

MINUTES OF THE CHEYENNE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, March 31, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 9:04 am with Commissioners RJ Jolly and Rick Pelton, Administrator Marcy Brossman and Clerk to Board Allison Brown present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/PRAYER

APPROVE AGENDA

Additions: 1. Cell Phone Use 2. Salary Discussion. Commissioner Pelton moved with a second from Commissioner Jolly to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Pelton moved with a second from Commissioner Jolly to approve the March 20, 2026 minutes as written. Motion passed.

Sarah Cashion and Korey Elger joined the meeting at 9:07 am.

Recess at 9:09 am.

Jennifer Gribble and Carley Lane joined the meeting at 9:09 am.

Human Services Director Jane Tallman joined the meeting at 9:14 am.

Reconvened at 9:15 am.

9:15 AM: Updates – Jennifer Gribble & Carley Lane, Jane Tallman and Sarah Cashion & Korey Elger (State DHS)

Gribble reported that Tallman has attended 53% of daily Red Team meetings, missing two that pertained to Cheyenne County. Tallman committed to attend all daily Red Team meetings going forward.

Rex Hyle joined the meeting at 9:22 am.

Gribble asked the Board their plan for hiring a caseworker. Kit Carson County is trying to train Tallman to be both a caseworker and a supervisor, but a new caseworker would need a large amount of support. Commissioner Jolly feels that the IGA with Kit Carson County will have to stay in place until both Tallman and a potential new employee are comfortable and confident in their positions.

An in-home review for Cheyenne County was performed last week. It was a great learning experience for Tallman as it was her first review. Her main takeaway was improvement is needed in case documentation. Cashion believes that while

Lurenda Taylor did do the work during her contract, she was not actively mentoring Tallman.

Lane reported that there has been consistent virtual supervision, and Tallman has gone to Kit Carson County a few times since the last meeting. She stated that Tallman's understanding of her role is lacking, which has caused frustration. Tallman has not demonstrated to Lane that she is actively invested in learning the caseworker and supervisor positions, and communication has been a struggle. She is concerned how things are being implemented in Cheyenne County due to the lack of communication. Commissioner Jolly suggested scheduling a phone call at least once per week to keep in contact on the same page. Gribble agreed a scheduled call would be beneficial, but also stated that due to the nature of the position, some communication needs to happen immediately.

Tallman is confused on her roll, as she was under the impression that Kit Carson County was in charge of the cases. The goal is for Kit Carson County to teach and train Tallman to the point where she can run the department on her own. Involvement in all of the cases is a critical learning opportunity.

Tallman, Gribble, Lane, Cashion and Elger left the meeting at 10:14 am.

Jon Brewer joined the meeting at 10:15 am.

Recess at 10:15 am.

Reconvened at 10:20 am.

10:00 am: Updates – Jon Brewer, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control Discussion regarding mutual aid resources that are available if needed to fight a wildfire, as well as the current drought state with abundant dry grass across the great plains. Brewer presented an informational one-pager about hardening requirements from the Colorado Wildfire Advisory Code Board.

Brewer left the meeting at 10:38 am.

Recess at 10:39 am.

Paul Howard and Brian Welsh joined the meeting at 10:39 am.

Jim Brown, Doug Martin, Jamie Gerstner and Brad Howard joined the meeting at 10:43 am.

Reconvened at 10:47 am.

10:45 am: Public Hearing to Vacate Portion of Roadways & Alleyways in Arapahoe

Brown expressed concern over the closures, as the town of Arapahoe is preparing to do an upgrade to the water system and run new water lines. He's also concerned that more residents will want other roads and alleys closed. He also stated his son owns land west of there and is planning on rezoning and developing it and vacating one road will limit access to the southern portion of the land.

Brossman read letters of opposition from Tyson Brown, Hannah Hess and Ryan Campbell. Martin is in agreement and also concerned of the ripple effects.

Greg Martin joined the meeting at 10:55 am.

Gerstner has farmed the acreage west of Arapahoe for several years, and stated that when Tyson Brown bought that piece of land, he knew it had access to city water and paid more per acre because of it. He purchased the land with the idea of rezoning and building homes and Gerstner is opposed to the changes.

Greg Martin expressed concern over rights-of-way for city water.

Welsh presented a packet of information including pictures of the discussed roads and alleyways, along with recommendations on alternate access points to Tyson Brown's land. He also stated he would not deny access for any utilities.

Discussion.

Greg Martin left the meeting at 11:09 am.

Hyle left the meeting at 11:24 am.

Doug Martin left the meeting at 11:56 am.

Welsh, Paul Howard, Gerstner, Brad Howard and Brown left the meeting at 12:05 pm.

KC Electric representatives Jason Brandon, Bo Randolph and David Churchwell joined the meeting at 12:07 pm.

