



## COMMISSIONERS Corner

News & Updates from Grand County's  
Board of County Commissioners



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## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

*Currently no Workshops are  
scheduled for August 17.*

Final agendas are posted by the Friday  
ahead of Tuesday BOCC meetings at:  
[www.co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter)

## INDEPENDENT BOARD OF HEALTH WORKSHOP

Community group "Engaged Citizens for a Healthier Grand County" gave a presentation to the BOCC advocating for an independent Board of Health (BOH).

The group, comprised mostly of retired and active healthcare professionals, stated their goal was to develop an independent, professional Grand County Board of Health to support decision-making, communication, and innovative problem solving around increasingly complex public health issues in Grand County.

Speakers for the group said their members are selected for their expertise and experience on issues relevant to public health, and that an independent BOH would be administratively separate from the elected legislative body (BOCC). The group outlined the benefits of an independent BOH, and stated that only 24 of Colorado's 64 counties do not currently have an independent BOH (per State statute, counties with more than 100,000 residents are required to have an independent BOH).

The presentation concluded with a proposal that the BOCC appoint five to seven independent BOH members to serve five-year staggered terms. Members would serve on a voluntary basis, and would be required to attend annual training.

Currently, by statute, the BOCC sits as the Grand County Board of Health. The Public Health department's Director, Abbie Baker, MPH, CHES is an epidemiologist, and the Public Health staff includes several Registered Nurses. Dr. Jason Stuerman, M.D. of Middle Park Health serves as Public Health's Medical Director. He was preceded by Dr. Darcy Selenke, M.D. of Denver Health, who is the Assistant Medical Director.

Sitting as the BOH, the Commissioners were not in favor of creating an independent Board of Health at this time.

# Thank you!

To our many employees celebrating anniversaries with the County this month - THANK YOU! Three employees reached special milestones:

Human Resources Director **Colleen Reynolds**: 30 years  
Animal Control Officer **Robbin Stapleton**: 15 years  
EMS Customer Care Analyst **Cordie Stevie**: 5 years



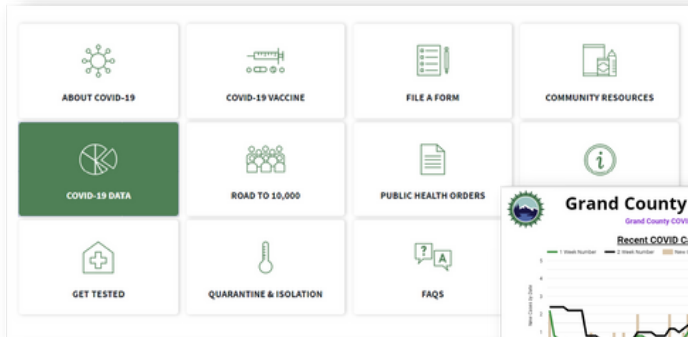
*Robbin (left) and Cordie were recognized by Commissioners for their years of service to the County.*

*Colleen was unfortunately not available for a picture.*

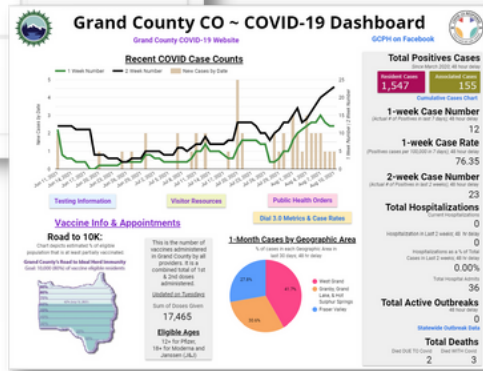
# PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** gave a COVID-19 update for Grand County:

- 13 cases in the last 7 days; 21 cases in the last two weeks
  - 80% of cases nationwide are identified as Delta Variant
- Positivity is between 6.4% and 8.8%, depending on which tests are included as the denominator
- Grand County is considered at "high transmission," which will have an impact on protocols as our public schools go back in session
- Demand on testing resources is increasing, especially with the recent air quality concerns (smoke and allergies are presenting similar symptoms to COVID)
- Public Health is keeping an eye on hospital capacity; if other emergency events occur that limit the number of ICU and NICU beds available, Public Health may need to consider actions for COVID transmission control to avoid stressing the hospital systems
  - Currently, hospitalizations related to COVID cases are low



To see Grand County's current COVID-19 statistics, access the dashboard by visiting: [www.co.grand.co.us/COVID19](http://www.co.grand.co.us/COVID19), and clicking on the **COVID-19 Data** graphic.



## COVID-19 Informed Consent Discussion

Related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution, Grand County resident Mariette McGrath gave a brief presentation to Commissioners regarding informed consent, and encouraged Public Health to create a specific, separate informed consent form for patients to review prior to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, recipients are required to digitally acknowledge they have received and read the information, have an opportunity to ask questions prior to receiving the shot, as well as receive a paper copy of the information upon request. Due to time constraints, Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** did not have an opportunity to respond.

