



**GRAND COUNTY
COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**Grand County Commission Chambers
Held virtually on Zoom
Moab, Utah**

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**MINUTES
19 Oct, 2021**

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on 19 October, 2021. The meeting was streamed/attended electronically. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Commissioners in attendance were Evan Clapper, Jacques Hadler, Trish Hedin, Mary McGann, Sarah Stock, Kevin Walker, and Gabriel Woytek. Also present were County Commission Administrator Chris Baird, County Commission Associate Administrator Mallory Nassau, County Attorney Christina Sloan, and Clerk/Auditor Quinn Hall.

4:00 p.m. Thompson Springs Special Service Fire District Board Meeting (see separate agenda/minutes)

4:05 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair McGann called the meeting to order at 4:08

Citizens to Be Heard

Sara Melnicoff asked that the commission pause approval and submission of the letter of support for the Mill Creek Canyon area. Sara noted Moab Solutions will present an alternative plan soon.

Approval of Minutes (Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor)

A. October 5, 2021 (Regular County Commission Meeting)

Motion by Trish Hedin to approve the minutes from 5 October, 2021.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 5-0 Woytek and McGann abstaining

Ratification of Payment of Bills

Motion by Gabriel Woytek to ratify and approve payment of bills in the amount of \$1,010,284.45 and payroll in the amount of \$269,775.04 for a combined total of \$1,280,059.49.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

Commission Member Disclosures

(none at this time)

General Commission Reports and Future Considerations

Mary McGann

- Would like staff to review Sky Ranch plans and agreements between jurisdictions
- Mary discussed the drought conditions and the presentation from Bactelife Life.

Gabriel Woytek

- Attended Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments meeting
- Congressional updates from Senator Romney's office
- Possible expansion of lanes on Hwy 191 to Hwy 6
- Attended 4 Corners Behavioral Health meeting
- Attended Southeastern Utah Health Department board meeting
- Discussion of Health and Human Services and Dept. of Health merger

Sarah Stock

- Attended the Community Renewable Energy program meeting

Kevin Walker

- Attended budget advisory meetings

Trish Hedin

- Attended Thompson Springs SSD water meeting
- Attended other meetings with Thompson Water Board members

Jacques Hadler

- Attended meeting with Trail Mix
- Met with Old Spanish Trail Arena (OSTA)

Evan Clapper

- Reviewed preliminary budgets for 2022
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) building is slightly delayed
- Upcoming EMS rural directors conference hosted here in Moab

Elected Official Reports

Christina Sloan noted the courts have resumed jury trials again. Public viewing is still remote.

Commission Administrator Report

Chris discussed the budget for 2022. Chris noted the complexity of the upcoming budget and discussed the likely need for further refinement through the month of November. Chris discussed the difficulty of figuring out pending salary and cost of living adjustments.

Mallory discussed the salary survey and possible adjustments. Mallory discussed the potential of moving to hybrid meetings in the near future. Mallory noted the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3rd, due to the election.

Department Reports

B. Report on the Library (Carrie Valdes, Library Director)

Carrie discussed the library and operations during COVID. Carrie noted the mask mandate is in place, but the library is open for business. Carrie discussed the grants the library has gotten lately and which equipment the library was able to get with the funding. Carrie discussed the partnership with the youth garden and the hydroponic garden that will be installed.

C. Land Use & Transportation Plan Public Engagement Meeting to be held November 10 (John Guenther, Planning & Zoning Director)

John Guenther discussed public engagement for the transportation meeting, noting the meeting will likely be in-person vs. hybrid, and they're hopeful for significant public engagement.

Agency Reports

D. Annual report on the Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah (Ben Riley, HASU Executive Director)

Ben discussed the current state of housing and availability in the area. Ben noted the financial standings of the housing authority, and shared the numbers of families that are being helped currently. Ben noted the waiting lists for available housing are still significant. Ben noted the projects coming on line soon, and discussed how current projects finishing could help reduce wait times. Ben discussed the progress at Arroyo Crossing. Ben discussed total budget amounts and revenue streams. Ben discussed applicants and the ability or preference to select locals for housing programs.

E. Report on Moab Museum (Forrest Rodgers, Executive Director)

Forrest Rodgers discussed museum operations and some of the current displays. Forrest offered thanks to the county for all the support over the years. Forrest discussed the history of the museum and recent changes to operations and facilities and staff efforts to digitize some collections. Forrest discussed current museum membership, and efforts to build membership and a donor base.

