



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

LAND USE HEARING

There was no Land Use Hearing the week of September 9, 2024.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with County Manager Lorenda Volker. Chair Kefalas presided. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally and Commissioner Stephens were present. Also present were Sarah Martin and Tom Clayton, Commissioners' Office, and Deirdre O'Neill, Deputy Clerk.

Chair Kefalas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment in person or on-line.

Chair Kefalas closed Public Comment.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2024**

M O T I O N

Commissioner Stephens moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the minutes for the week of September 2, 2024.

Motion carried 3-0.

3. **REVIEW OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2024:** Ms. Martin reviewed the upcoming schedule with the Board. The Board has several updates pertaining to their upcoming schedule.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

ABATEMENTS

1. PETITION FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND OF TAXES: - P8285499 -Border Construction Specialties LLC/dba CES Concrete Equipment and Supply – Tax Year 2023

AGREEMENTS

1. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (P24-06, LANDSCAPING SERVICES)
2. AMENDED AND RESTATED DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR HORIZON HILLS
3. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO AND SUMMITSTONE HEALTH PARTNERS

LIQUOR LICENSES

1. LIQUOR LICENSE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT 6% - OVERLAND MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION – THE SOLDIER CANYON EVENT – BELLVUE, COLORADO
2. LIQUOR LICENSE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT 6% - OVERLAND MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION-THE SOLDIER CANYON EVENT – BELLVUE-COLORADO
3. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL-KERRICH ENTERPRISES DBA THE TAVERN AT RED FEATHER LAKES-TAVERN-RED FEATHER LAKES, COLORADO
4. LIQUOR LICENSE REPORT OF CHANGES- RAWAH RANCH LLC DBA RAWAH RANCH-CHANGE OF MANAGER-GLENDEVEY, COLORADO

MISCELLANEOUS

1. FDC OFFICE IV LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE
2. CENTERRA MARKETPLACE PROPERTIES LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2024 VALUE
3. ADOPTION OF THE NAME FOR THE “BLUE MOUNTAIN PROPERTY”- CANYON EDGE OPEN SPACE
4. NGUYEN HAI/LAN STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2024 VALUE

RESOLUTIONS

1. **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ONE ADDITIONAL OBSERVED HOLIDAY FOR 2025-DECEMBER 26, 2025**
2. **FINDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS DENYING THE RUSSELL ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIAL REVIEW SHORT-TERM RENTAL**
3. **RESOLUTION RESCINDING LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY**

M O T I O N

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved the Board to approve the Consent Agenda for September 10, 2024.

Motion carried 3-0.

5. COMMISSIONERS' GUESTS:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, Chair Kefalas introduced Tina Harris, Larimer County Clerk and Recorder. Clerk Harris gave an update on elections stating that the Secretary of State has certified the ballot content, and the elections team is working diligently to create the ballot layout. This will be the first time that we will have a two-card ballot. September is voter registration month, and the election team's focus will be on encouraging the public to check on their registration to make sure that their address is up to date. Clerk Harris announced that we are still in need of election judges.

Clerk Harris also wanted to mention that the Recording Department will be hosting a "License to Wed" event on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Fort Collins office. Those interested can visit the Clerk and Recorder website at Larimer.gov/Clerk/Recording for more information. There will be an opportunity for couples to take photos at this event. They can bring family members, photographers and even pets. As a reminder, there will not be an officiant at this event. Couples have 35 days to have their ceremony on Colorado soil from the day the license is issued. They may also choose to self-solemnize and sign the license at the Clerk and Records Office.

The Commissioners had questions on ballot postage and election judges. Clerk Harris stated we will need over 800 judges for this upcoming election. The Commissioners urged the public to sign up to be an election judge and that it is a great way to learn about the election process while making some extra money. There are many different duties for election judges including greeting and assisting voters, registering voters, monitoring drop off ballot boxes, processing mail ballots as well as counting ballots to name a few.

The Commissioners are excited about the License to Wed event on Saturday, September 14, 2024, and thanked Clerk Harris and her team for making this fun event available to the public.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared a conversation she recently had with two previous election judges, and they wanted to say what a positive, wonderful experience they had and would encourage everyone to sign up to be an election judge if they can.

Clerk Harris also talked about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new election counting facility and if the public would like a tour of the new facility, they may contact the Clerk and Recorder for further information.

