

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 21, 2006**

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTER COUNTY MET IN
REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Downey	Chairman
Kit Shy	Vice-chair
Dale Hoag	Commissioner
Ric Ferron	County Administrator
Debbie Livengood	Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am.

Present at the beginning of the meeting were: Nora Drenner, J.D. Henrich, Doris Porth, Christy Kesselring, Pat Bailey, Vic Barnes, and Dallas Anderson.

Chuck Ippolito presented his report as requested by the Board, for a six-month review of the county's computer systems. Mr. Ippolito was hired by the Board to conduct a six-month study of what the county's needs are concerning an IT position. Mr. Ippolito's summary of his report was that the county's present use of information technology is sufficient for its current level of service to the citizens. Most of the equipment has adequate power, storage, and features to perform the tasks they are intended to do. However, there are some issues that need to be addressed in the future. There is potential for expanded use of computers to simplify and improve the existing procedures and services that the county provides. New services and automation of currently manual or paper-based procedures could be beneficial and save the county money. Chuck mentioned in his report the current procedures that are being used for data security, the GIS system, the county web sites, the computer systems being used by the Treasurer's Office, Assessor's Office, Clerk's Office, and the Sheriff's Office.

Chuck's contract with the county expires on March 31st. His recommendation to the Board is that a full time IT employee be hired if the development and maintenance of the GIS system is included. Otherwise, a part-time employee is all that he feels is needed. Chuck did express his interest in the position, either part-time or full time. The Board will make a decision on March 31st.

The Board discussed House Bill 1295 (salary bill).

Cindi Howard met with the Board concerning the possibility of placing a lodging tax issue on the November ballot. She presented statistics on lodging revenues for the past several years. In 2002, a lodging tax in Custer County would have raised approx. \$24,000.00. The Board is in favor of a lodging tax, and asked Cindi to meet with the Chamber of Commerce to see if they are willing to sponsor a tax issue.

The Commissioner's discussed the legal review of the re-write of the subdivision regulations and the direction they wanted the county attorney to follow concerning cluster developments and minor subdivisions. Both Commissioner Downey and Shy expressed their concerns of having these two issues as part of the zoning regulations or discarding them from the regulations. No decision was made.

Commissioner Hoag made a motion seconded by Commissioner Shy to contribute to Valley Park and Recreation, \$1,500.00 from the Conservation Trust Fund to help with their capital improvements to the building. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hoag made a motion seconded by Commissioner Shy to allow the courthouse grounds around the flag pole, or the basement, (if the weather is bad), to hold the 11th annual "National Day of Prayer". This event will take place on May 4th from 10:00 to 11:00am. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hoag made a motion seconded by Commissioner Shy to enhance the security of the courthouse. All exterior doors into the courthouse will not be unlocked until 8:00am and will be locked at 4:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Johnson and Rod Coker, representing Horn Creek Ranch, along with Deena Meek, with "Almighty Concepts", met with the Board to update them on a planned five to seven million dollar capital project. Jim Johnson, the Director of Horn Creek since 2003, stated that the project would include erecting new buildings as well as doing restoration to existing buildings. A twelve member Board has hired Larry Miller as the Director of Development for this project. Larry has set a time frame of five years to raise the needed funds for this project. As of today's date, no funds have been solicited for with the exception of the twelve members of the Board agreeing to contribute \$150,000.00 to the project within the next five years.

Rod Coker shared the proposed plans with the Board, explaining that there are two major projects as well as minor projects currently in the design concept phase. The first major project would be to build an aquatic center. This building would be added on to the existing recreational center and would include a free form swimming pool with a 25-yard lap area, hot tub, kiddy pool and waterslides. The second major project would be a dining hall in the Ranch Area of the conference grounds. It would be a two-story facility and seat 300 plus on the main floor with additional seating on the second floor if needed. The upper floor will also be used as a meeting room. The smaller projects will include restoration of existing buildings in the Lodge, Ranch and Mountain Meadow areas of Horn Creek. Everything will be ADA compliant and has been designed by the architect to blend with the surrounding of Horn Creek.

Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hoag to allow both the Town of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe the use of the landfill on May 13th, between the hours of 8:00am to 12:00pm free of charge for their annual "Clean Up Day" with the exception of extra cost items that Ric will supply the towns a list of. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Senderhauf met with the Board to give them an update on the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District. The Board of Directors voted to change the structure of the committee that makes recommendations for appointments to the Upper Ark Board. The committee was changed from a group of county commissioners within the water district area to a group of managers of water districts from other parts of Colorado. The directors stated that the move was designed to remove political agendas from the recommendation process by replacing commissioners with people who value water knowledge first and foremost.

Bob also reported that there has been no decision concerning the Recreation In Channel Diversions. Eastern Fremont County is still trying to gather enough signatures so they can become part of the Upper Ark Water District. They currently have approx 40% of the signatures they need. The augmentation project that the Upper Ark. has an engineer working on for Custer County is approx. 75% accomplished according to Mr. Senderhauf.

Commissioner Hoag made a motion seconded by Commissioner Shy to direct the attorney's who are reviewing the re-write of the subdivision regulations to include cluster developments and minor sub-divisions. Commissioner Shy and Hoag voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Downey opposed. The County Administrator will contact John Naylor and give him directions per this motion. Upon receipt of the re-write the Board of County Commissioners will review the document and then refer the re-write to the Planning Commission.

The board adjourned at 3:00pm.