



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. with County Manager Lorenda Volker and County Attorney William Ressue. Chair Stephens presided. Commissioner Kefalas was present. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally was excused. Also present were David Ayraud, Deputy County Attorney and Frank Haug, Assistant Deputy County Attorney.

Executive Session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4)(b): to discuss the current legal status of all state and federal court cases where Larimer County is a party.

William Ressue, County Attorney, addressed the Board. Mr. Ressue explained that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss the current legal status of all state and federal court cases where Larimer County is a party.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners enter into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S.24-6-402(4)(b): to discuss the current legal status of all state and federal court cases where Larimer County is a party.

Motion carried 2-0.

The Board entered into Executive Session.

The Board recessed at 11:05 a.m.

LAND USE HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. with Jenny Axmacher, Planning Manager. Chair Stephens presided. Commissioner Kefalas was present. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally was excused. Also present were Kassidee Fior, and Ryane Oswandel, Community Development; Connor Sheldon, Engineering; Amy White, Code Compliance Supervisor; Frank Haug, Assistant Deputy County Attorney; and Dianne Cheney, Deputy Clerk.

Chair Stephens opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board did not wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. No members of the public wished to remove any items from the Consent Agenda.

SECOND READING NOCO HUMANE THIRD REVISED ORDINANCE: Revise Chapter 6 Animal Ordinance to prohibit the roadside sale of animals.

Amy White, Code Compliance Supervisor, stated that this is the second reading of the Revised Chapter 6 of the Animal Ordinance entitled “Roadside Sale of Animals Prohibited.” Ms. White stated that there is one slight change from the first reading under 6-153(b)(1) to read “an agent of a business that is licensed by the Colorado department of Agriculture to operate a pet store or breeder.” The words “or breeder” were added at the request of NOCO Humane.

The Board had a question whether this was the second revised or third revised ordinance. Ms. White stated that the second revision happened in 2024, and this is the third revision of the ordinance and the second reading of Article VIII.

There were no comments from the public.

The Board commented that this was the proper thing to do to prevent the unauthorized sale of animals along the roadside or in parking lots.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved the Board of County Commissioners to adopt Code 25 File 0284 as amended and to publish the changes according to statutory requirements.

Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC HEARING CONSENT ITEMS:

1. UNIVERSITY OF DENVER AMENDED SPECIAL REVIEW, FILE NO 24-ZONE3729: The purpose of this Amended Special Review is to facilitate the construction of a new 3,000 square-foot single-story emergency services building on the James Kennedy Mountain Campus, which is owned and operated by the University of Denver. The proposed building will not include plumbing or water fixtures and is intended to be used to stage and store emergency transportation vehicles for the camp facility and will also operate as a staging area for wildland firefighting equipment when needed. A Project Description and Site Plan were included with the application. The James Kennedy Mountain Campus offers a broad range of organized and informal leadership experiences for students, faculty, staff, alumni, families, and groups.

The site was previously owned by the Girl Scouts of Colorado with existing Special Review and Amended Special Review approvals on the site including the original Magic Sky Ranch Special Review (File Number 02-Z1434) which permitted the existing camp and expansion to include a dining hall, activity centers, 20+ cabins, equestrian facility and supporting infrastructure, as well as

Amendment to the Magic Sky Ranch Special Review (File Number 14-Z1935) to allow two Park Model RVs to be used as seasonal worker housing on a permanent basis. A change of conditions of approval and amendment of the existing development agreement was also approved through the Magic Sky Ranch Change of Conditions Findings and Resolution.

As an emergency services building was not contemplated as part of the original approval, an Amended Special Review is required to facilitate the construction of the building in this location. The structure is intended to be used to stage and store emergency transportation vehicles for the camp facility and will also operate as a staging area for wildland firefighting equipment when needed, in collaboration with Glacier View Fire Protection District. It is understood that the applicant is preparing to submit an updated Master Plan for the property as a result of the change of ownership in the near future, which will require a further Amended Special Review application.

The property is located on the north side of West County Road 74E, approximately 6.5 miles east of Red Feather Lakes. The entire landholdings, owned by the University of Denver as part of the James Kennedy Mountain Campus, is comprise of approximately 724.12 acres, however the site subject to this request is a single parcel approximately 2.42 acres in size.

