



## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



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## PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER RESCINDED

After reporting a continued decline in COVID case rates, zero current hospitalizations and zero outbreaks, Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** announced that the standing Public Health Order related to COVID-19 best practices and its amendments and extensions would be rescinded effective May 26, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

Baker stated the Public Health department anticipates a small increase in cases as a result of behavioral changes residents have made moving from mask requirements to recommendations in the last two weeks, and also that - should the pandemic take a turn for the worse - Public Health has practices in place that can be implemented quickly.

The announcement followed Baker's weekly COVID update for Grand County:

- 6 cases have been reported in the last 7 days; 7 cases in the last 14 days
- 6.56% positivity rate
  - Baker said the higher percentage indicated people getting tested are those with concerns they've been exposed; the general public is not getting tested as frequently as in previous months during the pandemic
- 2 breakthrough cases have been reported in the last week
  - Breakthrough cases are defined as patients who tested positive for COVID after being fully vaccinated
  - In both cases, the individuals experienced minor to no symptoms, and the severity of illness was "next to nothing"
- 415 vaccines were administered in Grand County in the prior week
  - Vaccine immunity + natural immunity is about 61%
  - Grand County is ranked the 17th highest in vaccine uptake statewide, and is the 8th lowest in case transmission
  - Byers Peak Family Medicine and Fraser Medical Clinic anticipate receiving doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week
  - Pfizer is currently the only vaccine with Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA for ages 12+

## COVID VACCINE QUESTIONS

Responding to public concerns and questions about vaccine efficacy, Director Baker gave helpful tips to identify reliable vs. mis-information about COVID vaccines, and encouraged people to be as informed as possible:

- Reliable articles contain citations at the end referring to the specific scientific studies that were used / identified in the article
- Look for ".edu" or ".gov" websites, and be cautious of relying on information published by ".org" addresses
  - Identify the funding source(s) for the website / entity / organization
- Regulatory agencies (like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration) are held to more rigorous standards about the information they publish

Meeting minutes, support materials and full audio are available at:

[co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter](https://co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter)  
[co.grand.co.us/Archive](https://co.grand.co.us/Archive)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS

Community Development presented a number of building items for discussion / approval. Several were "tabled" with a request for Community Development to make revisions and/or provide additional information:

- Amended Final Plat, Lot 1A, Grand Country Village - **TABLED**
- 2nd Amended Final Plat, Lot A; Amended Final Plat, Lot A and Lot 5; and Lot 6, Wildacres, First Filing - **TABLED**
- Amended Final Plat, Lot 1A, Aspen Pine Acres - **TABLED**
- Public Hearing re: Lots 49-51, Stagecoach Meadows Subdivision, Amended Final Plat & Easement Vacation - **APPROVED WITH CONDITION**
- Amended Final Plat, Part of Tract 5 & Part of Tract 6, Gudgel Subdivision - **APPROVED WITH CONDITION**
- Sterling Point Subdivision - Final Plat Recording Extension - **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**



To view presentation documents, click the "Agendas & Minutes" icon on the County's website (co.grand.co.us), click on the May 25, 2021 County Commissioners agenda, and then click the blue "Click Here to Access Agenda Item Support Documents." After the Support Documents window opens, navigate to the 2021 / May 2021 / May 25 folder.

## AGENDAS & MINUTES



To listen to discussion about any of the items, click the "Listen to Meetings" icon on the County's website (co.grand.co.us), and select the May 25 Audio under **Archived Audios**.

## LISTEN TO MEETINGS

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## AFFORDABLE HOUSING: NO TINY MATTER

Community Development Planner I **Jacob Cote**, gave the BOCC a presentation about the viability of "tiny homes" as a possible solution to the affordable housing crisis in Grand County. Cote's presentation reviewed housing data that cited mis-matched housing stock in Grand County: The majority of County households are one-to-two people, but most of the housing stock accommodates much larger households. The study also noted that large vacation homes with a high number of bedrooms meets the tourist visitor market needs, but not the needs of full-time residents.

Cote's presentation made a case for Tiny Homes (defined as dwellings 400 square feet or less) to help fulfill the need for smaller single-family homes in Grand County.

The data was compiled and presented by Community Development because the department is receiving multiple calls daily from East Troublesome Fire victims asking if they can replace their home - even temporarily - with a Tiny Home on their lot.

Commissioner Manguso stated that Tiny Homes could be a solution in places (in the County) with access to central water and sewer services, but that access to water could limit their viability in unincorporated areas that rely mainly on wells.

All three Commissioners agreed that lots of details would need to be worked through, but they were, in general, in favor of amending the building codes to allow for Tiny Homes.

**To view the presentation, see the information above regarding accessing Support Documents via Agendas & Minutes on the website.**



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## MILLERS INN PURCHASE OPTION WAIVED

As the culmination of discussions regarding Millers Inn, specifically, and affordable housing in general over the last several weeks, the BOCC voted to waive the County's purchase option of Millers Inn unit 9, Balcony House. The motion was made and approved in a 2-to-1 vote with conditions related to amendments to the property's HOA covenants.

# FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** gave a Fire Recovery update that included:

- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) teams began arriving May 19, and will be performing site assessments on over 100 properties
- SBDR crews trained in debris removal will be arriving June 4, and will begin work on their list of debris removal job sites
- The new contact number to reach SBDR is **970-531-3776**
- The Recovery Task Force is continuing work in their recovery areas and will be looking at long-term recovery strategies to improve future community resiliency

Cochran stated that SBDR is one example of how volunteer work helps a community recover and save property owners and the County a tremendous amount of money. In many communities, following disaster, faith and service-based organizations provide valuable direct assistance to survivors; in our County, the Grand Foundation is continuing to do "much-needed heavy lifting" of supporting individual and family needs, as well as community-wide projects in the recovery.

