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Stephanie Kees, Clerk and Recorder, Teller, CO

Minutes of the Proceedings of
The Board of County Commissioners of Teller County, Colorado
August 19, 2025

In attendance:
Chairman Dan Williams
Vice-Chairman Erik Stone
Commissioner Robert Campbell
Ross Herzog, County Administrator
Paul Hurcomb, County Attorney
Stephanie Kees, Clerk & Recorder

Agenda

1. **9:15 Convene in regular session**

Presiding

Mr. Dan Williams

Invocation

Mr. Erik Stone

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Austin May

Minutes of Previous Meetings

None.

Accounts Payable

Action: Vice-Chairman Stone moved, and Commissioner Campbell seconded, that the Board **approve** the accounts payable run date of August 15, 2025, in the amount of $1,080,560.90. All Commissioners voted yes.

Board Reports

Commissioner Campbell

- Busy attending many events, including the Sheriff's golf tournament, law enforcement banquet, the POW/MIA Veterans event in Cripple Creek, and the Community Partnership BBQ event at Paradox Brewing Company which was very well attended.

Commissioner Stone

- Attended the Law Enforcement dinner for the HDSA. The guest speaker had a great message of unifying and "getting to yes."

- Attended a Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) meeting and provided an update on the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) 10- year plan that was approved.
- Attended the Veterans Rally, which was an eye-watering event. It had the most riders since COVID and it was great seeing Teller County residents celebrating all along the route.

Commissioner Williams

- Commented on the turning of the leaves and Summer coming to a close. - Welcomed Russell Ballinger, new Finance Director.
- Attended the Veterans Rally and was glad to see it back to Cripple Creek. Commented on the attendance of other elected officials. Local veteran, John Bartlett, was honored by the Special Forces. Stories were shared concerning Dan's father and 2 other veterans who were memorialized after their recent passing.
- A $10,000 donation was accepted for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) at an event last week.
- Special legislative session starts Thursday and the Commissioners will be watching it very closely, looking for another billion dollars.
- Will be at Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) Mountain District Conference in Summit County.
- El Pomar Board (Penrose Foundation) will meet in Cripple Creek for its 3rd quarter board meeting September 4th-5th. Local non-Profits will be invited to attend a dinner.
- CCI meeting will discuss land use and clean energy, including the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Will attend a Colorado Wildlife Council (CWC) event in Pueblo. CWC will discuss a possible ballot initiative to create a Wildlife Conservation Board.
- Big Tent event Saturday.
- Attended the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) quarterly meeting.
- Update on the Arkansas Water Basin with stream levels at roughly 50%.

Elected Official's Reports

Stephanie Kees, Clerk and Recorder

- Attended Veterans Rally. Kee's father who is a Vietnam veteran, got to drive the Grand Marshall, a 101 year old World War II veteran and POW, and was excited to be able to attend the rally.
- Announced she had an open position in her office.
- Election season has started and she needs more election judges. Those interested fill out an online application on the Clerk and Recorder's webpage.

Krystal Brown, Treasurer

- ELKS Lodge #316, held a fundraiser that raised $1,300 for war dogs.
- Visit the website to review the Auto Agent to allow payments for taxes to be

paid on a monthly basis in lieu of annually.
- Tax sale is coming up soon.
- Going to Limon for a Statewide Treasurer's conference.

Carol Kittelson, Assessor
- Noted that today is her last meeting before her retirement. She thanked the Board, Krystal, Stephanie and her amazing office/staff.
- The Board commented on their appreciation for Carol for her work in the Assessor's Office and serving as the elected Assessor and wished her well in retirement.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Herzog
- Hayden Park may need to be temporarily closed for road maintenance and the arrival of new playground equipment.
- Reminder that school is in session. Be careful on the roads.
- Road crews are grading.
- Reminded all that we still need to be fire aware. OEM reports that firefighting assets are still stretched thin across the state fighting fires.

The Commissioners thanked Ross for his leadership on County projects..

2. **9:35 Time reserved for Department Heads**

Russell Ballinger, Finance Director
- Introduced himself. He's looking forward to working with and moving to Teller County.
- Commissioners welcomed him to the Teller County team.

3. **9:40 Time reserved for the public without an appointment**

Brent Broadfoot and Darcy Broadfoot, residents for 32 years in Teller County in the Holiday Hills Subdivision
- Commented on their concerns with 5G towers installed near their house and complained about the noise and their concerns about health issues and radiation. They provided maps and sound information to the Board. They hired a cybersecurity expert who states that Pikes Peak Internet and Vero installed the cell antennas causing the noise. He's looking for direction as to what they can do and if anyone else have complained.

- Commissioner Williams advised him to get with Planning Director Colton Berck, to see if there was approval of the antennas. Mr. Herzog can assist in connecting the two. He thanked them for bringing it to their attention because they weren't aware of this.

- Mr. Campbell thanked them for bringing this to their attention because this is the first time they have heard of this issue.
- Mr. Stone suggested he reach out to the Teller County Department of Health.

Carl Andersen, Teller County Resident
- Thanked all the first responders who coordinated and helped with the Veterans Rally event. The event was impressive.

4. **9:45 Employee Service Awards Public Health**

Michelle Wolff, Public Health Director
- Presented Service Award to Mary Higgins, Public Health Department
- Board commented on her outstanding achievements and thanked her for her years of service to the County.

5. **9:55 Commissioners Board Matters and Actions**

Consider a Resolution to amend the 2025 General, Jail, Road and Bridge, Fleet Management, and Social Services Fund Budgets.

Presenting: Kaitlyn Lombardo
Public Comment: None.

Board Comments. Mr. Stone commented on the lower labor costs because of higher staffing levels and thanked HR director Ivy Morris for a job well done on staffing levels.

Action: Commissioner Campbell moved, and Vice-Chairman Stone, to **approve Resolution No. 08-19-2025 (27),** a Resolution to amend the 2025 General, Jail, Road and Bridge, Fleet Management, and Social Services Fund Budgets. Commissioner Campbell moved, and Vice-Chairman Stone seconded. All Commissioners voted yes.

Discussion - Protecting local control & fiscal responsibility and Teller County's position on unfunded state mandates.

Presenting: Ross Herzog, Administrator

Mr. Stone commented on the problems created by the State and the Legislature.

Mr. Herzog presented a draft letter to be submitted to Governor Polis concerning unfunded state mandates. The intent is to provide this statement prior to the special legislative session.

Board explained the reasons for preparing and sending this letter to the

Governor.

Public Comment: Carl Andersen, Teller County Resident
- Attended a political meeting in El Paso County and heard similar concerns about unfunded mandates.

Action: Vice-Chairman Stone moved, and Commissioner Campbell seconded, to approve and authorize the County Administrator to finalize the letter to Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Speaker of the House concerning unfunded mandates. All Commissioners voted yes.

Commissioners Business Items:

Consider ratification of the Professional Services Agreement with Page Construction, Inc.

Ratified as presented, with any modifications requested by the Contractor and approved by the County Attorney.

Consider approval of the Professional Services Agreement with SRI, Incorporated.

Approved with any modifications requested by the Contractor and approved by the County Attorney.

6. **Items Received After Agenda Deadline**

Consider approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Vivid Engineering Group, Inc. Approved as presented, with any modifications requested by the Contractor and approved by the County Attorney.

Adjournment 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

Dan Williams, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Stephanie Kees, Clerk & Recorder