



GOALS FOR 1994

The Board of Commissioners of Mesa County

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Administration Building
Grand Junction, CO 81501

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District 1

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District 2

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District 3

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
MESA COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO:**

- 1. IMPROVING THE COUNTY'S LAND USE PLANNING TOOLS BY:**
 - a. Making minor adjustments to the existing Land Development Code, and
 - b. Undertaking the development of a County-wide Land Use Plan.

- 2. FOSTERING COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS (AND OTHER ENTITIES) BY:**
 - a. Developing memoranda of understanding with federal agencies operating within the county,
 - b. Establishing regular meeting schedules with city councils, chambers of commerce, selected federal and state agencies and other public and private organizations, and
 - c. Linking County computer capacity with other public (and private) organizations.

- 3. IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE BY:**
 - Developing a service center which brings together a broad range of services in a single counter area.

- 4. IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS WITH CITIZENS BY:**
 - a. Conducting annual meetings throughout the community,
 - b. Developing newspaper inserts and other formal written products, and
 - c. Continuing the support for Commissioner and staff involvement in community groups.

- 5. RE-EVALUATING THE SIZE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT WITH A FOCUS ON:**
 - a. The total cost of services,
 - b. The total number of employees, and
 - c. The range of programs offered.

- 6. REALLOCATING FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO:**
 - a. Reduce the percentage of the Operating Budget which is allocated to criminal justice activities over the next three years, and
 - b. Increase funding for other activities to improve the overall quality of life in the community.

- 7. MAINTAINING AN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PROGRAM WHICH MIRRORS THAT IN THE COMMUNITY BY:**
 - Reviewing the total compensation and fringe benefit package for County employees by July 1st.

- 8. CONTINUING COMMUNICATIONS WITH COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO INVOLVE THEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF THE BOARD'S GOALS BY:**
 - Soliciting input early in the process of reexamining these Goals periodically, and
 - Sharing information regarding the progress being made toward accomplishing these Goals.

and Clerk and Recorder's Departments. Also, the average daily census at the County jail was approximately 120 inmates during 1993, reflecting a full year of occupancy of the new detention facility. Caseloads and food stamp issuances at the Department of Social Services leveled off during 1993, but remain high in comparison to similar counties in Colorado.

On November 3, 1992, the voters of Colorado approved a constitutional amendment (Amendment 1) that limits taxes, revenues and spending and restricts debt issuance for all state and local governments. Mesa County and its citizens face the challenge of balancing the increasing demand for services with a pervasive anti-government sentiment that seeks to restrain the growth of government.

Property taxes levied for the County in 1992 for collection in 1993 met the requirements of Amendment 1. Additionally, the County believes that appropriations and the approved budget for 1994 meet the spending limits delineated in Amendment 1. Fiscal year spending for 1993 is limited, using 1992 as the base year, to inflation plus local growth. The Amendment also requires the County to set aside emergency reserves in the amount of 1% in 1993, 2% in 1994, and 3% in 1995 and all subsequent years. The percentage is calculated from fiscal year spending less bonded debt service. At December 31, 1993 the emergency reserve requirements have been met with a \$390,000 reserve in the Contingency Fund.

At this time, the long-term impact of Amendment 1 on the finances of Mesa County cannot be determined.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

The stated mission of Mesa County government is to "provide high quality service to the people of Mesa County in a friendly, cost-efficient manner."

The Mesa County Board of Commissioners has adopted a strategic plan which is periodically reviewed, and revised as projects are completed and new priorities are established. The major initiatives listed below reflect the goals of the current Board.

For the Year

Plans to construct a new county courthouse, which was to have been built adjacent to the recently completed Detention Center and Sheriff's facility, were abandoned early in 1993. A decision was made to remodel existing County-owned buildings to meet the space requirements of County departments.

In an effort to reduce the impact of criminal justice programs on the County's financial resources, several alternative programs were put in place in 1993. A pre-Trial Services Program, which assists the courts in making recommendations regarding bail bond began in March. It was followed by the development of a Day Reporting Program which provides supervision/rehabilitation services to sentenced offenders in a non-residential setting. The goal of these programs is to relieve pressure on the detention facility by providing less costly alternatives.

The Connected Lakes Park project was completed during the year. The project was funded by accumulated gravel pit royalties and grant funds from the State of Colorado. The 183 acre park along the Colorado river features handicapped accessible fishing piers, nature trails, picnic shelters and water level controls for the connecting lakes. The Park was deeded over by Mesa County to the Colorado State Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for future operation and maintenance.

Other 1993 initiatives include the development of a pilot community policing program in the Sheriff's Department; the Assessor's highly successful appeal hearings at Mesa Mall; the County's Wellness Program, which is a public/private partnership with the County's health insurer, Rocky Mountain Health Maintenance Corporation; and the decision to cancel the lease arrangement with Intermountain Veterans Memorial Park, Inc. for management of the County fairgrounds and to return operations to the County General Fund.

For the Future

The Board approved the development of a two year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. With the assistance of consultants, the active participation of the municipalities and significant public input, this plan is expected to address the custom and culture of Mesa County as well as the growth and development issues now facing the Grand Valley.

The County plans to renovate the 655 Ute Avenue Building (the old Sheriff's office and jail) for use as a service center where citizens will have a centralized, ADA accessible location to conduct County business. In conjunction with the service center concept, the County is also planning to expand the Fruita and Clifton satellite offices to include more services. The goal is to ensure that those service providers with high traffic loads are easily accessible to their customers.

Other initiatives include the renovation of the Social Services building; the implementation of the Data Network Plan where LANs will be installed in the County Attorney and District Attorney's offices and computerized links would be established between the various County facilities; the implementation of a new delivery system for the employee fringe benefits; completion of the Orchard Avenue Construction Project; and installation of a new telecommunications system.

Department Focus

Each year the County selects a division to highlight for its efforts and accomplishments. In 1993, the *Building Inspection Division* of the Public Works Department is selected for recognition. The Division provides a variety of technical and professional services to the citizens of Mesa County.

The Building Inspection Division operates as a regional building department for Mesa County. The Division maintains contracts with all of the municipalities within the jurisdiction to perform the building inspection duties as required by statute.

The Division has a staff of ten highly trained, professional individuals. A job criteria for all field inspectors is to be certified in the four major model building code disciplines. The majority of the staff maintains certifications from the International Conference of Building Officials in most categories. There are four Colorado licensed master electricians on staff to perform inspections and to provide technical assistance to the electrical contractors in

Mesa County. A State of Colorado licensed plumber also adds to the technical expertise of the Division.

The staff completed a demanding and unrelenting work load in 1993. The inspectors accumulatively performed 30,910 inspections and drove approximately 125,000 miles. The Division issued 2,538 building permits and 882 special permits with a value of new construction of \$109,018,440. The Division generated revenue of \$594,712 for the General Fund in 1993, an increase of 24% from the prior year.

These Division accomplishments are the result of the talents and dedication of its members. The members of the Division are best represented by their shared mission:

"..to ensure safe structures for the public through timely permit issuance and field inspections of mandated items by a courteous, highly technical team."

THE COUNTY'S INTERNAL AND BUDGETARY CONTROLS

Management of the County is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the County are protected from loss, theft or misuse, and to ensure that adequate accounting data are available to all