



Grand County

Colorado

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



Seeking Forever Homes

These are just a few of the furry friends up for adoption from Grand County's animal shelter. To schedule a time to visit adoptable animals, call 970-887-2988.

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COMMISSIONERS CALENDAR

Feb 12-16 | National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

Feb 17-18 | Club20 Winter Policy Committee Meetings, Grand Junction

Feb 17 | CCI Steering Committee Meetings

Feb 17 | NACo West Region Regular Conference Call

Feb 18 | Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise Board Meeting

Feb 21 | Transit Advisory Committee Meeting, Winter Park

[Click here to view the BOCC's full calendar.](#)



THE STATE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

Childcare is a critical component for expanding Grand County's workforce, stated **Jessica Driver** from Little Sprouts Learning Center and **Jessica Smolleck** from Grand Beginnings during an update of early childhood care and education in Grand County.

	Approx. Population of Children Under Age 5	Number of Licensed Slots for Care	% of Pop. Under Age 5 Served in Licensed Care
Colorado	332,468	148,000	45%
Grand County	672	259 (9 centers and 2 family child care homes)	39%

Currently, licensed Grand County centers can only meet 40% of the need for childcare. Waitlists for licensed care are more than two years - meaning a parent needing care for an infant can expect a slot will be available when the child is two or three.

Ms. Driver noted that inadequate compensation for licensed early childhood teachers as one of the most significant staffing concerns. Despite being the Colorado county with the fifth highest childcare expenses, licensed centers are still struggling to hire and retain teachers. For a family of four to be self-sufficient in Grand County, the household must earn \$70,961 / year. The average wage of an early childhood educator in Grand County is \$37,648 / year. [Click here to view the full presentation.](#)

BOARD BUSINESS

- Commissioners offered congratulations to **Paul Bruchez** for his appointment to the State Water Conservation Board by Governor Polis, and asked that formal recognition of the appointment be made.
- **Commissioner Manguso** provided an update from last week's Local Transportation Planning Region (TPR) meeting.
- **Commissioner Linke** provided an update from the Club 20 Executive Committee call: Club 20 is sponsoring a "Before the Fire: Protecting the Water Towers of the West Watershed Summit" in March that is open to the public. Interested parties can register at www.Club20.org.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Manager discussed an upcoming Mind Springs Health meeting on February 17 with the County and community partners to discuss behavioral health services currently provided in the County. Manager also discussed a separate Mind Springs meeting invitation to County Commissioners in the region. BOCC designated Commissioner Cimino to attend the February 25 Mind Springs Meeting in Palisade as necessary, based on the outcome of the February 17 meeting.
- The sewer line at the CSU Extension again froze last Thursday night during a West Grand School District event. BOCC concurred with a recommendation to obtain bids and repair the sag in the line this spring.
- Middle Park Health submitted an Intergovernmental Review Consultation Form to the BOCC soliciting feedback regarding MPH's application for a USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities construction loan for a new healthcare facility in Fraser. Manager has been in contact with the Town of Winter Park Manager, Town of Fraser Manager and Winter Park Resort. County Manager will also discuss with Middle Park Health CEO prior to BOCC's action on the request.
- Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority Update: The attorneys have provided an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and Bylaws, which work group has been meeting and editing. Said documents should be ready for Town and County attorney review in the next week. GCHA Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** and County Manager plan to discuss with BOCC on March 1 or 8. The previous March 7 elected official meeting between the Towns and County has been moved to March 14 at 5 p.m. in the Headwaters Center.
- Short Term Rentals: The Towns of Vail and Breckenridge recently conducted nexus studies to examine and quantify the impacts of STRs on workforce housing. Manager has asked department heads to look into the Division of Housing grants available to fund a similar study for the County and Towns. Commissioners supported pursuing a grant to perform the study. STR Coordinator **Christian Hornbaker** is obtaining a scope of work from consultants to obtain a cost estimate for said study.
- County Rd 522 Update: A letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requesting an extension of the County's 404 permit was approved as presented, and for Commissioner Cimino to sign outside of meeting upon his approval.
 - USACE continues to work with consulting parties on any mitigation for the POW Camp and will include in a draft MOA. In anticipation of the MOA and 404 permit extension be approved, County Engineer **Tim Gagnon** has been asked to draft a scope of work to prepare final construction drawings and cost estimates for Phase 1 (CR 73 to CR 50) of the project (including wetland mitigation), as well as bidding and construction oversight.
 - Pole Creek Valley Owners Association are scheduled for a workshop with the BOCC concerning CR 522 on Tuesday, February 22 at 1:30 p.m.
 - County Manager and Assistant County Manager are meeting with Finance Director regarding CR 522 potential costs, 5-yr. fund balance projections and Treasurer investments.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** gave an update on vehicle purchases for the County motor pool: After obtaining three bids, two Ford Escapes have been ordered from a local dealership. Estimated delivery time for the vehicles is not yet available.

We're

Human Resources • Assessor's Office • Public Health • Maintenance • Human Services
Attorney's Office • Road & Bridge • Sheriff's Office • Fairgrounds • Housing Authority
Clerk & Recorder • Community Development

Grand County offers a robust benefits package, employer matched retirement program, access to exercise facilities, and Grand Passes for ski and golf. Learn more at www.co.grand.co.us/Jobs.

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ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Accounting

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments presented by Finance Director **Curtis Lange** were approved as presented.

Human Services

A Special County Attorney agreement to obtain professional legal representation in on-going dependency and neglect and child support conflict cases to maintain continuity of representation in these cases presented by Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** was approved as presented.

Water Protection

County Manager **Ed Manager** presented the annual re-engagement and hourly rate letter from Water Attorney White & Jankowski LLC. The letter was an information item only; no BOCC action was required.

Emergency Medical Services

Grand County EMS **Chief Robert Good** presented an out-of-state travel request for Education Captain **Jeanne Power** to attend an invitation-only Resuscitation Academy Leadership Workshop and High Performance CPR Workshop in Washington state. The request was approved with one correction to travel expenses to be signed outside of meeting.

Chief Good also gave general updates regarding the status of a grant application, and projected upgrades or replacements of in-ambulance laptops based on the Sheriff's Office's upgrade to its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. He also noted that EMS currently only has one open position, decreasing overtime pay expenses.

Grand County Public Health

GCPH Director **Abbie Baker** gave a COVID update: Case rates have continued to decrease significantly, averaging about three cases per day - down from more than 40 cases per day several weeks ago. There is one current hospitalization, and five outbreaks. [Click here to view Grand County's COVID data.](#)

Grand County currently has two State-supported testing sites along with a mobile vaccine administration bus (provided by the State); conversations are taking place regarding how local resources will absorb those services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Third Amended Final Plat, Phase II, Sun Valley Ranch Estates | Approved as presented.

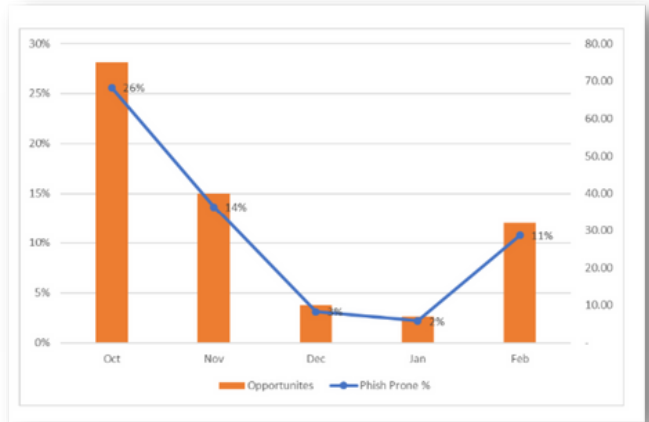
Yak Overlook Subdivision Exemption Sketch Plan | Approved as presented with conditions.

Trinder Subdivision Tract, Amended Final Plat | Approved as presented with conditions.

RMSHA Snowmobile Hill Climb Temporary Use Permit (March 12 & 13) | Approved with conditions.

INFORMATION SECURITY

Chief Information Security Officer and Information Systems Director **Thomas Johnson** provided an update about cybersecurity awareness training and ongoing security patch efforts.



Fewer employees are being tricked into clicking on simulated phishing attempts. Subject lines related to "Employee Expense Reimbursement..." were clicked the most.

Grand County Government is the only entity in the County to complete the NCSR in 2022 according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Johnson also gave a quarterly Information Systems update. In addition to addressing service tickets from staff, the department's 2022 projects include:

- Final Domain migrations
- HA : Senior Living Wi-Fi
- Sheriff : Spillman CAD system
- BOCC : Meeting room improvements
- EOC : Space and IT improvements
- R&B : Fuel Management system replacement
- Assessor/Treasurer: Tyler migration
- IS : Desktop Management, Branch Servers, Networking, VPN, Infrastructure Upgrades, Tool optimization, Computer Refreshes, Plan WIN 11

CyberSecurity Training helps keep the County's systems safe from outside threats by making employees aware of the ways intruders try to gain access to sensitive information.

To date, **32% of employees** have completed the most recent training.

IS is developing an incentive program for employees and elected officials who complete the annual training and recognize (i.e. avoid clicking on) simulated phishing attempts.

**LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON!**