



Chaffee County Commissioners Meeting  
December 16, 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 16, 2025, at the Chaffee County Public Safety Complex, 200 Steele Dr., Buena Vista. 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, Community Planning & Natural Resources Director Miles Cottom, Planner Nick Gomer, and Sheriff Andy Rohrich (Items E.2. and E.3. only).

Others present remotely were Department of Human Services Director Monica Haskell (item E.1. only), Planner Brandon Wolff, GIS Coordinator Eric Lubell, and Deputy County Clerks Kit Kuester, Julia Rivera, and Barbara Tidd.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Lucrezi 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:

Greg Wright, 16201 US Highway 285, Salida. Chair Wood commented and responded to Wright's questions.

**B. Minutes for Approval**

1. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Commissioners' regular meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Consent Agenda**

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

1. Pay the Bills
2. Approve Resolution 2025-57 Appointing the Chaffee County Early Childhood Council as local coordinating organization for early childhood initiatives within Chaffee County, as directed at Dec 4th BOCC meeting - Helmke

**D. Contracts/Grant Consideration**

1. Discussion and direction on recommendation for contracting for Chaffee County Destination Development Director - Beth Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to open discussion and for direction on a recommendation for contracting for the Chaffee County Destination Development Director.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve contracting with Destination iQ to provide services under the Chaffee County Destination Development Director scope of work, as reflected in their December 2025 response to the County's RFP for the same, and direct staff to finalize the agreement for such work in order to commence services beginning January 1, 2026. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discuss and consider Colorado Department of Transportation's proposed IGA and requested local cost-share contribution for Bustang Outrider - Beth Helmke; Dan Short

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider open discussion and to consider the Colorado Department of Transportation's proposed IGA and requested local cost-share contribution for Bustang Outrider.

Discussion ensued during which Director Short spoke and Helmke responded to Commissioner's questions.

No formal action was taken.

**E. Regular Agenda Items**

At 9:37 a.m., the Board recessed as the Board of Commissioners and convened as the Board of Social Services.

1. Sitting as the County Board of Social Services: Department of Human Services report - Monica Haskell, Chaffee County DHS Director

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025, Department of Human Services (DHS) Board meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DHS Director Haskell addressed the Board to give the DHS report.

Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) Supervisor Lori Tully addressed the Board.

Haskell continued with her report.

Discussion ensued.

No additional formal action was taken.

At 10:00 a.m., the Board adjourned as the Board of Social Services and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

2. *Continued from October 21, 2025 and November 12, 2025*

Introduction and First Reading of County Ordinance 2025-03 Restricting Open Fires and Open Burning in Unincorporated areas of Chaffee County and Providing Penalties for Violation of Such Ordinance - Beth Helmke; Sheriff Andy Rohrich; Kira Jones, Chaffee County Fire Protection District

Chair Wood addressed the Board to introduce and provide the First Reading of **County Ordinance 2025-03 Restricting Open Fires and Open Burning in Unincorporated areas of Chaffee County and Providing Penalties for Violation of Such Ordinance**.

Chaffee County Sheriff Rohrich addressed the Board followed by Salida Fire Chief Aaron Jonke, Chaffee County Fire Chief Kira Jones, and Colorado Firecamp Fire & Forestry Coordinator Kent Maxwell.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve the First Reading of **County Ordinance 2025-03 Restricting Open Fires and Open Burning in Unincorporated areas of Chaffee County and Providing Penalties for Violation of Such Ordinance** *with the amendments*. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. *Continued from October 21, 2025 and November 18, 2025*

**Public Hearing** to Consider a Multi-Year Special Event Permit Application

**Name of Event:** September Concert at the Meadows

**Applicant:** Meadow Creek Music Community Fund, a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation, represented by Michael Sampliner

**Location of Event:** 14998 CR 350, Buena Vista

**Dates of Event:** September 3-7, 2026, and early September in subsequent years

**Maximum # of Attendees:** 12,000, plus 600 staff

**Planner:** Nick Gomer/ 719-530-5571 / [ngomer@chaffeecounty.org](mailto:ngomer@chaffeecounty.org)

Planner Gomer addressed the Board to open the Public Hearing to consider a Multi-Year Special Event Permit Application for the September Concerts at the Meadows, in Buena Vista.

Applicant requested dates be changed to September 24-28, 2025 with 10,000 capacity for a 3-year multi-year permit, and -117 dBc.

Planner Gomer responded to Commissioners' questions.

Sheriff Rohrich and Chaffee County Fire Protection District Fire Chief Kira Jones spoke.

Applicant representative and event producer Mike Sampliner addressed the Board.

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 10:24 a.m.

Public comments were given by:

Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce President Janene Ervin, Buena Vista.  
Eddie Sandoval, 218 Neighbors Lane, Buena Vista.

The public comment portion of the hearing closed at 10:31 a.m.

