



Chaffee County Commissioners Meeting
May 5, 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 May 5, 2026, at the Chaffee County Courthouse, 104 Crestone Ave., Salida. Board members present were Chair Gina Lucrezi, Commissioner Dave Armstrong, and Commissioner P. T. Wood.

Others present in person were County Administrator Beth Helmke, Director of Finance Dan Short, Community Planning & Natural Resources Director Miles Cottom, Planning Manager Garry Baker, and Senior Planner - Long Range Implementation Gabe Hobson.

Others present remotely were Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon, Public Health Director Andrea Carlstrom and Deputy County Clerks Kit Kuester, Julia Rivera, and Sophie Gibb.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Lucrezi called the meeting to order at 9:01 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. Proclamation Declaring May 2026 Lyme & Other Tick-Borne Diseases/Conditions Awareness Month

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board and read into the record the Proclamation Declaring May 2026 Lyme & Other Tick-Borne Diseases/Conditions Awareness Month.

No formal action was taken.

5. 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:

Joe Cooper, 9325 County Road 160, Salida.
Ralph Ogden, 12785 County Rd. 190, Salida.
Brenda Sage, 12785 County Rd. 190, Salida.
Richard Heckman, 15250 County Rd. 328, Buena Vista.

B. Minutes for Approval

1. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the April 21, 2026 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 Commissioners' regular meeting. Commissioner Wood 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
2. Approve 2026 annual renewal of Behavioral Health Administration Co-Response grant - Sarah Briggs, Chaffee Co-Response Manager
3. Ratify letter of support for outstanding water designations in the Arkansas and Rio Grande River Basins - Gabe Hobson

D. Hearing Consent Agenda - Agenda Items are listed on the Hearing Consent Agenda because no testimony is expected. In the event a Commissioner or any member of the public wishes to testify regarding an item on the Consent Agenda, the item will be removed and considered with the Regular Agenda. These items, if approved, will include signing authority to the Chair of the Board on the related Resolution(s).

Chair Lucrezi asked if anyone from the public wished to testify on these items.

There was no public comment.

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

1. Hearing to Consider the Guidestone Special Event Liquor Permit Application - Music at the Mill
Event Dates: June 3, 2026; July 8, 2026; August 5, 2026
Event Location: Hutchinson Ranch, 6700 Old Corral Road, Salida, CO 81201
2. Hearing to Consider the Guidestone Special Event Liquor Permit Application - Hutchinson Homestead

Event Dates: June 14, 2026; July 12, 2026; August 9, 2026
Event Location: Hutchinson Homestead, 8913 W Hwy 50, Salida, CO 81201

3. Hearing to Consider the Liquor License Renewal for VFW, DBA VFW Post 1166, at 27318 CR 314, Buena Vista, CO 81211

E. Contracts/Grant Consideration

There were none.

F. Regular Agenda Items

1. Letter of Support for the federal Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act - Commissioners

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board to consider a Letter of Support for the federal Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve a Letter of Support for the federal Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discuss and consider the final draft of the Chaffee County Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan - Garry Baker

Manager Baker addressed the Board to open discussion and consider the final draft of the Chaffee County Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the final draft of the Chaffee County Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discuss and vote on the Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee recommendation to approve funds to the Chaffee County Fire Protection District (CCFPD) for the Chaffee Chips program - Gabe Hobson; Miles Cotton

Planner Hobson addressed the Board to open discussion and for a vote on the Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee recommendation to approve funds to the Chaffee County Fire Protection District (CCFPD) for the Chaffee Chips program.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee recommendation to approve funds to the Chaffee County Fire Protection District (CCFPD) for the Chaffee Chips program. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Commissioners Comments

Following Commissioners' Comments, the meeting recessed at 10:39 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

H. 11:00 a.m. - Executive Session

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting resumed.

1. Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) for a personnel matter that the employee who is the subject of the session has not requested an open meeting, more specifically for conducting County Attorney interviews and pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e) for determining positions and developing strategies for negotiations, and instructing negotiators more specifically regarding County Attorney interviews - County Administrator Beth Helmke, Finance Director Dan Short, Human Resources Director Kathy Punke, Planning Director Miles Cottom and Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon may attend.

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board to enter into executive session pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. for a personnel matter that the employee who is the subject of the session has not requested an open meeting, more specifically for conducting County Attorney interviews and pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e) for determining positions and developing strategies for negotiations, and instructing negotiators more specifically regarding County Attorney interviews.

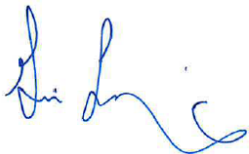
Commissioner Armstrong moved to go into executive session pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. for a personnel matter that the employee who is the subject of the session has not requested an open meeting, more specifically for conducting County Attorney interviews and pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e) for determining positions and developing strategies for negotiations, and instructing negotiators more specifically regarding County Attorney interviews. He stated that Commissioners Armstrong, Lucrezi, and Wood and Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon will attend, County Administrator Beth Helmke, Director of Finance Dan Short, Human Resources Director Kathy Punke, and Community & Natural Resources Planning Director Miles Cottom may attend. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The following persons are in attendance for executive session: Commissioners Armstrong, Lucrezi, and Wood and Interim County Attorney Karl Hanlon, County Administrator Beth Helmke, Director of Finance Dan Short, and Community & Natural Resources Planning Director Miles Cottom.

The Commissioners moved into executive session at 11:02 a.m.

The Commissioners came out of executive session at 1:54 p.m. with no decisions being made.

I, Gina Lucrezi, Chair of the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners, do hereby attest that the statements and discussions that took place during the executive session held on May 5, 2026 were confined to the topic described in the announcement of such session and authorized by the provisions of §§ 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. The session was recorded on separate medium.



Gina Lucrezi, Chair

Chair Lucrezi stated that if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to enter the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, she asked that you state your concerns for the record.

Hearing none, Chair Lucrezi stated that there was no more business to come before the Board and if there were no objections, the meeting is adjourned.

I. Adjourn

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.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