



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**Grand County Commission Chambers
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom
Moab, Utah**

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MINUTES 5 September 2023

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on September 5th, 2023. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person was Commission Chair Jacques Hadler and Commissioners Mary McGann, Evan Clapper, Trisha Hedin, Bill Winfield, and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau, Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek and County Attorney Stephen Stocks. Commission Vice-Chair Kevin Walker was absent.

2:02 p.m. Presentations on On-going Financial Needs and Obligations for Purposes of Later Determining Funding Allocations

Transportation Special Service District

Commissioner McCurdy read a statement prepared by board chair Ashley Wareham describing the purpose, mission, and goals of the transportation district, as well as an overview of current and ongoing projects.

Canyonlands Health Care Special Service District and Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District (4:04)

A joint presentation was offered by board members Joette Langianese and Elizabeth Tubbs of CHCSSD and EMSSSD, respectively. A 57/43 (CHCSSD/GCEMSSSD) split of the Healthcare Sales tax has been agreed upon by both entities for 2024, which is identical to 2023. Langianese stated that until one of the Health Care District's bonds is paid off, a 57% share would continue to be necessary rather than an even 50/50 split. The size of the Canyonlands Care Center facility, which is the primary focus of the district, is only made viable by the subsidy from this sales tax. Langianese described the various funding structures that support the Health Care District's activity. Sales Tax revenues are down in 2023, to roughly \$900,000, from a projected \$1,200,000 to date. Tubbs discussed the potential for increasing the Health Care Sales Tax levy up to the fully allowable 1%, and the upcoming need in 2026 for the Commission to renew the Healthcare Sales Tax. EMS calls are 3% down in 2023. Tubbs mentioned that the reduced portion of the Healthcare Sales Tax has been historically made up through a PILT allocation determined by the County Commission. Tubbs described the current EMS environment, where revenues are down and costs are up. A specific one-time request is being made at this time by the EMS district in order to assist with critical equipment needs, namely for ambulances, which have been ordered for 2024 and have increased by 44% in cost. Revenue sources for EMS are severely limited.

Commissioner McGann sought clarification regarding the potential full one percent Healthcare Sales Tax and the need to renew this revenue source. Langianese suggested that a well-planned campaign would be necessary to bring the measure before the ballot to successfully raise the tax to a full one percent. Further

discussion ensued regarding the collaboration that would be needed for this endeavor to be successful, and the formation of a committee to kickstart this effort. The effort would be accompanied by a broader funding scope than just EMS and Long-Term Senior Care. Commissioner McGann asked whether the EMS district had approached the CIB board for capital requests. Tubbs stated that they were preparing for the possibility of such a request.

Grand County School District (29:00)

School District Superintendent Taryn Kay and Director of Special Education and Student Services Jill Tatton gave an overview of preschool services offered by the school district, with the primary takeaway that assisting disadvantaged children earlier leads to fewer who require assistance later in life. Closures caused by COVID-19 have created developmental delays with current kindergarteners who did not go through preschool, especially for at-risk populations with less enriching home environments. Tatton displayed data demonstrating how Grand Preschool works to close the achievement gap. 62% percent of families served by Grand Preschool are considered low-income. Because Preschool and Kindergarten are not compulsory, there is limited funding available to support these efforts.

Solid Waste Special Service District #1 (38:20)

District Director Mike Kenerley and Board Vice-Chair Kevin Fitzgerald gave an overview of Solid Waste District activity. Introduction given of Canyonlands Solid Waste Authority Staff, 39 men and women who deliver this critical service. Graph displayed to demonstrate the impacts of tourism on solid waste management. Increase of nearly 4,100 tons of solid waste from 2015 to 2022. Amount of biosolids landfilled from the sewage treatment facility has risen by a similar magnitude. Capital improvement list presented for the various facilities operated by the district, including the Moab Landfill, Klondike Bluffs Landfill, Canyonlands Transfer Station, Community Recycle Center. Overview given of overall 2024 funding request. Commissioner Winfield asked whether moving from private to public ownership of Monument Waste was an effective move for the district. Kenerley stated that such full integration under one umbrella is very rare and was overall a good move for efficiency, but that the district was ultimately still in an understandable adjustment period. This transition has fostered solid waste services that are safer and better regulated, with higher-quality compensation for employees. Commissioner Winfield asked about the possibility of including engine brake restriction messaging on the billboard located at the Transfer Station. Kenerley stated that he was aware of this desire and that options were being pursued.

