The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 22, 2022. Those present for the session were Lynn M. Padgett, Chair; Jake Niece, Vice-Chair; Ben Tisdel, Commissioner Member; Connie Hunt, County Administrator; Leo Caselli, County Attorney; and Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

- Note – This meeting was recorded for reference purposes.

The Board observed a moment of silence for Devin Overton, Ridgway High School graduate, who was killed in an avalanche on March 17, 2022.

A. 9:00 The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Health concerning the following:

Tanner Kingery, County Public Health Director was present.

1. Public Health Director Update:

Kingery read updates from Dr. Andrew Yeowell, Public Health Medical Officer. He said that the Montrose Regional Hospital was seeing some COVID-19 patients, but that the hospitalization rate was still low.

Kingery reported on wastewater COVID-19 monitoring undertaken by the City of Ouray. He said that this kind of monitoring was invaluable for COVID-19 and monitoring communicable diseases in general. The Board indicated their desire for the Town of Ridgway to participate in wastewater monitoring.

Kingery reported that County case data continued to be low, and that the office was continuing administer vaccinations. Kingery said that grant funds were still being utilized for incentives for people seeking first doses.

Carolyn Dresler, Wild Poppy Drive resident, supported Kingery's continued use of incentives, particularly for youth. She said that there was a cadre of parents who interpreted the incentives as a bribe; she clarified that it was not a bribe, but was a vital tool in protecting public health.

2. Request for approval and authorization of Chair’s signature on Master Task Order Contract (23 FAA 00039) with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and on the Fiscal Impact Form:

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdel and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve and authorize Chair’s signature on Master Task Order Contract (23 FAA 00039) with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and on the Fiscal Impact Form. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 9:39 Call to the Public:

The “Call to the Public” agenda item is a time when the public may bring forth items of interest or concern. No formal action may be taken on these items during this time due to the open meeting law provision; however, they may be placed on a future posted agenda if action is required.

There were no “Call to the Public” items.

C. 9:40 The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services to consider the following items:

Carol Friedrich, County Social Services Director, was present.

1. Request for approval of the following reports and authorization of the Chair’s signature on certification page:

a. Balance Sheet, January 2022:

b. Earned Revenue and Expenditures, January 2022:

c. Expenditures through Electronic Benefit Transfers, February 2022:

d. Check Register for the Month of February, 2022:

e. County Allocation / MOE Report, JAN-22:

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdel and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve the Balance Sheet, January 2022; Earned Revenue and Expenditures, January 2022; Expenditures through Electronic Benefit Transfers, February 2022; Check Register for the Month of February, 2022; County Allocation / MOE Report, JAN-22, and authorized Chair’s signature on the certification page. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Caseload Report:

Friedrich reported on the Caseload Report, to date.

9:51 Break:

F. 9:59 General Business:

1. Request for approval of Prime Contract Change Order #005 for the Ouray County Courthouse Project providing a $9,101.79 project credit:

Hunt presented the final change order for the project.
M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdel and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve the Prime Contract Change Order #005 for the Ouray County Courthouse Project providing a $9,101.79 project credit. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request for approval of warrants:

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdel and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve the warrants as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request for approval and authorization of Chair’s signature on Master Engagement Agreement by and between MGT of America Consulting, LLC and Ouray County for Cost Allocation Services and on its Fiscal Impact Form:

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdel and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve and authorize Chair’s signature on Master Engagement Agreement by and between MGT of America Consulting, LLC and Ouray County for Cost Allocation Services and on its Fiscal Impact Form. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request for approval and authorization of Chair’s signature on Modification of Grant or Agreement for the between the United States Forest Service (USFS) Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest for support of the Alpine Ranger services for 2022 and on the Fiscal Impact Form:

Commissioner Tisdel said that the “Alpine Back Country OHV & Jeep Summer Travel Routes Map & Regulations” brochure may need to be updated.

Commissioner Padgett indicated her desire to attend the Alpine Ranger meetings.

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdel and seconded by Commissioner Niece to approve and authorize Chair’s signature on Modification of Grant or Agreement between the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest for support of the Alpine Ranger services for 2022 and on the Fiscal Impact Form. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request for approval and authorization of Chair’s signature on County Administrator’s Performance Evaluation:

M/S/P – Motion was made by Commissioner Niece and seconded by Commissioner Tisdel to approve and authorize Chair’s signature on County Administrator’s Performance Evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

After the motion carried, Commissioner Padgett requested that Hunt reach out to the Employers Resource Council to see what kind of performance evaluation forms were available. Hunt volunteered to send the entire policy to the Council for a review. The Board greed.

G. 10:21 Commissioner/Administrative Reports:

1. Upcoming Work Session Review:

Commissioner Niece discussed the following:

1) Top of the Pines (TOP) Updates – Commissioner Niece reported on increased demand for parking during the winter months and that an expansion of the south parking lot may be necessary. He said that TOP had received a private donation for a remodel of Pavilion’s interior. The Board requested that the plans be presented to the County, as it was a County property and facility. The Board could also consider waiving the building permit fees at that time.

D. 10:30 Paul Reich, Center for Mental Health:

1. The Center for Mental Health and AXIS Health System Merger Update:

Paul Reich, Kristen Mau, Shelly Spaulding, and Ed Hagins, Center for Mental Health / AXIS Health System, were present.

Spaulding presented information regarding the merger.

The Board discussed the co-responder program, resources for County residents and first responders.

The Board agreed to schedule a follow up work session in September after the merger date of July 1, 2022.

E. 11:05 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT):

1. Jamie Grim - Review of CDOT 2021 Progress Report:

2. TJ Burr - Bustang Update:

Julie Constan, CDOT Regional Transportation Director; TJ Burr, CDOT Transit Project Director, and Tony Cady, Region Environmental Staff, were present.

The Board discussed topics including: pedestrian under/overpass at the intersection of Highway 550 and State Highway 62; additional stops and needs of the Bustang and Outrider programs; intersection improvements; short and long range plans; and plans for summer 2022 projects.

G. 12:21 Commissioner/Administrative Reports:

Commissioner Padgett discussed the following:
1) Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force – Commissioner Padgett reported that the Board had received notice of a derogatory named gulch on the west side of Hayden Mountain in the County. She said that the Board had until April 4, 2022 to submit alternate names. She noted that the names suggested by the Task Force could cause issues given their use in other locations. The Board agreed to add discussion of alternate names during a Special Work Session on March 23, 2022.

12:31 The Board of County Commissioners adjourned the regular session.