

The Battlement Mesa Service Association

Civics 101: “Your City Government and Your City Services”

By Keith Lammey, President, Battlement Mesa Service Association

Yes it is true. Battlement Mesa doesn't have a “city government” thus; it also doesn't have any city departments which provide “city services.” Battlement Mesa, a planned unit development, is an unincorporated area within Garfield County, Colorado. Nevertheless, residents of Battlement Mesa have a type of city government and that government provides an assortment of services.

The Battlement Mesa “city government”

So who is this government? Officially, the Battlement Mesa Service Association is our community's governing body. If you own property within the Battlement Mesa PUD, then you are a BMSA member. That means that you are the government. Well, perhaps not you specifically but all owners collectively. As the name suggests, we are a self-governing homeowners association.

The BMSA is a Colorado non-profit corporation. Like all corporations, the BMSA has Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. And we have an assortment of Architectural and Covenant documents.

As a group, these documents are similar to a typical city municipal code. These BMSA documents not only specify how your government works but who that government is. Each Village within in the Battlement Mesa PUD has the right to elect a delegate to the Battlement Mesa Service Association and these elected delegates are automatically elected to the BMSA board of directors. Village delegates/board members are elected by their villages to a three year term. Since there are no term limits, delegates/board members frequently serve more than one term.

Presently the BMSA board consists of twelve village delegate/board members (including one open position) and two developer delegate/board members for a total of fourteen delegate/board member positions. The BMSA board of directors functions like a typical city council.

Tamarisk Village does not have a village delegate/board member at this time. If you live or own property in Tamarisk Village and would like to serve in our government, please contact the BMSA office at 970.285.9432.

The Battlement Mesa “city services”

Although the BMSA is the official city government, it does not provide all of your city's services. Some typical city services are provided by other entities including the Grand Valley Fire Protection District, the Battlement Mesa Metropolitan District, the Parachute/Battlement Mesa Park and Recreation District, the Grand River Hospital District, the Battlement Mesa Company, and by Garfield County plus a few others. Admittedly, it is sometimes difficult to figure out “who does what.”

Since Battlement Mesa isn't incorporated:

- Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by the Grand Valley Fire Protection District. The fire district is a Colorado Special District and have their own board of directors. Their board meetings, like all special district board meetings, are open to the public.

- Water and sewer services are provided by the Battlement Mesa Metropolitan District. The metro district is a Colorado Special District and is governed by a five member board of directors which typically serve four year terms. Board meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.
- Parks, recreation and related activities are provided by two or three entities. The Metro District owns and operates the Battlement Mesa Activity Center, which provides many services to our community. Some residents seem to believe that the Activity Center is owned by Battlement Mesa Company, but that isn't the case. Battlement Mesa Company does, however, own and operate the Battlement Mesa Golf Course. As most residents know, Battlement Mesa Company is the developer of Battlement Mesa. As a general rule, organized outdoor activities are provided by the Parachute/Battlement Mesa Parks and Recreation District; another Colorado Special District with its own board of directors.
- Police and animal control services are provided by the Garfield County Sheriff's Department. As you would expect, the Garfield County Sheriff has facilities throughout the county including a sub-station at 1777 Battlement Parkway.
- Street maintenance and snow plowing services are provided either by the Garfield County Road and Bridge Department or by a BMSA sub-association. Battlement Parkway, Spencer, Stone Quarry Road and about half of our village streets are actually county roads thus the county is responsible for maintaining them. Several of our villages, including Canyon View, Fairway Villas, First Eagles Point, Mesa Ridge and Valley View, own their streets and provide street maintenance and snow plowing services.
- Local non-emergency medical services are provided to Battlement Mesa residents locally and in Rifle by the Grand River Hospital District.
- And the BMSA's board of directors, committee volunteers and BMSA contractors provide a variety of additional services.

Yes, it is somewhat confusing, but when you are in doubt about who provides what services, call the BMSA, "your city government" and we'll direct you to the correct service provider! The BMSA's number is 285-9432