F. Report on the removal from the UMTRA site of the 12 millionth ton of uranium waste (Russell McCallister, Director, Moab UMTRA Project)

Russell noted this year marks the moving of the 12 millionth ton of tailings. Russell noted the time since the last lost time injury, and discussed the safety efforts at the project. Jessica Thacker discussed the project and noted she's glad to be the current liaison.

Presentations

G. Presentation on National Park Service timed-entry pilot program at Arches National Park (Marco De Leon, National Park Service, Office of Public Affairs, Regions 6, 7, 8)

Patty Trap introduced Marco DeLeon and Marco discussed the timed entry pilot program, noting the background and various visitor use studies that help direct planning at the park. Marco noted most visitation takes place between 6 pm and 6 am. Marco discussed the concept of crowding, and how they determined appropriate crowding levels. Marco noted the potential for diminished visitor experience based on overcrowding. Marco discussed the timed entry program and variables that could affect implementation. Marco noted the current proposal would allow for timed entry from 6 am to 6 pm from April-October. Marco discussed the potential online reservation system, noting Arches National Park won't be the first user, and

that the rec.gov site has been widely used and seems to be a fairly robust system. Marco noted the first users would be signing up early, and early feedback could be used to determine the feasibility and staying power of the system.

General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:

- H. Approving updated job description for Grand Center Director (Renee Baker, Personnel Services Director)

Presentation

Renee discussed the position and the need to better describe the functions and duties.

Motion by Kevin Walker to approve the updated Grand Center Director job description and authorize recruitment and hiring effective 10/20/2021.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- I. Approving the Health Insurance Renewal Increase for 2022 (Renee Baker, Personnel Services Director)

Presentation

Renee discussed the health insurance for the county, noting the different proposals and costs to the county. Renee suggested the recommendation from Human Resources is to stay with Cigna to minimize disruption to county employees.

Motion by Gabriel Woytek to approve the Grand County Medical Insurance renewal with Cigna at the increase of 6.98% and retain the bundle of vision and dental services with Cigna and to approve an increase of 6.98% applied to the employee paid premiums for 2022 Cigna Healthcare Traditional Medical Insurance Plan, monthly cost to the employee of \$125.95(Single) \$160.76 (2- Party) \$310.63 (Family) (Fiscal Impact \$353,784.86 (increase) \$ 3,049,484.90 total plan cost)

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion

Gabriel noted the importance of supporting existing employees and staying competitive in recruitment and retention. Renee discussed the potential of offering 4 plans with a potential buy-up for coverage at the University of Utah. Chris noted the county typically does not pass on all costs associated with the plan, but the county subsidizes the cost increases. Christina expressed support for the motion. Renee discussed some pricing points between the different plans. Chris noted the county generally absorbs a significant portion of the cost increase. Chris and Renee discussed the different cost options. Kevin noted perhaps the savings from a different plan don't offset the potential benefits of keeping the current plan. Trish noted the decrease after competing bids was disappointing, and urged caution with taxpayer dollars. Renee discussed the historical changes in insurance providers, and the cost changes. Evan discussed the past transition to Select Health, and the challenges that year. Sarah expressed mild support for the continued Cigna coverage.

Motion passes 7-0

Citizens to Be Heard (6:30)

Dana Van Horn from Grand Water and Sewer noted the math seems to be off on some of the insurance dollar amounts. Dana suggested checking the math, noting there seem to be some discrepancies in the numbers quoted by GBS.

Cliff Koontz noted submitted comments regarding the Forest Service plan. Cliff noted portions of the plan may add unwanted complexity and cost. Cliff noted that motorized zones and routes often allow use of other vehicles, but it's not reciprocal.

- J. Approving the County Commission draft Strategic Plan to proceed to the next phase of county staff and public review process within the context of the General Plan redraft (Commissioner Woytek, Commissioner Stock, and Commissioner Walker)

Presentation

John discussed the draft plan. Gabriel discussed some of the language changes in the plan.

Motion by Jacques Hadler to forward the County Commission draft Strategic Plan to the next phase of County Staff and Public review process within the context of the General Plan redraft.

Motion seconded by Trish Hedin

Discussion

John noted this is only the strategic plan, and not the general plan. Kevin noted perhaps certain key indicators could be revised.

Motion passes 7-0

- K. Approving Independent Contract Agreement with SCJ Alliance for the Land Use Levels of Service Analysis (John Guenther, Planning & Zoning Director)

Presentation

John Guenther discussed the agreement and the RFP, noting the panel was unanimous in its selection.

