

## **The Battlement Mesa Service Association**

### **The BMSA and 60, 61 and 101!**

**By Keith Lammey, President, Battlement Mesa Service Association**

At this point in the political season, we've all seen the political advertisement regarding measures 60, 61 & 101. In fact you may be to the point that you don't want to hear the same old message "one more time" about why you should or shouldn't vote for the three issues.

Rest assured, it isn't my intent to ask you to suffer through the same message again, but perhaps you've wondered what the Battlement Mesa Service Association thinks about these issues and, if enacted, what impact it would have on the BMSA and its ability to provide services to our community.

This is sort of a good news, bad news story. I'll start with the good news.

Even if Colorado's voters pass all three of these measures – Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101 – the Battlement Mesa Service Association will continue to conduct our business exactly as we have in the past. No doubt you've heard all of the horror stories about how other entities including school districts, special districts, cities and towns, etc. will be severely impacted.

So why is the BMSA immune? The BMSA does not receive any form of tax revenues and we don't borrow money. Except for some industry contributions, our sole revenue source is the assessments paid by our members.

The bad news is that, if these measures pass, Battlement Mesa and the BMSA will feel the impact. I'll explain.

The assessments paid by our members pay for the basic services that the BMSA provides. These services include things like landscaping, irrigation, fence maintenance and replacement, maintenance of the trail system, etc. and the BMSA will still be able to provide these services.

The problem is that several services that are critical to our community are not funded nor provided by the BMSA and the funding for those services will be severely impacted if 60, 61 and 101 pass.

Two prime examples are our road system and the Battlement Mesa Activity Center. Battlement Parkway, Stone Quarry Road, Spencer, Sipprelle and all of the streets in Battlement Creek, The Reserve, Willow Creek, Stone Ridge, Monument Creek, Tamarisk Village and Tamarisk Meadows are county roads. The county pays for all of the maintenance, including snow plowing, for these streets. If Garfield County's revenues are cut, it is almost certain that the county will reduce the level of services that they provide, including the maintenance and plowing of our streets. And then there is the Battlement Mesa Activity Center. The Activity Center is owned and operated by the Battlement Mesa Metropolitan District. The Metro District is a special district and these measures, if passed, will substantially reduce their funding.

Sure, reduced funding will make it more difficult for the Metro District to provide our water and sewer needs, but not to the point where no water or sewer services can be provided.

In contrast, based upon my understanding of these issues, and of the Metro District's funding sources, I believe that the Battlement Mesa Activity Center **WOULD CLOSE!** Within the last year, the hours and some services had to be reduced in order to balance the Activity Center's budget and it has had a noticeable impact on our community. Just imagine what it would be like to not have our Activity Center!

So, even though the BMSA's funding would not be directly impacted by the passage of these three measures, on September 28, 2010, the BMSA board of directors voted to adopt a resolution against the three measures. Please, don't hurt our community! Please don't hurt Colorado! Please vote against Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101!

*The opinions expressed by Battlement Mesa Service Association President, Keith Lammey are his, and not necessarily those of all Battlement Mesa governing entities or this newspaper.*

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