

**Minutes of the Proceedings of
The Board of County Commissioners of Teller County, Colorado
February 18, 2025**

In attendance:

Dan Williams, County Commissioner/Chair
Erik Stone, County Commissioner/Vice-Chair
Bob Campbell, County Commissioner
Ross Herzog, County Administrator
Paul Hurcomb, County Attorney
Ashley Headrick, Chief Deputy Clerk & Recorder

1. 9:19 a.m. Convene in Regular Session:

The Board of County Commissioners of Teller County convened in regular session in the Teller County Centennial Building in Cripple Creek, CO.

Mr. Williams presided.

Mr. Stone gave the invocation.

Mr. Aaron Helstrom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Action: Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Stone seconded, to **approve** the minutes of the meeting of the Teller County Board of County Commissioners on January 14, 2025, as presented. All Commissioners voted yes.

Accounts Payable:

Action: Mr. Stone moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the Board **approve** the accounts payable run date of February 13, 2025, in the amount of \$538,448.60. All Commissioners voted yes.

Board Reports:

Mr. Campbell:

- Provided an update on the ongoing compliance review of the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC). The Executive Committee is turning over the review to the insurance company for Omissions & Errors coverage.
- Attended an intergovernmental meeting with Mayors and City Managers in the County.
- He is assisting Colorado County Treasurers' Association with a pending bill, HB 25-1199, concerning payment systems.

Mr. Stone:

- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) met last week to work on the 10-year transportation plan.



- Update on Legislation:
 - HB 25-1130, Labor Requirements Concerning Government Construction Projects, would add a requirement to employ union labor for all government projects. This will have a negative effect on rural counties. Expressed concern of the possible impact on County's plan for the Service Center project. Will be testifying in opposition and hopes the bill will be amended to protect smaller counties.
 - SB 25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices. An Amendment to this bill will allow the ability to "buy back" this right by paying a fee and completing at least a 12-hour special training. Illinois had a similar law that was ruled to be unconstitutional.
 - HB 25-1133, Requirements for Sale of Firearms Ammunition, restricts anyone under the age of 21 from purchasing ammunition and limits shipping ammunition. He testified against it, but the bill moved forward.
 - HB 25-1214, Appropriate Use of Prison Beds, would allow inmates to be released upon reaching their eligible probation period without evaluation.

Mr. Williams:

- Commented on the legislative process and encouraged others to testify on proposed bills.
- He continues to work on developing relations with legislators and recently met with Senator Matt Ball, Senator Dylan Roberts, and Senator Lisa Cutter to discuss rural issues.
- Update on Legislation:
 - SB 25-142, Changes to Wildfire Resiliency Code Board. The current Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) encompasses the entire State of Colorado and doesn't account for rural spaces.
 - SB 25-002, Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures
 - SB 25-047, Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law. The Commissioners and Sheriff will testify on February 25th in support.
 - SB 25-120, Nuclear Workforce Development & Education Program
- Update on Ring the Peak. Deeply involved process with United States Forestry Service (USFS), Colorado Park and Wildlife (CPW), and other stakeholders.
- Local food banks are being affected by State budget cuts which limits grant funding. El Pomar awarded a grant to a local pantry for food security.
- Reported on the recent intergovernmental meeting with Mayors and City Managers in the County. They had a good exchange of information and plan to schedule this as a quarterly meeting.

Commissioner Stone added that HB 25-1062, Penalty for Theft of Firearms, is a bipartisan bill that would increase the penalties for theft of firearms. He plans to testify in support of this bill.

Elected Officials Report: None.

Administrator's Report:

Ross Herzog, County Administrator

- Announced that the Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for the 18,000 square foot County Service Center in Divide closes today.

Commissioner Williams added that the wolf is no longer in the Teller County area and is back in the Buena Vista area. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is happy with the public information provided on the locations of the wolves in the State.

2. Time Reserved for Department Heads: None.

3. Time Reserved for the Public without an Appointment:

Mr. CJ Leaken, resident of Bear Trap Ranch

- Been complaining about neighbor's rubbish for 9 years. Requested commissioners authorize code enforcement personnel to be able to issue citations.

Commissioner Williams stated they are in the process to have the Code Enforcement Officer deputized with limited authority for code enforcement matters.

County Attorney Hurcomb explained that the state law limitations coupled with court rules have created difficulties for local jurisdictions to enforce civil infractions.

Board comments.

Mr. Aaron Helstrom, resident Lost Valley Ranch

- Requested clarification of the ability to issue citations and file liens on properties for rubbish violations.

4. Commissioners Executive Matters: None.

Commissioner's Business Items: Ross Herzog, County Administrator

The Board duly approved the following business agenda items:

1. Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Teller-Park Conservation District, with any changes requested by the contractor and approved by the County Attorney.

Greg Liverman, Teller-Park Conservation District (TPCD) Supervisor and Board member was present and briefed the Board on the following:

- Information on TPCD noxious weed program and laws.



- Weed spraying on highway rights of way and medians. There is an optout program for landowners. If they opt out they are responsible to take care of their weeds.
- Some private landowners' contract with them.
- TPCD also sells grass seed.
- Grant from the Department of Agriculture allows discounts for this service along with educational programs and scholarships.

Board discussion with Mr. Leverman regarding TPCD's programs.

2. Consider additional items received after agenda deadlines. None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

APPROVED:

Dan Williams, Chairman

ATTEST:

Stephanie Kees, Clerk & Recorder