Grand County Recreation Special Service District (59:00)

Commissioner McCurdy read a statement prepared by Recreation District Board Chair Kathy Wilson describing district funding obligations, including a variety of equipment and facility improvements on County property that the district has funded, especially at the Old Spanish Trail Arena. \$83,864 in grant applications have been received from the community and are being considered by the District in 2023.

Discussion ensued amongst the Commission regarding desired information to be gathered in order to make informed allocation decisions up for discussion at a workshop prior to the next meeting. Information such as other funding already provided by the County and City, and historic funding allocations were requested by the Commission.

Chair Hadler called a recess at 3:15 p.m.

4:01 p.m. Chair Hadler reconvened and Called to Order the Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens to Be Heard (none at this time)

Presentations (none scheduled)

Department Reports (none scheduled)

Commission Member Disclosures (none at this time)

Commissioner Clapper disclosed that he held a special recreation permit to operate out of the Monticello BLM Ranger District, which is part of the Bears Ears National Monument.

General Commission Reports and Future Considerations (3:10)

Jacques Hadler

- Attended Museum of Moab meeting, discussion regarding micro exhibits, May-August events review, membership efforts
- Attended Responsible Recreation committee meeting, review of ambassador and business outreach programming
- Attended Emergency Management Training, discussion regarding 5-year Hazard Mitigation Plan which is due to expire in October and necessary to qualify for FEMA post-disaster relief, planning for October solar eclipse event by public safety agencies
- Attended and participated in meeting with Congressman John Curtis

Trisha Hedin

- Attended Planning Commission meeting, discussion of HDHO modifications, expression of gratitude to recently resigned Planning Commission Chair Emily Campbell for her service

Bill Winfield

- Attended Airport Board meeting, tracking devices being installed to prevent private aviators from flying too low in the valley, preparation for upcoming skydiving event, discussion regarding demand for additional car garages
- Attended SEUALG meeting in Price
- Attended Arches Special Service District meeting, quarterly meetings unanimously approved
- Meeting with Utah Film Commissioner Virginia Pearce, upcoming meeting in St. George to promote benefits of film
- Attended and participated in meeting with Congressman John Curtis

Mary McGann

- Attended Canyon Country Partnership meeting, local BLM office considering several lithium projects, increased trailer parking to be developed on Potash Road/Gold Bar, investigation of livestock trespassing on the Green River, Bear Ears draft management plan to be released in mid-November, visitation numbers down at State Parks, agencies preparing for October solar eclipse
- Attended Travel Council Advisory Board meeting
- Moab Art Trails committee meeting, new sculptures selected, to be displayed on October 10
- Economic Development Advisory Board meeting, discussion regarding block grant requests, increased efforts to collaborate with Moab City

Mike McCurdy

- Attended and participated in meeting with Congressman John Curtis
- Attended meeting with Canyonlands Natural History Association, introduction of Regional National Parks interim director, presentation of figures associated with timed-entry system
- To attend conservative climate summit organized by Congressman Curtis

Evan Clapper

- Attended virtual meeting with statewide Criminal Justice Reform Committee

Elected Official and Staff Reports

Grand County Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek

- In the process of meeting one-on-one with every department head to review 2024 budget requests.

