

## Montezuma County BOCC 10-2-17

This meeting was mostly composed of various department budget proposals for the coming year. The proposals will later be evaluated and measured against anticipated County income, then the budgets will be pared down at that time. There were some areas of interest in some that we will mention here.

BOCC members attended some regional and special meetings that were reported on. The State Work Force reported that the state unemployment is lowest in recent history, even including Montezuma County. More jobs than applicants. Special program for training electricians is now running. One small power company said they have 5 jobs open with no qualified applicants. Also, one BIG problem seems to be that it is hard to find new employees that can pass the entry drug test! It was noted that Region 9 Economic development group was thinking about a satellite office in Cortez. The BLM is finally ready to move forward with the Phil's World expansion, with the Archaeology clearance being the hold up. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Denver refuses to sign off unless it is presented in the manner they want, and quotes repealed laws as their guide. This is typical of paper pushing bureaucrats that enjoy flaunting their power.

ROADS Dept reported that safety meetings are important and that a recent death in LaPlata County from a fall of an

employee on a stake, actually resulted from a Staph infection following the treatment. Sooo, it is very important to report ANY injury to maintain a history incase infections should occur later. The recent “clarification” on Green Road designations has resulted in some green roads that are not maintained by the county, are now asking for free gravel, which is ok, BUT only if there is gravel available beyond County needs, and several other criteria. Just because the request for gravel is presented doesn’t mean it will be given. The problem with the BLM access on Road 36.5 is still needing to be resolved, now that the road is a “green” road. The BLM fence needs to be opened for parking , turn around etc..

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, in its budget presentation mentioned that the burned Excelsior mill in Mancos has been cleaned up really well by a contractor for the mill. (Maybe the high school here should hire that contractor) We hear that the mill is hoped to be rebuilt, but will take time.

ASSESSOR is restructuring the budget and dealing with the problem of the tax assessments being redone. They will be sending out 11,740 notices of re-appraisals. The BOE (Board of Equalization) will follow up with letters on previous requests for BOE hearings on taxes, to see if they want to follow through after receiving the new re-appraisals.

CLERK noted that technology is changing so much that some of the now older equipment is no longer able to be repaired. Some Old records are archival and cannot be handled without special gloves on. Other records are on microfilm or microfiche, BUT The Microfilms and Microfiche machines are no longer supported for repairs. Other counties are now coming here to borrow our machines to read and copy their records. We are going to need to look at digitizing our records before our machines break down. The election office is looking at postage going up , we now have over 19,000 registered voters in the County.

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) will be holding their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Craft Fair Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at the County Annex. The fee waiver was approved. So you all put this on your calendar for a time and place to get you Christmas gifts.

COUNTY EXTENSION budget was presented for \$108,000. This is the County portion, and CSU funds other parts. There has been public comments in surveys taken at the fair that showed discontent with the program, so the BOCC voted to “unfund” the county contribution to the Extension office for the coming year, and seek to review the program direction. The real concern is for the 4H and youth programs and needs to be looked into. Will see what CSU would like to do.

ADMINISTRATION budgets mentioned the high costs of required advertisements in the newspaper. Public notices ads are outrageous, may cost \$50,000 a year. Legislation needs to be passed to change this system.

COURT HOUSE will have public open house and dedication next week on Oct. 11. All the details will be on the County website. So here is your chance to check out the new facility without it having to be “on official legal business”.