**Grand County Commissioners along with the Office of Emergency Management expressed their gratitude for Southern Baptist and The Grand Foundation.**



Volunteers from Grand County, Northern Water, Grand Fire District and Grand Lake Fire filled more than 3,000 sandbags last weekend for residents in the East Troublesome Fire burn scar. **Learn more at [www.co.grand.co.us/floodready](http://www.co.grand.co.us/floodready)**

# EMS PREPARES FOR MILL LEVY BALLOT QUESTION

With the approval of the BOCC, Grand County EMS has retained political public relations firm Turn Corps to aid with a marketing campaign leading up to the November election to help educate the public about why EMS is seeking a mill levy, how the additional funds will be used, and exactly what the increase means in terms of taxes to individual property owners.

Constituents can look for website content, print ads and other materials coming soon to outline EMS' needs. Turn Corps is also developing an online interactive property tax calculator that residents can use to know exactly how much a 1.75 mill levy will raise their property tax.

EMS Chief **Robert Good** stated that the goal is to make the department's needs and request for funding as transparent as possible.

# BALLOT QUESTION: Term Limits for Elected Officials?

Discussion continued regarding whether to place a question on this year's ballot regarding term limits for **all** elected officials. (Currently only Commissioners are term limited.)

Commissioners stated various "pros" and "cons" during the discussion. A decision was not reached regarding the issue, but County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** was asked to begin drafting ballot language.

Commissioners would have until late August to finalize language and submit the question to the Grand County Clerk & Recorder.

**RE-DISTRICTING**  
**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

Re-drawing Colorado's Congressional Districts isn't a Red or Blue initiative. Congressional District lines are re-drawn every 10 years to ensure communities are aligned - and represented - based on interests and values.

LEARN MORE AND SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS AND MAP PROPOSAL AT [REDISTRICTING.COLORADO.GOV](http://REDISTRICTING.COLORADO.GOV)

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS...

- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** asked for approval of three licenses:
  - Serene Wellness received approval of its retail marijuana license renewal
  - Discount Liquor received approval of its liquor license renewal
  - Red Dog Saloon received approval of its tavern liquor license renewal
- Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** asked for approval of two contracts with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
  - Task Order Contract 0236 provides Grand County Public Health \$15,000 each quarter to achieving uniform administration, implementation and enforcement for retail food establishments, childcare facilities and schools
  - Contract Amendment 0273 Amended a 2019 contract with the State regarding child mental health services
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented a Grant Offer from the FAA for the Northwest Development taxilane, which will allow more area for future hangar development
  - The FAA would provide \$779,571 for the project, estimated to cost \$812,130
  - The Grant Offer was approved as presented
- Community Development Director **Robert Davis** asked for approval of Resolution 2021-5-18 approving the Adoption of the Grand County Minor Subdivision Regulations
  - The Resolution was approved
  - Director Davis also discussed developing a marketing campaign to educate the public that air quality issues and complaints are handled by the State Department of Public Health and Environment, not local counties

## MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- The Windy Gap Reservoir Connectivity Channel Project – Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) has been submitted to the NRCS Water Management Center for review. Public scoping is anticipated late summer following approval.
- Manager Moyer posed the question to the BOCC whether, now that COVID-related restrictions have ended, to continue broadcasting BOCC meetings via WebEx, in addition to live streaming, as the BOCC is back to in-person meetings (a decision was not made).
- Manager Moyer offered thanks to everyone who volunteered filling sandbags over the weekend, and especially to Grand County employees, Northern Water, Grand Lake Fire and the Town of Grand Lake for their assistance.
- Appreciation was also given to the Sheriff's Office, Fire District Chiefs and County staff who coordinated Monday's East Troublesome Fire Community Meeting.
- Manager Moyer testified to the House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee in support of Senate Bill 21-240, CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus
  - The motion to refer the Bill to the Appropriations Committee passed unanimously with \$20M that can be used as EWP project local match.
- Flying Heels Arena Association is working on a plan to make improvements to Grand County's Flying Heels Arena.
  - The scope of work is approximately \$35,000. A Conservation Trust Funds application will be presented to the BOCC next Tuesday. This plan is in lieu of Grand County Road & Bridge performing the work, as they are very short staffed.
- Grand County, Northern Water, City of Greeley and City of Fort Collins are working on a Congressionally Directed Spending request to Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper for funding of projects in the East Troublesome Fire and Cameron Peak Fire burn scars on USFS and BLM lands to prevent flood-after-fire activity, including seeding and mulching. 90% of the burn scars are located on public lands.
- Results from Task One of the Fraser Valley Parkway project (archival research only) are due by June 1.
- The County is in discussions with CDOT regarding US Hwy 40 - Red Dirt Hill Safety Improvements.
  - The County has allocated up to \$400,000 as matching funds to partner with CDOT on the project in order for it to be shovel ready when CDOT acquires full funding. The tentative schedule is for a topo and survey to be completed in 2021, followed by engineering design in 2022 and construction in 2024 before a scheduled overlay in 2025. Grand County and CDOT are working on an IGA that will be presented to the BOCC to move the topo, survey and design forward.