

RESOLUTION 2021-71

APPROVING SERVICE PLAN OF THE MOFFAT COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) § 32-1-203, the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners is the approving authority which shall review any service plan filed by the petitioners of any proposed special district; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Service Plan for the Moffat County Health Services District was advertised in the Craig Press on the 19th day of May, 2021, on page 20, and a Public Hearing for said District was held at 9:00 AM on June 8, 2021, at the Commissioners' Chambers at the Moffat County Courthouse, 221 West Victory Way, Craig, Colorado for the purpose of taking evidence and testimony concerning the organization and Service Plan for the District; and

WHEREAS, the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners convened for hearing shortly after 9:00 AM. on June 8, 2021. Present in person were Donald Broom, Chair, District 3; Commissioner Tony Bohrer, District 1; Commissioner Melody Villard, District 2; Chuck Cobb, County Assessor, Becky Tyree, County Attorney; Erin Miller, Administrative Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners; Sam Radke, Chief Financial Officer for Memorial Regional Health; Dr. Womble, Stayton Mosby, Chris Nichols, Laura Rich, Terry Carwile, Daniel Rinker, Karen Burley, Isis Rich, Harold Rollins, and Paul Wisor, attorney for the petitioners who appeared by Zoom. (Other people present appeared to attend because of another hearing.)

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with the provisions of C.R.S. § 32-1-204; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the hearing, the Board took the matter under advisement and consideration and announced it would advise the petitioners for the special district in writing of its action on the service plan within twenty days after the completion of the hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Moffat, Colorado, sitting as the Approving Authority for the service plan filed by the petitioners for the Moffat County Health Service District, makes the following findings and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 32-1-202, on April 30, 2021, the petitioners of the Moffat County Health Services District, filed a Service Plan for said District with the Board of County Commissioners of Moffat County.
2. A Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Service Plan for the Moffat County Health Services District was advertised in the Craig Daily Press on the 19th day of May, 2021, on page 20, and a Public Hearing for said District was held at 9:00 A.M. on June 8, 2021, at the Commissioners' Chambers at the Moffat County Courthouse, 221 West Victory Way, Craig, Colorado for the purpose of taking evidence and testimony concerning the organization and Service Plan for the District.

3. On June 8, 2021, a hearing was held and a record made as required by C.R.S § 32-1-204(3).
4. All three members of the Board of County Commissioners attended the June 8 hearing, reviewed the evidence and heard the testimony.
5. At the hearing, the Board of County Commissioners received informational statements and oral evidence regarding the proposed Moffat County Health Services District and the Service Plan.
6. The petitioners for the Moffat County Health Services District presented testimony from Sam Radke.
7. Mr. Radke testified that a task force was formed in 2020 because Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided by Memorial Regional Health (MRH) in Moffat County are operating at a significant loss and are unsustainable. Current losses are over \$600,000 per year. EMS services are splintered across Moffat County, with services from three agencies. Mr. Radke testified that people need reliable and effective emergency response services to improve safety for the residents of Moffat County. The proposed District would be independent and would have local funding and local control, with uniform education and training for staff and necessary equipment for every ambulance. Mr. Radke stated that the proposed mill levy of a maximum of 2.5 mills would cover basic operations and would not include long term debt.
8. Chris Nichols, testified on behalf of the Fire District, stated that the Fire District does not provide these EMS services because they do not cover the entire county and would need more staffing if it did provide these services. He testified that EMS is an essential service. He also stated that the Fire District supports the Health Services District and sustainable funding for these EMS services.
9. Laura Rich testified that the existing services are good and that there are other ways to obtain funding for EMS services.
10. Daniel Rinker testified regarding MRH no longer delivering babies and having high ceilings which waste heat. He questioned where the money would come from when the power plant closes.
11. Isis Rich testified that she is opposed to the Health Services District, that she was in an accident a few months ago and was not happy with the emergency services she received at that time. She believes EMS needs to be re-trained or trained.
12. Harold Rollins testified against the proposed Moffat County Health Services District, because he sees a lot of wasted money. His neighbor called for an ambulance and two ambulances were sent. He would like them EMS to “tighten their belts like the rest of us.”

13. Karen Burley testified that she lived in Maybell for many years and helped coordinate ambulance services in Maybell. She would like agencies outside of Craig to be guaranteed to have a say in future EMS services in Moffat County.
14. Chuck Cobb, the Moffat County Assessor, testified regarding a tax of 2.5 mills as of January 1, 2021 and, assuming that current assessment rates stay the same as they are at present, stated §§ the tax for a home with an actual value of \$200,000 would increase by \$35.75 per year; the tax for a business with an actual value of \$200,000 would increase by \$145.00 per year; the tax on business personal property with an actual value of \$10,000 would increase by \$7.25 per year; and the tax on severed minerals with an actual value of \$345 would increase by \$0.25 per year.
15. The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the proposed Service Plan for the Moffat County Health Services District and finds that it contains the information required for a health service district by C.R.S. §32-19-106.
16. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 32-1-203 (2), the Board of County Commissioners shall disapprove the service plan unless evidence satisfactory to the Board of each of the following is presented:
 - (a.) There is sufficient existing and projected need for organized service in the area to be serviced by the proposed special district.
 - (b.) The existing service in the area to be served by the proposed special district is inadequate for present and projected needs.
 - (c.) The proposed special district is capable of providing economical and sufficient service to the area within its proposed boundaries.
 - (d.) The area to be included in the proposed special district has, or will have, the financial ability to discharge the proposed indebtedness on a reasonable basis.
17. Evidence satisfactory to the Board was presented as to (a) and (b), that there is sufficient existing and projected need for organized EMS services in the proposed special district and that the existing service is inadequate for present and projected needs. Testimony and MRH Resolution 2021-1 both evidence that current EMS services from MRH will no longer be provided due to financial circumstances of increased costs and decreasing revenues from those who utilize EMS services. Testimony from Chris Nichols, a representative of the Fire District, established that EMS services are essential services and the Fire District supports the establishment of the Moffat County Health Services District.
18. Evidence satisfactory to the Board was presented as to (c), that the proposed special district is capable of providing economical and sufficient service to the area within its proposed boundaries. The petitioners have taken into consideration that Moffat County is facing the loss of the power plant in Craig and they are requesting a mill levy which is planned to meet the need for stable, effective EMS services at a reasonable cost.

19. Evidence satisfactory to the Board was presented as to (d), that the area to be included in the proposed special district has, or will have, the financial ability to discharge the proposed indebtedness on a reasonable basis. The Service Plan does not propose any indebtedness, so there is no indebtedness to be discharged.
20. The Board also finds that evidence satisfactory to the Board was presented that the creation of the proposed special district will be in the best interests of the area proposed to be served.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Moffat County as follows:

Based upon the foregoing Findings, the Board of County Commissioners of Moffat County APPROVES the Service Plan of the Moffat County Health Services District and enacts this Resolution of Approval for said Plan.

Approved and adopted this 23rd day of June, 2021.

MOFFAT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

By:


Donald Broom, Chair

State of Colorado)
) ss.
County of Moffat)

I, Erin Miller, Deputy County Clerk and Ex-officio to the Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on the date stated.

Witness my hand and the seal of said County this 23rd day of June, 2021.





Erin Miller, Deputy Clerk and Ex-officio to
County Commissioners, Moffat County
State of Colorado