



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Breckenridge, CO 80424

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R. Lopez
RE: Work Session Meeting of February 2, 2021
DATE: February 2, 2021

Attendees:

Elected Officials (via Zoom): Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners

Jaime FitzSimons - Sheriff

Staff (via phone or Zoom): Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Aaron Byrne, Landfill/SCRAP Director; Stephanie Ralph, Library Director; Peter Haynes, Undersheriff; April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via phone or Zoom): Jen Schank, Jess Hoover, Rachel Zerowin, Michael Wurzel, Hayden Van Andel, David Grooms, Alexis Petre, Bob Johnson, Rick Backes, Libby Stanford and others who did not sign in.

I. High Country Conservation Center (HC3) Quarterly Update

Jennifer Schenk, Jess Hoover and Rachel Zerowin gave an on the following topics, including but not limited to:

HC3'S IMPACT IN SUMMIT COUNTY: 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Climate Action Program

- 15 Solarize Summit projects
- Launched Commercial Energy Benchmarking pilot
- Developed Communitywide Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan
- Hosted Community Events

Energy Smart Colorado

In 2020, HC3 exceeded its home energy assessment goal and helped 48 Summit County homeowners save nearly \$550 a year on their energy bills.

- 113/94 home energy assessments
- 48/47 home energy retrofits
- \$549 average annual retrofit savings
- 556 LED bulbs installed

Resource Wise

In 2020, HC3 welcomed 5 new businesses to the program and supported 4 of them through sustainability projects.

- 5/5 new businesses enrolled
- 4/5 projects completed
- \$459 average annual project savings
- \$475 average annual efficiency installation savings

Recycling: Program Highlights

- Strong Future
 - Marketing promoting Strong Future programs
 - Engaging videos
 - Technical assistance & incentives
 - Partnered with haulers, business community & governments to design 2021 strategies toward community waste goal
- Technical Assistance
 - Received \$38,628 grant to start glass and food scrap recycling programs at 25 restaurants
 - Partnerships with property managers and Homeowner Association Boards to reduce contamination
 - Supporting SCRAP on testing of compostable products
- Community Engagement
 - Improved residential single stream with use of *Oops Tags* and individual instructions
 - Held Recycling Center events
 - Trained 39 volunteers and published newspaper columns focused on recycling
- Food Scrap Program
 - 1590 residents composted nearly 117 tons of food waste
 - 15+ businesses supported
 - 28 community/school presentations

Jennifer Schank gave an overview of the *Pay As You Throw* program and the grants HC3 is applying for in order to fund the program. They requested a letter of support from the Board and commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned she has received feedback regarding the new environmentally friendly building codes. Some builders are concerned about the expense in implementing these codes in the construction of community homes. Jess Hoover noted that all building codes are moving in that direction and she does not recommend veering off the path. Commissioner Pogue said to keep in mind that COVID-19 has already done tremendous damage to the local economy.

Commissioners asked questions, provided feedback and thanked the team for their hard work.

II. Road and Bridge (R&B) Operational Priorities Discussion

Robert Jacobs and Bentley Henderson gave an update on the following topics including but not limited to:

The Summit County Road & Bridge Department maintains approximately 150 miles of public roads, of which 90 are paved and 60 are gravel. Total road miles in Summit County are approximately 148 miles paved, and 196 miles unpaved. This leaves approximately 58 miles of paved roads and 136 miles of unpaved (or gravel) roads that are not maintained by the County. Some of these are private roads or driveways, some are forest roads, and some are neighborhood (local) roads that have not been accepted for maintenance by the County.

All County Maintained Roads are evaluated based on an Overall Condition Index (OCI, scale of 0-100). The Board of County Commissioners has adopted a policy establishing a goal of a minimum average condition index rating of 60. This has implications in our annual financial reporting that will be discussed in more detail later in this presentation.

Winter Operations - Plowing Prioritization

Road & Bridge staff maintain winter operations daily involving plowing, sanding, drift and pack removal on all County maintained roads. As snow accumulation increases to four-inches or more, a full plowing of each route occurs. We are fully staffed on weekdays in the winter from 5:30 am until 2:00 pm, and have two crew members on duty on weekends, and between 2 pm and midnight every night.

