



Chaffee County Commissioners Meeting
December 9, 2025

These minutes have been taken remotely via Zoom. Some County staff, representatives from other governments and government agencies, and others from the public may attend, including participating in the public hearing portion of the meeting, remotely via Zoom.

A. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on December 9, 2025, at the Chaffee County Courthouse, 104 Crestone Ave., Salida. Board members present were Chair P. T. Wood, Commissioner Dave Armstrong, and Commissioner Gina Lucrezi.

Others present in person were Interim County Administrator Beth Helmke, Director of Finance Dan Short, Interim County Attorney Karl Hanlon, and Community Planning & Natural Resources Director Miles Cottom.

Others present remotely were Planner Brandon Wolff and Deputy County Clerks Kit Kuester, Julia Rivera, Sophie Gibb, and Barbara Tidd.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review Public Meeting List

The Board reviewed the public meeting list.

4. Public Comment

Chair Wood asked for public comment. He stated that you'll have up to 3 minutes to speak, and please give your name and address for the record.

Public Comment was given by:

Ralf Topper, 11403 County Rd. 190W, Salida. Topper provided Commissioners with printed materials. Chair Wood responded to Topper's questions.

B. Minutes for Approval

1. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the December 4, 2025 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025 Commissioners' regular meeting. Commissioner Lucrezi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Armstrong spoke.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Pay the Bills
2. Acknowledge the Sheriff's Office Monthly Report for November 2025
3. Ratify letter of support for USFS-AHRA Upper Arkansas Motorized Trail Crew grant applications to CPW's Good Management and Programmatic grants program - Beth Helmke

D. Contracts and Grants

1. Discuss contractor selection for the Working Lands Resilience Coordinator role - Miles Cottom; Community Planning Natural Resources Department

Director Cottom addressed the Board to open discussion regarding the contractor selection for the Working Lands Resilience Coordinator role and to consider award of a contract for the role.

Director Cottom stated that the recommendation is to award the role to the Upper Arkansas Conservation District (UACD) starting January 1, 2026 and to direct County staff to finalize a contract with UACD.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to award the contract for the Chaffee County Working Lands Resilience Coordinator role to the Upper Arkansas Conservation District (UACD) and direct staff to finalize the contract with UACD with a term beginning January 1, 2026. Commissioner Lucrezi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:21 a.m., the meeting recessed until 10:00 a.m.

E. Regular Agenda Items

At 10:00 a.m. the meeting resumed.

1. **10:00 a.m. - Public Hearing** - Consider Adoption of the Proposed Budget for the Ensuing Year of 2026 – Dan Short, Finance Director

- Approve Resolution 2025-50 Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues for Each Fund and Adopting a Budget for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January, 2026 and Ending on the Last Day of December, 2026
- Approve Resolution 2025-51 Levying General Property Taxes for the Year 2025 to Help Defray the Costs of Government for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the 2026 Budget Year
- Approve Resolution 2025-52 Appropriating the Sums of Money to the Various Funds and Spending Agencies in the Amounts and for the Purposes as Set Forth Below, for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the 2026 Budget Year

Director Short addressed the Board to consider adoption of the Proposed Budget for the ensuing year of 2026.

Director Short spoke regarding **RESOLUTION 2025-50 Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues for Each Fund and Adopting a Budget for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January, 2026 and Ending on the Last Day of December, 2026.**

Director Short responded to Commissioner's question.

Discussion ensued.

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 10:06 a.m. There were no comments, and the public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-50 Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues for Each Fund and Adopting a Budget for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January, 2026 and Ending on the Last Day of December, 2026.** Commissioner Lucrezi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Short addressed the Board concerning **RESOLUTION 2025-51 Levying General Property Taxes for the Year 2025 to Help Defray the Costs of Government for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the 2026 Budget Year.**

Director Short responded to Commissioner's questions.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-51 Levying General Property Taxes for the Year 2025 to Help Defray the Costs of Government for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the 2026 Budget Year.** Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Short addressed the Board and responded to Commissioner's question.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-52 Appropriating the Sums of Money to the Various Funds and Spending Agencies in the Amounts and for the Purposes as Set Forth Below, for the County of Chaffee, State of Colorado, for the 2026 Budget Year.** Commissioner Lucrezi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Commissioners Comments

G. Adjourn

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Mitchell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Lori Mitchell, County Clerk