Grand County Attorney Stephen Stocks

- Eddie Cervantes hired and back with the Attorney's Office
- Attended USARA sobriety day
- Real Estate purchase closed with Moab Regional Hospital

Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau

- Ben Fredregill hired as new Economic Development Director
- Meeting to discuss formation of a committee for the Spanish Valley Drive Pathway project

Grand County Sheriff Jamison Wiggins

- July: 1,400 calls into dispatch, 1,100 911 calls, 705 calls that deputies responded to, 358 traffic stops, 28 arrests, served 35 papers, 9 SAR calls
- August 2,700 calls into dispatch, 749 911 calls, 766 calls that deputies responded to, 321 traffic stops, 25 arrests, served 94 papers
- Speed trailers from Highway Safety grant to arrive soon
- Major Crimes Task Force very busy – leading the state of Utah in seizures of meth, 33 arrests associated with narcotics and internet crimes against children. Seizures to date: 838 pounds of meth, 23 pounds of fentanyl, 98 pounds of cocaine, 175 pounds of marijuana. Consideration of budgeting for additional task force position to help handle increased workload

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

1. Dimensional Variance Request: 1360 Overlook Rd - Parcel No. 02-0OVL-0003 (Jenna Gorney, Planning and Zoning Department) (31:30)

Presentation

Gorney gave an overview of the request, for which a public hearing has been held. Setback proposed to be reduced from 20 to 18 feet. Two potential motions suggested, one which calls to forward the case to contracted hearing officer Craig Call.

Motion by Commissioner Clapper to approve the Dimensional Variance request for a reduced rear yard setback of eighteen (18) feet for the subject parcel based on the purpose of Variances as defined in LUC section 9.13.1-Purpose, and Findings in accordance with LUC section 9.13.5., with the findings that there are special circumstances existing on the property on which the application is made related to size, shape, area, topography, surrounding conditions and location that do not apply generally to other property in the same area and zone district that relate to the hardship complained of; and deprive the property of privileges granted to other properties in the same zone. The proposed variance is necessary to permit the applicant the same rights in the use of this property that are presently enjoyed under this LUC, by other properties in the vicinity and zone, but which rights are denied to the subject property. The granting of the variance on the specific property will not be inconsistent with the General Plan of Grand County; that the variance, if granted, will be no material detriment to the public welfare or injury to the use, enjoyment, or value of property in the

vicinity; that such unnecessary hardship has not been created by the applicant; and that the proposed use is a permitted use in the underlying zone district

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy sought confirmation from staff that there were three other property owners who would be seeking variances as a result of approval at this meeting. Attorney Stocks stated that the Commission is not the appropriate body to make this ruling, recommended that it be forwarded to the hearing officer, and questioned whether it was a legitimate finding that unnecessary hardship had been placed upon the property owner. Commissioner Clapper added that the idea of additional hardship includes that the variance would allow a better sharing of the proposed facility with existing tenants. Planning and Zoning Director Elissa Martin clarified that not all of the neighboring properties are unbuildable but that this particular variance is requested along a property with a steep slope. Commissioner Winfield emphasized the recommendation of the Attorney and suggested that the Commission pursue the appropriate process for approval. Chair Hadler agreed that he would prefer to adhere more closely to the prescribed procedure for approving variances.

Commissioner Clapper referenced a potential future adjustment of the Land Use Code that would permit the proposed setback reduction, and inquired with staff regarding the potential to prioritize the Land Use Code amendment as a way of approving the setback reduction. Staff clarified that it is still hypothetical and not entirely clear how the language of the Land Use Code would be amended to resolve the issue raised by the property owner. 9.13.3 of the Land Use Code was displayed, which mentions the possibility for County Commission approval of variances. Commissioner Winfield argued again that the Commission was not truly authorized to make this decision, even though he is not opposed to the proposed variance. Staff outlined a potential solution that involves a plat amendment application and all associated fees accompanying that process.