When storms occur on weekends the full staff is called in to clear the roads. This often results in significant overtime accumulation. R&B is currently testing a plow-tracking product that could be used to track location and speed of each plow, and be linked on the County website so the public can view when their road is scheduled to be plowed.

Road Maintenance Services Agreements

Cooperative agreements for road maintenance services exist with Vail Resorts/Keystone for services in the Keystone Resort area, Buffalo Mountain Metro District for services within that District's service area, and the Copper Mountain Consolidated Metro District for services within the Copper Resort base area and the District's service area.

Trailheads

The Road & Bridge Department plows trailheads after the roads have been cleared, as time and staffing allows. Many trailheads are informal, and on land owned by various agencies, which typically are USFS or Summit County owned land managed by the Open Space and Trails Department.

Commissioner Pogue asked for clarification on how R&B determines whether or not to maintain/upkeep a road. Mr. Jacobs said they have a list of criteria that someone must meet if asking for their road to be maintained by the county. The details can be found on the Road and Bridge website at <https://www.summitcountycogov/493/Maintained-Non-Maintained-Roads>.

Scott Vargo noted that although R&B has a 5-year plan for road maintenance, exceptions are made. For example, there have been instances where a road is unsafe and is moved to the top of the list. Priority is also given to heavily accessed roads that affect a large number of the population vs roads used by few individuals.

Mr. Vargo said there have been road projects that end up taking longer and costing more than expected because once the work begins, severe underlying problems may be found. The county has also chosen to invest more money in a project to make sure it will last longer than 10 years. Commissioner Blanchard said that most people do not realize what goes into road upkeep and construction, nor how a high alpine environment affects the roads. Commissioners also noted the increase in visitors to the county during the summer that also wear out the roads.

The Road and Bridge five-year plan will be posted to the county website and Commissioner Pogue suggested listing the amounts the state allocates to the county for road upkeep, to keep the community informed.

Commissioners asked questions and offered feedback. They thanked Mr. Jacobs for his presentation.

III. Managers' and Commissioners' Issues

Senior Management and Commissioners discussed several topics including but not limited to:

The Treasurer's Office will take over some of the duties normally handled by the Finance Department. The county has enlisted the help of the county auditor to assist with the process.

Scott Vargo gave an update on the following topics:

- Smith Ranch Childcare Center - Mr. Vargo met with Ryan Hyland, Town of Silverthorne Manager, regarding the center and the next step is to hire a project manager, then move forward to a Request for Proposals (RFP). The center will be co-owned as the Town of Silverthorne will provide the land and the county will construct the building.
- Mr. Vargo met with lodging industry representatives regarding changes to the state's COVID-19 Dial version 2.0. The dial versions 3.0 and 4.0 will be released in the spring and summer.

A Black History Month Declaration will be added to the Regular Meeting agenda for February 9, 2021.

Commissioner Lawrence gave an update on the following:

- She visited a senior housing complex in Loveland and met with the Loveland Housing Authority, as they are the only ones in the state with a senior component. The request for senior housing in the county was submitted by Staying In Summit (SIS), a nonprofit organization, and Mr. Vargo suggested they should be the ones to present their needs to the board and town councils, because neither Jason Dietz nor Amy Priegel have any experience with senior housing.
- She attended the Summit Transit Board Meeting and asked Chris Lubbers to present the same information at an upcoming Work Session. Bentley will coordinate the meeting date.
- Commissioners discussed the different committees in which they are participating and made a few changes to their appointments. The appointment resolution will be updated and presented at the upcoming Regular Meeting.

Commissioners also reviewed schedules and upcoming calendar events.

IV. Potential Litigation and the Legal Advice pertaining thereto. (Attorney) (Executive Session Recommended)

Jeff Huntley and Scott Vargo requested an Executive Session to discuss property acquisition, Potential Litigation and the legal advice pertaining thereto.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pogue and seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and legal advice relating thereto. BOCC voted 3 to 0 to go into Executive Session per CRS 24-6-402 (4) (b). The motion was approved.

Commissioners reconvened after Executive Session into an extended afternoon Work Session at 1:02 p.m.

V. North Branch Library Extension Project Update

Sarah Vaine, Dale Stein, Alexis Petre and David Grooms gave an update on the following topics including but not limited to:

The BOCC asked Staff to reevaluate the overall vision of the current remodel design, and to conceptualize renovation design options that might better serve the community at 10-year and 20-year design life. The initial goal of the North Branch project was to spend the appropriated budget of \$2,000,000 to construct a 2000 SF addition to the building and make meaningful improvements within the budget limits. The \$2M project budget is made up of 50% County funds and 50% Library Foundation fundraising.

