

# BCC Actions

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

**Tuesday, November 18 & 25, 2008**

## Business Meeting

### Appointments to Jefferson County Boards

The BCC appointed Ray Elliott to the Board of Directors of the Jefferson County Finance Corporation, to serve until his resignation or his replacement by the Board of County Commissioners.

The BCC approves the appointments of Cheryl Haggstrom, David Kollar, Rita Peterson, Marilyn Smith and Matt Van Auken as regular members on the Jefferson County Community Services Advisory Board. Natalie Mall was also reappointed as a regular member and Paula Corbin was appointed as an alternate member. The appointments are set to expire September 30, 2010, or until reappointed or replaced by the BCC.

Jacquelyn Stanton was appointed as a regular member on the Jefferson Center for Mental Health Board, with a term to expire November 30, 2011, or until reappointed or replaced.

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### Grant Application for Improvements at Dinosaur Ridge

The BCC approved the signing of the application for a State Trails Program Grant for improvements at Dinosaur Ridge, including a parking lot, interpretive kiosk and automatic gate opener. This is a joint project with the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge who will coordinate the effort to construct 14 parking spaces and install the kiosk and gate opener on county right-of-way. The total cost of the project is \$45,000.

## 2009 Proposed Budget Presentation for Jefferson County

Jefferson County has presented a proposed 2009 budget to the Board of County Commissioners that will allow the county to continue to provide critical services to citizens despite the current economic slowdown. Jefferson County Budget Director Jon Johnson presented the 2009 proposed budget to the BCC at the Board's Hearing on November 25, 2008. The presentation included the highlights of the budget's proposed revenues and expenditures, including capital improvement projects.

Adoption of the 2009 budget is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9. The hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room Two of the Jefferson County Administration & Courts Facility (100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO). Citizens are welcome to attend the budget hearing and comment on the proposed budget.

The proposed 2009 Jefferson County budget totals \$394.9 million, excluding interfund transfers. This is a 3.3 percent (or \$12.5 million) increase over the 2008 fiscal year and includes \$52.1 million in capital improvement projects for the county. Johnson emphasized that the 2009 proposed budget maintains the fund balance reserves at 10 percent for all operating funds, which ensures that the county can continue to provide services in the

event of unforeseen emergencies or unexpected revenue shortfalls.

It is estimated that total 2009 Jefferson County revenues will increase 2.2 percent from 2008. Jefferson County property tax revenue is expected to increase less than 1.0 percent, due primarily to a slowdown in new construction and because 2009 is a non-reassessment year. The Highway User Tax is expected to be flat for

2009, while a decrease of 5.3 percent is projected in fees for services such as building permits, building inspections, recording fees and traffic impact fees, mainly due to the decline in the construction and housing market. Johnson said the Auto Ownership Tax

is also projected to decrease by approximately 5 percent from 2008, due to a decrease in new car sales.

As part of the budget process, all elected officials and department heads were asked to meet established budget targets based on available revenues.

The 2009 proposed budget includes a \$3.4 million increase in the supplies category due to fuel and petroleum-based road maintenance materials, and a \$2.7 million increase in direct assistance payments for social serv-



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## Business Meeting, cont.

### Jeffco and SPIN to Work Together to Help Students

The BCC approved the agreement between Jefferson County and SPIN Enterprises, Inc. (Supporting People in Need) to work together with TANF-eligible students (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and families to pilot an incentive program to improve academic skills and increase motivation.

SPIN will be working with the Jeffco Youth Project Incentive Program to accomplish this goal. Initially, the program will have 75 students enrolled at Jefferson High School and hopes to give recognition to students that may not have performed well in the past. Family and students will receive a bonus of \$50 for signing a contract to participate for the school year.

SPIN is a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding education and career opportunities for students and their families who are economically disadvantaged.

### Changes to Ray Ross Park

The BCC approved the release of the Jefferson County Open Space reverter on a portion of the City of Lakewood's Ray Ross Park. Lakewood intends to widen Harlan Street on the western boundary of the park to allow for utilities. The county holds a reverter (a future interest in property that rests with a grantor) restricting the property to park and open space uses. The release of the reverter on this 25-foot strip will not compromise the park and open space use of Ray Ross Park and the widening of Harlan Street will benefit the park.

### Expansion of Elk Meadow Park

The BCC approved the recommendation made by the Open Space Advisory Committee to purchase from Warren and Virginia Lewis approximately seven acres for \$600,000. The Lewis property, located west of Evergreen Parkway at Bergen Peak Drive, would protect scenic and natural values such as wetlands and mature ponderosa pine stands. It would also provide a buffer between Elk Meadow Park and nearby development.

### Contract for Homeless Prevention

The BCC approved the \$280,600 contract between Jefferson County and Family Tree, Inc. to provide homeless prevention services to TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) eligible families who are 2008-2009 residents of Jefferson County. The downturn in the economy, combined with increased foreclosures and rising utility costs, is putting many Jefferson County families at risk of becoming homeless. Many community agencies are reporting increased requests for rent or utility assistance to prevent eviction or shut-off. Funds for this project are included in the 2008 budget.