Original motion withdrawn by Commissioner Clapper, without objection

Motion by Commissioner Clapper to approve the request, contingent upon submission of a subdivision application compliant with the Land Use Code by the applicant

Motion seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion

Commissioner Clapper stated that the proposed variance is necessary to facilitate businesses' expansion which is being sought as a result of a grant from the county, and that he would like to continue to support that effort and not pull the rug out from under it.

Motion passes 6-0

2. Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management for the Development of the Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan for Bears Ears National Monument (Commissioner Kevin Walker) (57:45)

Presentation

Commission Administrator Nassau gave a brief description as to why this item was being considered at this time, as it had not been considered by the majority of the Commission when the topic had initially surfaced in 2022. Nassau described the intent behind the proposed action and suggested that it was a standard action in the past, comparable to past actions, and constituted a basic seat at the table. Chair Hadler expressed

support for accepting this invitation by the BLM, and stressed that Grand County was the principal gateway to Bears Ears National Monument and thus is an important stakeholder deserving of this privilege to comment and offer input.

Commissioner Winfield referenced a letter received from the San Juan County Commission in opposition to the proposed action and disagreed that Grand County was actually the principal gateway to Bears Ears. Winfield stated that this was not Grand County's business and that it would be wise to follow the wishes of San Juan County. Commissioner Hedin reiterated that this was merely accepting an invitation and was not Grand County sticking its nose into the business of others, that Bears Ears is an expansive area that is primarily serviced by Grand County, especially when considering the established Indian Creek climbing area. Hedin stated that the inclusion of a wide array of stakeholders within the concept of 'local' is vital in generating the best management decisions. Grand County only has the ability to provide input, which can be considered or not.

Commissioner McCurdy agreed that the opportunity to include a wider range of input was a positive thing, but asked whether San Juan County was offered the same type of opportunity to offer input regarding Arches National Park, and stated that he does not wish to go against the clear stated wishes of a neighboring County.

Commissioner McGann stated that this was an opportunity to comment regarding public land, not County land, and that Grand County could have very valuable input to offer. Commissioner McCurdy suggested that this invitation should come from San Juan County, and that we should otherwise respect their ability to lead management of lands within their own jurisdiction.

Commissioner Clapper stated that the Arches timed-entry reservation system report went out to several gateway communities for comment, and is a standard practice for land managers to take a wider lens approach. Clapper described that during the formation of the Emery County Public Lands Bill, commercial outfitters lost access to wilderness areas, and there is concern that similar restrictions could be a result of this management plan. Clapper also described how the Labyrinth Canyon management was a great opportunity to foster solidarity with Emery County, and the currently proposed arrangement should have the potential for the same effect. Clapper stressed that he would like to see Grand County be a well-established hub for access to Bears Ears, and that he sees no harm in participating but does see the potential for harm by not having a seat at the table. Attorney Stocks reminded the Commission that MOUs do need to complete attorney review and that the current proposed agreement does pass his office's review.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management for the development of the environmental impact statement and resource management plan for Bears Ears National Monument.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner Winfield asserted that Grand County withdrew from the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (SCIC) because of what it saw at that time as other counties meddling in activity on public land in the Bookcliffs Area, a position which could be seen as inconsistent with the philosophy behind the currently contemplated action. Winfield reiterated that there is damage caused as a result of interference in another county's business. Commissioner McGann stated that the previous County Attorney advised that Grand County was giving up too much autonomy with entrance into the SCIC, and that is the reason why the Grand County Commission voted against inclusion. Commissioner McCurdy emphasized that if we want to partner with San Juan County in the future, it is critical that we respect their wishes.

