



Board of County Commissioners' Hearing Minutes

May 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

**Hybrid BCC Hearing - Hearing Room 1 and WebEx Webinars
100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80419**

BCC Present: Commissioner Andy Kerr
Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper, Chair
Commissioner Rachel Zenzinger

Staff Present: Joe Kerby, County Manager
Kym Sorrells, County Attorney
Cassie Pearce, Public Affairs Director
Ana Cendejas, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Alanna Blomquist, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Karina Madrigal Bedolla, Deputy Clerk to the Board

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Dahlkemper called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Public Comment

Gary Theisen

4. Business Meeting

5. Approval of Minutes Dated April 29, 2025

Motioned by Commissioner Kerr
Seconded by Commissioner Zenzinger

The Board unanimously approved the minutes dated April 29, 2025.

6. Consent Agenda

The Board unanimously approved the following Resolution:

6.1 Resolution CC25-120

Expenditure Approval Listings dated May 1, 2025.

7. Regular Agenda - No Agenda Items

8. Public Hearing

9. Hearing Consent Agenda - No Agenda Items

10. Hearing Regular Agenda

10.1 Resolution CC25-121

Case Number: 24-131992RZ Rezoning

Case Name: Bortles Residence Garages Official Development Plan

Owner/Applicant: Barton E Bortles Revocable Trust

Location: 74 S Pine Road, Golden

Section 7, Township 4 South, Range 70 West

Approximate Area: 1.16 Acres

**Purpose: To Rezone from Mountain Residential - One (MR-1) to
Planned Development (PD) to allow for a total accessory structure
square footage of 1,870 square feet; and to modify the height of
accessory structures**

Case Manager: Allie McGahee

Planning and Zoning

Allie McGahee

Applicants

Jonathan Bortles

Christopher Mirto

Motioned by Commissioner Kerr
Seconded by Commissioner Zenzinger

After a presentation by Planning and Zoning staff, applicants and
discussion by the Board, the Board unanimously approved
Resolution CC25-121.

11. Public Comment

12. Reports

Commissioner Zenzinger: Commissioner Zenzinger had a productive conversation with members of the Plan Jeffco Board of Directors, as well as a few of their affiliate members. They discussed the history of Plan Jeffco and its evolution into Jeffco Parks and Open Space. The group shared several valuable ideas on how to re-engage the volunteers associated with Plan Jeffco. Additionally, they expressed an interest in acquiring more open space properties in the future, not for recreational purposes but for conservation, with the goal of preserving more natural spaces. The Plan Jeffco team requested that the Board consider this vision in the future. Commissioner Zenzinger found this suggestion particularly relevant, especially considering the ongoing national discussions surrounding federal public lands. The Commissioner noted that it was insightful advice for the Board to reflect on the balance between recreational spaces like trails and parks, and spaces preserved for conservation. This conversation was deemed beneficial and will likely be revisited in the future. Commissioner Zenzinger also spoke briefly with the County Manager about the idea of further engagement with the group, suggesting that it could be valuable to get to know the current members and hear from them, as they have much to offer. Additionally, Commissioner Zenzinger attended the Westminster Chambers and Affairs Committee meeting, where one of the members, Claire Carmelia, thanked the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport staff for an tour that was very enlightening. The Commissioner also had the pleasure of serving as a Judge for the National Civics Bee. She participated in the first two rounds of civics trivia alongside the contestants, though she did not come in first—she was very close. The top five students advanced to the third round, where they presented papers identifying community problems and proposed solutions, all while tying their ideas to the founding principles and civic virtues of the United States. Commissioner Zenzinger was inspired by the students' projects and ideas. The winner of the competition, Cameron Parker, advanced to the state competition. His project focused on developing a free app for better wildfire alerts, addressing the need for more accessible and effective notifications. Cameron's presentation was impressive, and the Commissioner congratulated all of the participants for their inspiring work. Lastly, Commissioner Zenzinger attended the Jefferson Center for Mental Health Board meeting, which set a record for the shortest meeting—lasting, only 20 minutes. The Board is currently awaiting the arrival of the new executive director, who will begin either later this week or early next week. The former executive director's last day was on Friday.