Staff, along with Vega Architects, evaluated the library sizing needed to generally meet the current needs, a 10-year design life, and a 20-year design life. Recommendations from Vega Architecture are based on their own project experience, and from general library sizing guidelines used on the Front Range "High Plains" area. Library Staff was also consulted in this exercise and provided information on existing library sizing and patron utilization. The findings from this evaluation are as follows:

Library Sizing

- Existing North Building 7100 SF total, Does not meet current needs
- Option A, Base Design (2000 sf add) 9100 SF total, Meets current needs plus 5-7 years
 - Budget: \$2,000,000
 - Schedule Design: March 2021 through June 2021
 - Construction: 2022 pending fundraising
- Option B, Year 2030 (2400 sf add) 9500 SF total, Intended to meet 10-year needs
 - Budget: \$2,400,000
 - Schedule Design: March 2021 through July 2021
 - Construction: 2022 pending fundraising
- Option C, Year 2040 (4900 sf add) 12000 SF total, Intended to meet 20-year needs
 - Budget: *\$3,200,000 - \$3,800,000

**Budget range dependent on the extent of renovation desired to the existing building, and improvements requested by project stakeholders.*

- Schedule Design: March 2021 through August 2021
- Construction: 2022 pending fundraising

Commissioner Pogue asked what type of outreach the library conducted to get community feedback. Sarah Hulseley shared the information they distributed and the feedback they received from the community, including those Spanish-speaking.

Commissioner Blanchard asked if any studies have been conducted on the parking for the library as currently, parking is already at a premium. Ms. Vaine and Ms. Vargo said the Town of Silverthorne is willing to work with the county on this process, and noted that Option C was a last minute addition and the team had not had a chance to conduct due diligence.

Stephanie Ralph noted that the focus should be not on the nice building but the staff to provide services and programs. Commissioner Blanchard asked her whether she feels that Option C would make a big difference. She feels that it will provide a great feeling of lightness and well-being. However, the importance of beautiful buildings supports the idea of the libraries. A larger building would show the support of the county. She said there are people who drive from the Front Range to hold meetings at the library.

Commissioner Blanchard asked what had been learned from the South Branch expansion and what could be applied to the North Branch project. Sarah Vaine noted that she was not involved in the South Branch project until the end but knows that one of the issues were not having enough staff for the expanded library and the challenges faced going from a small space and staff to a larger location with a library with different levels and layout. Commissioner Lawrence noted that the South Branch project was very different and there was a lot of support from the Town of Breckenridge and the community component was very different. He also asked if there has been a study on operational cost. Ms. Ralph gave an estimate of the cost for additional staff, supplies and utilities depending on each option. She did note that the building would be much easier to staff the Silverthorne location as it is on one level.

Commissioners discussed the different options and what their preference would be as well as their concerns for time delays and the cost to implement them. They agreed to make a decision today and provide a budget for the architects to move forward, at the same time, there will be adjustments made as bids come in and material costs increase or decrease and making a commitment to an expensive project with unknown expenses that might be coming up.

Commissioners agreed to a \$3.2M budget for the project and to get as close as possible to the 12,000 sf considered in Option C.

VI. Sheriff's Facilities Master Planning Update

Bentley Henderson, Jaime FitzSimons and Bob Johnson gave an update on the following topics including but not limited to:

Justice Center Facility Programming Master Planning

Bob Johnson gave an overview of the current site facilities and the space requirements for the next 20 years, based on an estimated 50% increase in population.

Jeff Huntley and Scott Vargo requested an Executive Session to discuss confidential information related to the Justice Center Facility Programming Master Planning and the Legal advice related thereto.

VII. Justice Center Facility Programming Master Planning and the Legal Advice pertaining thereto. (Sheriff, Attorney) (Executive Session Recommended)

A motion was made by Commissioner Pogue and seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to confidential information related to the Justice Center Facility Programming Master Planning and the Legal advice related thereto. BOCC voted 3 to 0 to go into Executive Session per CRS 24-6-402 (4) (b)(c)(d). The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Sara R Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Approved by:



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair