

Vanessa Conway

From: Steve Lunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 12:05 PM
To: Vanessa Conway
Subject: Opposed to abandoning the town of Bonanza

Date: 2 September 14

Dear Colorado Secretary of State:

My name is Steve Lunt. Along with my sister and other family members (each with their own properties), I am a property owner within the city limits of the town of Bonanza, Saguache County, Colorado. My family has either been full time residents and/or property owners since the early 1940s.

I am opposed to and request that the Saguache County Commissioners' request to abandon the town of Bonanza be denied.

1. I personally just became aware of this movement to abandon the town of Bonanza the middle of May, 2014. As with other property owners, I was informed of this by a neighbor and not by either Saguache County or the state of Colorado.

I have found out that official notice of this petition was not done through the official newspaper (the Saguache Crescent) of Saguache County, but was instead put in another newspaper that serves a town that is a full hours drive from Bonanza.

As a property owner, I have the right to be notified of all aspects of this legal activity by my county and in my local paper .

2. In the past one and a half years, I have observed three new residences constructed within Bonanza. A turn-around in Bonanza has started.

Moreover, I am not the only one seeing a turnaround in Bonanza. Cingular Wireless is seeing the same thing as they are interested in bringing cell service to Bonanza. Cingular Wireless would not construct such a facility unless they were anticipating enough growth in Bonanza to make their investment worthwhile.

Why then would the Saguache County Commissioners desire to abandon this town prematurely and during a period when it is starting to show a turnaround?

3. I am aware that one issue raised by the Saguache County Commissioners is the failure of Bonanza to hold an election. C.R.S. 31-10-507 (2013) states that ...

"the governing body may also provide that, if the only matter before the voters is the election of persons to office and if, at the close of business on the nineteenth day before the election, there are not more candidates than offices to be filled at such election, including candidates filing affidavits of intent, the clerk, if instructed by resolution of the governing body either before or after such date, shall cancel the election and by resolution declare the candidates elected. If so provided by ordinance, upon such declaration the candidates shall be deemed elected."

As Betty Ashley is the current mayor of Bonanza, this election process specified by Colorado State Statute has (until shown otherwise) been followed. The Saguache County Commissioners' argument of 'non-elections' is invalid.

4. Bonanza residents and Bonanza property owners are actively involved in determining the steps needed for Bonanza to become a fully functioning town again. While this is underway, 'Bonanza needs to remain an independent and incorporated town'.

5. State regulations require that to abandon an incorporated town, no town business has been conducted for a period of at least five years. I have seen cancelled checks and invoices that indicate the town was functioning up until at least mid 2011. Given that the town was functioning up until at least mid 2011, the statutes entitle Bonanza residents and property owners at least until 2016 to do that which is necessary in order to bring Bonanza into compliance.

This is why it is critically important that I, my other family members who are property owners, and all other property owners and residents of Bonanza receive the full five years, to which the statutes have entitled us.

As stated by another respondent opposed to this abandonment petition, the Bonanza 'community must have a say in this extremely important issue'.

Until this occurs, I am opposed to any attempt by the Saguache County Commissioners and the state of Colorado to abandon the town of Bonanza, that is, at least until the statutory five years has expired in 2016.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Colorado Secretary of State deny the Saguache County Commissioners' petition to abandon the incorporated town of Bonanza, Colorado.