

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session on January 26, 2021. Those present for the session were, Ben Tisdell, Chair; Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair; Jake Niece, Commissioner Member; Connie Hunt, County Administrator; and Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board. Carol Viner, County Attorney, was not present.

- **Note – This meeting was recorded for reference purposes. The meeting was conducted virtually and in person pursuant to Resolution 2020-007 Setting Forth a Virtual Meeting Policy During a Local Disaster Emergency.**

A. 9:02 General Business:

1. Request for approval of warrants:

Commissioner Niece asked about the quarterly payment to the District Attorney. Hunt explained that the amount was budgeted that it covered the function of the office. She said that the amount was commiserate with the size of each county within the District.

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Padgett and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve the warrants as presented.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results:

*Commissioner Tisdell voted in the affirmative.
Commissioner Padgett voted in the affirmative.
Commissioner Niece voted in the affirmative.*

There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Request for approval and authorization of Commissioner's signature on letter for Clearnetworx DORA Grant Application:

Doug Seacat and Casey Irving, Deeply Digital / Clearnetworx, were present.

Commissioner Padgett provided her proposed changes to the letter with the intent of specifying the need to strengthen the provision of service to the eleven zones identified by the map. The Board agreed to the changes.

Commissioner Tisdell pointed out several minor corrections.

Irving said that the applications would address the Elk Meadows and Highway 550 corridor. He said that the Highway 550 application would serve over seven miles and 1,017 addresses. Irving said that DORA had enacted new regulations for classifying an area as underserved and that the requirements would be very difficult to meet in a short time frame.

Irving said that Clearnetworx would leverage partnerships with local media and governments to encourage residents in the area to complete speed tests, as well as to provide additional letters of support for the project.

Seacat explained that there were many underserved areas in Ouray County, but that the Highway 550 and Elk Meadows areas could easily connect to the newly installed Ouray County Public Health Agency fiber making the connection project approvable and achievable.

Commissioner Padgett suggested that the letter be amended to include reference to the 1,017 addresses that would be served by the proposed project, as it meant increased internet services to a significant portion of Ouray County's population. She agreed that public outreach was needed for more support from the public.

Commissioner Padgett requested that a work session be held to develop a task list of how to certify underserved areas in the County.

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Niece and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve and authorize Chair's signature on letter for Clearnetworx DORA Grant Application, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results:

*Commissioner Tisdell voted in the affirmative.
Commissioner Padgett voted in the affirmative.
Commissioner Niece voted in the affirmative.*

There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Request for approval and authorization of Chair's signature on CCI Proxy Form:

Commissioner Tisdell explained that the Board had historically designated the County Social Services Director as a proxy on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee. Commissioner Padgett said that she supported the action, but that she wanted to authorize the Social Services Director as a proxy for the General Government Committee as well. Commissioner Padgett explained a situation several years prior where some Front Range counties had attempted to subvert the process by routing HHS matters through the General Government Committee. Commissioner Tisdell said that the proxy for the General Government Committee could be granted, with the understanding that it was not typical for HHS matters to be reviewed under that scope.



M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Niece and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve and authorize Chair's signature on CCI Proxy Form designating Carol Friedrich, County Social Services Director, as the Board's proxy on the Health and Human Services Committee and General Government Committee as needed on Health and Human Services matters.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results:

Commissioner Tisdel voted in the affirmative.
Commissioner Padgett voted in the affirmative.
Commissioner Niece voted in the affirmative.

There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. 9:38 Commissioner/Administrative Reports:

Commissioner Niece discussed the following:

- 1) **Colorado Counties Acting Together (CCAT) Wildfire Subcommittee** – Commissioner Niece asked if he could attend the Wildfire Subcommittee meeting. Commissioner Tisdel served on the Committee and requested that a two more meeting notice be posted.
- 2) **Open Meeting Law** – Commissioner Niece requested that a work session or regular meeting item be scheduled to review the Colorado Open Meeting Law. He said that he wished to find a way to have less red tape but still maintain transparency.

Commissioner Padgett discussed the following:

- 1) **County Association Meetings** – Commissioner Padgett requested that blanket two or more meeting notices be done for CCAT, CCI, NACo, Club 20 and Region 10 meetings.
- 2) **Communication and Calendars** – Commissioner Padgett requested that the Board have a work session with staff to develop a shared calendar for the various meetings. She said that it could be shared with the public in order to facilitate transparency. The Board agreed to schedule a work session with staff.

Commissioner Tisdel discussed the following:

- 1) **COVID-19 Cases and Vaccinations** - Commissioner Tisdel said that San Miguel County currently had the one of the highest spread rates in the nation. He said that the County needed to monitor the situation closely for possible spread into Ouray County. Commissioner Padgett asked when more vaccines would become available. Commissioner Tisdel said that it was dependent upon the state and that the amount was not known.

Commissioner Padgett said that she was aware of some residents being able to obtain vaccines through City Market Pharmacies in the region. She said residents were very concerned about being about to get the vaccine.

Commissioner Padgett suggested that Public Health staff develop a “frequently asked questions” document pertaining to the vaccines for the Commissioners to ensure consistent responses and information.

The Board discussed the need to increase public communication.

Hunt said that the Public Health Director would provide an update on the vaccine distribution updates at the next Board meeting and that a press release could be developed describing the successes of the Ouray County vaccination effort, in addition to hurdles in obtaining more vaccines.

10:31 The Board of County Commissioners adjourned the special session.

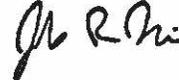



Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO


Ben Tisdel, Chair


Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair


Jake Niece, Commissioner Member