Discussion ensued during which Annie Carlson with 14er Fest responded to Commissioner's question and Sheriff Rohrich spoke.

Sampliner and Sheriff Rohrich spoke further.

Discussion continued during which Sampliner responded to Commissioners' questions and comments.

Annie Carlson spoke.

Discussion continued during which Sampliner and Attorney Hanlon spoke.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to deny the Multi-Year Special Event Permit Application for September 24-28, 2025, and to encourage the Applicant to submit another application for another date. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued in response to Sampliner's question as to number of years for a multi-year permit.

4. **Public Hearing** to Consider the Liquor License Renewal for Independent Whitewater, DBA Drift In, at 10832 County Road 165, Salida, CO 81201

Chair Wood addressed the Board to open the Public Hearing to consider the Liquor License Renewal for Independent Whitewater, DBA Drift In, at 10832 County Road 165, Salida, CO 81201.

Interim County Administrator Helmke spoke.

Deputy Clerk Kuester responded to Commissioner's question.

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 11:14 a.m.

Public comments were given by:

Attorney Matt Bayma, Scardina Law, LLC, 501 S. Cherry St., Suite 1100, Denver, representing neighboring owners.

The public comment portion of the hearing closed at 11:20 a.m.

Attorney Hanlon spoke.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to continue to January 13, 2026, the public hearing and consideration of the Liquor License Renewal for Independent Whitewater, DBA Drift In, at 10832 County Road 165, Salida, CO 81201, in order to gather more information, and it also would be great if the applicant could be present at that meeting.

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued to clarify the additional information needed: major items are outlining the premise, information about parking and hours of operation; noise/amplified sound, especially outside, that requires different permitting is separate; and a letter from the Commissioners to the Applicant mentioning other things to clarify additional information requested.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Sitting as the County Landfill Committee: Discuss and consider County action on Landfill fee adjustments for FY2026 - Helmke, Short, Wilcox

At 11:25 a.m., the Board recessed as the Board of Commissioners and convened as the County Landfill Committee.

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to open discussion and to consider County action on Landfill fee adjustments for FY2026.

Helmke responded to Commissioner's question.

Director Short spoke and responded to Commissioner's question.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-60 INCREASING CHARGES FOR NUMEROUS WASTE CATEGORIES ACCEPTED AT CHAFFEE COUNTY LANDFILL** and direct staff to communicate the new fee schedule and implement it with an effective date of January 1, 2026. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 11:33 a.m. the Board adjourned as the County Landfill Committee and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

6. Continue to January 2026: Discuss and consider action on County Fee Reduction & Waiver Policy - Beth Helmke; Dan Short

Chair Wood addressed the Board regarding possible action on the County Fee Reduction & Waiver Policy.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to continue to January 13, 2026, discussion and consideration of the County Fee Reduction & Waiver Policy. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider Resolution 2025-58 appointing Sarah Brown McClain to the Chaffee Housing Authority Board of Directors - Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider **RESOLUTION 2025-58 APPOINTING SARAH BROWN MCLAIN TO THE CHAFFEE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**.

Discussion ensued during which Helmke responded to Commissioner's question.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to continue consideration of approval of **RESOLUTION 2025-58 APPOINTING SARAH BROWN MCLAIN TO THE CHAFFEE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS** to January 6, 2026, for an opportunity to meet face-to-face with McLain. Commissioner Lucrezi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider Assessor's recommendation for property tax abatement for parcel R380704214004, as protested and so ordered by Board of Assessment Appeals - Assessor Janie Williams

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider the Assessor's recommendation for property tax abatement for parcel R380704214004, as protested and so ordered by the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Attorney Hanlon spoke.

Helmke and Hanlon responded to Commissioner's question.

Chair Wood spoke.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to accept the Assessor's recommendation for property tax abatement for parcel R380704214004, as protested and so ordered by the Board of Assessment Appeals. Commissioner Lucrezi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Update from Patrick Ortiz, Senator Hickenlooper staff

Patrick Ortiz, staff person with Senator Hickenlooper's office, provided an update to the Board.

Ortiz responded to Commissioner's question.

No formal action was taken.

10. Discuss and consider action on proposed Resolution 2025-59 addressing governance of the Chaffee County Destination Management Council (CCVB) - Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to open discussion and to consider action on proposed **RESOLUTION 2025-59 addressing governance of the Chaffee County Destination Management Council (CCDMC).**

Discussion ensued during which direction on how to proceed was provided to Helmke.

No formal action was taken.

11. Consider Resolution 2025-53 addressing Amendment to the 2025 County Budget - Dan Short, Finance Director

Director Short addressed the Board to consider **RESOLUTION 2025-53 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR CHAFFEE COUNTY, COLORADO.**

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Lucrezi moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-53 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR CHAFFEE COUNTY, COLORADO.**

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. Commissioners Comments**

**G. Adjourn**

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Attest:



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Lori Mitchell, County Clerk