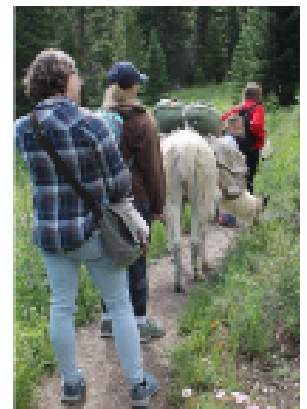
## CSU EXTENSION INTERN PRESENTATION

Sixteen-year-old 4-H veteran **Caitlyn Corcoran** was the Grand County CSU Extension's intern this summer, and gave Commissioners a presentation about what she learned from the experience. Highlights from Ms. Corcoran's summer experience included helping with the 4-H Summer Day Camp outings to the Ammonite site and llama hike, and participating in a BioBlitz (a gathering of scientists to explore and discuss the local eco-system).

Ms. Corcoran also participated in a meeting about e-fencing for cattle, which is very similar technology that is used for dogs. Participating in these discussions and meetings are something she wouldn't have had the opportunity to do if not for the internship.

One of the "Life Lessons" Ms. Corcoran stated she learned from the experience is that she doesn't know everything, and to accept the fact that she doesn't know as much as she thinks she does (which made all the parents in the room smile).

Ms. Corcoran is looking forward to high school, and then possibly pursuing an advanced degree in criminal justice or psychology. She is also considering joining the military or the U.S. Parks Service. Regardless of what her future endeavors entail, we wish Ms. Corcoran the best of luck!



**Every summer, the County offers internship opportunities with a variety of departments. Our high school students are encouraged to apply as a means to help identify what they are - and are not - interested in as they consider career choices.**

## MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer** provided the following updates:

- **Opioid settlement:** Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** has reached out to State authorities for clarification about program responsibilities within the County structure related to the settlement details and requirements. Staff will be coming back to the BOCC with a recommendation for appointment to the NorthWest Colorado Committee.
- **County Road 522 Cultural Survey Task 2:** The County Manager asked for approval of a temporary access agreement. Cultural survey work is scheduled to begin next week.
- **Red Dirt Hill Safety Improvements:** Assistant Manager **Micah Benson** stated survey work will begin soon in the Red Dirt Hill section of U.S. Highway 40, and requested approval of a contract with the Colorado Department of Transportation that commits Grand County to spend \$400,000 on the project. The contract was approved.
- **Windy Gap Firing Project 1041 Permit:** The County Manager sought approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement an adaptive management process for nutrient reduction and monitoring to address the 1041 permit, conditions 21 and 22. Construction of Chimney Hollow Reservoir on the Front Range is scheduled to begin Monday, August 16. The MOU was approved as presented contingent on final legal review, and approval by the Subdistrict of Northern Water.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer **Frank DeLay** gave a monthly report that included the following:

- Future foreclosure activity is uncertain once the moratorium (related to COVID-19) preventing them expires.
- As of July 31, 2021, 98% of 2020 property taxes were paid; approximately 600 delinquent accounts remain.
- Interest rates remain very low.
- Grand County's June 2021 unemployment rate was 5.7% (501 unemployed individuals), compared with 14.7% (1,382 unemployed individuals) in June 2020.

## SHORT TERM RENTALS, CONTINUED

Commissioners continued the discussion regarding Short Term Rentals (STRs). Community Development Director **Robert Davis** stated his staff has verified the number of non-compliant STRs, and that other previously reported data has also been verified. Community members contributed to the conversation with their thoughts for increasing compliance and enforcement of existing regulations. A motion to allow the County Manager to approve contract amendments up to \$50,000 to address system and automation needs to assist Community Development with enforcement efforts and work group coordination was approved. **The topic is tentatively scheduled for September 7, which will also include the STR annual review previously scheduled for August 24, and a Public Hearing for Short Term Rental Regulation Amendments.**

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** and Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented an amendment to a services contract with Souder Miller & Associates for work performed at the Granby and Kremmling land fills in the amount of \$25,020.00. (The contract amendment was not approved last week; Commissioners had asked for additional information.) Following discussion to answer Commissioners' questions, the amended contract was **approved**.
  - Mr. Baer discussed the need to have approved capital readily available for vehicle replacement when appropriate used vehicles are located for sale. The request was supported.
- Grand County Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** gave a monthly report, stating that year-to-date 2021 fee revenue is up over both 2019 and 2020, and that July fee revenue is down year-over-year compared with 2020.
  - Grand Manor LLC's liquor license renewal request was **approved with no discussion**.
- On behalf of EMS Chief **Robert Good**, Deputy Chief **Allen Pulliam** presented a request for out-of-state travel for three personnel to transport three aging ambulances to North Carolina for chassis replacement. **The request was approved.** Commissioners also directed and approved the County Manager to approve the last out-of-state travel request for this purpose.
- **Following public discussion, the Public Hearing regarding Special Use Permit for Byers Peak Properties LLC Mobile Concrete Plant was continued to August 17 at 1:30 p.m.**



### Travel Advisory

County Road 1 (Trough Road) will be **CLOSED** at the railroad tracks near Rancho del Rio from **8 a.m. to noon TUESDAY, AUGUST 17.** 🚧 🚧