



COMMISSIONERS Corner

News & Updates from Grand County's Board of County Commissioners



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISCUSSION

Sitting as the Housing Authority, Commissioners had a follow-up discussion with the current owner of the Balcony House at Millers Inn, Harold Teverbaugh, and Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** about whether the County should exercise its purchase option of the unit.

The Millers Inn project is a nine-unit homeowners project in Winter Park that enables citizens that live and work in Grand County to purchase a home at an affordable price and become homeowners. The units are deed restricted to ensure they will remain affordable to subsequent purchasers for many years to come.

Mr. Teverbaugh submitted a Notice of Intent to Sell Unit 9, Bacony House to the BOCC April 2, 2021. The submission was presented and discussed during the May 11 BOCC meeting. At that time, the BOCC asked for a Workshop to further discuss the matter.

Darland remained committed to her position that financial resources the County would like to commit to affordable housing endeavors would be better leveraged acquiring additional properties. Darland emphasized during the discussion that purchasing Balcony House doesn't increase inventory of affordable housing units available within Grand County.

Commissioner Linke reiterated that he does not support the County exercising its purchase option of the Balcony House unit at this time. Commissioners Manguso and Cimino were more in favor of the purchase. A motion was not made, and Commissioners agreed to continue exploring the matter, including site visits to Millers Inn and speaking with Darland about other potential real estate opportunities.

SUMMER ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS

Warmer weather brings with it road and other construction projects. Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** reviewed the Summer Maintenance Plan, which included:

- Grading and magnesium chloride application on County Rd 1 started this week
- The asphalt project on County Rd 48 started Wednesday; Road & Bridge is hoping to complete the project by July 4
- General maintenance is a focus this summer, as the Department anticipates needing the flexibility to respond quickly to weather events and assist CDOT as needed
- Baer led a discussion with Commissioners about the condition of the landfill tarp
 - R&B has been repairing it as needed, and would like to replace it next year; long-term maintenance solutions are being considered

Meeting minutes, support materials
and full audio are available at:
co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter
co.grand.co.us/Archive

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Friday, May 14, Governor Polis issued new Public Health guidance. The new guidance includes:

- Masks are no longer required indoors for vaccinated individuals (they are strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals, and, per the Colorado Department of Education, masks are still required for schools)
- Outdoor events no longer need approval from GCPH; Public Health would still like to see event plans should an outbreak occur, but approval is not required
- 6-foot distancing between indoor tables and seated parties is no longer required, but is recommended

Case Update

Current COVID case count in Grand County:

- Last 3 days: **2**
- Last 7 days: **2**

Grand County's current positivity rate is **1.92%**, the lowest the County has experienced in a long time. Public Health is continuing to perform about 130 tests a week, and are seeing fewer people with symptoms. Grand County currently has zero COVID hospitalizations and no active outbreaks.

Vaccine Update

Vaccines immunity: 57-60%

(This percentage is slightly lower than the previous week because the denominator increased with the addition of eligible residents now including adolescents 12 and older.)

Adolescents 12 and older are now eligible for Pfizer's vaccine, which is available at Safeway and City Market pharmacies.

To make an appointment for a vaccine, visit www.co.grand.co.us/vaccine.

Public Health is hosting a mass vaccine clinic this Saturday, May 22 9 a.m. to 2 pm. at Middle Park High School.

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine will be available at the clinic. Registration is recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

INDEPENDENT BOARD OF HEALTH OPTION PRESENTED

During General Public Comments, Engaged Citizens for a Healthier Grand County presented the BOCC with research regarding creating an independent Board of Health (currently the BOCC sits as the Board of Health). Commissioners accepted the documents, and directed staff to include the topic as a Workshop discussion at a future meeting.

