



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



In response to the U.S. Board of Geographic names, Commissioners voted against re-naming the Gore Range, and instructed staff to draft a letter of opposition. *Photo courtesy Rosie Stahl*

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A.G. VISITS GRAND COUNTY

Commissioners took a break during the BOCC meeting to attend a Town Hall event hosted by Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser.

A.G. Weiser discussed topics including the opioid crisis, mental health, public safety and broadband.

The meeting was open to the public, and was also attended by Sheriff Brett Schroetlin and representatives from other Grand County law enforcement agencies.



From left: Attorney General Phil Weiser, District 2 Commissioner Merrit Linke, District 1 Commissioner Rich Cimino. Not pictured: District 3 Commissioner Kristen Manguso.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: ABSTRACT OF ASSESSMENT

Grand County Assessor **Tom Weydert** and Deputy Assessor **Deb Lindblom** presented the Abstract of Assessment report which is a collection of data requested by the State related to the taxable value on residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and natural property in Grand County.

The report also includes revenue from producing mines and oil and gas. Grand County's 2021 total taxable value is \$1,046,968,460.

To view the report:

- Visit www.co.grand.co.us, and click on the "Agendas & Minutes" icon.
- Select the August 24, 2021 BOCC agenda, and click the blue "Click Here to Access Support Documents" link.
- Navigate to the 2021 / August 2021 / August 24 2021 / GC Assessors Office folder.



There is **NOT** a BOCC meeting this Tuesday, August 31, as it is the 5th Tuesday of the month. **The next meeting will be September 7.**

PUBLIC HEALTH / COVID-19 UPDATE

Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** gave a COVID-19 update:

- Cases have risen dramatically in the last week:
 - 50 cases in the last 7 days; 68 in the last 14 days
- 3 hospitalizations in the last week
 - Public Health and Medical Director Dr. Stuerman continue to keep an eye on the hospitalization rate and available ICU and NICU beds
 - Grand County is currently at 2.94% hospitalization rate; Baker stated reaching 10% would be a cause for concern
- Grand County is considered a high transmission location, with a case rate of 318 per 100,000
- 63% of Grand County residents are fully vaccinated; 67.3% have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine

SHORT-TERM RENTAL WORK GROUP

At the direction of the BOCC, Community Development Director **Robert Davis** created a work group comprised of County staff, fire agencies, and community members to discuss Short Term Rentals. The work group met Monday, and outlined three main goals:

1. Bring STR registrations to 90 to 100% by December 31, 2021.
2. Engage in a county-wide study to examine the effects of Short Term Rentals on the quality of life and housing affordability for full-time Grand County residents.
3. Create safety standards for residential units similar to commercial units that will be used by all four fire districts to inspect and enforce capacity and safety compliance.

The work group will be meeting again Monday, August 30. The BOCC will be reviewing and discussing amendments to the Short Term Rental Regulations during the September 7 meeting.

WORKSHOP: PROPOSED FEE CHANGES

During a Workshop discussion regarding proposed fee changes, the only departments proposing fee increases were the Airport and the Fairgrounds.

Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** is compiling ground lease rates from other airports in the region for consideration in increasing the County's ground lease rates for new hangars.

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented proposed facility use fees for County-owned facilities, including the Middle Park Fairgrounds and Flying Heels Arena. Facility use fees cover expenses for maintaining and upgrading the facilities.



STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

The BOCC supported **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin's** recommendation and approved a resolution moving Grand County into Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, effective Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

What is Allowed?

Open fires in developed campgrounds or picnic areas with permanently constructed fire grates and/or charcoal grills.



Fires contained within liquid or gas fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices, and approved wood pellet grills and stoves.

Open fires at private residences within permanent or portable outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, chimineas, and/or grills.



Permissible fireworks according to state statute. The permitted, professional fireworks displays in Grand County are allowed.

What is **NOT** Allowed?



Smoking, **except** within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed campground or picnic area or while stopped in an area of at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren of all combustible materials.

Building, maintaining, attending, or using an open fire outside of a developed recreation site. This means **NO** dispersed campfires in forested areas and no burn barrels!



Welding or operating torches with open flame, **except** in an area of at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren of all combustibles.



Operating a chainsaw without an USDA or SAE approved spark-arresting device properly installed and in working order.



The use of incendiary devices such as explosives, exploding or tracer ammunition, exploding targets, or rockets is prohibited.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer** provided the following updates:

- **County Rd 522:** Metcalf Archaeological Consultants has completed the field inventory study. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers extended their deadline by 10 days; the County is prepared to meet the new deadline.
- The Manager and Finance Director **Curtis Lange** will be meeting with departments next week in preparation of the 2022 budget. Department budgets will be presented to the BOCC in October during budget hearings.
- **Opioid Settlement:** Public Health's **Ellen Parri** is prepared to be appointed as the regional representative for Grand County (as required per the settlement). Commissioners opted to hold off approving the appointment pending finalization of the settlement.
- **Metro Down Payment Assistance Program:** The Town of Granby planned to discuss the program at their board meeting; the program could be positive for the County, and the topic may be scheduled for future discussion.
- The **Fair Board** is working on clarifying the rules for the Junior Livestock Sale.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion. Finance Director **Curtis Lange** also presented the following:
 - A Revenue Source analysis for 2022 with next year's revenue projections. His estimates for County income, which reflected incremental across-the-board increases, received three "thumb's up" from Commissioners.
 - Proposed allocations for Grand County's awarded American Rescue Plan Act funds. Grand County received a total of \$3,056,145 via the ARP Act:
 - \$2,820,384 will be spent on revenue replacement, with 50% allocated to Road & Bridge operations, and 50% to Sheriff's Office operations
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented a Ground Lease Assignment for Hangar #7 for approval. The hangar was purchased from a private estate by a private party. **The assignment was approved as presented.**
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** presented a Transfer of Ownership request of the retail marijuana store from Highway 40 LLC to Kaybonfire, Inc. **The request was approved as presented.**
- Juvenile Services Director **Kelly Friesen** presented a contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services / Office of Children, Youth and Families to provide for community-based alternatives to secure detention services for delinquent youth in the 14th Judicial District. **The contract was approved as presented.**
- Grand County **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin** presented a waiver needed to enter into contract with Wendy Nodalny, LCSW, LLC (a waiver was needed to accept \$1 million in contractor insurance coverage instead of \$1.1 million). The insurance waiver was approved as presented.
 - Sheriff Schroetlin also recommended moving from Stage 2 fire restrictions to Stage 1 fire restrictions based on scientific data. **Commissioners supported the Sheriff's recommendation and approved a resolution to enact Stage 1 fire restrictions.**
- Community Development Director **Robert Davis** announced a new Planning Commission member for District 2. Lyn Adams' appointment to the Planning Commission for the balance of this term, and also the next term, was approved.
 - Davis also presented Resolution No. 2021-7-1, Hadley-Lee Outright Exemption for approval. **Commissioners approved the resolution as presented with the conditions outlined by Community Development.**
- EMS **Chief Robert Good** presented Resolution No. 2021-8-22, a proposal for the authorization and implementation of a 1.75 mills property tax increase for the sole purpose of maintaining the standard of care provided by Grand County EMS. **Commissioners approved the resolution as presented.** The ballot question will be certified Monday, August 30.
- Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** presented a Road Project Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for a paving project on County Road 6. **The agreement was approved as presented.**