The safeguarding of the ballot is of utmost importance to Larimer County. Everything that happens with a ballot, whether it is signature verification or ballot tabulations is all done on camera. Clerk Harris encouraged everyone to drop off their ballot at one of the many elections drop off boxes. This way there is 100% chain of custody in a bi-partisan manner. The ballots will be mailed out on October 11, 2024. Clerk Harris also spoke of a video being put together by the elections team called “The life of a ballot” and she will update the Board when this is complete. This is a great way for the public to learn about the voting process in Larimer County.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS KINSHIP CARE APPRECIATION MONTH:** Angela Mead, Deputy Division Manager for the Department of Human Services. Ms. Mead shared a video showing a family of three who turned into a family of eight overnight accepting a sibling group of five children who had been their neighbors and needed a safe place to live while respecting the birth parents while they are going through a difficult time.

Ms. Mead wished to highlight the importance of kinship care. In Larimer County, in 2024 we achieved our highest placement rate to date in kinship care. Ms. Mead commended the efforts of the department case workers and kinship team for their efforts in identifying and supporting these families. Our commitment is to prioritize placing children in suitable care with family and cultural connections. It helps reduce trauma that children can experience when they enter foster homes. Along with the benefits of kinship care, it is important to note the necessary support that kinship families need. Kinship providers face challenges such as lack of resources and financial strain particularly for multiple siblings. In Colorado the legislature passed Senate Bill 24-008 which increases the financial support given to kinship non-certified providers. Emergency financial assistance for a kinship foster care home is expanded to include goods needed for the child's basic care, including beds, clothing, and transportation costs, and limited rental or housing assistance.

Ms. Mead introduced Gayle Engel, Executive Director of GrandFamily Coalition. Ms. Engle explained that they are a non-profit network of Grandparents and other kin raising kin. Grandfamilies or kinship families are families in which children reside and are being raised by grandparents, other related family members, or adults with whom they have a close family-like relationship.

The family unit is one of the most vital resources for providing Larimer County’s children with love, dignity and a sense of self-determination. Over 2,426,000 children throughout our nation are raised in kinship families who have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to offer care, provide a sense of familial connection, safety, and security, and maintain ties to their cultural heritage, family, and community.

Ms. Engle went on to mention that kinship care keeps families together, and research suggests that placing children with relatives or other kin enhances mental well-being, stability and behavioral outcomes. Kinship care also minimizes trauma and increases permanency for children and youth preserving their cultural identity and community connections. In Colorado, less than 12% of kinship care providers receive financial assistance. According to a study in 2021, 16% of grandchildren living in kinship care with their grandparents are living in poverty. In Colorado alone, 97,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren and 10% of those are in poverty. In Colorado, recent legislation is helping remap the way we support and provide resources to kinship providers. Further, the Older Americans Reauthorization act of 2024 is starting to make changes on how grandparents or relative caregivers will receive support. Ms. Mead stated that the needs of these families are of the utmost importance and Colorado is making strides in this direction. Ms. Mead introduces Maria Thomas, a kinship provider.

Maria Thomas shared her story of raising her two grandchildren from the ages of three months and 18-months for the last four years. She explained the difficulty of raising children who have been through traumatic experiences as well as once they received custody from the court, all help disappears including financial. They have had to come out of retirement and re-enter the workforce to provide for these children. Ms. Thomas is grateful for the Grandfamily coalition for the support and resources they provide and how important their work is and is grateful for the Board of County Commissioners in recognizing kinship providers.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Thomas for sharing her story and Ms. Engle for her tireless efforts and continued perseverance for resources for these families and bringing awareness to this issue as more and more grandfamilies are raising their grandchildren. This proclamation is so important to recognize the needs for early intervention. It is very important for people to understand how difficult this work is, especially the financial and emotional strain on our older community.

Commissioner Stephens read the Proclamation.

M O T I O N

Commissioner Stephens moved to proclaim the month of September as Kinship Care Appreciation Month.

Motion passed 3-0.

The Board took a brief recess

The Board returned to session

2. **PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2024, AS FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK:** Darcie Fedak, Crime Scene Investigation Supervisor, for the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, explained that forensic science can be defined as the application of scientific principles, methods, and techniques to matters aiding in the pursuit of truth

in the criminal justice system, especially with regard to the collection, examination, and analysis of physical evidence. Forensic science is a vital public service assigned within the operations, investigations, and jail divisions through the use of Evidence Specialists, Crime Scene Investigators (CSI), and Criminalists. Ms. Fedak explained that this can encompass everything from field work such as crime scene reconstruction, 3-D diagramming, documentation and identifying evidence in unique ways. Forensic science plays a major role because it is objective. The Larimer County Sheriff Office has five civilian crime scene investigators who are experts in crime scene reconstruction, photography, finding fingerprints and the collection, preservation and analysis of scientific physical evidence. These investigators have responded to 170 scenes so far in 2024.

