



**Minutes of the Proceedings of
The Board of County Commissioners of Teller County, Colorado
January 8, 2026**

In attendance:

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

Agenda

1. **9:15 Convene in regular session.**
9:23 a.m.

Invocation

Mr. Erik Stone

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Fred Clifford

Minutes of Previous Meetings

September 25, 2025, BoCC Meeting
October 9, 2025, BoCC Meeting
October 23, 2025, BoCC Meeting
November 20, 2025, BoCC Meeting
November 20, 2025, Special Meeting
December 11, 2025, BoCC Meeting
December 18, 2025, BoCC Meeting

Action: Vice-Chairman Stone moved, and Chairman Williams seconded, to **approve** the minutes of the meetings of the Teller County Board of County Commissioners on September 25, October 9, October 23, November 20, December 11, and December 18 and the November 20, 2025 (special meeting) as presented. All Commissioners voted yes.

Accounts Payable

January 8, 2026 - 2025 Funds

Action: Vice-Chairman Stone moved, and Commissioner Campbell seconded, that the Board **approve** the accounts payable run date of December 29, 2025,



for the 2025 Funds in the amount of \$214,309.88. All Commissioners voted yes.

January 8, 2026 - 2026 Funds

Action: Vice-Chairman Stone moved, and Commissioner Campbell seconded, that the Board **approve** the accounts payable run date of December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$1,717,210.46. All Commissioners voted yes.

Board Reports

Commissioner Campbell

- Attended a Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) meeting. There is pending litigation over the ongoing audit.
- Attended a Board of Health meeting that had positive updates.
- Attended multiple political events.
- Has been working with Kim Mauthe, Director at DSS on the proposed changes and funding issues due to the Federal government freezing funds for 5 states including Colorado.

Commissioner Stone

- His report today focuses on the future in 2026.
- Governor Polis is more concerned with his legacy in his last year of office. There are concerns of his intentions of taking away local control. For example, his proposal to regionalize DSS offices shifting burdens to counties like Teller, which do not have the higher error rates of El Paso or Douglas counties. The Governor is also considering a bill to allow the subdividing property lots as a use by right in an attempt to affect the affordable housing issue. This is not the proper way to fix this.
- Legislation has plans to reintroduce a bill to allow housing on church properties.
- County Commissioners will be working hard to preserve local control.
- He is hopeful that the new Central Service Center will be completed in 2026.
- Announced the installation of a 2nd set of ADA compliant grandstands at the Fairgrounds along with a new steer barn.
- Putting together a 150/250 committee for the county to celebrate Colorado's 150th anniversary and America's 250th anniversary.
- Teller County Wastewater Utility (TCWU) expansion project to begin later this year.
- Received application for a new subdivision in Teller County. It still needs to go through the approval process.

Commissioner Williams



- Thanked fellow commissioners for their support during his time as Chairman.
- Recognized the non-profits for their great work during the food crisis.
- Concerned about the loss of state and federal funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) especially with the increase in cases. Pikes Peak Region CASA is solvent. They raised \$215 thousand dollars at the end of the year.
- Thanked Representative Brittany Pettersen for obtaining a \$1 million grant for the Teller County Wastewater Utility (TCWU) expansion.
- The entire Board has leadership positions with Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI).
- He was appointed by the Governor to a Housing Consortium Board and is the only Republican.
- He prepared a White Paper describing the regulatory issues with the TCWU expansion project.
- Federal government is causing Colorado to suffer. Colorado was denied assistance for FEMA. Lost state funding of \$163 million for Road and Bridge and \$2 billion in social safety network programs.
- The County is debt free and is moving forward with youth programs, capital improvements projects, and social network programs.
- Reminder it is election season. We need strong leaders at every level.

Elected Official's Reports

Stephanie Kees, Clerk and Recorder

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Upcoming election year. Be sure your voter registration is up to date.

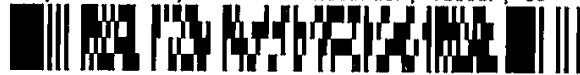
Kurt Schoenberger, Assessor

- Balanced the tax roll. This was challenging with new laws and 2026 will be harder next year 2027. Was able to get the tax roll to the Treasurer ahead of schedule.
- Will conduct 2 public meetings in early March concerning senior and veteran tax exemption.