11:30 am: Temporary to Permanent Line Request – Jason Brandon, KC Electric Association

KC Electric would like to make the temporary line along County Road DD from County Road 34 to 36 a permanent line in order to become a permanent line. Commissioner Jolly would like the line to be further back from the road. The cost is prohibitive for KC Electric. The Board asked KC Electric to go back to the landowner to inquire about moving it onto private party and to go to NextEra to cover the cost of the relocation as the customer. The Board will revisit after those conversations are had.

Randolph, Brandon and Churchwell left at 12:28 pm.

Recess at 12:29 pm.

Reconvened at 12:35 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fairgrounds Electrical Upgrades Bids

Commissioners opened sealed bids for the planned electrical upgrades at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Pelton moved with a second from Commissioner Jolly to accept the bid from Kent Electric, LLC and to get the supplies ordered in this budget year. Motion passed.

Recess at 12:45 pm.

Reconvened at 12:52 pm.

b. Fair Board Bylaws

Commissioner Jolly moved with a second from Commissioner Pelton to amend the second paragraph of Article 11, Section 1 to read “The Cheyenne County Fair Board will be responsible for the establishment of the rules and regulations pertaining to activities and exhibits related to the Cheyenne County Fair. The Cheyenne County Fair Board will seek input from the Cheyenne County 4-H Council, the County Colorado State University Extension Specialist, the Junior Livestock Committee and any other committee designated by the Cheyenne County Fair Board.

Premiums and awards furnished by the Cheyenne County Fair Board will be the responsibility of the Cheyenne County Fair under their authority.”, and to amend the third paragraph of the same section to read “4-H rules, regulations, activities or exhibits that affect the Cheyenne County Fair schedules, facilities or finances shall have Fair Board approval, including the appointment of fair superintendents. The Fair Board shall work in conjunction with the appointed livestock committee and the County Extension Office regarding these matters.” Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Dry Land Prairie Road Use Agreement Question

Discussion regarding what footage is expected for documentation of road conditions. Consensus of the Board is to ask for video of the roads before the project begins, with bi-weekly updates for the first month, and then a monthly update thereafter.

b. Cortney Clabaugh Trick Riding Agreement

Commissioner Pelton moved with a second from Commissioner Jolly to approve the agreement with Cortney Clabaugh. Motion passed.

c. Jesus Arroyo Vacation Extension Request

Commissioner Jolly moved with a second from Commissioner Pelton to approve a 90-day extension for Arroyo. Motion passed.

d. America 250/Colorado 150 Flags

Fair Board Manager Jim Lengel is interested in flying America 250/Colorado 150 flags at the county fair, and needs to know how many to order. Consensus of the Board is to purchase six of the flags.

e. Burn Ban

Commissioner Jolly moved with a second from Commissioner Pelton to adopt Resolution #2026-06 Banning Open Burning. Motion passed.

f. Courthouse Security Cameras

Commissioner Pelton moved with a second from Commissioner Jolly to grant authority to Perry Brewer to have access to and perform backups of election surveillance cameras. Motion passed.

Commissioner Jolly moved with a second from Commissioner Pelton to purchase an additional system in order to separate the surveillance access

between the basement and first floor and the court and jury floors of the courthouse. Motion passed.

g. Court Security Grant

The Court Security Grant application is open through April 16th. Brossman will apply for personnel, as well as lockers requested by the Sheriff.

EXPENSE VOUCHERS AND WARRANTS

Commissioners reviewed vouchers and signed warrants on the various funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

a. Cellphone Use

Pelton has been receiving complaints about employees' use of cellphones while in road graders. Brossman will draft a memo to all employees and look at adding to the County Policy regarding cellphone use.

County Assessor Lacey Welsh and Treasurer Gaila Mitchek joined the meeting at 1:30 pm.

b. Salary Discussion

Discussion regarding the salary levels of elected officials. Welsh, Mitchek and Brown suggested moving Cheyenne County's category level up from Category V, Level D. Kiowa, Mesa and Cheyenne are the only counties still on the lowest level. Welsh presented information on Cheyenne County and how it compares to like-size counties and the levels those counties are at. This move would have to be approved through state legislation.

Commissioner Pelton expressed concern over the backlash from the public for the Board voting themselves a raise. It was suggested that they have the ability to decline the bump. Commissioners will reach out to Senator Rod Pelton and Representative Chris Richardson.

Welsh and Mitchek left the meeting at 1:58 pm.

Discussion regarding investment options to earn more interest on funds.

Jennifer Gribble rejoined the meeting via telephone at 2:06 pm.

Discussion regarding Human Services financials. Gribble believes there is a discrepancy somewhere, and needs to get with Human Services Bookkeeper Karla Esquivel to dig in and find it. Gribble will report back to the Board after meeting with Esquivel.

Telephone conference ended at 2:18 pm.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Pelton moved with a second from Commissioner Jolly to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 pm. Motion passed.