

BCC Actions

Notes from Your Jefferson County Board of Commissioners Hearings & Staff Briefings

Tuesday, August 5, 12, & 19, 2008

Staff Briefing

Transparency Initiative Underway

County Administrator Jim Moore gave a presentation on a new governmental transparency initiative for the county's Web site called Transparentjeffco.com. It will provide citizens with a central location to find information on how tax dollars are being utilized to provide county services. Moore presented information on what could be available on the transparent government site, which will give citizens 24/7 access to searchable information found in financial reports, budgets, strategic plans, legal notices and many other areas.

Moore showed the BCC a draft of the new features for the county Web site, which are being developed by the joint Information Technology/Public Information web team, and also several possibilities for citizen feedback that are being created.

The commissioners applauded the concept and the initial prototype, and directed staff to proceed with further development and the seeking of feedback from citizens about what they would like to see as part of the new web feature.

Road & Bridge Demonstrates Asset Management Software Program

The BCC had an opportunity to see the county's new Asset Management Software Program. The Program will enable Road & Bridge to effectively manage and administer funds for road maintenance and related improvements.

Data Transfer Solutions, LLC has been working with Jefferson County over the past several years to categorize and inventory all paved roads in unincorporated Jefferson County. In addition, Data Transfer Solutions, LLC, photographed each street segment utilizing digital cameras, so staff can see conditions of existing streets and roads and determine how to best prioritize improvement needs. The commissioners expressed appreciation and excitement over the use of this new tool. The program also allows for integration with the county's Geographical Information System (GIS) software.

Public Hearings

Subdividing Property in Eldorado Estates

The BCC approved a two lot subdivision of land in Eldorado Estates for single-family detached units, citing the fact that the applicant met all subdivision requirements in the county.

Eldorado Estates Homeowners Association and some neighboring citizens opposed the proposed subdivision and expressed concerns about how the subdivision would adversely impact their neighborhood. However, this subdivision conforms to the Jefferson County Land Development Regulation and Zoning Resolution.

Upon his vote, Commissioner Kevin McCasky encouraged those residents who would be against further platting in the area to work with the county to change their zoning designation for their property to a lower density category that could preclude further subdivision.

Sheriff Asks for Ordinance Regarding the Jeffco Traffic Code

The BCC approved an ordinance requested by Sheriff Ted Mink that makes a change in policy and procedure regarding the Jefferson County traffic code.

In a short presentation, the Sheriff stated that as a faction of the state government, Jefferson County must have this ordinance to mirror the updated state penalty assessments. The Sheriff also noted that the penalty assessments related to traffic violations have not been adjusted by the state in several decades and this House Bill does just that.

Public Hearing agenda items continued on page 2>>

Jeffco Cultural Council Submits 2008 Grant Recommendations

The BCC approved the recommendations by the Jefferson County Cultural Council presented to them on August 5. In total, more than 80 different arts organizations from Jefferson County will receive more than \$987,000 from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

The SCFD is a district that imposes a penny-per-\$10 sales tax on voters in the five metro-area counties. The funds it collects are allocated based on a tiered system. The counties then split up that money and the evaluations for Jefferson County's portion are made by the Cultural Council.

There is a large variance in the organizations that ask for money. For example, the Evergreen Chorale was awarded \$38,585 for general operating support and the Foothills Cultural Arts Agency was awarded \$14,821 to go toward their 2009 Entertainment Series.

Business Meeting agenda items continued on page 2>>

Business Meeting, cont.

BCC Signs Contract with DRCOG for Transportation Services

The BCC approved a \$450,000 contract with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) for transportation services to seniors in Jefferson County for 2008-2009. DRCOG is the state-designated area agency on aging, and as such allocates federal and state funds to transportation providers for the county's citizens.

Safe and Stable Housing through Contract with Lakewood Housing Corp.

The BCC approved an \$85,000 contract with Lakewood Housing Corporation that will provide families an opportunity for safe and stable housing for 12 months as well as case management services through Colorado Works, the Children, Youth and Families division and the Lakewood Housing Authority. Through a performance-based agreement, the county will guarantee payment for five apartment units: two-bedroom units up to \$825 per month; and three-bedroom units up to \$1,095 per month.

