

San Juan County Commission Meeting
Bluff Community Center - 3rd East & Mulberry (Bluff, Utah)
Agenda
August 20, 2019

Present: Kenneth Maryboy - Commission Chairman
Willie Grayeyes - Commission Vice Chairman
Bruce Adams - Commissioner
David Everitt - CAO
John David Nielson - Clerk

Attendees: Kelly Davis, Doug Allen, David Carpenter, Steven Pehrson, Tonya Helgerson, Steve Helgerson, Bill Crowder, Rich Reeb, Amanda Podmore, Kaitlin Harris, Christina Krutsky, Marcia Hadenfeldt, Sandy Mailhard, Ned Krutsky, Sophia Cinnamon, Jocelyn Meyers, Dan Meyers, Amer Tume, Robbin Bond, Stewart, Aitchison, Ann Kramer, Paula Sayers, Linda Sayers, Carol Patterson, Marybeth Rey Foushee, Mary Gillam, Kristin Ewing, Josh Ewing, Dawn Dilego, Christa Monserlitt, Linda Richmond, Bev Kier-Smith, Dudley Beck, Cecilia McDermontt, Anita Dee, Marlyn Holly, Gran Myer, Nick Sandberg, Hank Stevens, Kellen Nielson, Carl Holiday, A B, Dion B, Susan Lamb

Jason Torgerson - SJC Sheriff

Jason came to discuss proposals for salary adjustments for the SJC Sheriff's department. Jason talked about the importance of having a salary plan and explained that the proposed plan mirrors the salary plan used by the highway patrol which includes training, pay increases, and accountability.

Bruce Adams - SJC Commissioner

Commissioner Adams informed the commission that funding from the federal government in the amount of 9 million dollars had been approved so that UEN (Utah Education Network) could move forward in providing broadband to areas in the south part of the county. He explained how an additional funding match was approved through the state legislature. Commissioner also talked about right-of-way hurdles that need to be cleared in order for the project to proceed.

Ann Leppanen - Town of Bluff Mayor

A brief discussion about the inter-local agreement between the county and the Town of Bluff took place. Mayor Leppanen mentioned that she had talked with David Everitt on the status of alleys and potential snow plowing in town. Also talked about was setting up a committee to address inspection and permitting and keeping the old elementary school open so that more services could be provided to the area.

Randy Rarick - SJC Landfill

Randy was asked to discuss with the commission and Bluff Town council a future trash drop box site. Randy explained that he understood that when Bluff became a town that they would

secure land to build a drop box site. Once the site would be complete, the county would collect and charge the Town of Bluff once the trash when the drop box was full. Randy also talked about the historical use of other dropbox sites within the county. Commissioner Grayeyes suggested that an analysis be done to figure out how to get a dropbox in place.

John David Nielson - SJC Clerk

John David talked to the commission why there will be a special election in November to determine if a study committee should be formed to study and possibly recommend a change in the form of San Juan County's government. He explained the steps of the process and how each step was fulfilled to get to the special election. There was a discussion about the study committee that could possibly be formed, how long they would have to make a decision, how they would be formed, and who would be on the committee. San Juan County Attorney clarified that there are two processes when considering a change in the form of government and spoke about some of the differences and steps in the two processes.

Commission - Bluff Council Discussion

Commissioner Adams spoke and gave examples of how the county has served and help the Town of Bluff over the years.

Mayor Leppanan spoke about the help that the county has provided to Bluff in different aspects.

Nick Sandberg - SJC Planning

Nick updated the commission on his activities. He briefed them on a meeting a Gunnison Sage Grouse Coalition meeting in Montrose, Colorado. The purpose of the meeting was to select a representative of the coalition to serve on the Fish & Wildlife Technical Committee. He also attended a cooperating agency workshop meeting with the Forest Service draft wilderness units were presented. Range capability was also discussed at the meeting. In the near future, there will be a webinar and a draft plan workshop for cooperating agencies. Nick briefed the commission on the Bear Ears Monument Management Plan and discussed a handout given to the commission covering the highlights of the plan.

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A motion to approve the August 6, 2019 minutes was made by Commissioner and 2nd by Commissioner . Voting was unanimous.

Citizen Comments -

Steve Pehrson - Steve expressed concern over the road conditions in parts of the county. He is concerned for the safety of the buses and the kids riding the buses. Commissioner Maryboy explained that the commission is trying to work with the Navajo Nation to address the problem.

Michael Haviken - Michael expressed his concern over the condition of C roads that have been turned over to the Town of Bluff. He asked if the county would help the Town of Bluff in repairing the roads.

