

## Montezuma County BOCC 10-23-17

As a reminder, this is notes as the observer/author perceived the discussion, and may include personal thoughts which will be in italics. The meeting started off with Public Comment period.

PUBLIC COMMENTS started of with one public expressing disappointment with the BOCC's handling of the budget issue with the Extension office. Specifically did not like Commissioner Suckla's reference to their action being "fake news" to get CSU to the table. She felt that was unprofessional, etc. A second commenter 2<sup>nd</sup> the first. Commissioner Suckla responded that his reference to "fake news" could have been better as "negotiation tactic", otherwise the need was to get CSU to do something to revive the faltering Extension and 4H programs. *I notice that the Journal will have an editorial denigrating the BOCC along the same lines. This brings to mind that there is a national view that elected officials are elected/hired to do their job on behalf of ALL residents (which all have differing views), which makes the job difficult enough, but NOW the concern is that "doing the job" is not as important as in the WAY AND MANNER the public thinks they should do it. In the business world this is known as "micro managing" the employee. They are "hired/elected" to DO a JOB, they are to be rated on getting the job done, not on HOW they do it. These*

*days, the public and especially the media are quick to criticize elected officials on HOW they do the job without knowing any of the circumstances or reasons for it. That is easy to do when we the public and media are not the ones responsible and accountable for job accomplishment. Each of us with our differing personalities would likely have done it differently if we were in that position of responsibility, but we are NOT. Most would probably just not do anything out of fear of criticism, thus not ever getting a job done. Enough said!*

ROADS DEPT. is busy with culvert installations, blade patching and subgrade building on Rd 13. The problem of road 35.6 being “turned green” was brought up again and it was clarified that it was always a Public Access road (green), but just not “signed” green as public access. The Clarification was why the different levels of management was stated recently. Road BB and CC access from Hwy 491 to Hovenweep Monument was brought up, seems the highway signs directing traffic to use BB are still up. After discussion, it was noted that CDOT and or Hovenweep will be removing the signs to CC in the Oct.-Nov work schedule, so hopefully that should be done soon. ALSO it was questioned if google maps can correct their GPS users to direct traffic to CC instead of BB like it is now. Seems that there is no readily available access to Google to correct them. However Road Dept. will be working with Hovenweep and CDOT on the issue.

FAIR GROUNDS reported a good year so far, and there are several events still coming up shortly such as High School Jr. Rodeo, Teen Maze, Four States Jr. Rodeo. It was noted that the new LED lighting has really been saving\$\$\$\$. In regards to 4H programs, It is POSSIBLE there will be a "Fall Festival" next year to benefit the 4H program.

SHERIFF discussed the need for renewing/replacing body cams for the officers. There has been some concern that they aren't effective in reducing enforcement abuse. It was explained that is not the purpose or value of body cams, They help clarify what really happened in any situation, thus saving both court time and costs later on. 20 new Body Cams with maintenance etc. would be expensive for a 5 year contract, over \$99,000. Payment would have to be divided between 5 funding sources. This was just for discussion, and proposal will be discussed later.

OTHER REPORTS Rep. Tipton will be here this Friday to discuss issues on McPhee regarding Sage Hen and House Creek Camp grounds. This will be posted on the count website.

Ferris Cabin campground will become a joint county arrangement to keep it open now that the FS technically closed their management funding.

Sage Hen campground will be discussed with public input regarding future plans, on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 pm

High Desert Conservation Dist. will be hosting a seminar on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> , 9-3 at the Lewis/Arriola Community Center on NO TILL farming, and Irrigation management. More details will be on the County Website or call the NRCS office.

Phils World Expansion is still being held up due to the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) not accepting the BLM's Arky report and recommendations. The SHPO is demanding that provisions of a repealed law be imposed before they will sign off. If the SHPO is going to do this on any resource use proposal, then that would END economic opportunities in the future. *This is a perfect example of a government office being empowered by an unconstitutional federal act to rule over states and economic development. They are using the emotional power of the faux environmental corporation lobbies to end economic use and access on the public lands of the states.*