



## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



Photo courtesy Tyson Dearduff  
Community Development Plans Examiner

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## PUBLIC HEALTH | COVID UPDATE

Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** gave an update about COVID-19 cases and deaths in Grand County:

- 40 cases in the last 7 days; 105 cases in the last two weeks
  - 273 / 100,000 puts Grand County in the "high transmission" category
- Currently there are 8 hospitalizations (6.5% of total cases)
- 3 deaths due to COVID have been added to Grand County's dashboard:
  - 2 individuals died in the last 7 days
  - 1 individual died in April of 2020 but was recently allocated to Grand County
- 63.3% of Grand County residents are fully vaccinated
  - 65% including natural immunity
- Grand County has experienced very few breakthrough cases

Director Baker also discussed prevention measures, and gave clarification about **Quarantine vs. Isolation** for all communicable diseases:

- **Quarantine** - Stay home until it's confirmed you're not ill
  - Individuals exposed to a virus who may become contagious
  - Contains the risk of spread should the exposed individual become ill
  - Used throughout history to keep disease from spreading through communities
- **Isolation** - Avoid contact with others, including household members
  - Individuals who are contagious and/or symptomatic
  - Tested (or will test) positive
  - Should avoid contact with others (including household members) to keep others from getting sick



Eighteen staff members celebrated employment anniversaries with the County in September, including two who reached milestones:

- From Community Development, **Vicki Ellis** was recognized for five years of service to Grand County.
- From Road & Bridge, **Mathew Williams** was recognized for 15 years of service.



Vicki Ellis, Permit Tech with Community Development, was recognized for 5 years of service to Grand County. (Mathew and Bryan weren't available for photos.)

While not a milestone anniversary, **Bryan Holley** marks **43 years of service** with Road & Bridge this month.

Final agendas are posted by the Friday ahead of Tuesday BOCC meetings at:  
[www.co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter)

# WORKSHOP | GRAND COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BUDGET PROCESS



Grand County Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** discussed adapting the budget format used by the County to more closely match those used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - the two agencies that finance the County's affordable housing properties, including Grand Living Senior Home and Silver Spruce Apartments. The budgeting process currently used is resulting in an inordinant number of annual audits by the two Federal agencies, which are overwhelming the office's limited resources.

Ms. Darland pointed to examples of line items that are used by HUD and the USDA that don't have an equivalent in the County's system, so the expenses are marked as "miscellaneous," which then prompt the agencies to question how the funds marked "miscellaneous" are being used. Ms. Darland also noted that the Federal agencies question the properties continually accruing, when they are cash-based properties.

Commissioners gave direction for calls to be established with representatives from HUD and the USDA to discuss options for accounting reporting that will reduce the number of audit requests, and also expand the Housing Authority's ability for future financing opportunities through the agencies.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT



Grand County Treasurer **Frank DeLay** gave a monthly update that included:

- Investment rates have not changed significantly since last month.
- Variances in August's revenue and expenses were similar to the July amounts.
- The office is working with adjacent property owners to reduce the number of abatements for erroneous assessments.
- This year, Grand County reported \$9,600 to the Great Colorado Payback program.

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## PUBLIC HEARING | GRAND GRAVEL

A Public Hearing was held regarding Grand Gravel, LLC's request to amend its Special Use Permit to allow for production of gravel, asphalt and concrete uses within their current SUP and Hours of Operation. Commissioners approved the amended SUP as presented, with the condition to address lighting and noise for night work.

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## OLRT GRANT UPDATE

Open Lands Rivers and Trails Advisory Committee (OLRTAC) coordinator Anna Drexler-Dreis presented a spring 2021 project update. Project costs for the Continental Divide Trail Corridor Clearance & Fire Rehab and the Lunch Loop Trail Reroute and Culvert Replacement in Fraser have been reduced by 56% from \$25,585.50 to \$14,385.50. As a result, the OLRTAC is revising its funds request for the two projects from \$13,263.00 to \$8,263.00, and will be updating the MOU to reflect the new cost and fund request.

Ms. Drexler-Dreis also invited Commissioners to participate in a round-trip hike to see Jim Creek on September 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. The OLRTAC will host a potluck dinner at Wolf Park following the hike.



## BOCC SCHEDULE CHANGE

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners the week of December 13 **has been moved from Tuesday, December 14 to Monday, December 13** to accommodate Commissioner Linke's participation in Colorado Parks and Wildlife's multi-disciplinary working group related to re-introduction of gray wolves per the passing of Proposition 114 in 2020.

## MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Regarding creation of a multi-jurisdictional regional housing authority: The Towns of Fraser and Winter Park are meeting later this week to discuss the topic. Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** has reached out to a previous legal consultant for a scope of work should the County decide to move forward, pending the outcome of the Towns discussion.
- The Attorney's Office drafted a resolution for BOCC review proclaiming Betty Cranmer Day, in recognition of the long-time, influential Grand County resident who just celebrated her 100th birthday. The resolution will be presented to Commissioners on September 21.
- Per last week's discussion with Colorado River District representative Mike Ritschard, the River District is tentatively scheduled for a follow-up discussion regarding Demand Management on the October 12 agenda.
  - Mr. Moyer will be attending the Annual Water Seminar hosted by the River District as a panelist on Friday, October 1 at Colorado Mesa University.
- The Manager's Office is continuing to work on the 2022 budget with staff, and is also working with Evergreen Solutions to finalize information Commissioners requested regarding the pay plan study.
- Mr. Moyer presented a letter of support for the Town of Fraser's grant application for a non-motorized trails grant, which was approved and signed by Commissioners.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented a letter addressed to the Colorado Joint Budget Committee, House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water and Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources addressing the short-, mid-, and long-term effects the East Troublesome and Williams Fork fires have had on Grand County, and expressing concern about a perception from the State government that the fires are mainly a "Front Range concern."

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** gave a brief monthly report:
  - YTD and month-over-month August revenue is higher for 2021 than both 2020 and 2019.
  - Rosene also presented a liquor license renewal contract for Bistro 28 at Pole Creek, which was **approved**.
- Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** presented a contract with Raven CLI LLC to re-line the landfill, which was **approved**.
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented two applications for Federal assistance (one for each airport) in the amount of \$22,000 / each. The funds can be used for wages and capital expenses, but not for capital improvements at the two terminals. The applications were **approved**.
- Grand County Assessor **Tom Weydert** presented a services contract with MAK Valuations LLC for modeling and statistic analysis of revaluation data in order to meet new State requirements. The contract was **approved**.
- Information Systems Director and Chief Security Officer **Thomas Johnson** presented a lease agreement with Colorado Timber Resources for land to place a concrete pad and tower for receiving internet connectivity access. The agreement was **approved**.
- Grand County Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** presented a request for out-of-state travel for a staff member to attend the National Adult Protection Services Association conference in San Diego. The request was **approved**.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** asked for approval to amend the liability insurance requirement from \$1.1 million to \$1 million in a contract currently under negotiation with CabinWorks for routine cleaning of the Human Services building. The liability insurance requirement amendment request was **approved**.
- Grand County Coroner **Brenda Bock** requested approval to purchase a vehicle; the request was **approved**.
- Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** submitted an out-of-state travel request for Recovery Manager **Alyssa Ingles** to attend a FEMA Workshop in Texas (expenses to be paid for by FEMA). The request was **approved**.
- Undersheriff **Wayne Schafer** presented a DOLA grant application for approval. The application was approved pending legal review for TABOR compliance.
- A request by Blue Ribbon Ranch LLC for an Outright Exemption (Rock Creek Ranch Outright Exemption) was **approved**.