The property is served by wells (current Permit Numbers 64087-F and 62525-F) as permitted for camp uses by the Colorado Division of Water Resources, and by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment-approved water and wastewater systems, with access from West County Road 74E.

There are no Appeals associated with this application.

One written comment from a community member was received regarding this application, which questioned why other Fire Districts such as Red Feather Highlands would not be using the facility. This facility is being developed in collaboration with the Glacier View Fire Protection District specifically.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TEAM RECOMMENDATION:

The Development Services Team recommends approval of the University of Denver James Kennedy Mountain Campus Amended Special Review, File No. 24-ZONE3729, subject to the following conditions:

1. This Special Review approval shall automatically expire without a public hearing if the use is not commenced within three years of the date of approval.
2. The Site shall be developed consistent with the approved plan and with the information contained in the University of Denver James Kennedy Mountain Campus Amended Special Review, File No. 24-ZONE3729 except as modified by the conditions of approval or agreement of the County and applicant. The applicant shall be subject to all other verbal or written representations and commitments of record

for the University of Denver James Kennedy Mountain Campus Amended Special Review.

3. Failure to comply with any conditions of the Special Review approval may result in reconsideration of the use and possible revocation of the approval by the Board of Commissioners.
4. This application is approved without the requirement for an amended Development Agreement.
5. All comments provided by Larimer County's Environmental Planner shall be addressed to the satisfaction of the Environmental Planner prior to building permit issuance.
6. In the event the applicant fails to comply with any conditions of approval or otherwise fails to use the property consistent with the approved Special Review, applicant agrees that in addition to all other remedies available to County, County may withhold building permits, issue a written notice to applicant to appear and show cause why the Special Review approval should not be revoked, and/or bring a court action for enforcement of the terms of the Special Review. All remedies are cumulative and the County's election to use one shall not preclude use of another. In the event the County must retain legal counsel and/or pursue a court action to enforce the terms of this Special Review approval, applicant agrees to pay all expenses incurred by the County including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney fees.
7. County may conduct periodic inspections of the property and reviews of the status of the Special Review as appropriate to monitor and enforce the terms of the Special Review approval.
8. The Findings and Resolution shall be a servitude running with the property. Those owners of the property or any portion of the property, who obtain title subsequent to the date of recording of the Findings and Resolution, their heirs, successors, assigns or transferees, and persons holding under applicants shall comply with the terms and conditions of the Special Review approval.
9. A separate Site Plan Review process is not required, however prior to construction, the applicants will need to complete the Site Plan process. The final Site Plan documents must be submitted and approved. This includes the development construction plans, final site plan, landscape plan, drainage and erosion control report and plan, and developer acknowledgement. This includes the submittal of any final approved documents required as part of the Site Plan Review process such as development construction.
10. The owner must obtain building permits and pay the applicable fees associated with the building permits, including Transportation Capital Expansion Fees (TCEF) if required by the Larimer County Engineering Department, which will be due at the time of building permit issuance.
11. The buildings will need to comply with the height and setback requirements for the zoning district unless they receive approval for variances through the Board of Adjustment.
12. Any access construction on West County Road 74E, or work in the County right-of-way, will require an Access or Right-of-Way Construction Permit.

13. A Development Construction Permit will be required prior to any construction associated with this request.
14. If one acre or more of land is disturbed with this development, a Stormwater Construction Permit from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment will be required.

2. **HYDE LIVING TRUST LOT SIZE APPEAL, FILE NO. 25-LAND4461:** The applicant is requesting approval of an appeal to the minimum lot size requirement in the O-Open zone district, which typically requires a minimum of 10 acres. The appeal would allow for the creation of a 2.107-acre parcel. This request is being made in conjunction with an administrative Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA) between two existing parcels.

The purpose of the lot size appeal and associated BLA is to shift the shared property line between parcel #9832100005 and parcel #9832100004 approximately ten feet to the north. This adjustment is intended to bring an existing nonconforming residence on parcel #983210005 into compliance with the required building setbacks.

Currently, parcel #9832100005 is 12.96 acres and parcel #9832100004 is 2.25 acres. Upon approval of the lot size appeal and the BLA, parcel #9832100005 will increase to 13.104 acres, while parcel #9832100004 will decrease to 2.107 acres. Although parcel #9832100004 is already nonconforming with respect to the 10-acre minimum lot size requirement in the O – Open zone, an appeal is required because the proposed adjustment would further reduce its size.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TEAM RECOMMENDATION:

The Development Services Team recommends approval of the Hyde Living Trust Lot Size Appeal, File No. 25-LAND4461.