Motion passes 4-2, Winfield and McCurdy opposed

3. Operating Agreement between the Airport and Moab Heli X (Airport Director Tammy Howland) (1:19:05)

Presentation

Howland gave an overview of the proposed action. Commissioner McCurdy asked if the installation of low-flying monitors was included in the language of this agreement. Commissioner Hedin asked if Moab Heli X held a current Grand County business license. Staff confirmed that they did.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Operating Agreement with Moab Heli X

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Clapper

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0

4. Film Commissioner Job Description Update and FLSA Exemption (Personnel Services Director Renee Baker) (1:23:20)

Presentation

Baker gave an overview of the proposed action, including administrative FLSA exemption. Commissioner Clapper sought clarification regarding staff that was involved in producing the redline draft and if they were still with the County. Baker confirmed that the draft was prepared and reviewed by current County staff. Commissioner McGann expressed disappointment at the failure to move the Film Commission to a foundation and away from the public sector with its associated financial constraints.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the Film Commissioner Job Description and FLSA Exemption effective September 18th, 2023 to align with the next pay period.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion

Commissioner Winfield spoke to the immense value of current Film Commissioner Bega Metzner to Grand County's economy, which is felt by local businesses and the local community. Winfield encouraged increased collaboration with the Economic Development department in order to increase Film Commission activity.

Motion passes 5-0, Hedin abstaining

5. Letter of support for the Bureau of Land Management's proposed Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Rule (Commission Chair Jacques Hadler) (1:29:00)

Presentation

Chair Hadler gave an overview of the proposed action in support of the BLM rule, which seeks to make several overdue updates to regulating the extraction economy and will help to support the environment and the recreation economy.

Motion by Commissioner Clapper to approve the Letter of support for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposed Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Rule

Seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin expressed support for the action which serves to preserve sensitive cultural and environmental sites and encourages extractive activity on highly productive land. Commissioner Winfield agreed to the need to clean up bonding language but suggested that there was more information needed in order to truly assess the value and wider perception of the proposed rule. Winfield suggested that the bill could threaten accessibility to public lands for many people, which is why expressing support requires caution and for the Commission to not be in a hurry until it becomes better educated about the rule. A presentation and informational meeting will be held in Salt Lake City on September 12th. Commissioners agreed that it would be appropriate to wait until after that meeting passed to submit a letter of support. Commissioner Clapper stated that at this point the updates proposed in the rule were long overdue, that the public informational meetings throughout the West began in August, and that he would support moving forward at this time.

Motion by Commissioner Clapper to postpone Item 5 until the following Commission meeting for reconsideration, with possible edits to the proposed letter.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McGann

Motion to postpone passes 6-0

6. Independent Contractor Agreement with Accounting Consultant for Budget Services
(Clerk/Auditor Woytek) (1:39:35)

Presentation

Clerk/Auditor Woytek gave an overview of the proposed action, including an overview of the scope of work and responding bid that had not been originally included in the packet. Cost within budget due to surplus in Clerk/Auditor Department and Election departments, combined.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with EFG Consulting for \$25,000.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0

7. Mural Agreement with the City of Moab and James Thomas Jr. (Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau) (1:49:25)

Presentation

Nassau gave a brief overview of the proposed action, which proposes a second mural project from the same artist previously approved for a mural on the Museum of Moab building. Proposed agreement is for two years, with project materials being used that will make it feasible and affordable for removal, if needed.

Mural will be situated on the Economic Development building. Commissioner McCurdy expressed concern regarding the language being proposed in the mural, which in his view suggests that people must be poor to be equal. McCurdy suggested that there are other much more suitable quotes that could be included from the featured historical figure, Charles Glass. Chair Hadler stated that the proposed piece reflects the historical realities of Mr. Glass' time.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the Mural Agreement with the City of Moab and James Thomas Jr.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner Winfield agreed that Mr. Glass was a significant figure in Grand County through his work ethic and diversity, and the wording should be changed to better focus on his positive contributions to Grand County. Commissioner Clapper inquired about the possibility of approving the image and not the text, leaving open the door to adjusting the quoted text to appear in the mural. Kelly McInerney of Moab City confirmed that it would be feasible and reasonable and would not hold up the project if the image but not the text was approved at this time. Further discussion regarding the potential to work with the Museum of Moab to identify additional quotes that could be used for the mural.

