

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Dolores County**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**December 18, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Dolores County Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on December 18, 2023. Present for the meeting were Commission Chair Steve Garchar, Vice Chair Linda Yellowman, Commissioner Floyd Cook, Attorney Dennis Golbricht, County Administrator Margret Daves, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Shayla Oliver.

The meeting began with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests**

In Person – USFS Field Office Director Nick Mustoe, GIS Director Amber Fisher, Road and Bridge Superintendent Steve Davis

Zoom – Weed District Supervisor/Extension Secretary Oma Fleming, Road and Bridge Office Manager Linda Rehmert, BLM Field Office Director Derek Padilla

In Person Dolores/Norwood Road Discussion Participants – Corey Veach, Cory Jaeger, Thomas Jaeger, David Sitton, Dennis Rhoades, Jodi Rhoades, Bonnie Candelaria, Larry Ranney, Geri Alger, and Joyce Porter

Zoom Dolores/Norwood Road Discussion Participants – Janie Stiasny, Gaige Zippy, Val Sharp, Matt Stiasny, and Stan Reifshneider

**Payroll for December 15, 2023**

The following is a list of total payrolls by Department:

County Commissioners:	\$ 8,187.06	6 Employees	
County Clerk:	\$ 3,081.28	3 Employees	
County Treasurer:	\$ 2,492.29	2 Employees	
County Assessor:	\$ 4,412.68	4 Employees	
GIS:	\$ 1,261.10	1 Employee	
County Maintenance:	\$ 1,432.39	1 Employee	1 Part Time
County Sheriff:	\$ 14,632.17	10 Employees	1 Part Time
County Coroner:	\$ 459.93	1 Employee	
EMA:	\$ 1,312.07	1 Employee	
Extension:	\$ 1,402.27	2 Employees	1 Part Time
DCTV:	\$ 562.59		3 Part Time
Veterans Office:	\$ 499.46		1 Part Time
Fair Board:	\$ 69.26		
Senior Services:	\$ 9,302.28	2 Employees	13 Part Time

1 Temp

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Health & Nurse:	\$ 5,245.65	3 Employees		
Mandatory Weed:	\$ 2,103.86	2 Employees		
R&B Administration Other:	\$ 24,859.47	18 Employees		
Social Services:	\$ 11,201.46	6 Employees	3 Part Time	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$92,517.27</b>	<b>64 Employees</b>	<b>22 Part Time</b>	<b>1 Temp</b>

**Agenda**

Commissioner Cook made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of an Executive Session and Resolution #12-23-10 Public Depositories and Resolution #12-23-11 a Resolution to Dissolve Monument Heights Subdivision.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Expenditures**

Commissioner Cook made a motion approving payment of the expenditures.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the November 20, 2023, December 4, 2023 and December 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes upon correction of a duplicate sentence in the December 4, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Malynda Evans Social Services Update**

Social Services Director Malynda Evans presented for approval the Record of Proceedings for December 18, 2023 as well as the financial documents through October 2023.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion approving the above-mentioned documents.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Evans discussed with the BOCC available funding from Rocky Mountain Health Plans. The purpose of the funding is to assist employees with the public health emergency long-term effects: staff changes, requirements, etc. The available amount is \$20,000.00, specifically designed and earmarked for Social Services Employees staff retention efforts and wellbeing. Mrs. Evans requested permission from the BOCC to apply for the funding. All three Commissioners agreed it was a terrific opportunity and gave their support, no official action was necessary.

**Mark Martinez/Monument Heights Subdivision**

Monument Heights Subdivision is 36.8 acres divided into six 3-acre lots and five 2.8 acre lots. The subdivision has been in place since June 30, 2008. Mark Martinez made a request to the BOCC to dissolve the Monument Heights Subdivision and combine the lots into one 36.8-acre parcel. The 2022 assessment of the property changed from ag status to vacant land, therefore increasing the property taxes significantly. Mr. Martinez indicated his belief that by dissolving the subdivision and combining the lots the property would return to ag status. Assessor Amber Blackmore explained that it takes three years to change the status, in which during that time you have to prove agriculture use on the property. Mr. Martinez stated that he had not had livestock on the property for the two years during the drought, he did build a fence during that time. Additionally, Mr. Martinez was informed that the BOCC could not take action to dissolve the subdivision until outstanding taxes are paid. Resolution #12-23-11 a Resolution to Dissolve Monument Heights Subdivision was not voted on due to the property tax issue.

**BLM Update/Derek Padilla**

Derek Padilla Tres Rios Office Field Manager for the BLM joined the meeting via zoom to update the BOCC on current happenings involved with Dolores County and surrounding areas.

- The Gunnison Sage Grouse Comments are due on February 6, 2024
- The Big Game Resource Management Plan Amendment Effort is a parallel effort with the Sage Grouse, the comments for those are due February 6, 2024 also.
- The Resource Management Plan Maintenance Map of the designated routes for the TAP II plan is available. Mr. Padilla will email that map to Margret Daves. The formal TAP II process will begin in January, the BLM will be in contact with Dolores County to make sure the County's input is included in the plan effort.
- The Disappointment Gravel Pit is still on the BLM project list to be finalized before the spring season. They are waiting on San Miguel Power Co to give their input on where they want to relocate their power line affected by the expansion of the pit. As soon as they get that information they can start on the formal process of the EA so that by the spring season that will be in place.

**USFS Update/Nick Mustoe**

Nick Mustoe USFS Field Manager joined the meeting to update the BOCC on current happenings involved with Dolores County and surrounding areas. Mr. Mustoe said they are currently working on burn piles and road closures. Commissioner Cook discussed log hauling on USFS lands and the effects it has on Dolores County roads. Mr. Mustoe is a newly hired employee and would like to gather more information before answering any questions.

**Dolores/Norwood Road Closure**

Landowners of the Groundhog area attended the meeting to discuss the winter road closure on County Road 31 the Dolores-Norwood road. During the December 4, 2023 BOCC meeting Road and Bridge

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Supervisor Steve Davis stated they would close the gates on Thursday December 7, 2023 due to the recent snowfall and pending storms predicted. Since the gate closure, the weather has improved and the road is still in good condition and is easily passable according to the residents and landowners of that area. The landowners made the request to open the gates allowing through traffic. After further discussion Mr. Davis/Road Supervisor agreed to opening the gates with the understanding that there would be no more road maintenance this year. With the reopening of the gates Aspen Wall Wood has also requested the option to continue its log hauling operation. Mr. Sitton is also requesting his Permit to Plow be approved. The BOCC made a unanimous decision to not allow any further logging for the 2023 season, and the Permit to Plow and permit fee will be returned to Aspen Wall Wood.

**New Business**

**Funds Transfer Resolution: #12-23-04** The Dolores County Budget Officer made a request to Transfer Funds from the Yellow Jacket Orchard Grant Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$12,594.45.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to accept Resolution #12-23-04 Funds Transfer from Yellow Jacket Orchard Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$12,594.45.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Funds Transfer Resolution: #12-23-05** The Dolores County Budget Officer made a request to Transfer Funds from the Cost Recovery Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$3,889.71.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to accept Resolution #12-23-05 Funds Transfer from Cost Recovery Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$3,889.71.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Funds Transfer Resolution: #12-23-06** The Dolores County Budget Officer made a request to Transfer Funds from the Clerk Grant Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$24,498.82.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to accept Resolution #12-23-06 Funds Transfer from Clerk Grant Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$24,498.82.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Funds Transfer Resolution: #12-23-07** The Dolores County Budget Officer made a request to Transfer Funds from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Grant Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$1,078,200.00. The remaining \$360,000 will be deferred to 2024.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to accept Resolution #12-23-07 Funds Transfer from Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$1,078,200.00 with the remaining \$360,000.00 will be deferred to 2024.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

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**Funds Transfer Resolution: #12-23-08** The Dolores County Budget Officer made a request to Transfer Funds from the Land Use Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$70,042.50, creating a new line item.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to accept Resolution #12-23-08 Funds Transfer from the Land Use Fund in the amount of \$70,042.50 creating a new line item.

Commissioner Yellowman seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Funds Transfer Resolution: #12-23-09** The Dolores County Budget Officer made a request to Transfer Funds from the DCTV Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$18,709.05, creating a new line item.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion to accept Resolution #12-23-09 Funds Transfer from the DCTV Fund in the amount of \$18,709.05 creating a new line item.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Resolution #12-23-10:** A Resolution approving and designating Public Depositories in which the Dolores County Treasurer may deposit public funds and impose certain conditions upon such deposits.

Commissioner Yellowman made a motion approving Resolution #12-23-10.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**Karelia Ver Eecke Letter of Good Faith:** Karelia Ver Eecke requested a Letter of Good Faith that Dolores County will continue to keep Ms. Ver Eecke on contract through spring of 2024 and beyond should an additional grant be secured in coordination with the ongoing Gunnison Sage Grouse Restoration Project.

Commissioner Garchar adjourned the meeting.

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Chair to the Board of County Commissioners

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Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

Approved February 5, 2024