3. **AMENDED PLAT OF LOT 3 OF THE KENDALL CANYON RANCH, FILE NO. 25-LAND4462:** The subject property is located at 2017 Kendall Drive in Estes Park, and it is Lot 3 of the Kendall Canyon Ranch Estates Minor Subdivision. It is zoned Estes Valley Rural Estate (EV RE-1) and is surrounded by single-unit residential uses. The property is 7 acres (304,920 sq. ft.) in size and is currently developed with a 2,557 square-foot residence.

The Findings & Resolution for the Kendall Canyon Ranch Estates Minor Subdivision (Reception #20050087221) states that “The newly created lots will have building envelopes to limit the land area disturbed, will not be large enough to qualify for accessory dwellings, and will be limited to only 800 square feet of detached accessory buildings (due to the amount of accessory buildings on Lot 1).” The applicant is seeking approval of an Amended Plat for Lot 3 of the Kendall Canyon Ranch Estates Minor Subdivision. The proposed amendment would establish a second building envelope to permit the conversion of an existing temporary shelter into a permanent outbuilding intended for horse shelter and hay storage. The proposed structure will not include an accessory dwelling unit; it is proposed to remain under the 800-square-foot threshold for accessory structures, consistent with applicable size limitations. The second building envelope has been sited to avoid conflicts with existing

road easements and does not encroach upon the original building envelope's intent or restrictions. Its purpose is to allow the proposed outbuilding to be located adjacent to the pasture area, rather than requiring it to be physically separated from the pasture by existing road easements on the property.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TEAM RECOMMENDATION:

The Development Services Team recommends approval of the Amended Plat of Lot 3 of the Kendall Canyon Ranch Estates Minor Subdivision, File Number 25-LAND4462, subject to the following conditions:

1. The property will be subject to all restrictions, covenants, and conditions as set forth in the plat of record for the Kendall Canyon Ranch Estates Minor Subdivision.
2. Any future uses on Lot 3 shall obtain approval through the applicable review procedure as established in the Larimer County Land Use Code prior to commencement of the use.
3. The Findings and Resolution shall be a servitude running with the property. Those owners of the Property or any portion of the Property who obtain title subsequent to the date of recording of the Findings and Resolution, their heirs, successors, assigns or transferees, and persons holding under applicants shall comply with the terms and conditions of this Amended Plat approval.
4. A building permit shall be required for the proposed detached structure if it exceeds 200 square feet in floor area or is greater than one story in height. The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits from the Building Division prior to commencing construction.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda subject to the conditions in the staff reports and further moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Findings and Resolutions.

Motion carried 2-0.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with County Manager Lorenda Volker. Chair Stephens presided. Commissioner Kefalas was present. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally was excused. Also present were Michelle Bird, Director of Public Affairs; Tom Clayton, Commissioners' Office; and Dianne Cheney, Deputy Clerk.

Chair Stephens opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment in person or online.

Chair Stephens closed public comment.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5, 2025:**

M O T I O N:

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the minutes for the week of May 5, 2025.

Motion carried 2-0.

3. **REVIEW OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 19, 2025:** Ms. Bird reviewed the upcoming schedule with the Board.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

AGREEMENTS

1. **STATE OF COLORADO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANT AGREEMENT**
2. **COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE GRANT AMENDMENT #2 – POUDRE RIVER REGIONAL TRAIL – WINDSOR TO TIMNATH FINAL CONNECTION**
3. **STATE OF COLORADO AMENDEMENT #1; LCR 19 (TAFT HILL) IMPROVEMENTS**
4. **COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE LARIMER COUNTY IGA AWARD FINAL CTGG1 25-3991**

APPOINTMENTS

1. **RECOMMENDED REAPPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS ADVISORY BOARD –**
Adam Crossan
2. **RECOMMENDED REAPPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION –**
Adam Eggleston
3. **RECOMMENDED MIDTERM APPOINTMENT TO THE RODEO BOARD –**
Shannon Fancher

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

1. **SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGION 2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

