

Anger splits tiny town's government

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Associated Images



NUNN - There really isn't one issue fueling the animosity. Both sides cite various "personal vendettas." Think of it as a throwback to the Hatfields and McCoys.

Whatever the cause, the effect is apparent. The tiny town of Nunn - population 520 - in northern Colorado has descended into spite-filled discord.

"This town will never move forward, it will end up a ghost town," Tori McMechan, Nunn's town clerk, said.

McMechan is a central figure in this feud. Earlier this year, her supporters on the town board squared off against her opponents on the board.

Both sides lodged allegations of impropriety and harassment. The result was a recall election for most of the board members.

The Greeley Tribune reported in September that a mediator attempted to settle the dispute, but soon gave up saying, "I decided to get out of Dodge while I still could."

The recall election was held Tuesday. 130 voters turned out. McMechan's side lost.

Jenny Johnson and her group captured six of the seven seats. Johnson had served on the board prior to the election.

The election did little to subdue the standoff.

Johnson quickly called for a swearing-ceremony. McMechan denied the request.

"I followed the advice of our city attorney," she said.

McMechan said she had to wait seven days before she could certify the election results in order to give time for any candidates to ask for a recount.

Johnson said the attorneys she consulted provided a different interpretation.

"The certificates of elections, according to the law, are supposed to be given forthwith with no delay," she said.

McMechan did not budge so four of the board members-elect found a judge outside Nunn and had him swear them in. The group then scheduled a board meeting for 7 p.m. Friday.

"We want people to know what happened," Johnson said. "We want them to know that we did follow the law."

"As far as I'm concerned they are completely going against code," McMechan said. "They are not legally sworn into office and they have not even had a certificate of election issued to them."

Johnson said the meeting agenda would include town hall security and other matters.

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