Compensation Plan Contract Approved

The BCC approved a contract with Fox Lawson & Associates for the development of a comprehensive compensation plan for Jefferson County. It has been 13 years since a comprehensive study of the county's pay plan has been conducted and the current salary ranges being used have not been formally updated since 2002.

Funding for Feasibility Study

The BCC approved a funding agreement between Lockheed Martin Corporation and Jefferson County to participate in an engineering feasibility study and environmental evaluation at the intersection of South Wadsworth Blvd. and Waterton Road, recently reclassified as a minor arterial street. Growth in the Roxborough Park and River Canyon subdivisions has led to increased traffic volumes at the intersection, increasing the need for safety and capacity improvements to the intersection. The funding agreement commits Lockheed to provide one-third of the costs to complete the study, up to \$250,000. The third participant in the feasibility study will be Douglas County.

Improvements to Indiana Street Trail

The BCC approved a maintenance agreement between the Jefferson Center Metropolitan District, the City of Arvada and Jefferson County relating to drainage and trail improvements under Indiana Street, just south of 96th Ave. With approval from

all governmental entities, a grading permit and associated construction plans will be approved.

Jeffco Community Connection Grant

The BCC approved an \$80,914 grant evaluation contract between Jefferson County and the University of Denver Butler Institute for Families at the Graduate School of Social Work. The Jeffco Community Connection grant is aimed at promoting collaborative processes to integrate services and improve service efficiency and accessibility for dual-system families, those involved in both the Colorado Works program (TANF) and the Children, Youth and Families Division.

Better Services through Lifelong Adult Education Services, Inc.

The BCC approved the contract between Jefferson County and Lifelong Adult Education Services, Inc., to provide services to Colorado Works program (TANF) participants with learning disabilities or other cognitive limitations that interfere with their ability to follow through with required activities. Many individuals that begin in TANF as children also need support as adults and may fall through the cracks because it is difficult for them to understand how to navigate complex adult systems, communicate their needs and difficulties or advocate for themselves for services that will help them succeed.

The benefits Lifelong Adult Education Services, Inc. offers greatly outweigh the costs of services aimed at retaining or having to constantly identify participants considered at risk. Lifelong's staff provides support in the areas of special education and training, psychological evaluation, life skills and behavioral counseling, and disability consultation.

Approval of Application for Grant Funds for a Victim Advocate

The BCC approved an application for grant funds between Jefferson County, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Colorado Department of Safety, Division of Criminal Justice to assist the Sheriff's Office in acquiring a full-time salary for a Victim Advocate. The award will provide the ability to have 24-hour access to a trained professional to assist victims and witnesses of crime and trauma in obtaining the support and education necessary to overcome their victimization. This position will also represent the Sheriff's Office at many DV teams/meetings and be instrumental in maintaining the Most Wanted List.

Public Hearing, cont.

Rezoning in the Village at Elk Rest Meadows

The BCC heard testimony on a proposed mixed use development located in the El Rancho Activity Center, in the Evergreen area, and remanded the case, back to the Planning Commission for further analysis of the proposed residential density and transitional elements. The case has been scheduled for September 10, 2008 before the Planning Commission and September 30, 2008 before the Board of County Commissioners.

Staff and the applicant presented information that showed considerable effort and time had occurred to develop a rezoning concept that adhered to the Community Plan policies. Surrounding neighbors adjacent to the proposed rezoning expressed concern over the proposal, specifically arguing that 22 residential dwelling units and 5,000 square feet of retail services does not make sense on the property. The proposed rezoning would take the property from Restricted Commercial-One (RC-1) to Planned Development (PD) to allow for the mixed use development.

BCC Hearings -- The BCC holds public hearings to set policies and make decisions regarding land use, transportation, open space purchases, social service concerns, community development, law enforcement, libraries, public health and other vital issues concerning our county.

Regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioner meetings convene at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays in Hearing Room One of the Administration & Courts Facility at 100 Jefferson County Parkway.

YOUR BCC

Kathy Hartman, Chair, District 3

J. Kevin McCasky, District 2

Jim Congrove, District 1