LIQUOR LICENSES

1. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – T & B PROPERTIES DBA WESTLAKE LIQUORS – RETAIL LIQUOR STORE – LOVELAND, COLORADO
2. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – MOUNTAIN WHITEWATER INC – BEER & WINE – FORT COLLINS, COLORADO
3. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – OURO LOVELAND LLC DBA BEST WESTERN PLUS LOVELAND INN – TAVERN – LOVELAND, COLORADO
4. SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT 6% - LAPORTE FESTIVAL – SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR PERMIT 6% - LAPORTE, COLORADO

MISCELLANEOUS

1. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER UPON LANDS
2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER UPON LANDS
3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER UPON LANDS
4. BUY IT LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE
5. RPT HARMONY SHOPS LP STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE
6. RPT HARMONY SHOPS LP STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE
7. RPT HARMONY SHOPS LP STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2024 VALUE
8. DRN LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2024 VALUE
9. BOULDER QUARRIES LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2023 VALUE
10. BOULDER QUARRIES LLC STIPULATION AS TO TAX YEAR 2024 VALUE
11. THE LARIMER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PAYMENTS DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025, THRU MARCH 31, 2025

RESOLUTIONS

1. FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISAACS APPEAL

2. FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLATTE RIVER POWER AUTHORITY RAWHIDE 1041 PERMIT

M O T I O N

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda for May 13, 2025.

Motion carried 2-0.

5. COMMISSIONERS' GUESTS: The Commissioners did not have any guests.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. TO JOINTLY PROCLAIM, WITH THE BOARD OF HEALTH, MAY 2025 AS NATIONAL CLEAN AIR MONTH IN LARIMER COUNTY: Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided a brief update on the local activities the department is taking to improve air quality issues in Larimer County. These activities include the contract activities that the County is working on in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The department is working to reduce ozone levels and improve air quality through a number of programs in Larimer County. Ground level ozone continues to be the main problem, with much of Larimer County located in the ozone nonattainment area due to the geographic region the County is located in. Ozone in this nonattainment area creates health complications, especially for those who have lung issues. Transportation in Larimer County contributes the most to ground level ozone in addition to industry, lawn equipment, combustibles, and household products.

Noele Udell, Environmental Health Specialist Lead, shared information on the department's air quality program and how they function under contract with the CDPHE to inspect, investigate complaints, and monitor air quality in Larimer County. In partnership with the Board of County Commissioners, the Department of Health and Environment is relaunching a grant program in 2025 to support small businesses to transition from gas powered to electric landscaping equipment. Gas powered lawn equipment can produce about 6% of the ozone levels on high ozone days in Larimer County. By converting from gas powered to electric, businesses in Larimer County will not only reduce ozone levels in the environment but also align with the County's commitment to sustainable practices. Applicants for this grant will be selected from the 10-12 remaining applicants from the last application cycle and funding will be prioritized for historically underrepresented and minority businesses to help promote equitable economic opportunity. In addition to this grant, the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) has a grant to assist with the purchase of electric equipment to replace gas powered equipment and the Colorado electric equipment tax credit which allows for tax credits for qualified retailers. Both of these grants subsequently allow for a 30% discount on the purchase of electric equipment for residents at the point of sale.

Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner, discussed joint efforts with RAQC, the City of Fort Collins and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) for future partnerships and funding. One of these programs allowed for a grant application process that was opened in April for qualifying food trucks to replace their gas generators. In addition, Larimer County is upgrading their air quality monitoring with three new locations in Timnath, Fossil Creek Reservoir

and Loveland. In collaboration with the City of Fort Collins and Colorado State University, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) has a \$500,000 grant that is issued over a period of five years to monitor air toxics in burdened communities and provide air quality education throughout Larimer County. The LCDHE will use this grant to monitor activities with mobile monitoring, stationary sampling at schools in Loveland and Berthoud, and public education through participation in more community events.

The Board asked about best practices when filling their fuel cars, the infrared camera that is being used for ozone detection and anti-idling programs at schools. The Board also asked why the CDPHE recently decided to request that the County move into a severe non-attainment category from a serious non-attainment category in Larimer County.

Staff shared that it is best to fuel early in the morning and late in the evening and stop at the click when fueling your car and gas-powered equipment. The optical gas imaging camera allows staff to visualize emissions that you cannot see with the naked eye. This includes carbon-based emissions and staff shared that it has been a great tool to help with inspections and complaint investigations. With regard to the non-attainment category shift, Mr. Gonzales shared that this is a complex issue, but the shift will allow for some more resources from the federal government for air quality programs along with an extension to reach air quality goals. With this shift, Mr. Gonzales shared that there may also be some additional costs to Larimer County such as reblended fuel in the summer months to reduce the amount of precursor emissions. Staff shared that they are looking into programs related to anti-idling at schools.

