



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



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CISO QUARTERLY REPORT

Cyber security is a growing, global concern - as the latest hack into an oil pipeline demonstrated. During his quarterly report, Information Systems Director and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) **Thomas Johnson** reiterated that nefarious actors have multiple ways to try to break into systems and obtain information - from email "phishing" attempts, to employees inadvertently getting hit with malware advertisements while surfing the internet or playing a game. While computers empower us, they can also stop work in its tracks if an entire network is compromised.

Johnson stated that one of the newest ways hackers are attempting to gain access to information is via vendors: They're attacking vendors that supply tools and technologies to governments and corporations. IS continuously works to stay educated on current threats and the tools to combat them.

During the last quarter, neighboring counties had their email servers compromised, which in turn sent compromising emails to Grand County personnel.

As a good reminder not just to keep County systems safe, but for the general public:

- If you receive an email from an unknown address or someone you don't recognize, stop and think before opening an attachment or clicking on a link. When in doubt - DON'T CLICK, and delete the email. (County employees should report the suspicious email to IS.)
- Bad actors will typically employ scare tactics and create a sense of urgency to encourage users to click links and take other action. Most financial institutions and other corporations will also not conduct important business via email. When in doubt - call the person or company to verify they sent the email.
- NEVER give personal information or financial details to someone via email.

Included in the report, Johnson presented a graph indicating each department's completion rate of the annual required cyber-security training. About 80% of County staff has completed the training to date. Department directors are encouraged to have all of their staff complete the training.

County employees are regularly "tested" by IS with simulated phishing attempts: Emails sent by IS designed to simulate what a potentially hazardous email would look like, enticing employees to click on a link or open an attachment. This graph shows that those exercises are failed at higher rate than the industry average (meaning employees are falling for the faux scam).



Target is <= 4.3%, which is the industry benchmark

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

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** asked for direction from the BOCC regarding removing hazardous tree removal from an extention request letter to FEMA. Cochran stated that he doesn't foresee moving forward with FEMA's tree removal program on private property; instead the OEM anticipates working with either Team Rubicon or another volunteer force to accomplish those projects. The Commissioners gave a "thumb's up" to move forward with that direction.



In other news:

- The Muddy Slide Fire has transitioned from a Type 2 to a Type 3 incident management team.
- Regarding the mud slide on Hwy 125: Between eight and 10 small water channels formed on the hillside, which led to debris being swept onto the roadway.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATE

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented the first invoice from engineering firm SGM in the amount of \$58,676.63, which will be fully reimbursed by NRCS. In addition to authorizing the payment, Commissioners gave approval for the County Manager to sign future reimbursement requests and future construction contracts less than \$100,000.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Sitting as the Board of Health, Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State for the Reach Out & Read program that helps provide age-appropriate books to families participating in the WIC program.

Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** took the opportunity to provide Commissioners with a COVID update:

- According to the State, 63% of Grand County's population is fully vaccinated
- Public Health is not seeing many COVID cases right now, with most activities taking place outdoors
 - Grand County currently has a 12.72 per 100,000 case rate, and 2.94 positivity rate
- The State is also seeing declines in cases, hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID
 - Of the positive cases, 73% are being reported as the Delta variant
 - Some break-through cases (where fully vaccinated individuals have naturally contracted the virus) have been reported, but the individuals are experiencing far less severe illness with very mild symptoms, and the viral load (the virus' ability to be passed from that person to another) is proving to be much less and helping to mitigate the spread

Commissioners mentioned that several constituents have reported receiving mail and/or text messages regarding vaccinations. Director Baker stated that the State is sending direct mail and texts based on blanket demographics - NOT because an individual is unvaccinated.

