



Chaffee County Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 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 19, 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 County Administrator Beth Helmke, Director of Finance Dan Short, Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon, and Community Planning & Natural Resources Director Miles Cottom.

Others present remotely were Senior Planner - Long Range Implementation Gabe Hobson, Planner Brandon Wolff, Planner Nick Gomer, and Deputy County Clerks Kit Kuester and Barbara Tidd.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Lucrezi called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda

Chair Lucrezi asked to move Item C.2. from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda Item G.6.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Agenda as amended with the above change. 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:

Carlo Boyd, 29490 County Rd. 361, Buena Vista.

5. Proclamation for National Search and Rescue recognition week - Commissioner Lucrezi; Sheriff Rohrich

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board regarding the Proclamation for National Search and Rescue recognition week.

Sheriff Rohrich addressed the Board. Commissioners commented.

Chair Lucrezi read the PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE WEEK IN CHAFFEE COUNTY COLORADO into the record.

No formal action was taken.

B. Minutes for Approval

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026 Commissioners' special meeting and May 5, 2026 Commissioners' regular meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the May 4, 2026 Special Meeting
2. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting

C. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Consent Agenda having moved item C.2 to the Regular Agenda item as G.6. Commissioner Wood spoke. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Pay the Bills
3. Approve Resolution 2026-21 Appointing Monica Pless to the Weed Advisory Board - Beth Helmke
4. Approve Resolution 2026-22 Appointing Planning Commission Members to Serve on the Salida Regional Planning Commission - Miles Cottom
5. Acknowledge the Sheriff's Office Monthly Report for April 2026
6. Approve Guidestone Colorado Common Ground Grant Reallocation Request - Gabe Hobson
7. Acknowledge the Treasurer's Monthly Report for April 2026
8. Renewal of ground lease with Colorado Parks & Wildlife for operation of the Chaffee shooting range - Helmke

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 this/these item(s).

There was no public comment.

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

1. Hearing to Consider the Liquor License Renewal for Station 24 Cafe LLC, DBA Station 24 Cafe, at 12867 US Hwy 24/285, Buena Vista, CO 81211

E. Contracts/Grant Consideration

1. Discuss recommendation for contract for NFF 14ers Timberline Fire Ban - Gabe Hobson; Miles Cottom

Planner Hobson addressed the Board to open discussion and consider Discuss a recommendation for a contract for NFF 14ers Timberline Fire Ban.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to to award Cañon Consulting the contract for implementing the US Forest Service Wilderness Timberline Fire Ban as described in their response to the Request for Proposals. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Convene as the County Board of Social Services

At 9:39 a.m. the Commissioners recessed as the Board of Commissioners and convened as the Board of Social Services.

1. Human Services (sitting as the County Board of Social Services)
Commissioner Wood moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Human Services (DHS) monthly board meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DHS Interim Director Meredith Takacs addressed the Board regarding data she had previously provided to the Board for review. Takacs responded to Commissioner's question.

DHS CFO Alex Markovich presented the DHS 2026 Quarter 1 Financials to the Board during which Takacs responded to Commissioner's question.

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

Takacs spoke further.

Commissioners commented.

No formal action was taken.

At 10:05 a.m. the Board adjourned as the Board of Social Services and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

G. Regular Agenda Items

1. Presentation from Boys and Girls Club of Chaffee County on their Buena Vista Building Campaign
- Brian Beaulieu, Executive Director

Boys and Girls Club of Chaffee County Executive Director Brian Beaulieu addressed the Board to present regarding the Boys and Girls Club of Chaffee County's Buena Vista Building Campaign.

Commissioners commented.

No formal action was taken.

2. Public Hearing & Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-01 Amending the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code - Chad Chadwick, Chief Building Official

Building Official Chadwick addressed the Board regarding the Public Hearing & Second Reading of **Ordinance 2026-01 Amending the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code**.

Chadwick responded to Commissioners' questions.

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

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 10:29 a.m.

Public comments were given by:

Matthew Gonzales (non-resident) on behalf of Consumer Energy Alliance, Cimarron, NM.

Alexandra Buck, on behalf of Atmos Energy.

Dan Higgins (with Atmos Energy), 670 Leprechaun Ln., Howard, CO.

Randy Crane (representing Comfort Gas), 423 Princeton Ave., Buena Vista.

Toby Taylor, 10759 Sawatch Range, Salida.

Chris Jamboretz, 542 I St., Unit A, Salida.

Gina Porter, 28453 County Rd. 337, Buena Vista.

Carlo Boyd, 29490 County Rd. 361, Buena Vista.

Devon Fife, 16125 Burt Gulch Rd., Nathrop.

Barrett Donovan, 16700 County Rd. 363, Buena Vista.

Josh Sims, 646 Blake St., Salida.

Dirk Rasmussen, 16700 County Rd. 363, Buena Vista.

Josef Bartels, 521 Palmer St., Salida.

Matt Nykiel, 903 J St., Salida.

Kevin Bennett (Deluca Gas), business: 10013 W. US Hwy. 50, Poncha Springs.

Emma Lietz Bilecky, 404 Dodge St., Salida.

Tyler Bilecky, 404 Dodge St., Salida.