The Board thanked staff for all of the amazing work that they are doing both regionally and locally to improve air quality. The Board shared some other opportunities regarding upcoming festivals that the department might look into visiting. The Board shared that not reaching the goals by 2032, Larimer County and the region could potentially be sanctioned, which would impact funding at the federal level. The Board was pleased to hear that Larimer County based food trucks can participate in the RAQC's grant program for conversion from gas to electric power systems. The Board iterated that there are a lot of simple steps that residents can take to improve emissions in Colorado.

County Manager Lorenda Volker thanked the staff for all of the work that they are doing to reduce emissions and educate the public. Manager Volker commended staff for the partnerships that they have created and for reaching outside of Larimer County to broaden a more regional approach to improving air quality.

Commissioner Kefalas read the Proclamation Commemorating May 2025 as National Clean Air Month in Larimer County.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proclamation declaring May 2025 as National Clean Air Month in Larimer County.

Motion carried 2-0.

The Board took a brief recess.

The Board returned to session.

1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 11 – 17 AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK: Janine Ledingham, Economic Development Administrator, introduced this discussion item. Larimer County recognizes the vital role that economic development plays in strengthening our communities and local economy. Ms. Ledingham shared that this year's theme is Celebrating Collaboration and Partnerships. Economic development is truly about collaboration to strengthen our regional economy and invest in a shared vision for a stronger and more resilient future. Ms. Ledingham introduced the guests who were sharing their success stories.

Tim Seitz, Senior Brewing Manager for Anheuser-Busch Brewery and Tyler Menzaes, Senior Manager of Economic Stability with the City of Fort Collins addressed the Board. Mr. Stitez thanked the Board and the Department of Economic and Workforce Development for the support and partnership between Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins. Mr. Seitz shared that recently there was a partnership to bring a \$15,000,000 project to the brewery that allowed for an upgrade to their 40-year-old facility. This project allowed the brewery to optimize the carbon footprint throughout the entirety of the supply chain, bringing more efficiency in their glass bottling program. This efficiency reduced the past three bottle lines to two and aided not only the brewery but the glass supplier in Weld County to be more efficient in their work. In addition, Mr. Seitz shared that a skill advance grant from the state for team members and young leaders within their business was very impactful, especially with job retention. Mr. Menzaes shared that the partnership with Anheuser-Busch for their expansion is a perfect example of what strong economic development looks like in action. The expansion makes the Fort Collins location the second carbon neutral facility in the United States for Anheuser-Busch. In addition, Mr. Menzaes spoke about the apprenticeship partnership between Anheuser-Busch and the Colorado Community College system. This partnership provides skilled workers with a pathway into stable, well-paying careers in the region. This example of partnerships within the community allows big projects like this to benefit both the business and the broader community.

Jody Steger with FiberLok Technologies, Inc. (FiberLok) shared that the partnership with the Economic Workforce Development Department has been valuable. FiberLok has been in the community for 30 years and has 50 employees. The company makes flocked logos for many of the County's school sports programs. Due to the seasonality of the business, FiberLok needs to increase its workforce by 15 – 20% during the summer. In partnership with the County and other agencies, the company has been able to take advantage of summer internships, re-hiring workers for seasonal employment, and a grant program through the chamber of commerce for a more enriched internship program. Interns rotate through the departments to learn about the full process and present to their management team at the end of their program which benefits the students and aids in FiberLok attracting more students to their summer internship program. Ms. Steger thanked Sandra Jackam and Nancy Murray with the Larimer County Economic Workforce Development Department for their partnership. The ability to brainstorm ideas, make connections, and receive support in gaining more quality employees, has enhanced their organizational strength and retention of employees.

The Board thanked staff for the work they do in collaborating with the community to support all businesses in Larimer County. The Board appreciates the Department's co-operation with the cities in Larimer County in addition to collaboration with Weld County. The Board thanked the guests for sharing their stories, for the work that they are doing, and for being open to looking outside the box

when it comes to hiring employees. The work that these highlighted businesses are doing is foundational and crucial to the community.