To help overcome vaccine hesitancy, the State is funding an incentive program. Public Health has been asked by the State to provide plans for using these funds. (If Grand County opts not to use the funds, they will be given to another county.) Baker stated they are discussing purchasing \$200 worth of \$25 Visa gift cards, and giving them to individuals once they are fully vaccinated.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS: Clerk & Recorder, Accounting

In a previous BOCC meeting, Finance Director **Curtis Lange** asked Commissioners to host Workshops with each department prior to developing the 2022 budget. The purpose of the Workshops is for department heads to provide a high-level overview of changes they seek to make in their 2022 budgets. This week Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** and Lange presented their budget overviews and projections:

Clerk & Recorder

- The 2022 Election budget is projected to be about 11% higher than the 2021 Election budget because there will be two elections in 2022, compared with one in 2021
- Rosene will be asking for her department be put back whole at 12 full-time positions
- The most significant changes to the 2022 budget over 2021 will be to staff salaries (as increases both to current and new hiring salaries were recently made in an effort to remain competitive and fill vacancies)

Accounting / Finance

- Lange stated that inflation (fuel costs, in particular) is going to have an impact on the County's budget
 - He projected being at least 5% over budget this year due to the cost of goods like paper and fuel

MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Presentation of two applicants for Board of Equalization referees; both applications were approved with no discussion.
- Manager Moyer is working with Finance Director **Curtis Lange** to finalize the 2022 budget preparation letter, and asked for approval to stamp Commissioner signatures later in the week after language is finalized. The request was approved.
- Regarding County Rd 522 (Fraser Valley Parkway): The County has received numerous letters of opposition, particularly from residents of Pole Creek Valley. The County Engineer is continuing work on several matters related to the cultural survey and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers permit, and is reviewing and addressing traffic-related questions put forth by Pole Creek Valley residents. The Manager's Office anticipates this topic being placed on the agenda in the next week or two for public discussion.
- Regarding water releases: Learning By Doing partners are participating in calls Wednesday regarding flows and water temperatures.
- Staff has been working with WRC regarding its two proposals, and anticipates bringing at least one of the proposals back to the BOCC next week.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS...

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented a construction contract for taxiway development at the Granby Airport in the amount of \$642,666, and a change order in the amount of \$2,178 to an existing contract for work at the Kremmling Airport (to add baffles to runway end lights). Both items were approved with no discussion.
- Sitting as the Housing Authority, the BOCC approved an amendment presented by Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** allowing the Millers Inn HOA to be an eligible purchaser of the Balcony House unit, and also an unrelated Subordination Agreement.
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** presented the following:
 - A tavern liquor license renewal request for C Lazy U Ranch; approved with no discussion.
 - Marijuana license renewal for RM Concepts; approved with no discussion.
 - A scheduled Public Hearing regarding a Special Event Permit liquor license for the Granby Rotary Club received no remonstrance. The hearing was canceled, and the license was approved with no discussion.
- Community Development presented the following:
 - Resolution No. 2021-6-22, granting a one-year extension to the Sketch Plan approval for the new homesites at Cougar Avenue (formerly Cougar at the Summit) subdivision. The resolution was approved as presented.
 - Aspen View Estates Subdivision Exemption Sketch Plan; approved with conditions.
 - Tabernash Highlands Subdivision Exemption Sketch Plan; approved with conditions.
- Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** gave an update regarding the availability of magnesium (mag) chloride, which is used on the County's dirt roads to help reduce maintenance costs by "holding" the road together:
 - The material Road & Bridge uses is supplied out of Glenwood Springs, and has been unable to reach Grand County with recent mud slides closing I-70. This is causing delays with work in Districts 1 and 2, and some of District 3.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented a grant agreement with the Sonoran Institute that would provide \$10,000 for Grand County to retain a marketing firm to produce communication materials related to drought conditions and awareness. The agreement was approved with no discussion.
- *Note: The Sheriff's Office has a standing agenda item to discuss and make recommendations to change fire restrictions as needed. No discussion or changes were made this week; **Grand County remains in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions.***

GRAND COUNTY IS IN **STAGE 2** FIRE RESTRICTIONS

