larger and requested that the crew put signage up stating there were cameras in use. In addition to the cleanup, Steve continued that the crew has been burning weeds in culvert heads and ditches. The crew worked on sanding roads throughout the county that were slick. In the shop they worked on pickups E215 and E221, as well as truck E251 which required troubleshooting electrical problems. The crew has been working on the Malone Hill bridge guardrail as weather permits. Steve stated that this week, the crew would be working on the same projects. They probably won't get much grading done due to the weather. Chairman Dixon stated that down by Gary Bye's house towards Koller's driveway there is a culvert line that has eroded clear back to the white line. He asked Steve to go out and inspect it. Steve stated they were planning on taking care of it this year and spoke about blocks that they could place there to help.

Engineer Wege joined the Board to give them his weekly update. He stated that he got the annual reporting done for County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Department of Ecology (DOE). He stated that he was able to get notices for the Appaloosa project done, including mailings and a sign installed near the project site. There will also be an ad in the paper. Commissioner Ledgerwood asked about the sign and Engineer Wege stated that there will be a 2 foot by 4-foot sign on the top of 127, about 20 feet off the right-of-way, and it will state 'Notice of Application' or 'Notice of land Use' with the pertinent information attached. There is also a notice that is posted on the County website. He stated that the sign would stay up for the duration of the project. There was discussion regarding who's responsibility the sign was, and Engineer Wege stated that the County is having the sign made and county employees will put the sign up on private property. He continued that this is part of the amended agreement for the Appaloosa project that was recently signed by the Board. Engineer Wege stated that there is not a public hearing date set yet and there is no threshold determination. Friday will begin a two-week period of comments, and when there is a public hearing comments will be accepted then as well. There was discussion regarding if there needs to be two weeks of advertising before the hearing. There was no determination on that question.

The Board requested Public Works' flow chart on the project be shared with them regarding which depicts the process of the upcoming Appaloosa project. Engineer Wege stated that they are over notifying the surrounding area of the project sight rather than under notifying. The sign will be put up on Thursday. Engineer Wege stated that there are a lot of things going on in the background of the project; he had a contractor call him regarding permitting for getting power out to the project. He explained that permitting is part of the project. Chairman Dixon asked where they were going to interconnect and Engineer Wege stated that it will interconnect at the substation on Klaveano property. It won't be getting any bigger, it will just be added to what is already at the substation.

Engineer Wege continued with his weekly update, stating that they measured gravel and culvert inventory, but he didn't have the report ready for the Board yet. He plans on providing the Board with a comprehensive ERR report with all of that information at a later date. He stated that there will also be an ad in the paper this week for Requests for Proposals to hire a consultant for the Shoreline Grant. He concluded his update stating that he will be meeting with Jason Earl, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, to discuss the pheasant project. He is also meeting with someone from the Department of Natural Resources to discuss closing out a pit. Chairman Dixon stated that there is some sort of slope requirement when closing pits.

The Board reviewed the updated Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) spreadsheet which tracks what the Board has approved and expensed of these funds up to this point in time. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that there were multiple requests that the Board never received quotes so they were on hold until they get quotes. Katie Magill, District Court Administrator, informed the Board that CPE has been in the courthouse a couple of times, but she is waiting for a quote for the dutch doors from them. She also stated that the person that's doing the key badge project has a friend that might be interested in doing the dutch doors so he is going to reach out to him and see if he will quote the project. McKenzie stated that she would send an email to the department heads of the current spreadsheet and ask if they provide quotes for all their requests. Commissioner Nelson stated that the county still has about \$260,000 to allocate.

The Board reviewed Resolution 2024-01 in the matter of the 2024 Salary and Wage Schedule. Chairman Dixon stated that this schedule sets salaries and wages for employees. McKenzie stated that if a vendor is paid through the accounts payable system, such as the Clerk of the Board position or the Civil Service Examiner position, then those amounts are not included in the schedule. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was signed.

Chairman Dixon asked if the Board had heard any updates from the Deputies Association. Commissioner Nelson stated that he had checked with Prosecutor Newberg last week and the County's attorney is communicating and negotiating with the Deputies Association representative. Commissioner Nelson stated that he thought they were negotiating a two- or three-year contract.

The Board reviewed the 2023 Committee Assignments and after some discussion decided to stick with the same committee assignments for 2024. There was discussion regarding the Work

Force Development Board and how active surrounding counties were on the Board and whether it was pertinent to Garfield County's needs to stay involved in the group. Ultimately it was decided to continue with the board, when possible. Chairman Dixon asked if the Innovia Foundation would be coming to meet the Board anytime soon as he had heard at a meeting last week that the foundation was going around meeting with Boards of County Commissioners. The other Board members were not aware of a potential meeting with the Innovia Foundation.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he has a Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) meeting on Thursday and will be traveling over to the west side on the 18th of this month and then the 14th and 15th of next month. He stated that the LSC is trying to get their legislative planning done. Commissioner Nelson discussed the clean energy tax and said that he expects to hear more about it at his upcoming meetings. Commissioner Nelson stated that he would like Assessor Bartels to join the Board's meeting next week and discuss his opinion on it. There was continued discussion about the upcoming legislative session. Chairman Dixon stated that there are a few bills that are coming into effect now that are designed around the urban interface, which includes the new building codes that dictate that wood siding, wood decks, etc. are no longer allowable. There was discussion regarding how this will affect Garfield County. Chairman Dixon stated that one of the questions that didn't get answered in a discussion that he was involved with was how this will pertain to pole buildings or wood cabins. Chairman Dixon stated that he thinks this goes into effect in March and he would continue to try to find out more information. He also informed the Board that there is a bill that might allow for opting out of the long-term care act. They will continue following these bills, as the outcome will affect Garfield County.

The Board discussed who the 2024 Chairman would be. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that he thinks Chairman Dixon is doing a good job of it, and he doesn't have any interest in taking it over. Commissioner Nelson agreed. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to keep the committee assignments the same and Commissioner Nelson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Nelson brought up a discussion regarding the on-going task of updating the boards. Chairman Dixon stated it was his opinion that the Board should take on two projects to accomplish in the month of January. He continued that his priority is to get emergency management moving. He is going to meet with the Fire Chief, James Cleveland, who temporarily took over the program to get caught up to speed. Commissioner Ledgerwood brought forward the idea of inviting each of the boards, or at least the chairman of those boards, to a BOCC (Board of County Commissioners) meeting to see what the BOCC can do to support them and what the BOCC needs to be updated on as it pertains to their board. Chairman Dixon stated that he thinks planning needs to be one of the first boards that they meet with, due to the big green energy project.

Chairman Dixon stated that he would like the personnel policy to be sent out to the department heads to get their take on it before they adopt it.

Chairman Dixon reminded everyone that the Board will be meeting next Monday, the 8th, and then the following Tuesday, the 16th, because that Monday is a holiday.

The Board recessed from 9:58 a.m. until 10:05 a.m.

The Board went into executive session to discuss the performance and expectations of an employee at 10:05 a.m. until 10:26 a.m. No decisions were made.

The Commissioners regular meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. with the next regular meeting set for Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

/s/ McKenzie Lueck
Attest: Clerk of the Board

/s/ Justin Dixon
Chairman, Board of Garfield County Commissioners

Adopted