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** gave a Fire Recovery update that focused on debris removal:

- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) team members are arriving this week, and will begin site assessment work on Thursday
- There are currently 109 properties on the list for SBDR to assess and determine how much debris left in the wake of the East Troublesome Fire still needs to be removed
- Cochran and his staff are continuing to analyze the costs for debris removal, including the expense of roll-off dumpsters, and compare whether it's financially best to use local resource or FEMA's programs
 - Recommendations regarding eligible work under FEMA programs will follow

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** provided an update on Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects in Area B:

- Letters have been sent to many property owners in Area B stating identifying projects on their property, and requesting access to the property for project design purposes
- There are three projects in Area B for which the County will be responsible for paying the matching funds to repair
 - Engineering firm SGM will be on site to begin working on designs
 - Commissioners gave Benson direction to proceed with the three projects, which include the landfill, a bridge on County Rd 2 and an arch culvert on County Rd 21



Grand County Communications 911 Dispatcher **Jodie Kern** and her family hung Tibetan prayer flags on their property after a recent clean-up day.

Kern's home was one of more than 350 lost to the East Troublesome Fire.

SALES TAX COLLECTION ELIMINATION CONSIDERED FOR NFPS

Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** led a discussion with the BOCC regarding whether not-for-profit organizations that sell less than \$45,000 annually should be required to collect and remit sales tax to the County (these organizations are currently exempt from collecting and remitting State sales tax).

Rotary Club was used as the primary example used during the discussion. The organization purchases food supplies for concession booths at local grocery stores and places like Sam's Club, and currently earns about 12 cents on candy bars. A club member present for the discussion stated that having to collect and remit County sales tax on concession items would eliminate their slim profit margin, and would also prevent the club from offering snacks at a reasonable price during family friendly events.

Commissioner Manguso stated that making not-for-profit organizations like the Rotary Club exempt from collecting sales tax would legitimize how the majority of non-profits are already conducting business. Rosene said, based on the information she has, that would be the case. County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** stated that he would need additional information and details before advising how the County could proceed. The BOCC directed staff to further research the subject and present the BOCC with options.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS...

- Sitting as the Grand County Housing Authority, the BOCC approved an application for exemptions of affordable housing transfer fee for the Ranches at Devil's Thumb, Lot 9.
- Weekly vouchers and wire payments presented by Finance Director **Curtis Lange** were approved.
 - Commissioners were informed of a bill in the amount of \$17,000 the Finance Office just received from the State for the Golf Course Fire in 2018. As a result, and following brief discussion, Commissioners agreed to proactively budget for East Troublesome and Williams Fork fire bills that could be received in future years.
- A request for renewal of a retail liquor store license by Drowsy Water Liquor was approved.
- A trade name change presented by Farmhouse GL LLC was approved.
- Community Development presented several items; all were approved as presented:
 - 2020-12-46 Eldridge Outright Exemption
 - 2021-4-34 Columbine Lake amended final plat
 - 2021-4-25 Lot 23A Sheep Mountain Estates
 - County Rd 50 Homeowners Association "Condition 6" Compliance Verification
 - Amended final plat, Lots 78 & 79, Block 1, Alpine Acres
- Sitting as the Board of Human Services, the BOCC approved a request by Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** to submit an application for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families grant.
- Road & Bridge presented a second amendment to Accord Asphalt's contract for partial payment for work already completed; the amended contract was approved as presented.
- The BOCC opened a public hearing regarding an Agriculture Use Mobile Home Special Use permit
 - The permit was approved as presented with no discussion

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer**'s update included:

- A request for employees to please complete cyber security training (please)
- Grand County Public Health is working on a Medical Directorship transition.
- Grand County's Medical Director and EMS Chief are working on recruitment of an Assistant Medical Director for EMS.
- Regarding CDOT's work on Hwy 40 at Red Dirt Hill, County staff is meeting with CDOT Wednesday
- Campaign strategy firm TurnCorps has been retained to assist EMS with a mill levy initiative; the firm will be present at a May 25 Workshop
- Community Development is addressing a couple of development complaints received in the last several weeks

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Finance Director **Curtis Lange** led a Workshop discussion about eligible uses for American Rescue Plan Act funds. Eligible uses include:



- Aid to local industries impacted by COVID-19
- Premium pay to essential workers
- Revenue reduction relative to revenue collected in the most recent prior year
- Necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure

ARPA funds cannot be used to pay-off municipal debt, invested in pension funds, pay off debt, or fund capital projects.