Motion by Kevin Walker to approve the contract for the Land Use Levels of Service Analysis awarded to SCJ Alliance for a sum not to exceed \$60,000 based on the following conditions:

1. Insurance certification to be completed; and
2. Minor non-substantial amendments to the contract.

Motion seconded by Sarah Stock

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- L. Approving letter of support for the Mill Creek Community Collaborative Committee recommendations for Mill Creek Canyon (Chair McGann)

Presentation

Kevin suggested the commission postpone item "L" for a bit more time to review. Evan agreed.

Motion by Evan Clapper to postpone item "L".

Motion seconded by Kevin Walker

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion to postpone passes 7-0

- M. Adopting Resolution approving the Final Plat of Crazy Dog Ranch, a Minor Subdivision located at 2820 East Bench Road (Planning & Zoning)

Presentation

Elissa discussed the rezone, noting it splits one lot into 2.

Motion by Kevin Walker to adopt the Resolution approving the Final Plat of Crazy Dog Ranch, a Minor Subdivision

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion

Kevin thanked Elissa for noting the manufactured homes had been removed.

Motion passes 7-0

Consent Agenda- Action Items

- N. Approving a letter to Director Greg Sheehan, Utah State Director U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management in regarding Grand County Utah's opposition to the proposed Eastern Utah Regional Connection (aka Book Cliffs Highway, I-70 Connection)
- O. Ratifying the Chair's signature on a purchase agreement with Honnen for a John Deere 310 SL Backhoe Loader Stock in the amount of \$104,079.00.
- P. Ratifying the Chair's signature on another purchase agreement with Honnen for John Deere backhoe attachments (angle broom, root rake, mounted hose guide) for \$14,614.18
- Q. Approving Chair's signature on scoping comments for the revision of the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land Management Plan
- R. Approving a letter to the Bureau of Land Management regarding being a Cooperating Agency on the Labyrinth Rims / Gemini Bridges Travel Management Plan

Motion by Evan Clapper to approve only N, O, and P and to pull items Q and R to discuss.

Motion seconded by Gabriel Woytek

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion on items N, O, and P passes 7-0

(Pulled from consent agenda)

(Q). Approving Chair's signature on scoping comments for the revision of the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land Management Plan

Evan discussed the scoping comments, noting he agrees with comments that the level of wilderness may raise some questions, and noted some potential questions regarding winter use areas. Kevin noted support for the letter, but agreed there was more to discuss. Kevin noted heavy use and increased visitation will have an impact. Sarah noted these are only scoping comments that adopt a "tone" and suggest a direction, but they are not the final plan. Jacques noted some concern with the wilderness area designation. Mary noted support for the language.

Motion by Sarah Stock approving Chair's signature on scoping comments for the revision of the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land Management Plan

Motion seconded by Kevin Walker

Motion passes 5-1-1 Clapper opposed, Hadler abstaining

(R) Approving a letter to the Bureau of Land Management regarding being a Cooperating Agency on the Labyrinth Rims / Gemini Bridges Travel Management Plan

Motion by Evan Clapper

Motion seconded Sarah Stock

Discussion

Sarah discussed the letter, noting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released some maps that perhaps fall short in managing the area. This letter asks the BLM to consider Grand County as a cooperating agency. Kevin suggested support for the letter, noting several of the recommendations from the county were not included in the management plan.

Motion passes 7-0

Discussion Items

A. Discussion on Thompson Springs Parcel Layout and Proposed Platting Process (John Guenther, Planning & Zoning Director)

John discussed some of the challenges facing Thompson Springs and any potential development that could take place there, noting inaccurate lot lines and roads, and the potential lack of water.

B. Calendar items and special events (Mallory Nassau, Associate Commission Administrator)

Mallory discussed upcoming special events – Remy Queen of the Desert, Barrels for Bucks at OSTA, the Trans Rockies, The Craggin' Classic, the Dead Horse Ultra, and the Moab Trail Marathon. Mallory discussed the potential November budget workshops.

Public Hearings- Possible Action Items (none at this time)

Closed Session(s) (if necessary)

Motion by Evan Clapper to enter closed session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

Motion seconded by Sarah Stock

Motion passes 7-0

Exiting closed session at 8:08 pm

Adjourn

Chair McGann adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Grand County Commission:

ATTEST:

Mary McGann

Mary McGann, Chair

QH

Quinn Hall, Clerk / Auditor