Commissioner Stone commented that there could be potential changes to the homestead exemption due to upcoming legislation.

Krystal Brown, Treasurer / Public Trustee

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Thanked the Assessor for his early delivery of the tax roll. The process is on hold as the software is being updated by the vendor.



Administrator's Report, Mr. Herzog

- He gave an update on the Fairgrounds and Divide Service Center projects. Service Center final grading is complete. Utilities will be next. Thanked Fred Clifford for his hard work on the new building.
- The County has been awarded a \$1 million congressional grant for TCWU. Thanked John Evans for all his work on the grant application.
- January 22nd is the first work session concerning Short Term Rentals (STR). There will be information placed on the website.
- Announced Eric Broman is Teller County's Code Enforcement Officer.
- Noted personnel changes in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Commissioners expressed appreciation to Ross for his leadership and work for the County.

2. 9:35 Election of Board of County Commissioners Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Action: Commissioner Campbell moved, and Chairman Williams seconded, to elect Erik Stone as the Chairman. All Commissioners voted yes.

Action: Commissioner Williams moved, and Chairman Stone seconded, to elect Commissioner Campbell as Vice-Chair. All Commissioners voted yes.

3. 9:37 Time reserved for Department Heads

None.

Commissioner Stone thanked all Department Heads for their strong leadership.

4. 9:42 Time reserved for the public without an appointment

Carl Andersen, Divide resident

- Cautioned that homeowners insurance rates are still changing and there may be new exclusions to policies such as exempting wildfires. He encouraged property owners to look closely at their insurance.
- He announced that Braver Angels will be hosting an upcoming meeting concerning living in a wildfire zone. The State Commissioner of Insurance will be in attendance.

5. 9:47 2026 Teller County Organizational Meeting

Chairman Stone recognized county and municipal elected officials and



department heads for their service.

Recognition of Teller County Elected

Officials

Assessor - Kurt Schoenberger
Clerk & Recorder - Stephanie Kees
Coroner - Steve Tomsy
Sheriff - Jason Mikesell
Surveyor - Eric Simonson
Treasurer & Public Trustee - Krystal Brown

Recognition of Department Officials

County Administrator - Ross Herzog
Director of Human Resources/Deputy County Administrator - Ivy Morris
Director of Community Development - Dan Swallow
Director of Finance & Budget - Russell Ballinger
Director of Human Services - Kim Mauthe
Director of Information Technology - Kyle Crawford
Director of Public Health - Michelle Wolff
Director of Public Works - Fred Clifford
Manager Office of Emergency Management - Michelle Boley
Veteran's Services Officer - Cindy Meyer

Recognize City and School Elected Officials

City of Cripple Creek:

Mayor - Annie Durham
Mayor Pro-tem - Bruce Brown
Councilperson - Cody Schwab
Councilperson - Jared Bowman
Councilperson - Melissa Trenary
City Administrator - Frank Salvato

City of Victor:

Mayor - Barbara Manning
Councilor - Josh Mestas
Councilor - Byron L. Hakes
Councilor - Connie Dodrill
Councilor - Frankie Ashton
City Administer - Bobby Tech

City of Woodland Park:

Mayor - Kellie Case



Mayor Pro-tem - Catherine Nakai
Councilmember - Steve Smith
Councilmember - George Jones
Councilmember - Seth Bryant
Councilmember - Jeffrey Geer
City Manager - Aaron Vassalotti

Cripple Creek-Victor School District RE-1:

Board President - Donna Brazill
Vice President - Stephanie Stokes
Treasurer - Kasie Hilfers
Secretary - Mark Green
Director-At-Large - Amanda Young

Woodland Park School District RE-2:

Board President/Director District A - Mick Bates
Director District B-At-Large - Laura Gordon
Director District C - Keegan Barkley
Director District D - Kassidi Gilgenast
Director District E - Carol Greenstreet

Recognize Volunteer Boards

Historic Preservation Advisory Board:

David Martinek
Scott Adams
Linda Johnson
Scott Blosser

Planning Commission:

Michael Haase
Bryan Johnson
Wendy Dillenschneider
Jeff Smith
John Chaney
Marion Clare

Board of Review:

Bert West
Carl Andersen
Jared Bischoff
Jeff Smith
Lee Chapin



6. Organizational Actions:

Consider a Resolution adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the Teller County Board of County Commissioners of Teller County, Colorado for 2026 and the first meetings of 2027.