Manager Volker shared that collaboration is special for Northern Colorado to work for the value and good of the region. Economic development is not only about attracting new businesses in Larimer County but also keeping current businesses vibrant within the local economy.

Chair Stephens read the proclamation declaring May 11 – 17, 2025, as Economic Development Week.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proclamation declaring the week of May 11 – 17, 2025, as Economic Development Week.

Motion carried 2-0.

The Board took a brief recess.

The Board returned to session.

2. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY AS FOSTER CARE APPRECIATION

MONTH: Angela Mead, Deputy Division Manager, Department of Human Services Child Youth and Family Division, introduced this discussion item. Every year during the month of May, the nation recognizes individuals who provide foster care to abused and neglected children and at-risk youth. Ms. Mead shared that Larimer County is fortunate to have dedicated foster families that impact the lives of children in the community. Children and youth do better when they remain in the community. Foster families create safe, nurturing environments, where youth can experience structure, trust, and unconditional support. These are key factors in their healing and in achieving success in their lives. Foster care is necessary when children cannot remain safe in their homes and kinship care is not a viable option. Larimer County needs more foster care participation in the community for children with special needs. Ms. Mead emphasized that there is a critical need for foster families that are willing to care for adolescents; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + (LGBTQIA+) youth; and children and youth with intellectual or severe emotional disabilities. These young people deserve safe and affirming homes and there is an immediate need for foster families who can provide this stability.

Melissa Van Kooten, Senior Social Caseworker on the Foster and Kinship Team, introduced Gina Hamilton, a Larimer County resident and foster parent. Ms. Hamilton was recognized by Realities for Children as the 2025 Foster Parent of the Year. Ms. Hamilton has been a foster parent since 1995 and over the past 30 years, she has opened her home to more than 100 adolescent males between the ages of 15 and 21 who have faced a variety of challenges. Being kind, patient and inclusive are only a few of the attributes that make Ms. Hamilton an exceptional foster parent. Each time she opens her home to a foster placement she is committed to caring for that youth long term and committed to staying connected with them once they leave her home.

Ms. Hamilton shared the need for adolescent foster parents in Larimer County. She read a statement from one of her adolescent teens about his four-year experience in her home. In the statement the youth shared his appreciation for the freedom, respect, and safe home environment that Ms. Hamilton provided for them. Ms. Hamilton shared that it is all about the kids and how foster families can get them back into the community and succeed as individuals.

The Board thanked staff and Ms. Hamilton for attending and highlighting the call to action for more foster families. The Board appreciated the emphasis on kinship care and foster families to support the youth that have been displaced from their family of origin. The Board shared that fostering creates strong bonds and memories that last a lifetime, are meaningful experiences for the whole family, and enrich lives in the community. The Board thanked Ms. Hamilton for the support that she has given over 100 young men. It was important to hear from Ms. Hamilton about how fostering enriches her life and the lives of those adolescents in her care. Fostering children and adolescents is some of the most important work done in the community. The Board noted that there is support from Larimer County Department of Human Services Child Youth and Family Division staff to aid in placing children in foster homes for those who are interested in participating in the foster program.

Commissioner Kefalas read the proclamation declaring May 2025 as Foster Family Appreciation Month.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proclamation declaring May 2025 as Foster Care Appreciation Month.

Motion carried 2-0.

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 detailed their attendance at events during the previous week.

9. **LEGAL MATTERS:**

Decision expected.

Executive Session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4)(e): for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators relating to potential Business Personal Property Tax Rebate pursuant to C.R.S. 30-11-123.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners enter into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S.24-6-402(4)(e): for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators relating to potential Business Personal Property Tax Rebate pursuant to C.R.S. 30-11-123.

Motion carried 2-0.

The Board entered into Executive Session.

The Board returned to session.

Adam Crowe, Economic Development Manager, addressed the Board and gave a brief description of the Executive Session.

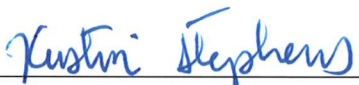
MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the authorization of the business property tax incentive to exceed the 5-year incentive time period provided in the County's incentive policy to allow for a 6-year term.

Motion carried 2-0.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.





KRISTIN STEPHENS, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TINA HARRIS
CLERK & RECORDER

ATTEST:



Dianne Cheney, Deputy Clerk