Substitute motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the Mural Agreement with the City of Moab and James Thomas Jr., and direct staff to explore alternative language options to reflect more positive messaging and authorize the Commission Administrator to select the final text

Substitute motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Substitute motion passes 6-0

8. First Amendment to Independent Contractor Agreement with Better Destinations LLC (Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau) (1:58:40)

Presentation

Administrator Nassau gave an overview of the proposed action.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the first amendment to the Independent Contractor Agreement with Better Destinations

Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0

Citizens to be Heard (2:01:55)

Film Commissioner Bega Metzner read a statement regarding her work in Grand County:

It should come as no surprise that I have an unwavering passion for my role. My dedication revolves around fostering the growth of local productions in our area, tirelessly striving to provide employment opportunities for residents, orchestrating community events, engaging with schools to promote workforce development and

film education, and preserving the rich history and legacy of the world's oldest continuously operating film commission. My affection for this job is deeply intertwined with my love for the place I've called home for over three decades and the incredible people who inhabit it. This affection has been cultivated through nearly eight years of service as the film commissioner and more than two decades working in the film industry. In essence, film runs through my veins; it's my lifeblood. My role isn't merely a personal pursuit; it's a commitment to every professional in the film industry, every local business, and everyone who indirectly benefits from the productions gracing our area. The impact ripples far and wide, touching the lives of individuals you might not even consider, from veterinarians and the City Market deli worker to thrift store employees, car detailers, food servers, and bartenders. For nearly two years, we've collectively deliberated on the best path forward, yet the film commission continues to encounter the same roadblocks. It's disheartening that decisions affecting an industry so integral to my life and career, spanning more than half of my existence, rarely involve input from the source - me. A simple gesture like, "Hey Bega, let's sit down for coffee, tea, or a meal, and you can share your expertise and experiences," would mean the world. While you've received numerous letters, articles, and community endorsements supporting the specific work I do, it often seems that only a handful of dissenting voices are heeded. I'm not asking for the moon. With the job description once again under consideration, only four months away from year-end, and a recommendation to keep the job exempt without a salary increase, I pose a simple question: why not? Why not scrutinize the revenue figures from TRT, attributable to the film commission's efforts, and acknowledge that the love, passion, and ceaseless dedication I bring to my work warrant some form of reward? Perhaps "reward" isn't the right word; it could be gratitude, support, or fair compensation. I want to continue living and working here, feeling support not only from the community I engage with daily but also from you—the individuals I serve. I understand that you may not be able to respond immediately, but I genuinely would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the value the film commission holds for you. Do you truly value it? And if not, is that why it isn't receiving the investment and support it deserves?

Grand County resident McKay Edwards, property owner at Moab Springs Ranch, spoke in regard to what he sees as unfair and disproportionate property value assessments that were completed at his property this year. Edwards demonstrated through recent sales that 450 dollars per square foot would be an appropriate valuation, and pointed out what he sees as wildly inconsistent assessment practices. Edwards stated that Moab Springs Ranch is completely anomalous in its valuation compared to other similar commercial properties.

Consent Agenda – Action Items (2:12:10)

9. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A. Ratification of Payment of Bills

B. Independent Contractor Agreement with Canyon Country Construction for Soundproofing at the Children's Justice Center

C. Ratification of Special Event Permit for M.O.A.B. (Mother of all Boogies) 2023

D. Ratification of Special Event Permit for Blazer Bash 2023

Motion by Commissioner Clapper to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the Chair

Seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0

Discussion Items

10. Travel Council Advisory Board (TCAB) Letter Regarding Economic Development (2:13:55)

Commissioner Winfield referenced the letter prepared and presented by TCAB to the County Commission and stated that input offered by volunteer boards must be given an appropriate amount of value and weight, as they represent a connection to the citizenry, and that continued quality participation from any County board requires that the Commission give their feedback due consideration and respect. Chair Hadler agreed with this sentiment and expressed gratitude for all the quality time donated by board volunteers.