Commissioner Kerr: Commissioner Kerr also attended a going-away party for the former Executive Director of the Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Kiara Kuenzler, held at the Edgewater Marketplace. It was an opportunity to bid farewell to her and to acknowledge the great work she did in Jefferson County. On Saturday, Commissioner Kerr visited Willow Springs for a Firewise Recognition Event hosted by West Metro Fire. The Willow Springs area is home to approximately 1,000 households and includes 11 homeowner associations (HOAs). There were many residents in attendance, along with West Metro Fire Mitigation Specialists. Commissioner Kerr spoke with Sean Jewel and was impressed by the collaborative effort of the residents, who worked together across HOA lines to ensure their entire community was taking proactive measures to become fire-wise. The commissioner took a moment to emphasize the importance of fire awareness, noting that even on a cloudy, overcast, or rainy day, fire is a significant part of the local climate and ecology. While fire has been largely suppressed over the last century, this has contributed to some of the most catastrophic fires in the West in recent years. The Commissioner highlighted the need to figure out how to live with fire, rather than trying to eliminate it entirely. Fires will occur in the community and in the foothills, and it's essential to be prepared. This is why the initiative is called "Firewise" rather than "fire suppression" or "zero fire." The goal is to be wise about living with fire as a natural part of the environment. Additionally, Commissioner Kerr attended an event at the Governor's Residence, where the Governor and Union Pacific representatives signed a long-term agreement regarding the use of the Moffat Tunnel. Many individuals involved with the Mountain Rail System and Front Range Passenger Rail attended the event, along with leaders from the Governor's Office, Union Pacific, and the broader transportation community. The CEO of Union Pacific noted that while the Moffat Tunnel is busy at times, it is underutilized for its capacity. With the planned Mountain Rail line passing through Jefferson County, the Commissioner expressed hope that the county would be able to determine where the stop for the Mountain Rail will be located. This new rail line promises to improve commuting to areas like Craig and Steamboat Springs. Finally, Commissioner Kerr offered congratulations to the Denver Nuggets for their perseverance, reminding everyone that the key to success is never giving up.

Commissioner Dahlkemper: Commissioner Dahlkemper highlighted the multiple initiatives underway in Jefferson County this month, focusing on several important issues, including an updated community wildfire preparedness plan. This plan, which details eight key strategies for enhancing wildfire resiliency, is available on the Jefferson County website at Jeffco.us. The effort is being led by Brian Keating, the Fire Management Officer with Jeffco Sheriff's Office. These

strategies aim to build greater wildfire resiliency across the County. In addition, the commissioner is working closely with the Jeffco Open Space team on improving health and safety measures grounded in science, including controlled burns and an expanded definition of the wildland-urban interface. This expanded definition is particularly important as it could help secure more grants, especially for homeowners. The county is also focusing on providing defensible space for properties and collaborating with partners such as the Jefferson Conservation District to support these efforts. Another ongoing issue is the increasing cost of homeowners insurance, which remains a challenge for many in the county. Commissioner Dahlkemper emphasized the importance of the fire-adapted community initiative, which was evident during a recent visit to Willow Springs. The commissioner was able to witness firsthand the community's dedication to reducing wildfire risk, especially considering the quarry fire that came close to the hill. This visit highlighted the critical role that all community members play in reducing fire risk. The commissioner expressed gratitude for the many partners involved, including fire chiefs, wildfire ambassadors, county departments, and others working to save lives and protect homes. In a related matter, Commissioner Dahlkemper and Delta County Commissioner Wendell Coots recently testified before a legislative committee in support of changes to the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code. The Commissioners worked with Representatives Cutter and Baisley on this issue and were pleased to report that the bill was approved by the committee. The legislation will provide counties with additional time to implement the new WUI codes, which are designed to strengthen wildfire resiliency. It also allows counties to enter into cooperative agreements with fire rescue districts for better enforcement. The Commissioner thanked Representative Glasgow, the House sponsor, and Senators Cutter and Baisley for their support of the bill. On Saturday morning, Commissioner Dahlkemper had the opportunity to join 20 volunteers from Wild Aware and Jeffco Open Space at Elk Meadow in Evergreen. The volunteers worked to remove about a mile of barbed wire along the highway, a significant hazard to wildlife, particularly elk. The Commissioner expressed appreciation for the volunteers and partners, including the Evergreen Chamber, Jeffco Open Space, and Wild Aware, for their efforts in removing dangerous obstacles for migrating wildlife. The Commissioner also praised the transformative work of CASA of Jeffco and Gilpin County. She was inspired by the story of a former CASA child who went on to become a CASA volunteer, highlighting the profound impact that CASA volunteers have on abusing and neglected children in the court system. Commissioner Dahlkemper also acknowledged Lee Arnell, who is retiring after more than 20 years of leadership as the Executive Director of CASA, and welcomed Melissa, the new Executive Director. Commissioner Dahlkemper

expressed pride in serving as a past board member and on the current advisory council for CASA.

County Manager: No reports.

County Attorney: County Attorney Kym Sorrells expressed that she was glad Commissioner Kerr was able to attend the Moffat Tunnel meeting, as she had been invited but could not attend due to a conflicting work meeting. She was happy that the Commissioner got to enjoy the event and wanted to thank Deputy County Manager Kate Newman for her help in working on the project. County Attorney Sorrells and Deputy County Manager Newman were the two county participants involved in gathering the information, so it was gratifying to see the project coming to fruition.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes summarize the final decision made by the Board at the referenced meeting. This meeting was also audio recorded and that recording is available for review. In the event there is confusion as to what the final decision of the Board is, the Board will rely on the audio tape to interpret the Board's intent. The audio tape shall act as an official record of these proceedings for any necessary purpose when, in the opinion of the Board, the minutes are in any way insufficient. An audio copy of the Board of County Commissioners' proceedings is available by contacting the Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Chair

Deputy Clerk