

## Local governments look at 'de-Brucing' ideas

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The county's revenue stream from voters' 2002 "de-Brucing" of certain property tax revenues for use in road projects will sunset this year.

The term "de-Brucing" refers to an approval by voters granting government the right to keep and use revenues that otherwise would have to be returned to taxpayers under the Taxpayers bill of Rights Amendment (TABOR) to the Colorado Constitution.

The county government is looking at whether to ask voters to renew the property tax de-Brucing which has funded numerous road improvements over the past five years in the county's Major Road Improvements Program, or whether to try for voter approval of a roads impact fee on new development.

The roads impact fee idea is currently under study. A fee of that type would also require a de-Brucing approval by citizens to allow the government to keep any revenue it collects.

The City of Delta and the Town of Cedaredge are also considering a proposal asking voters to permanently de-Bruce and all future revenues derived from "fines and fees."

The City of Delta's last attempt to get voter approval for a de-Brucing of fines and fee revenue was turned down in November 2006.

At their Jan. 26 regular meeting, the county commissioners approved moving forward with a public process to make one change in the major road improvement plan.

The change affects a section of Robideau Canyon Road south of 25 Mesa Road that was included in the final project list by mistake. It is being removed.

In its place, a portion of 25 Mesa Road from Robideau Canyon Road to the Montrose County line has been included in the project list to be improved as funds allow.

In other business during their Jan. 26 regular meeting, the Board of County Commissioners dealt with the following matters:

- Commissioners approved renewal for maintenance on pilot information weather broadcast system at Blake Field. The contract with ASMI (Aviation Systems Maintenance Incorporated of Overland Park, Kan., is for regular service and inspection of the pilot climate conditions broadcast system at Blake Field that was installed two years ago.

Contract specifications call for an annual fee of \$4,800, or \$442 per month. Work over and above that specified in the contract is billed at \$130 per hour with mileage charges of \$1.25 per mile.

- The board approved auctioning off two, county-owned, three-phase diesel generators that are located at the District #3 Road Department. The equipment was acquired some years ago from a state agency surplus inventory.
- Commissioners heard a request from the county information technology department to spend up to \$15,000 from capital outlay funds prior to April 1. The county administration tries to limit capital outlay expenditures for departments until after the county has received its property tax revenues. The commissioners approved the expenditure.
- The commissioners approved renewal for hotel/restaurant liquor licenses for Electric Mountain Lodge and for Zack's BBQ. Also, a retail liquor license renewal was approved for On The Rocks liquor store.
- During constituent time, the commissioners were scheduled to meet with the Town of Paonia on the proposed Highway 133 Corridor Overlay district; with Gerhard and Vanessa Rueckert, and with Bob Neirinckx.

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