

May 15, 2025

The Board of Bent County Commissioners met in their office at the courthouse at 9:00 a.m. Those present were:

Chairman Alan Stump
Commissioner Phil Hemphill
Commissioner Jennifer Scofield
Administrator Doug Bankert
Clerk to the Board Lynda G Moss

Social Services: Director Jonna Parker gave the monthly update. Parker told the commissioners that she needs the Colorado Works Program MOU signed by the commissioners before June 1st. Scofield asked Parker if she could send the MOU sooner next time, so the commissioners have an opportunity to read it before the meeting. The commissioners will read the MOU and vote on it at the next meeting.

Approved bills and payroll for Social Services on a motion from Scofield and seconded by Hemphill.

Approved the minutes from May 1st and May 5th with a minor correction to the May 1st meeting on a motion from Hemphill and seconded by Scofield.

Set the following meeting dates for July:

July 3
July 10
July 24

Approved a manufactured home permit for Oscar Almonzon at 36655 County Road 35, Wiley on a motion from Hemphill and seconded by Scofield.

2 quotes were received for a new pickup for the West End Road & Bridge. \$41,540.00 for a 2025 GMC from Perkins in La Junta and \$43,753.00 for a 2025 Ford from Tri-County in Lamar.

Approved the purchase of a 2025 GMC from Perkins in La Junta in the amount of \$41,540.00 on a motion from Hemphill and seconded by Scofield. The money will come from West End Road & Bridge Capital Outlay.

At 9:30 a.m. bids were opened for the new East End Road & Bridge building project. The following 6 bids were received:

1. Construction Consulting Solutions dba Reliant Construction, Colorado Springs - \$1,811,994.00.
2. Southeast Colorado Builders, Lamar - \$1,471,855.00.
3. TCC Corporation, Loveland - \$2,658,730.00

4. Daniels Construction Inc, Lamar - \$1,830,000.00
5. Stampede Services, Wiley - \$2,067,087.00
6. Alliance Building Systems, Pueblo - \$2,598,062.72

The commissioners will look over all the bids and make a decision at their June 5th meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Sheriff: Sheriff Six gave the monthly update.

- Inmate count – 8 – Bent County, 17- Otero County, 15 – DOC, 2 – Out of county holds for a total of 42.
- Applied for JAGS grant to have the locks replaced at the jail.
- Jail construction almost complete inside. There was a water leak in the deputies' room, ruined 2 computers
- Locksmith has been working on the locks that can be fixed.

Commissioners told Six that the salaries line item was overspent. Six said he figured it would be since it was done from what last years budget was when they weren't fully staffed and now, we are. Scofield said we want to keep up and not get in a bad spot, so we need to see the reports monthly. Six was fine with that.

Adopted **Resolution 2025-17** – Declaring Bent County a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County on a motion from Scofield and seconded by Hemphill. Six also signed in support of the Resolution.

Approved sending a letter to US Attorney General Pam Bondi signed by the commissioners and Six supporting the 2nd Amendment on a motion from Scofield and seconded by Hemphill.

Ratified Stumps signature on a MOU and letter of support for SECED to support the regional planning grant for safe streets, for thriving communities program with the US Dept of Transportation on a motion from Hemphill and seconded by Scofield. Prowers County will be the lead entity and SECED with manage the grant.

The meeting was recessed at 10:05 until the next appointment arrived at 10:25.

Aerial Eddings, Bent County Extension Agent and Brooke Matthews, SE Area Director for CSU, met with the commissioners to give them an update on what they are working on and what is coming up in the future. Eddings said Bent County was one of five counties chosen to receive an extra \$15,000.00 dollars to go along with the normal \$100,000.00 they receive to use for programs.

Recessed until the next appointment arrived.

Sonny Smith, Conservation Trust board member met with the commissioners to discuss several items. Smith told the commissioners that he heard the school district was going to pickup the new mower from the golf course. Apparently, the school district did not invoice the city or the county for their share of the cost, so they were just going to take it back. Smith does not want to see a divide between the three entities. Smith said the school had two projects submitted to the

Conservation Trust board. Do we need to have a contract with the three entities? Scofield said that commissioners had discussed with the city and the school about having a MOU.

Scofield said if all the money that was budgeted does not get spent, it can't just be carried over to the next year. Several of the items you have mentioned in the past, I don't show they were ever approved. Smith asked for clarification, you want all of this information and also proof that it was approved by all three entities before submitting the invoices? Scofield said we are trying to get everything to be easier and cleaner, so there is not confusion in the future. Smith, said then every time I come in, I want something in writing that says it has been approved. Smith said from his stand point anything that wasn't spent went back to capital reserve.

They discussed how and what was spent on each project. Stump said we need to look at maybe doing by-laws for the board. Smith said we don't have any, that I know of, we are advisory, you control the money. Stump said we approve contingent on the other two entities approving and we never see anything that says they have approved. Smith said that is for the ballfields, what do you need for that? Scofield said a copy of their minutes. Smith said I don't know if they do that, but I will check. Smith asked how long before a decision would be made? Scofield said the three entities are having our attorney's look it over, so we do not have a time line.

Bankert told Smith that all boards have to follow the open meeting laws and have minutes. Smith said he would talk to the other board members, we have always done it this way, they might not want to continue. Smith said I have a vested interest in the community in doing this work. Scofield said that's why I want to get this cleaned up, so there aren't things hanging out there. Scofield said we are not putting the blame on you; I'm saying it was a group effort.

Scofield said these three things have not been paid yet from 2023:

McClave School blocking pads - \$1,398.98
McClave School pitching machine - \$2,000.00
Las Animas School cheer mats - \$2,615.00

Scofield said there are two items that the finance officer is going to work with the auditor to fix so the 2024 items would be taken care of. Two items from 2025 have been taken care of already.

Approved payment from the 2025 budget for the three 2023 items listed above that needed cleared up on a motion from Scofield and seconded by Hemphill.

Smith asked going forward, items need to be approved in the minutes and then I can bring the invoices to you? I feel like that I need documentation as well. Scofield said I agree with you; I don't think it was handled correctly before.

Smith asked what the commissioners wanted to do about the mower situation; the city is willing to pay to keep it where it is now. Bankert asked about a discussion on having a board with one person from each entity on it, they would decide and then come back to you. Smith said he didn't think that would work, too cumbersome. Smith said I feel like you have been having these meetings about me and I should have been included.

Discussion went back to the mower. Scofield said I think the issue was that the golf course was not involved in the three entities. Smith said they are included; we discussed the equipment alliance before, to make it easier to get things. Scofield said we need to have things done correctly, so this doesn't happen again. Smith said I am too trusting apparently. Scofield said no, I think that there has been lots of turn over and some things weren't being done properly and then when new people are hired, they can't find what was done. Smith so where are we at? Bankert said the commissioners can't do anything until they know what has been paid. Smith asked if they were going to let Chad know. Scofield said they would let the maintenance people know.

Stump said Bankert had drafted some by-laws, take it to your board and look it over. There is confusion over the Conservation Trust Board and the Recreation Board. Smith said there is not two boards, one board does both.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Clerk to the Board

Chairman of the Board