National Forensic Science Week recognized the contribution that forensic science makes to the criminal justice system. It is an opportunity to celebrate academic programs, forensic professionals, and scientific research in the various forensic disciplines.

The Board recognizes the value of having a team of highly trained professionals within the forensic science unit to improve the investigation of criminal activity, leading to the exoneration of the innocent and the prosecution of the guilty.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Fedak and her team for the informed presentation. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally spoke about her experience on a “ride-a-long” learning and watching the collection of evidence in a diligent, painstaking effort. The Commissioners thanked the team for their tireless efforts and did have some questions on a typical day of a CSI especially with digital technology and also how the team works with the coroner’s office.

Ms. Fedak stated that they do work side by side in some cases with the coroner’s office if a death seems suspicious in nature and a CSI will respond to collect evidence from the deceased during an autopsy.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally read the proclamation.

MOTION

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to approve the Proclamation declaring September 15-21, 2024, as Forensic Science Week.

Motion carried 3-0

3. **PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2024, AS LARIMER COUNTY CO-RESPONDERS AND CRISIS CLINICIANS’ WEEK:** Sergeant Robert Cook with the Larimer County Sheriff’s Office thanked the Commissioners for the proclamation explaining that they respond to crisis calls for people who are struggling with addiction or mental health issues. The goal is to try and keep these individuals when it is a low-level crime from being incarcerated and try to triage the situation so these individuals can get the level of care needed and connect them with resources they need. Our partnership with SummitStone to try and embrace community resources is instrumental in helping individuals as well as keeping the community safe.

The Larimer County Sheriff's Office Co-Responder Unit in partnership with SummitStone Health Partners, and the Youth Crisis Response Team, Loveland Police Department in partnership with Thompson School District and SummitStone Health Partners have responded to thousands of emergency and non-emergency calls for service. They provide crisis intervention, conduct important follow-up, develop safety plans, assist people to get connected with the resources they need for healthier living. These responders have shown exceptional commitment, dedication, leadership, and passion to help those in need, reinforcing how vital their work is to the community.

The Board of County Commissioners along with the Colorado Co-Responder Alliance (COCRA), and the International Co-Responder Alliance (ICRA) wish to express their appreciation and gratitude by recognizing the significant contributions of these dedicated first responders and mental behavioral health co-responders.

Larimer County is committed to providing support for those facing behavioral health issues in our community. The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that more than one in five U.S. adults live with mental illness. The widespread opioid use continues to grow across the nation, our state, and in Larimer County. Behavioral health conditions may lead to homelessness, criminal charges, and arrests and have a serious negative impact on our community.

Many communities have realized the need for additional resources to address these issues more effectively when individuals are experiencing crisis situations and have identified an evidence-based and effective program called Co-Response. The Co-Responder model pairs law enforcement, fire and EMS with behavioral health professionals to intervene and respond to behavioral health-related calls for service. These teams utilize the combined expertise of law enforcement and first responders with behavioral health professionals to de-escalate situations and help link individuals experiencing behavioral health issues to appropriate resources in their communities.

The Commissioners thanked the Sheriff's team for looking at policing in an entirely new way. This is a model of compassion that treats individuals with respect, and the Board is grateful for the partnerships to make this happen. This program is more of a community driven program and Larimer County is leading in this type of law enforcement. The Commissioners thanked Sergeant Cook for his tireless efforts on the state board of co-responders and in building trust of the community and the overall collaboration for public safety. The Co-Responders are helping to reduce trauma for everyone involved and treating people with compassionate care.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally read the proclamation.

MOTION

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally moved to approve the Proclamation declaring September 17-24, 2024, as Colorado Co-Responder Teams and Behavioral Health Crisis Clinicians week.

Motion carried 3-0

The Board took a brief recess.

The Board returned to session.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE:** County Manager Volker briefly detailed the events of the previous week.
8. **COMMISSIONER ACTIVITY REPORTS:** The Board briefly detailed their attendance at events during the previous week.
9. **LEGAL MATTERS:** None requested

The Board adjourned at 11:30 am



JOHN KEFALAS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TINA HARRIS
CLERK AND RECORDER

ATTEST:



Deirdre O'Neill, Deputy Clerk

