A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse. Board members present were Chairman Dennis Giese, Commissioner Frank Holman, and Commissioner Dave Potts.

Others present were Director of General Administration Robert Christiansen, County Director of Finance Dan Short, County Attorney Jenny Davis, and County Clerk Lori Mitchell.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Giese opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Verification of Distribution of the Board of Commissioners’ Agendas
Chairman Giese asked Clerk Mitchell for verification regarding the distribution of the Board of Commissioners’ Agendas. Clerk Mitchell stated that the agendas were distributed properly.

Agenda Item A
Mid-Year Budget Report (Director of Finance Short)

Director of Finance Dan Short gave the mid-year budget report. He explained that the bulk of the revenues the County receives are from building permits and sales tax. He reported that both categories are up which has led to a 2016 projected revenue over expenditures of $158,067. County sales tax revenues are up over 9% from last year.

Agenda Item B
Consider authorizing a ballot issue regarding whether the County may impose an excise tax on the first sale or transfer of unprocessed retail marijuana by a retail marijuana cultivation facility.

The Board held discussion.

Commissioner Potts made a motion to authorize a ballot issue regarding an excise tax be placed on the 2016 General Election ballot. Commissioner Holman seconded the motion. On the question, the motion carried 3 – 0.

Agenda Item C
Public Hearing – To determine whether American Medical Response of Colorado, Inc. (AMR), a licensed ambulance service in Chaffee County, has violated Chaffee County Ambulance Regulations (Resolution 2006-57)

Chairman Giese called the Public Hearing to order at 10:02 a.m.
County Attorney Davis reviewed the details of Resolution 2006-57, Chaffee County Ambulance Regulations. She said complaints have been made about ambulance response time and the unavailability to respond by AMR. She noted that the Commissioners are charged with investigating complaints.

Chairman Giese swore in AMR Manager, Mike Lening, 605 S Rogers Dr, Pueblo West. Mr. Lening gave testimony that the contract AMR has with Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center (HRRMC) was only for non-emergent transfers and that the contract has no time parameters in it. He concluded by stating that he does not believe that AMR has violated the contract.

Dr. Joshua Visitacion, emergency medicine physician at HRRMC, 1000 Rush Drive, Salida, was sworn in and gave testimony. He described the differences between emergent and urgent medical situations. Chaffee County Emergency Medical Services is used for emergent medical situations and AMR is used for non-emergent situations. If a patient has an urgent medical situation their choices are helicopter or a fixed-wing plane for transport to another facility.

Josh Hadley, Chaffee County EMS Director, discussed how there is a need in the County for more options for patients who require urgent and emergent transports that don’t involve using a Chaffee County EMS ambulance as this takes a 911-ready ambulance out of service for several hours.

Bob Morasko, CEO HRRMC, 1000 Rush Drive, Salida, was sworn in and in his testimony stated that AMR provides a valuable service to the community but he also recognizes a need for better service to those patients in need of transport because of an urgent medical situation.

Chairman Giese described the situation as a crisis and the situation needed to be addressed immediately. He asked Mr. Morasko if HRRMC could draft an agreement dealing with the urgent care transport situation and have it ready to discuss at the first Board of Commissioners meeting in September and Mr. Morasko said that they could.

Chairman Giese closed the Public Comment portion of the hearing at 10:52 a.m.

The Board deliberated.

Chairman Giese moved that at this point there is not sufficient evidence that justifies pulling AMR’s license with Chaffee County to provide service to the hospital. Commissioner Potts seconded the motion. On the question, the motion carried 3 – 0.

Commissioner Potts made a motion to adjourn the Board of Commissioners’ Special Meeting. Commissioner Holman seconded the motion. On the question, the motion carried 3 – 0.
The July 26, 2016 Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Attest:

Lori Mitchell, County Clerk