### Grant Reimbursement for Detention Criminal Aliens for the State

The BCC approved the \$156,400 grant award between Jefferson County and the Bureau of Justice Programs for the reimbursement of costs impacted by the detention of Criminal Aliens in the Jefferson County Detention Facility. Jefferson County has in the past, and is currently, burdened with the costs associated with incarcerating foreign-born inmates. In response to the increasing costs, and the fact that the percentage of foreign-born inmates housed by Jeffco is increasing proportionally with the inmate population, the federal government has initiated a grant reimbursement program called the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). The reimbursement grant is for services rendered between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007.

### Approval of Application for Grant Funds for a Victim Advocate

The BCC approved the grant award between Jefferson County and the Colorado Department of Public Safety to assist the Sheriff's Office in the retention of 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.

## Public Hearings

### Elk Haven Subdivision Buffalo Park Road

The BCC approved a three (3) lot subdivision of property located near Buffalo Park Road. The Board heard public testimony and concluded that the proposal conforms with the Land Development Regulation, which sets forth rules for subdivision of land. The neighbors present at the hearing expressed concerns about the subdivision, including the number of animals allowed on the property and water use in support of agrarian activities. They also felt those properties outside of the notification area, specified by the Land Development Regulations, should have received written notification. Planning staff clarified that additional notification occurred prior to the Board of County Commissioners, despite specific standards set forth in the Land Development Regulations. In addition, the Board made clear to the neighbors that the underlying zoning on the property had not changed and would not be affected by the subdivision of land.

Commissioner Kevin McCasky moved for approval of the preliminary-final combination plat and, upon her vote, Commissioner Kathy Hartman commented, "This is a platting

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#### SCFD Proclamation

The Commissioners proclaimed November 19, 2008, as the start of the 20th anniversary year of the Metropolitan Denver Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). The SCFD has been providing for the entertainment and enlightenment of the public through the production, presentation, exhibition, advancement or preservation of art, music, theatre, dance, zoology, botany, natural history and cultural history for the past 20 years.

## Public Hearings, cont.

case and the zoning already exists. For us to deny this plat would not be consistent with our regulations. This plat absolutely fits within existing zoning regulations and we don't have a basis on which to deny it."

### Meadow Sweet Home Special Use Review

The Board of County Commissioners took comments, including public testimony, on a proposed Special Use to allow a Specialized Group Facility permit sought by the Duran Family, which will allow them to foster up to 11 children in their home. Due to posting requirements being missed for the public hearing the BCC listened to public testimony from those present, but had to continue this case to January 6, 2009.

The Duran Family currently operates a small foster care home from their residence. Limits exist both through State and County procedures on how the home can operate. This permit will allow a maximum of 11 children, up to 18 years of age, including all relative and natural children of the group home parents. A license from the State of Colorado is required for operation of a Specialized Group Home and must follow strict regulations set

forth in the Code of Colorado Regulations, which are monitored and enforced by the Jefferson County Human Services Department and by Planning & Zoning as it pertains to limitations on the operation of the foster home.

Residents of the Duran's neighborhood voiced concerns including the effect that the group home might have on surrounding property values, whether the special use permit is indefinite, and how to report nuisances and what resources the community has for recourse if the group home is not operating correctly or causing a nuisance.

Commissioner Kevin McCasky directed staff to research several matters before the next hearing set for January 6, 2009. He asked for the Sheriff's Office to be contacted for information on visits made to the Duran residence, specifically the report that several residents referred to regarding such visits. He also asked staff to contact the Assessor's Office for any documentation that would reflect property value impacts related to special use permits of this kind. Upon completion of Commissioner McCasky's requests, the Board continued the matter for January.

### Public Highway Authority, cont. from page 1

ices programs from available grant funds. The proposed budget contains a decrease of \$7.6 million in debt service requirements due to the retirement of the 2002 Certificates of Participation, which were issued to pay for county facility construction. The proposed budget also includes a 3 percent merit pool increase for employees that will be based on performance as determined by each department head or elected official, which is funded by a portion of 2008 Property Tax revenue that was set aside for 2009.

Johnson also provided an overview of some of the highlights that fall into the \$52.1 million capital improvements budget:

- \$14.7 million for election equipment upgrade and replacement
- \$9.3 million in road and bridge infrastructure improvements, including:
  - Intersection improvements at Bowles & Wadsworth and at Quincy & Kipling
  - The widening of Chatfield Avenue from Garrison to Simms
  - The realignment of Jefferson County Pkwy (part of the RTD Light Rail project)
  - An assessment for improvement along State Highway 93
- \$7.6 million for technology enhancements, including:
  - Assessor's system implementation, phase I
  - Upgrade to the Sheriff's Office computer aided dispatch system
- \$3.2 million for Open Space development and improvements, including:
  - Clear Creek Canyon Park parking lot
  - Hildebrand Ranch Open Space
  - North Table Mountain Open Space
- A \$3 million contribution for the construction of the new Table Mountain Animal Center to be built at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds
- \$2 million for security improvements to county facilities
- \$1.3 million for Jefferson County Library facility and technology improvements

## YOUR BCC

Kathy Hartman, Chairman, District 3

J. Kevin McCasky, District 2

Jim Congrove, District 1