Presenting: Ross Herzog, Administrator

Public Comment: None

Action: Commissioner Williams moved, and Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded, to **approve Resolution No. 01-08-2026(01)** a Resolution adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the Teller County Board of County Commissioners of Teller County, Colorado for 2026 and the first meetings of 2027. All Commissioners voted yes.

Consider a Resolution designating paid holidays for county employees for the year 2026 and the beginning of 2027.

Presenting: Ross Herzog, Administrator

Public Comment: None

Action: Vice-Chairman Campbell moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded, to **approve Resolution No. 01-08-2026(02)** a Resolution designating paid holidays for county employees for the year 2026 and the beginning of 2027. All Commissioners voted yes.

Designation of employee to prepare and submit proposed budget under C.R.S. 29-1-104 (Violet Watt). - by Motion

Public Comment: None

Action: Commissioner Williams moved, and Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded, to designate Violet Watt to prepare and submit proposed budget under C.R.S. 29-1-104. All Commissioners voted yes.

Designation of Official Newspaper (Pikes Peak Courier). - by Motion

Public Comment: None.

Action: Vice-Chairman Campbell moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded, to approve the designation of the Pikes Peak Courier as the official newspaper. All Commissioners voted yes.

7. RECESS AS THE TELLER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.
10:42 a.m.

8. CONVENE AS THE TELLER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.

Consider a Resolution adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the Teller County Board of County Commissioners acting as the Board of Health of Teller County, Colorado for the year 2026 and the first meeting of 2027.

Presenting: Ross Herzog, Administrator



Public Comment: None.

Action: Commissioner Williams moved, and Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded, to **approve Resolution No. 01-08-2026(03)** a Resolution to adopt a schedule of regular meetings for the Teller County Board of County Commissioners acting as the Board of Health of Teller County, Colorado for the year 2026 and the first meeting of 2027. All Commissioners voted yes.

9. ADJOURN AS THE TELLER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.

10:46 a.m.

10. CONVENE AS THE TELLER COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES.

Consider a Resolution adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the Teller County Board of County Commissioners acting as the Board of Human Services of Teller County, Colorado for the year 2026 and the first meeting of 2027.

Presenting: Ross Herzog, Administrator

Public Comment: None.

Action: Vice-Chairman Campbell moved, and Commissioner Williams, to **approve Resolution 01-08-2026(04)** a Resolution to adopt a schedule of regular meetings for the Teller County Board of County Commissioners acting as the Board of Human Services of Teller County, Colorado for the year 2026 and the first meeting of 2027. All Commissioners voted yes.

11. ADJOURN AS THE TELLER COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES.

10:50 a.m.

12. RECONVENE AS THE TELLER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

13. Commissioners Board Matters and Actions

No Items to Consider

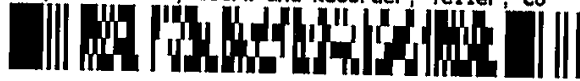
14. Commissioners Business Items:

Consider approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Steve C. Zentz, Attorney at Law.

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

Consider approval of the Professional Services Agreement with YoungWilliams, P.C.

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



Consider ratification of Contexture HIE Participation Agreement dated December 18, 2025.

Ratified with Michelle Wolff as the signatory.

Consider the approval of the Professional Services Agreement with The Master's Touch, LLC.

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

Consider approval of the Planned Maintenance Agreement with Hawkins Commercial Appliance Service Company for Divide.

Approved.

Consider approval of the Planned Maintenance Agreement with Hawkins Commercial Appliance Service Company for Cripple Creek.

Approved.

15. Items Received After Agenda Deadlines:

Establishment of a 150/250 committee.

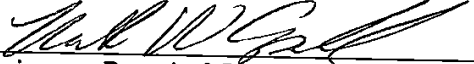
Approved.

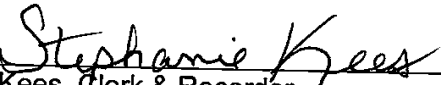
Appoint Kaitlyn Ragsdale to the Teller County Historical Society Committee.

Approved.

Adjournment

11:00 a.m.

APPROVED: 
Erik Stone, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: 
Stephanie Kees, Clerk & Recorder