Jim Sayers - Jim presented to the commission the resolution passed by Bluff Town Council regarding the gas and oil lease sites and their proximity to Hovenweep National Park.

Amanda Podmore - Amanda thanked the commission for their leadership on the BLM lease sale issues. She asked the commission to support the proposed resolution on the agenda and send a letter to Governor Herbert asking him to way in on the BLM lease sales. Amanda also asked the commission to assist Bluff in finding a solution for a drop box site. She thanked the county for offering transportation for youth to the Blanding Rec Center.

Marilyn Holly - Marilyn thanked the commission for bringing the meetings to Bluff. She also expressed her concern over the special election and urged the southern part of the county to vote against the special election question.

Cecilia McDermott - Cecilia expressed concern over not knowing about the Townhall Meeting happening in Monticello to discuss certain issues. It was clarified that the meeting is not county sponsored, but is being put on by a group of citizens.

Josh Ewing - Josh thanked the commission for holding a meeting in Bluff. He also encouraged the commission to pass the resolution to caution the BLM on their oil and gas leases. Josh raised concern over the solar farm industrial facility within the National Monument boundaries and encouraged the commission to oppose the development.

Doug Allen - Doug asked the commission to not consider differences in political opinions as racial biases. Commissioner Maryboy

Hank Stevens - Hank expressed his desire to have Utah Dine Bikeyah and Inter-Tribal Coalition be apart of the conversation over BLM studies.

Meeting Agenda

John David Nielson - SJC Clerk

John David informed the commission of an initiative application with the clerk's office and explained that the commission needed to determine if the initiative was referable to the voters. Attorney Kendall Laws explained to the commission his legal review of the proposed initiative and its referability. After some discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Grayeyes stating that the proposed initiative is not referable. Commissioner Adams 2nd the motion. Voting was unanimous.

David Everitt - SJC Administrator

David Everitt talked to the commission about the hiring of Mack McDonald as the new county administrator. He reviewed the contract including pay, vacation, severance package, and raises and stated that Mr McDonald is scheduled to start September 23rd. A motion to approve the hire Mack McDonald was made by Commissioner Grayeyes. Commissioner Adams 2nd the motion stating that he felt that the county could have hired someone for less money and less experience. Voting was unanimous.

Walter Bird - SJC Personnel

Walter requested that the commission approve the hiring of Caroline Shumway as a part time Aging Specialist, Cheyanne Starkey as the new Health Department Receptionist, and Talon Dayish as a Dispatcher. A motion to approve the hires was made by Commissioner Adams and 2nd by Commissioner Grayeyes. Voting was unanimous..

Randy Rarick - SJC Landfill

Randy asked the commission to approve the continued use of engineering services by the current engineer used for cell closures. A motion to approve the continued use of the current engineer was made by Commissioner Adams and 2nd by Commissioner Grayeyes. Voting was unanimous.

Nick Sandberg - SJC Planning

Nick requested the commission chair sign the comment letter to the BLM regarding the Canyon Rims Area Travel Management Plan. He explained what the comments on the letter entailed. A motion to sign the letter was made by Commissioner Adams. The motion died for lack of a second.

Nick also asked the commission to sign a letter to the Forest Service regarding proposed rule changes that would affect the Abajo and LaSal mountains. A motion to allow the commissioner to sign the letter was made by Commissioner Adams and 2nd by Commissioner Grayeyes. Voting was unanimous.

David Everitt - SJC Administrator

David presented a resolution for approval. The resolution asks the BLM to use caution when considering oil and gas leases in the Hovenweep area. A motion to table the resolution until the next meeting was made by Commissioner Grayeyes so that concerns over the area of the proposed area of the sites could be considered. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Adams. Voting was unanimous.

Commission Reports

Commissioner Maryboy - Commissioner Maryboy attended chapter meetings and the Mexican Hat Democratic Party meetings. He explained that chapter concerns revolved around roads, the trust fund.

Commissioner Adams - Commissioner Adams attended a CIB board meeting where several projects around the state were approved. He also attended a UCIP meeting.

Commissioner Grayeyes - Commissioner Grayeyes invited the 7 County Coalition on a field trip. He also plans on talking to NDOT, the bureau, and congressional representatives about road conditions. Commissioner Grayeyes will also attend and Energy Summit with the Navajo Nation where alternative energy will be discussed.

A motion to adjourn to an executive session was made by Commissioner Adams and 2nd by Commissioner Grayeyes. Voting was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

