



Chaffee County Commissioners Meeting
January 20, 2026

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 January 20, 2026, at the Chaffee County Public Safety Complex, 200 Steele Dr., Buena Vista. Board members present were Chair Gina Lucrezi, Commissioner Dave Armstrong, and Commissioner P. T. Wood.

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

Others present remotely were Interim County Administrator Beth Helmke, Planner Brandon Wolff, GIS Coordinator Eric Lubell, and Deputy County Clerk Barbara Tidd.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Review Public Meeting List

The Board reviewed the public meeting list.

4. Public Comment

Chair Lucrezi asked for public comment. She 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:

Blane Clark, 16100 Pine Grove Pkwy., Buena Vista.

Michael Earle, 9243 County Road 156, Salida.

Read McCulloch with Chaffee Housing Trust, 246 Blake St., Salida.

Joe Cooper, 9325 County Rd. 160, Salida.

B. Minutes for Approval

1. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Commissioners' regular meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Pay the Bills

D. Contracts/Grant Consideration

1. Consider submission of grant application to the 2026 Colorado Tourism Office's Tourism Management Grant program for creation and targeted promotion of diversified visitor itineraries - Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider submission of a grant application to the 2026 Colorado Tourism Office's Tourism Management Grant program for creation and targeted promotion of diversified visitor itineraries.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve submission of a grant application to the 2026 Colorado Tourism Office's Tourism Management Grant program for creation and targeted promotion of diversified visitor itineraries. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Regular Agenda Items

1. Consider Resolution 2026-06 appointing representatives to the Chaffee County Destination Management Council - Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider **Resolution 2026-06 Appointing Representatives to the Chaffee County Destination Management Council.**

Commissioner Wood moved to approve **Resolution 2026-06 Appointing Representatives to the Chaffee County Destination Management Council.** Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Resolution 2026-05 appointing a member to the Airport Advisory Board - Papp

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider **RESOLUTION 2026-05 FILLING VACANCIES ON THE AIRPORT BOARD.**

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2026-05 FILLING VACANCIES ON THE AIRPORT BOARD** appointing Cory Bieganeck to the Airport Board with a term

expiring on January 31, 2029. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Resolution 2026-04 appointing members to the Board of Review - Chadwick

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider **RESOLUTION 2026-04 FILLING VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF REVIEW**.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2026-04 FILLING VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF REVIEW** reappointing members Lawrence Kersting and John Diesslin to the Board of Review. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider Resolution 2026-07 appointing members to the Fair Committee - Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider **RESOLUTION 2026-07 FILLING VACANCIES ON THE CHAFFEE COUNTY FAIR COMMITTEE**.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2026-07 FILLING VACANCIES ON THE CHAFFEE COUNTY FAIR COMMITTEE**. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider and take action on the use of Lodging Tax Reallocation Fund dollars to cover Rec Rangers/Rec Adopters programs for 2026 based on the Common Ground Budget Scenario Model - M. Cottom, D. Short

Director Cottom addressed the Board to consider and take action on the use of Lodging Tax Reallocation Fund dollars to cover Rec Rangers/Rec Adopters programs for 2026 based on the Common Ground Budget Scenario Model.

Director Short spoke.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to use the Lodging Tax Reallocation Fund dollars to cover Rec Rangers/Rec Adopters programs for 2026 based on the Common Ground Budget Scenario Model.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider Letter of Support for Colorado Mountain College's application for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) Matching Student Scholarship (MSS) Program - Helmke

Interim County Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider a Letter of Support for Colorado Mountain College's application for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) Matching Student Scholarship (MSS) Program.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Letter of Support for Colorado Mountain College's application for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) Matching Student

Scholarship (MSS) Program as presented. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and potential action regarding determination and announcement of finalist candidate(s) for the open County Administrator job opening - Commissioners

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board with the following announcement regarding the finalist candidate for the open County Administrator position:

I am announcing Beth Helmke as the applicant considered as a finalist for the open County Administrator Executive position. I would request that staff post this announcement on the County website employment opportunities web page as the finalist for the position today, which is January 20, 2026. This finalist announcement must be made public for 14 days before any appointment can be made. I would suggest we hold a candidate interview the morning of February 3, 2026.

Discussion ensued.

Attorney Hanlon suggested a motion be made to ratify Chair Lucrezi's statement.

Commissioner Wood moved to ratify the above statement made by Chair Lucrezi. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Commissioners Comments

G. Adjourn

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Attest:



Lori Mitchell, County Clerk