Joe Cooper, 9325 County Road 160, Salida.

John Wood, 223 Two Rivers Rd., Salida.

Jon Beyer (Sangre de Cristo Electric Assn. SDCEA).

The public comment portion of the hearing closed at 11:24 a.m.

Commissioners deliberated.

Commissioner Wood moved to adopt on Second Reading **Ordinance 2026-01 Amending the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code**.

Discussion ensued during which Official Chadwick responded to Commissioners' questions and comments.

Commissioner Wood's motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion continued.

Commissioner Wood moved to adopt on Second Reading **Ordinance 2026-01 Amending the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code** with water heaters being of equal value.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lucrezi clarified that the numbers would change to be equal in the comparison sheet. She suggested that the total numbers in the table also be adjusted accordingly.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to call for the vote. This motion died for lack of a second.

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

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion.

Clarification was provided that this motion includes changing the bottom numbers, i.e., the total amount of additional energy efficiency credits that are required for non-electric versus all-electric. The fossil fuels number and the heat pump number would be 9, both activating the efficiency credits.

The motion carried unanimously.

At 11:58 a.m., the meeting recessed for a short break.

At 11:59 a.m., the meeting resumed.

3. Public Hearing & Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-02 Adopting Amendments to Chaffee County Ordinance 2023-02 and Repealing the Adoption of the 2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and Adopting the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code with Amendments - Chad Chadwick, Chief Building Official

Commissioner Wood spoke briefly.

Building Official Chadwick addressed the Board for the Public Hearing & Second Reading of **Ordinance 2026-02 Adopting Amendments to Chaffee County Ordinance 2023-02 and Repealing the Adoption of the 2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and Adopting the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code with Amendments**.

Official Chadwick responded to Commissioner's question.

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 12:15 p.m. There were no comments, and the public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Second Reading of **Ordinance 2026-02 Adopting Amendments to Chaffee County Ordinance 2023-02 and Repealing the Adoption of the 2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and Adopting the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code with Amendments**. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Public Hearing to Consider a Special Event Permit Application**

Name of Event: Colorado's Ride

Applicant: Bill Plock

Location of Event: Buena Vista & Salida, and roads in between

Date of Event: August 10-12, 2026

Maximum # of Attendees: 350 attendees, plus 15 staff

Planner: Nick Gomer / 719-530-5571 / ngomer@chaffeecounty.org

Planner Gomer addressed the Board regarding the Public Hearing to consider a Special Event Permit Application for Colorado's Ride in Buena Vista and Salida and roads in between on August 10-12, 2026.

Event Producer and Co-Owner Bill Plock addressed the Board.

Zach Ostrander with Summit Cycle Solutions, a partner organization, introduced himself along with Plock and spoke as well.

Plock, Gomer, and a Colorado State Patrol representative responded to Commissioners' questions.

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 12:24 p.m. There were no comments, and the public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Special Event Permit Application for Colorado's Ride in Buena Vista and Salida and roads in between on August 10-12, 2026. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Consider Commitment of Matching Funds to Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) for Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) - Miles Cottom**

Director Cottom addressed the Board to consider a commitment of Matching Funds to the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) for Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP).

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve a commitment of Matching Funds to the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) for Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP). Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of 2026-2027 Common Ground Competitive Grant Cycle Process as discussed at the April 21, 2026 meeting - Miles Cottom, Betsy Dittenber

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board to consider approval of 2026-2027 Common Ground Competitive Grant Cycle Process as discussed at the April 21, 2026 meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Director Cottom spoke.

Chaffee County Community Foundation (CCCCF) Director Betsy Dittenber addressed the Board.

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

No formal action was taken.

H. Commissioners Comments

I. Executive Session

1. Executive Session to receive legal advice on specific legal questions regarding personnel matters pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and for a personnel matter that the employee who is the subject of the session has not requested an open meeting, more specifically for conducting the Community Planning and Natural Resources Director's review pursuant to § C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f). - Community Planning and Natural Resources 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)(b), C.R.S. for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding personnel matters and for a personnel matter that the employee who is the subject of the session has not requested an open meeting, more specifically for conducting the Community Planning and Natural Resources Director's review pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. Community Planning and Natural Resources Director Miles Cottom and Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon may attend.

Commissioner Wood moved to go into executive session pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S. for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding personnel matters and for a personnel matter that the employee who is the subject of the session has not requested an open meeting, more specifically for conducting the Community Planning and Natural Resources Director's review pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. He stated that Commissioners Armstrong, Lucrezi, and Wood and Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon and Community & Natural Resources Planning Director Miles Cottom will attend.

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 12:54 p.m., the meeting recessed for a short break.

At 1:05 p.m., the meeting resumed for executive session.

The following persons are in attendance for executive session: Commissioners Armstrong, Lucrezi, and Wood and Contracted Legal Counsel Karl Hanlon and Community & Natural Resources Planning Director Miles Cottom.

The Commissioners moved into executive session at 1:05 p.m.

The Commissioners came out of executive session at 1:51 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 19, 2026 were confined to the topic described in the announcement of such session and authorized by the provisions of §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) and (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.

J. Adjourn

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Attest:



Lori Mitchell, County Clerk