Commissioner Winfield invited discussion from the Commission and also expressed that Commission Administration be involved in weighing the feasibility of the recommendations given, and also other potential tangible adjustments that could be made in the spirit of the recommendations. Commissioner Clapper referenced the flatness of the County organizational chart, stating that it would be less than ideal to add one more report to the Administration's managerial duty and that overall structure is important and needs to be carefully considered in any such staff restructure. Clapper referenced the history of the Economic Development role, which no longer includes duties associated with Planning and Zoning. Commissioner McGann stated that in her observation it is typical for other counties to have Tourism and Economic Development housed within the same department.

Travel Council Advisory Board members Jenny Gleason and Lori MacFarland spoke to their process in crafting the recommendation letter for the better of the County and its tourism economy. MacFarland made clear that this was meant as a way to contribute ideas, not outcomes, and that she appreciates the Commission's consideration. Discussion ensued about how best to align the interests of the Commission with the activities of its advisory board. Commissioner Winfield expressed gratitude for the open nature of the conversation. Commissioner Clapper stated that he is excited about a potential process of identifying assets, infrastructure, and staffing that are needed to promote a healthy economy.

11. Countywide Projects and Initiatives Work Plan Discussion (2:31:30)

Commission Administrator Nassau spoke to the need for the Commission to have a more organized strategic direction, especially as it relates to departmental projects and associated budget requests. Nassau expressed that the Commission needs a more active role in prioritizing plans, studies, budgets, and overall decision-making in the interest of focusing staff resources. Such an effort would help the County produce more sustainable and efficient results, lead to a reaffirmation of a strategic plan, and emphasize a holistic view of County operations. Nassau proposed that a survey be disseminated to all county departments in order to get a sense of critical and significant needs, as well as other countywide initiatives, projects, and goals moving into 2024. This survey will provide a snapshot to the Commission in order to make all necessary determinations and make informed and quality decisions. Nassau also requested that this effort include a structure for accountability with a work plan for administration that includes regular updates for all ongoing prioritized projects. Nassau gave an overview of particular items that need more attention and consideration from the Commission on a holistic basis, that takes into account the 'experts' that the Commission has in the form of County staff. Chair Hadler expressed interest in the idea of a survey and requested that feedback be gathered in a succinct manner. Commissioner Clapper suggested that this very process was completed every year through the budget process, and that there are already a variety of plans completed that guide Commission decision-making. Clapper suggested that expense requests that come in outside of the budget process are what confuses the process of prioritization that the Commission already undertakes.

Commissioner Winfield expressed deep support for the process being proposed by Nassau in the interest of offering true direction, especially as it relates to a current budget process that could be looking at shortfalls and difficult budget decisions.

Commissioner McGann stated that in her experience as a teacher that it is best practice to establish goals and then set out the process and steps needed to meet that goal, and that the County must do a better job in identifying the objectives needed to meet already identified goals, and be more intentional about consistently completing those objectives.

Commissioner McCurdy stated that in his experience coming on as a new Commissioner that a process such as this was badly needed and long overdue for understanding and engaging in his role, and emphasized the need to create the appropriate amount of accountability with staff.

Attorney Stocks spoke to the need to discriminate projects and priorities, and the value of recognizing when a project is very staff time intensive or very resource intensive as a way of creating a holistic approach. Nassau stated that the budget process was not sufficient in providing the necessary granular detail, direction, and flexibility to respond to the ongoing everyday needs around the County.

Public Hearing (none scheduled)

Closed Session(s)

Motion by Commissioner McGann at 6:55 p.m. to enter closed session for the purposes of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Clapper

Motion to enter closed session passes 6-0

Motion by Commissioner McGann to exit closed session at 7:20 p.m.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Motion to exit closed session passes 6-0

Chair Hadler adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.



Jacques Hadler
Chair, Grand County Commission

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor