

Montezuma County BOCC July 24, 2017

Not a lot of controversial issues today, but here is an oversight of some that may be of interest. These are this writers views, not minutes.

COURT HOUSE is nearing completion. Now going through preliminary punchout list. It was mentioned that there are over 80,000 feet of “data lines” in the building, that comes to over 15 miles. Sure hope they all work, chasing down a glitch could be interesting. The high school had problems with theirs. The Court personnel will be going through training to know how to operate the building.

ROADS is involved in repairs and completing projects like new chip seal on Transfer/42 road in Mancos Dist. New gravel on RD 23 and later 22 north of 184.

LAND FILL pointed out that some recyclables such as paper, cardboard and Plastics are going down in price, not good. Also, looking to gain more lifetime at the landfill by re-designing the layout of cells.

FAIRGROUNDS has been successful this summer, and remember the fair starts THIS Week 7/28-8/5

BIKE RACE markings on highways was brought in as a problem. The bike racers need bright markings on the highways for direction on routes. Past use of paint was NOT good, so want

to use a spray on chalk that will last for several rains. Road people want only sidewalk chalk that comes off easier. Bikers don't think it lasts long enough. Gonna have to figure something out.

BROAD BAND concerns were expressed to the Commissioners by Mr. Garner. Concerns expressed were how economic developments are not developed because a utility of any kind is on site, but is brought in to service the business. Most utilities are not actually necessities, but really nice conveniences. The surveys were not reliable due to leading questions and potential duplicates. High speed internet is already available in the county via at least 3 providers such as AT&T , Verizon, Hughes Net.. The system seems to be based upon having the tax payers subsidize the Fiber System to make it profitable. The County can be involved in supporting the Broad Band expansion through it's legal authorizations , like granting Rights of Way etc. To see and hear his comments watch the re-broadcast on Mesa TV Saturday Morning at 9 a.m. on antenna TV Channel 30.6

SOCIAL SERVICES monthly report is always kinda interesting. One thing that always catches my eye is the cost of the EBT program. June showed \$834,852.93 total EBT costs. These are "pass through" \$\$\$ from the State, Also there are over 9000 persons in the County on Medicaid benefits. That all says a lot

about economy and jobs in the area. The Department's Fraud Investigator is kept busy investigating all suspicious activities. So far this year 21 cases of potential fraud have been investigated. It is good to know we have people that are keeping a eye out on these issues.

CONGRESSMAN TIPTON'S office in Durango has been supervised by Darlene Marcus for years, and has been a very good contact for those of us in his district. She is retiring in August, so introduced her new replacement for that office, who is Jose' Alanis.

COUNTY ROAD MAP hearing was held. This is an annual process. There were numerous concerns over some public access roads in the area south of Summit Lake, and one accessing BLM lands on north end of proposed Phil's World expansion. The Map was finally approved with those two segments of road Tabled for later discussion and consideration.

MESA VERDE PARK presented their proposal to purchase a parcel of private land to add to the Park holdings. The recent County policy of federal land purchases needing to be met with equal federal land sales back into private, brings this proposal into question . Result was to postpone for later date with discussion with BLM. For those that don't know, the County is 73% federally owned and has been increasing, leaving a decreasing land base to provide economic growth, housing and

tax support for necessities like roads, sanitation etc. . Also, even private lands are being “sold” as conservation easements that are set aside from future economic development use and housing needs.